

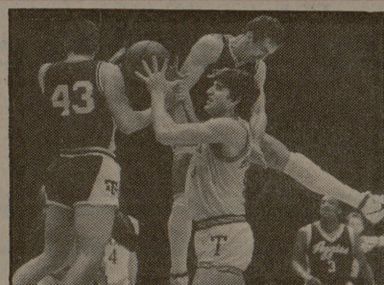
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Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 83 No. 99 USPS 075360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, February 17, 1986

Analysts say U.S. economy looking up

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While falling oil prices are diminishing revenues for the state of Texas, many economists believe that these falling oil prices will bolster the U.S. economy. The country should enjoy significantly better growth this year than in 1985, many analysts believe. The new optimism represents a sharp turnaround from expectations little more than a month ago. At that time, many analysts felt the economy would muddle through the new year much as it did last year, with sluggish growth and a stagnant unemployment level.

However, plunging world oil prices have altered that view. In the past month, oil prices on the spot market have fallen by one-third, dropping from \$25 per barrel to around \$17 per barrel. Such a precipitous decline could spell trouble for countries such as Mexico, which depend on oil revenues to finance their heavy debt, but it is likely to be good news for most Americans.

The beneficial impact of falling oil prices will be felt in two ways, economists believe.

U.S. output will rise because consumers and businesses will have more to spend on other items, since their oil bills will be less, and inflation in this country will be lower.

Wharton Econometrics, a private forecasting firm which in December was forecasting that the economy would grow 3 percent this year, is now predicting growth of 3.7 percent.

That is sharply higher than the weak 2.5 percent growth turned in during 1985 and is not far from the Reagan administration's optimistic prediction that the economy will

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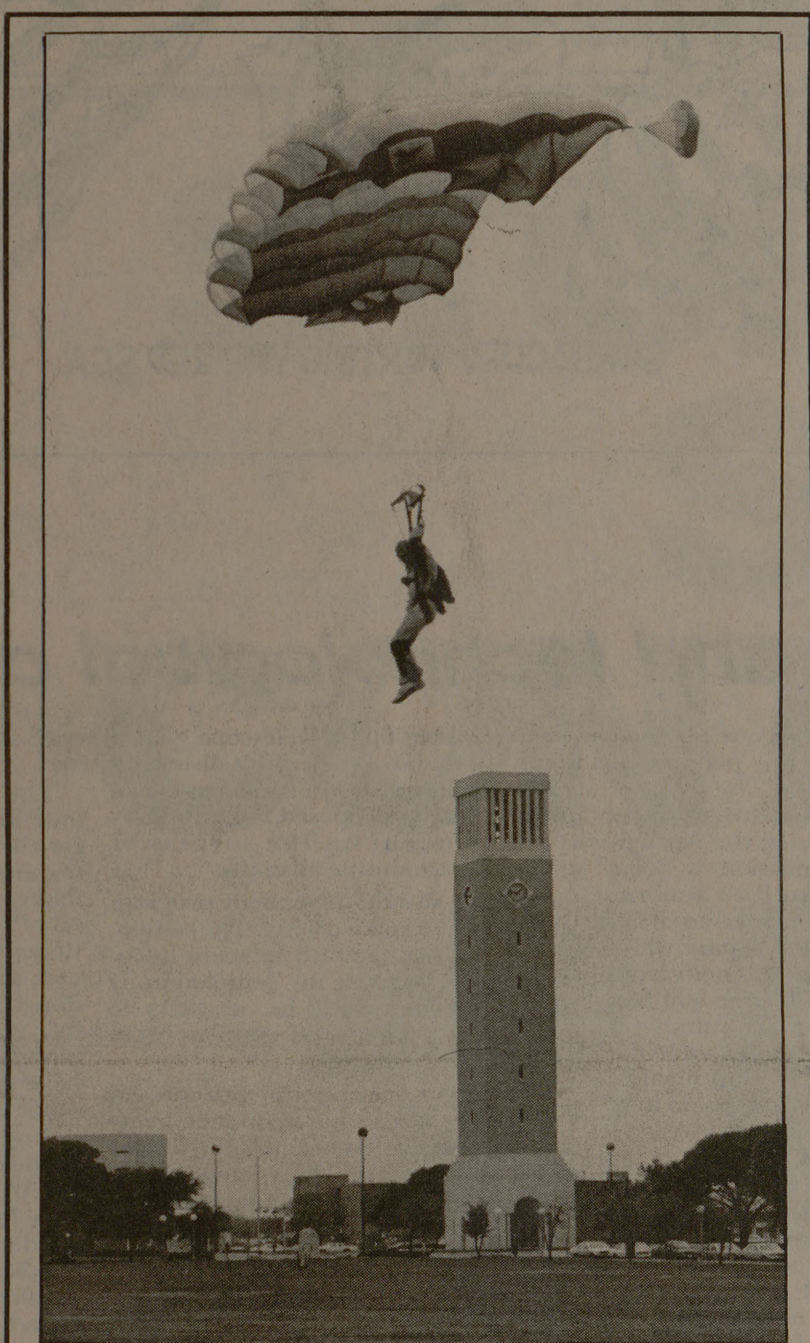


