

World and Nation

Palestinian's attacks span 3 continents

Abu Nidal blamed for jet explosion

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Palestinians who know the dark world of Arab terrorism say the TWA aircraft bombing is the latest work of Abu Nidal, the elusive mastermind whose followers have spread blood across three continents.

The Israelis have blamed Abu Nidal, a code name that means "father of struggle," for 103 terrorist attacks since he split with Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah Palestinian guerrillas in 1974.

The U.S. State Department says his group is "among the most dangerous Middle East terrorist organizations." It holds him responsible for 80 attacks over the past eight years

in which hundreds of people have been slaughtered, many of them innocent bystanders.

Abu Nidal has used many names for his group. Officials of Syrian-backed Palestinian organizations that also oppose Arafat say the Arab Revolutionary Cells, which claimed responsibility for planting the bomb of the TWA jet, is the latest one.

The bomb blew a hole in the Boeing 727 as it was approaching the airport Wednesday at Athens, Greece, hurtling four Americans to their deaths.

Terrorists doing Abu Nidal's bidding have bombed and murdered

from Amman to Islamabad, Vienna to London.

He first gained notoriety in 1974 when his men attacked a Pan Am jet in Rome with incendiary bombs, killing 30 passengers.

Abu Nidal seldom appears in public or gives interviews. Most photographs of him were taken before his split in 1974 with Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization, which has sentenced him to death in absentia.

He has offices in Damascus and training camps in Syrian-controlled east Lebanon. He travels to Libya often for meetings with Moammar

Khadafy and is said to have good ties with Iran.

Abu Nidal was blamed for the hijacking of an Egyptian airliner last November in which 60 people were killed, most of them when Egyptian commandos stormed aboard while the jet was parked at the Malta airport.

Just after Christmas, terrorists believed to be Abu Nidal's followers attacked passengers at the Rome and Vienna airports. Twenty people were killed, including five Americans and four terrorists, and more than 110 people were wounded.

91 demonstrators arrested in campus apartheid clash

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — Anti-apartheid demonstrators hurled bottles, rocks and eggs at baton-wielding police officers Thursday in a clash which led to 91 arrests, 29 injuries and destruction of a shantytown on the University of California campus.

Two men were arrested for allegedly possessing firebombs after police received a threat that California Hall would be burned down, and charred paper was found stuffed in the gas tanks of three university cars, authorities reported.

The conflict began before dawn when police placed dozens of demonstrators into buses to be taken to Alameda County's Santa Rita jail, said university spokesman Ray Colvig. Hundreds of other protesters

surrounded the buses, preventing them from moving.

At about 7:30 a.m., police in riot gear cleared a path through the crowd. Fighting broke out as demonstrators hurled bottles, rocks and eggs and blocked the buses by hurling trash cans, setting up makeshift barricades and sitting in the way.

Eleven protesters and 18 police officers suffered minor injuries that included cuts and bruises, said university spokesman Tom Debley. Colvig said one of the injured people claimed to be a news photographer.

"I saw a photographer get clubbed and the blood sprayed all over his camera and clothes," said a student affiliated with a group called the Campaign Against Apartheid.

He would only identify himself as Greg. Police "threw and clubbed people out of the way," he said.

Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. William Gonzales said 89 protesters were taken by bus to Santa Rita to be booked. Colvig said about 50 others were photographed and would be subject to arrest later.

Demonstrators demand that the university pull out about \$2.4 billion it has invested in companies doing business in South Africa. Last month, university regents voted to sell \$12.3 million in Eaton Corp. bonds on the recommendation of an investment review committee appointed last year to determine how companies in which the university invests handle their South African operations.

135 of 166 in Mexican crash identified

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Relatives and technicians have identified the bodies of 135 of the 166 victims of Mexico's worst air disaster, but some bodies are so mutilated they may never be identified, a spokesman for the coroner's office said Thursday.

A Mexicana Airlines spokesman said soldiers, Red Cross workers and others were still searching for remains and passengers' personal belongings at the site where the Mexicana Boeing 727 crashed Monday.

All 166 people aboard died when the plane, Mexicana's Flight 940, went down about 15 minutes after take-off from Mexico City. The plane was bound for Los Angeles with scheduled stops in the Pacific resorts of Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan.

The plane crashed into a 7,792-foot mountain, El Carbon, in Michoacan state, about 90 miles northwest of Mexico City.

Of 160 bodies delivered to the federal Forensic Medical Service, 130 had been claimed by relatives by

Thursday afternoon and five others were identified but not yet claimed, spokesman Lazaro Hernandez said.

Hernandez declined to estimate when the identifications might be complete.

