

# Westland bids

## Thatcher to face debate over handling of takeover attempt

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Tuesday denied that her trade secretary misled Parliament in a growing dispute over a joint U.S. and Italian bid to purchase the financially troubled Westland PLC helicopter company.

An opinion poll showed her governing Conservative Party trailing the socialist Labor Party by five percentage points, 38 percent to 33 percent.

Thatcher faces a full-blown debate today in Parliament on her handling of the takeover bids for Westland.

Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine resigned Thursday and unleashed a blast at the prime minister, claiming she had tried to stifle his

right to lobby against the U.S.-Italian bid in favor of a British-European consortium.

The political battle widened Monday when Trade Secretary Leon Brittan gave an incomplete answer to a question Heseltine asked about a letter from British Aerospace related to the dispute.

Brittan said, "I have not received any such letter," but admitted later he knew Thatcher had received a letter from British Aerospace.

"I do not accept that (Brittan) misled the House," Thatcher said during prime minister's question time, the twice-weekly, 15-minute session when she must respond to legislators' questions.

Not telling the truth in Parliament is a serious offense, and opposition

Labor lawmakers called for Brittan's resignation when he apologized for his answer.

The letter was marked private and strictly confidential, Brittan said, and he had not felt he was authorized to reveal its existence.

Thatcher, pressed Tuesday by Labor lawmaker Peter Pike to explain why she had remained silent while Brittan gave an incorrect answer, replied, "It is my practice not to publish exchanges from third parties... especially if they are marked private and strictly confidential."

Political commentators speculated that the letter concerns a meeting at which Brittan allegedly urged British Aerospace officials to withdraw from a European consortium seeking to buy Westland.

British Aerospace's withdrawal would weaken the consortium's bid and improve chances for a rival bid by a U.S. subsidiary of United Technologies, Sikorsky, and the Italian automaker, Fiat.

Heseltine has charged that Brittan tried to get British Aerospace to withdraw from the Westland rescue effort. He has accused Thatcher of trying to muzzle him and of ignoring what he said was a Cabinet majority in favor of a British-European consortium to take over Westland.

Westland's future could be decided Friday at a shareholders' meeting where a 75 percent majority is required to approve the Sikorsky-Fiat bid, which is endorsed by the Westland board of directors.

# Rebels advance on leader's palace

Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — Rebel troops and militiamen in Marxist South Yemen advanced on the presidential palace behind tanks Tuesday in the capital city of Aden, Persian Gulf sources reported. They said earlier that President Ali Nasser Mohammed was badly wounded.

Gulf-based shipping executives said Mohammed was hospitalized following a would-be assassination Monday during a coup attempt by leaders of a radical faction closely tied to the Soviet Union.

Reports reaching London from

"We have information . . . about President Mohammed being hospitalized for serious injuries he suffered in the assassination attempt."

— a Persian Gulf shipping executive, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

Aden told of unidentified planes bombing Aden airport Tuesday and of artillery and small arms fire in central Aden and in the city's port.

South Yemen, a key Soviet ally in the Mideast, lies near the mouth of

the Red Sea on the southern end of the Arabian peninsula.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman noted Tuesday that the United

States has no diplomatic representation in South Yemen and said there were few, if any, Americans there.

A Gulf shipping executive, who spoke on condition he not be identified, told the AP, "We have information received by wireless from the port of Aden about President Mohammed being hospitalized for serious injuries he suffered in the assassination attempt."

Marine executives in Bahrain, Dubai and Kuwait said they been receiving wireless messages about street fighting from ships anchored at Aden.

# Actress Reed, 64, succumbs to cancer

Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Donna Reed, who starred as a model wife and mother on her own television series but won an Academy Award portraying a prostitute, died Tuesday of pancreatic cancer. She was 64.

"Miss Reed died at her Beverly Hills home at 9:17 a.m. — her husband, Grover Asmus, was at her side," said Pat Gibson, a press agent for Reed's publicist and friend Harry Flynn.

Reed won a supporting actress Oscar in 1953 for her role as a prostitute in "From Here to Eternity," the tale of Army life on the eve of Pearl Harbor.

But she is probably best remembered as Mrs. Stone, the ideal wife to a pediatrician and mother of two on ABC-TV's "The Donna Reed Show," which co-starred Carl Betz, Paul Petersen, Shelley Fabares and, in later years, Patty Peterson. The show ran for eight seasons beginning in 1958.

During the 1984-85 season, the hazel-eyed Reed appeared as Miss Ellie on the prime-time soap opera hit "Dallas," but that role ended with a lawsuit when she was cut to make room for the return of Barbara Bel Geddes in the role.

Leonard Katzman, producer of "Dallas" from its beginning in 1978 until 1985, said, "She was

just a lovely person. It (her death) hurts a lot."

Reed was hospitalized several months ago for ulcers. While being treated at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center for bleeding ulcers in December, the malignancy in her pancreas was discovered.

Reed's other film appearances included Frank Capra's classic "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Picture of Dorian Gray," "Green Dolphin Street," "The Last Time I Saw Paris" and "The Ben-Hur Goodman Story."

Gibson said funeral services will be at Westwood Cemetery, but a date or time hasn't been determined.

In 1978, she starred in the four-hour NBC movie, "The Best Place to Be," then returned in 1979 for a two-hour episode of "Love Boat," filmed in Hong Kong.

She agreed to take over the role of Miss Ellie on "Dallas" when Bel Geddes, who had run the ranch for six seasons, told producers she could not continue because of ill health.

But last April, producers for Lorimar Productions, which film "Dallas" for CBS, told Reed the Bel Geddes had agreed to return to the show.

Reed filed a \$7.5 million lawsuit against Lorimar to regain the role of matriarch to the Ewing family.



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