Photo by TOM OWNBEY

Smooth Landing

Mark Gardner, president of the Parachuting Club at Texas A&M, drops in on the Ormond R. Simpson Drill Field as part of a membership drive and just for the fun of it.

Aquino ask Filipinos to resist Marcos' win

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Corazon Aquino called Sunday for non-violent protests against newly re-elected President Ferdinand E. Marcos, who declared, "I am the president. They are not going to drive me out."

Marcos, president for 20 years, also announced Sunday the resignation of his most powerful military commander, Gen. Fabian C. Ver.

A day after the National Assembly declared Marcos winner of an election marked by charges of fraud and terrorism, more than half a million Filipinos joined his opponent in a downtown park rally — a much bigger rally than any that had gathered in the campaign leading to the Feb. 7 presidential election.

Aquino called for strikes and school shutdowns on the day after Marcos' Feb. 26 inauguration for a new six-year term, and urged a boy-

cott of banks and newspapers owned by Marcos' "cronies."

Aquino, who had vowed to lead daily demonstrations if she was cheated at the polls, also called on the military and police to disobey orders that were "unjust."

"Although unarmed, I feel like the young boy David prepared to face the giant Goliath," she said. "If Goliath refuses to yield, we shall escalate our non-violent struggle."

In a news conference at the presidential palace, Marcos again rejected charges he won through fraud and said he would not step down.

Marcos also announced that Ver, the armed forces chief, had resigned, and he had accepted the resignation. But he said Ver would remain available as a consultant.

Constabulary Chief Lt. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos was appointed interim chief of staff, Marcos said.

Ver, 66, was charged in the Au-

gust 1983 assassination of Aquino's husband, opposition leader Benigno Aquino. But a court later acquitted him, 24 other military men and one civilian also accused in the murder.

Ver's resignation was announced a day before Marcos, Aquino, and other Filipino leaders were to meet with Philip Habib, a special envoy sent by President Reagan to observe the aftermath of the divisive election.

"I am convinced that if there was any fraud, it may have been committed by the lower levels and was not authorized by the upper leadership," Marcos said.

Asked to comment on Reagan's statement that his victory over Aquino was marked by fraud, Marcos said Reagan "has been wrongly informed, and I intend to see to it that the correct information reaches him."

Soviet sailor missing in ship wreck

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A Soviet cruise ship carrying more than 700 passengers and crew struck rocks and sank in stormy seas Sunday, but only one person, a Soviet sailor, is missing and presumed drowned, officials reported.

Chief Police Inspector Owen Dowse, in a mid-morning announcement Monday on Radio New Zealand, said one crewman was missing but all of the others aboard the 20,000-ton Mikhail Lermontov had been rescued.

