

World and Nation

Libyan retaliatory strike spurs action

France sends military aid to Chad

Associated Press

PARIS - France sent troops and planes to Chad Monday to support President Hissene Habre's government against Libyan-backed rebels after an air strike on the airport at N'Djamena, capital of the African country.

Defense Minister Paul Quiles announced the deployment soon after he reported that one Soviet-built Libyan Tupolev-22 jet bombed the N'Djamena airport runway about 7 a.m. Monday. On Sunday, French planes bombed an airfield at a Libyan-built rebel base in the north of the former French colony.

The Libyan news agency JANA said in Tripoli that the N'Djamena raid was carried out by the "air force" of rebel forces in Chad trying to overthrow Habre and was in response to the French raid.

The rebels are not known to have their own air force, but the Libyans have Tupolev jets in their arsenal of 535 warplanes.

Quiles said damage at N'Djamena airport was "minimal," and no one was hurt. JANA claimed the strike "rendered it unusable."

A dispatch from Paris by the Soviet news agency Tass said Monday that "an explosive situation has de-

veloped in the center of Africa as a result of France's growing armed intervention in Chad."

Libya accused the United States Monday of being behind French President Francois Mitterrand's decision to intervene in Chad.

A high-ranking Libyan official, who insisted on anonymity, told reporters in Tripoli that "Mitterrand is a pawn in the hands of (President) Reagan."

Quiles said three French warplanes landed at N'Djamena Monday.

France has kept 1,500 troops in the Central African Republic, poised to return to Chad, since signing a mutual withdrawal agreement with

Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy in the fall of 1984. France says Libya never honored the pact.

About 200 French troops were sent to Chad over the weekend, the Defense Ministry reported.

France says the Libyans have 4,500 troops in northern Chad and the rebels have another 4,000, facing about 5,000 Chadian government troops.

Engineers examine shuttle photos, debris

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Engineers examined photos and debris retrieved from the ocean floor Monday to determine if a submarine has located parts of the right-hand booster rocket implicated in the explosion of space shuttle Challenger.

But NASA spokesman Hugh Harris said it probably would be at least Wednesday before a determination is made on whether components of the booster have been spotted.

Recovery of rocket sections could provide a vital clue to what caused the tragedy because NASA launch photographs show a puff of black smoke bursting from the booster

near a seal on liftoff and a tongue of flame spewing from the same area 59 seconds into the flight.

Challenger's fuel tank exploded 73 seconds into the flight.

A presidential commission investigating the accident has focused on the right-hand booster as one of the leading theories for the shuttle's explosion.

The crew of the four-man research submarine Johnson Sea-Link 2 reported Sunday it had photographed objects believed to be sections of the 149-foot rocket 1,200 feet down in the Atlantic about 45 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral.

NASA said the submarine's mechanical arm also recovered a few

small components which were being studied on the sub's mother ship, the Seaward Johnson.

Officials said the photographs and videotapes were brought back to the Kennedy Space Center for initial study and then were flown to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., which oversees NASA's shuttle engine work. The photos are being compared with pictures of the rocket taken before the Jan. 28 launching. The Sea-Link 2 crew was taking additional photos Monday.

Salvaging remains of the rocket, if indeed they have been found, could take several days because of murky waters and swift currents.

Study: Gramm-Rudman cuts will be severe

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's budget-balancing law will require cuts of 25 percent to 50 percent in most domestic federal programs, with even larger cuts possible in certain law enforcement areas, according to a private analysis released Monday.

The study by Management Services Inc. and the Center for Defense Information said the impact of the Gramm-Rudman Act would be far more severe than previously believed.

The report, billed as the first full-scale study of the long-range impacts of the law, said deep cuts will occur even if Congress raises taxes and slashes defense spending.

If the law's constitutionality is upheld by the Supreme Court and Congress doesn't subsequently modify it, some law enforcement areas could suffer cuts ranging to 63 percent by 1990, the study said.

The reason for this, it said, is that Congress, while shielding some sensitive programs like Social Security

from the Gramm-Rudman cuts, neglected to make provisions under the law for fully funding some critical law enforcement programs.

Automatic cuts triggered under Gramm-Rudman would chop away at law enforcement programs as much as they would other programs. But the study assumed that Congress would not permit a reduction in prison guards, border agents, or in the Secret Service force protecting the president and other high administration officials.

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4 biggest can makers hit with strike

BAL HARBOUR, Fla. — United Steelworkers set up picket lines Monday against the nation's four largest can makers after rejecting offers of \$400 year-end bonuses in place of wage hikes.

The strike by about 13,300 workers at about 75 plants across the country began minutes after USW local presidents voted here 37-38 to turn down an industry pattern-setting contract offer by National Can Corp., the third largest of the four companies with about 2,200 Steelworkers on its payroll.

The three other companies struck by the union are Continental Inc., with 6,000 Steelworkers on its payroll; American Can Co., with 4,500 union members; and Crown Cork & Seal Co., with 600 USW members.

Union spokesman Gary Hubbard said a majority of the union chiefs meeting here decided National Can's profits justified more pay.

Wages currently range between \$11 and \$16 per hour.

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