

## Wife's surgery pleases Sakharov

Associated Press

NEWTON, Mass. — Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov talked with his relatives here Tuesday for the first time in more than two weeks and said he was pleased that his wife, Yelena Bonner, had successfully undergone a heart bypass operation in Boston.

"I am very glad the operation took place because earlier I was upset the doctors were afraid to go ahead with it," Sakharov said in telephone call from the Soviet city of Gorky, according to a translation by Bonner's daughter, Tatiana Yankelevich.

"I'm glad I didn't know in advance because I would go crazy with worry," he said during the 15-minute conversation with his

stepdaughter at her suburban Boston home.

During a four-hour operation Monday morning, surgeons bypassed six of Bonner's arteries — three main arteries and three branches, according to Massachusetts General Hospital spokesman Martin Bander. Her condition was upgraded Tuesday from satisfactory to good.

Yankelevich asked Sakharov how his own health was, and he replied he had had some dental work done but it was nothing compared to the procedure performed on his wife.

Yankelevich said the line was deliberately jammed by Soviet authorities. She said that when she repeated the question several

more times, Sakharov could not hear her because the volume of her voice appeared to have been turned down.

Yankelevich told Sakharov that Bonner, 62, was scheduled to call him Friday morning from her hospital bed.

The call was the first the family had with Sakharov since Dec. 28. The family said that call also was interrupted by static after several minutes.

Yankelevich said she had visited her mother Tuesday morning but that Bonner still was unable to talk because of heavy sedation.

Bonner, herself a physician, was expected to be hospitalized eight to 10 days.

## U.S. claims right to protect its freighters in Persian Gulf

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States asserted Tuesday the right to have Navy warships protect American freighters against "forcible actions" in the Persian Gulf but refused to say whether interceptions by Iran would be resisted.

The ambiguous U.S. stance was taken at the State Department where spokesman Charles Redman cautioned Iran that boarding ships to look for weapons for Iraq was "a potentially dangerous game."

Six armed Iranian sailors stopped the President Taylor on Sunday, boarded it for 1 hour and 45 minutes, found no war supplies and per-

mitted the ship to go on to Fajaira in the United Arab Emirates to pick up cargo for India.

The administration on Monday said Iran, which is at war with Iraq, appeared to be acting within its rights. Twelve American passengers on the President Taylor said they feared the Iranian marines would kidnap them.

"We heard about hostages so often that we were scared of becoming captives when the gun-toting Iranians boarded the ship," Frances Kirner, of Belmont, Calif., told The Associated Press.

Her husband, who identified himself as a former U.S. Marine major, said that "what happened was very

stupid, very frightening. The interception was pointless, because the ship was carrying nothing but food to most of the countries that it visited. There were no arms aboard."

The captain, Robert Reimann, of Middletown, R.I., described the interception as "an act of piracy." Iran's U.N. ambassador, Said Rajie-Khorassani, said Sunday Iran stopped the ship as a "precaution" to search for weapons for Iraq.

Redman stressed, however, that American warships have the right to protect U.S. registered ships "from any forcible actions that exceeded the scope of a belligerent's right under international law."

## Falwell trying to help counter spiritual blow

Associated Press

BANGOR, Maine — The Rev. Jerry Falwell, assuming the post of interim pastor at a troubled fundamentalist church wracked by schism since its founder publicly confessed to adultery, said Tuesday he hoped to bring about "spiritual healing."

"We're here for one reason," Falwell, founder of the Moral Majority, said at a news conference. "Not political, I have no aspirations to run for anything. . . . I'm here (because) the church and the cause of Christ in

New England have both suffered a great blow."

Falwell's appearance at the Bangor Baptist Church was designed to ease internal strains stemming from the Oct. 15 announcement by the Rev. Herman C. "Buddy" Frankland that he had committed adultery.

Falwell and his aides have characterized the visit as a "spiritual rescue mission," and said he planned to visit the church once or twice a month "to help the congregation put the pieces back together."

The church, which also operates a

fundamentalist school and a radio station, once claimed several thousand members, but the congregation has dwindled to a few hundred since Frankland's resignation.

Clergy and financial advisers from Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., were talking to disgruntled church members and sorting out financial problems.

Falwell said Tuesday that church attendance had quadrupled from its recent dip and was about 500 on Sunday. The financial troubles are "nothing the church can't recover

from," he said.

Falwell said discord within the church had heightened when Frankland indicated he wanted to remain in the pulpit after his initial admission of adultery with an unidentified woman.

"In my opinion, the church was committed to staying together and working out the problem," Falwell said. "When he came back several weeks later and reinstated himself (it spelled) disaster, chaos."

Frankland has fulfilled his pledge to leave the Bangor area, Falwell said.

## Reagan to ask for rebel aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is expected to ask Congress for open military aid to Nicaraguan rebels, in an amount ranging from \$25 million to \$50 million, administration and congressional officials said Tuesday.

If approved, it would be the first open military aid that the United States has given the rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government. The insurgents — known as Contras — received an estimated \$80 million in

covert CIA assistance from 1981 to 1984.

Administration spokesmen said Reagan hasn't given final approval to any aid plan, but added that chances for passage appear to be better than last year when Congress rejected lethal aid but granted \$27 million in humanitarian aid.

The officials, who discussed the expected aid proposal on condition of anonymity, put the likely military aid request at from \$25 million to \$50 million.

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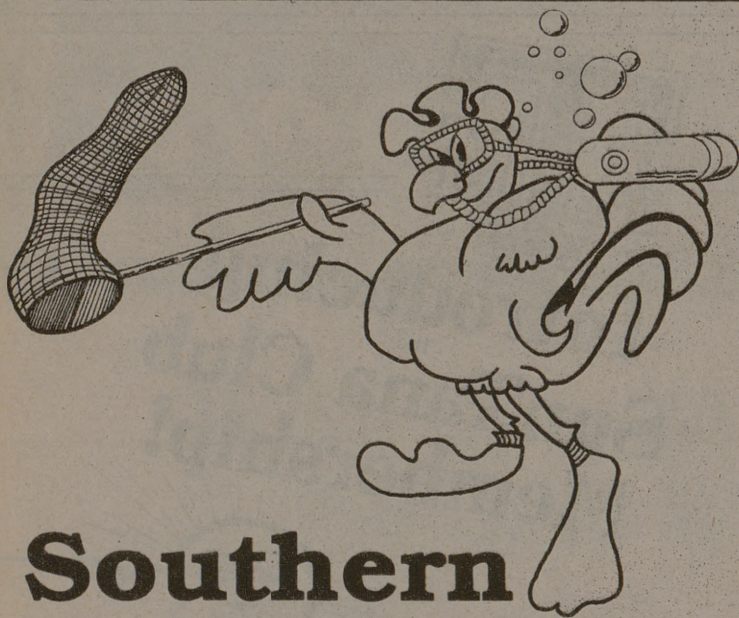
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