The passengers, many of them elderly Australians and New Zealanders, were taken from lifeboats aboard rescue craft and brought to Wellington, 35 miles across Cook Strait from Port Gore where the liner sank.

Ten people were hospitalized with minor injuries, Dowse said.

Search coordinator Barry James said the Mikhail Lermontov had about 400 passengers and some 300 Soviet crew members.

But the chairman of the Marlborough Harbor Board, Bruno Delieci, said the ship carried a total of 841 passengers and crew.

Survivors said in Wellington that passengers and crew began fleeing the 20,000-ton liner in lifeboats about 1½ hours after it began taking on water and hours before it sank just before 11 p.m. Sunday.

Efforts to rescue the people from the lifeboats were hampered by darkness, driving rain and 15 mph winds.

A New Zealand air force reconnaissance plane and helicopter and

police and navy patrol boats resumed the search for survivors Monday.

The 580-foot Mikhail Lermontov, registered in Leningrad, spends the winter cruising between Australia and the South Pacific islands, with stops in New Zealand.

It left Picton on New Zealand's South Island Sunday morning and was heading north in the scenic Marlborough Sounds area when it struck rocks, knocking a hole in the hull and disabling the engines, according to the New Zealand Search and Rescue Service.

The liner, with a 12-degree list, drifted into harbor at Port Gore. The captain tried to beach it there, but rescue officials said the ship drifted back off shore and sank in about 100 feet of water.

Prince's 2nd visit to Texas will be busy

Britain's Charles starting Texas tour

Associated Press

DALLAS — From the world's biggest cake to the big cheeses in Texas politics and entertainment, Britain's Prince Charles has a packed menu awaiting his second visit to the Lone Star State.

His Royal Highness is scheduled to arrive here today for a five-day visit that will include high-tech tours, a Texas-sized cake-cutting ceremony and lavish banquets designed to kick off the celebration of the state's 50th birthday.

State and local leaders have been working feverishly for the last four months to map out the visit that was

prompted by Dallas billionaire and computer magnate H. Ross Perot.

Prince Charles had planned to come to Dallas to give Perot the Winston Churchill award — only the third presented in honor of those who epitomize Churchill's spirit — but the state's Sesquicentennial celebration piqued his interest.

Sam Garner, head of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, said, "The more he asked about the Sesquicentennial, the more interested he got. So he decided to see a lot more of the state."

The prince's crowded itinerary begins in Dallas, where he will present the Churchill award Tuesday

night, and includes stopovers in Houston and Austin before he jets to Palm Springs, Calif., from San Antonio Friday.

British Consulate spokeswoman Linda Kelly says Prince Charles, traveling without Princess Diana, will be greeted at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Monday night by Gov. Mark White and a bevy of local dignitaries.

The next day, he will tour the Electra Communications Corp. and Electronic Data Systems, a company Perot founded.

He'll also see Dallas' Infomart, a high-tech information center whose

design echoes the famous Crystal Palace in London.

From there, it's on to Houston Wednesday for a tour of Shell Oil Co.'s Deer Park refinery and the San Jacinto Monument, which commemorates Texas' independence from Mexico.

Kelly says he'll also visit Mountbatten House, a retirement home financed by the Daughters of the British Empire and named after the prince's late great uncle, before dining that night with Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire.

The big Sesquicentennial bash, See Prince, page 12

Generator shutdown darkens part of A&M

By BRIAN PEARSON
Senior Staff Writer

Several buildings at Texas A&M blacked out Sunday night when power failed due to an automatic shutdown in one of two generators then operating at the Physical Plant, Harold Ploch, Physical Plant operator, said Sunday.

Ploch said a momentary loss of oil pressure occurred as workers were changing a generator oil cooler, causing the machine to shut down.

Ploch said plant workers had to shut off electricity from 9 p.m. to

about 9:15 p.m. to 15 buildings to prevent an overload of power from the tie line coming from the utilities plant in Bryan. When a campus generator shuts down, power from the tie line automatically increases to compensate, Ploch said.

He said that two campus feeder lines, which bring electricity to the 15 buildings, had to be turned off to prevent the overload on the Bryan tie line.

Buildings affected by the blackout included the Sterling C. Evans Library, the Academic Building and the Reed McDonald Building.

SCONA speaker: U.S. neglecting Mideast conflict

By JEANNE ISENBERG
Staff Writer

Americans need to challenge the recently adopted attitude of "benign neglect" taken toward helping the Middle East attain peace, Dr. William B. Quandt said Saturday in his closing speech of the 31st annual Student Conference on National Affairs.

"Peace in the Middle East is never going to be made by committee, by consensus or by the faint-hearted," he said. "It's a worthy goal, and there are many people in the region who will fight hard for it, but they need some help."

Quandt, a senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies program at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said the Middle East has always been of interest to the United States.

"It's a very heavily armed part of the world, he said, and the only part of the Third World with nuclear weapons.

Also, more than one-third of the United

States' foreign aid goes to the Middle East, he said, mostly to Egypt and Israel.

The reason the Middle East stays uppermost in the minds of U.S. presidents, Quandt said, is that this is the only part of the Third World where the United States could come into direct confrontation with the Soviet Union because of commitments to conflicting sides.

"In 1967, 1970, 1972 and 1982, the United States and the Soviet Union reacted to Middle Eastern crises with their own military forces," Quandt said. "In the end, they didn't send forces or come into conflict. But in a nuclear era, anytime a superpower begins to think about deploying its own military forces to an area, we have to be concerned about the consequences."

The United States has other reasons to stay involved in the Middle East, Quandt said, especially with the special relationship it has developed with Israel because of the commitment of the U.S. Jewish community and recently the commitment of the Christian fundamentalists.

Also see:
• Israeli, Arab call for peace, page 5
• Interdependent world changes, page 5

The United States is seen by the Middle East as a strong element in Israel's strength, he said, and the actions of Israel are usually identified with the United States.

But the United States also has a big interest in the Arab world, he said.

"At any given moment," Quandt said, "we have been eager to pursue some relationship with groups of Arab countries — either for strategic reasons, for oil reasons or for political reasons. And there's always been an undercurrent of tension between these two interests."

Promoting a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict logically would be to the best interest of the United States, Quandt said, but since 1979, nothing of

lasting importance has been achieved through U.S. mediation.

"What we have to look back on is a period of peacemaking that produced one big success — the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty," Quandt said, "and nothing since."

"That achievement is in some jeopardy now because of our lack of follow-through and the failure to broaden the peace process."

Instead of accelerating U.S. support, though, foreign aid may decrease as a result of the Gramm-Rudman law, which forces Congress to cut a certain amount from the federal budget every year, he said.

Though U.S. mediation is something that should be continued, he said, there is a possibility for the Middle East to achieve peace on its own.

Quandt said the head of the Israeli government at least acknowledges the Palestinian problem and doesn't exclude the possibility of territorial compromise.

On the Arab side, he said, there is talk of a prospective negotiation between Israel and the right partners, whereas in Camp David, Egypt was placed in the wrong role as spokesman for the Palestinians.

Although there are positive indicators toward peace, Quandt said, weak political leadership and political insecurity in Middle East regimes has prevented a settlement.

"These parties cannot, in my view, make peace on their own," he said. "They need help. They need more than just a postman carrying messages between them."

"What they cannot do is mobilize the political will to go to their own people and say, 'We're going to have to compromise on some very difficult points.' To do that, they need to be able to say 'We'll get something for it. We'll get peace, or security or support from the international community.' Those justifications need to be put in place by some third party.

"The United States could play a more effective role. But it has chosen not to."