"It takes a lot of work at this point," Hernandez said. "It's difficult to know how many will be identified because many are parts of remains."

The U.S. Embassy has confirmed that nine Americans were among the victims. Embassy spokesman Vince Hovanec on Wednesday confirmed the identity of one victim with U.S.-Mexican citizenship — Peter Rivaud, 5, whose brother and parents were also listed on the passenger manifest.

Hovanec declined to release the names of the parents and brother because their bodies have not been identified. He said the father was a U.S. citizen, the mother was Mexican and the family lived in Mexico City.

No other Americans had been identified by Thursday afternoon, Hovanec said.

IRS readies for onslaught of returns

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service is geared up for more than 45 million individual tax returns that are expected to be filed during the next 12 days. But if you've waited this late to file, you'll have to wait longer than usual for a refund.

Even so, Commissioner Roscoe L. Egger Jr. promised Thursday, the IRS is not worried that the last-minute crush will create the kind of delays and backlogs that embarrassed the agency last year.

"We are not having any real complaints of refunds not coming back at a reasonable time," Egger told a news conference. "There is nothing that has come up in the system at all this year that gives us any real concern about the possibility of something (bad) happening."

On the average, Egger said, refunds have been going out within five weeks after the return is filed. As the April 15 filing deadline approaches, that will be stretched to six to seven weeks.

The IRS expects 104 million couples and individuals to file returns this year. About 54 million had been received by March 27, the latest figures available, leaving perhaps 48 million to be filed between that date and April 15.

"In this last crunch," Egger said, "we get such large volumes that even with our high-speed equipment it takes us up to 10 days just to open the mail."

Even with the IRS working at full speed, some taxpayers will be paid interest because their refund was not

processed within 45 days after the April 15 deadline.

Egger estimated the interest payments will total about \$37 million, compared with \$49.5 million last year and \$33 million in 1984.

The IRS has processed 76 percent of the 54 million returns it has received this year.

At this time in 1985, because of computer and personnel problems, only 54 percent had been processed, forcing millions of people to wait months for their refunds.

More than 30.5 million refund checks totaling \$21.55 billion have been mailed this year, up almost 42 percent from the same period last year. The average refund is up \$60, to \$780.

South African province reviews integrating its government

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — White and black leaders in Natal Province on Thursday began debating a proposal to create the nation's first racially integrated regional government.

Meanwhile, police headquarters said four blacks died in racial attacks around the country, including two black youths killed in street battles with police patrols in the black township of Vosloorus, southeast of Johannesburg.

A court had imposed harsh restrictions on a funeral in Vosloorus for a suspected black nationalist guerrilla shot by police last week.

Roving security vehicles fired repeated barrages of tear gas and birdshot to break up groups of blacks who gathered for the service in defiance of the restrictions, and militant youths enforced a one-day protest strike by workers in the township, witnesses said.

An evening police summary of a dozen unrest incidents around the country during the day said the charred body of a black woman was found at Kwanobuhle, near Uitenhage in the eastern Cape Province.

In the black township of Soweto outside Johannesburg, a crowd stabbed a black man, placed a tire around his neck, ignited it and danced around him as he burned to death, the South African Press Association said.

The man was slain for allegedly pushing a man out of a moving train over the weekend, the report said.

Nearly 1,300 people have been killed, almost all of them black, since September 1984.

Most were killed by security forces, but about a third died at the hands of fellow blacks.

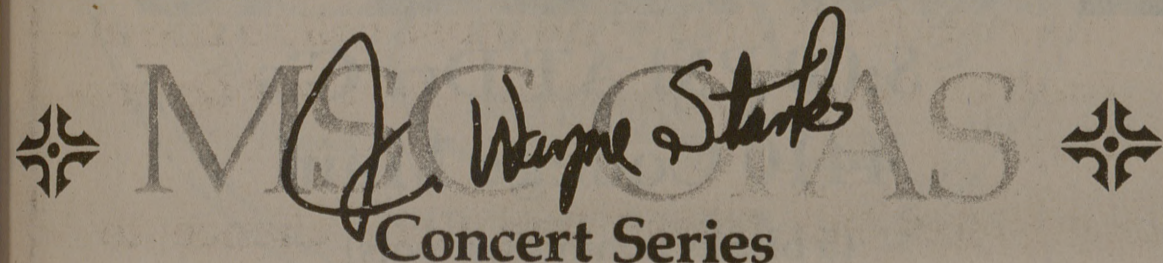
In Durban, a conference of 420 delegates began talks on a proposal to combine the white Natal Province government with that of the Kwa-Zulu black homeland, made up of 25 sections of land scattered across Natal.

Thirty-one organizations, including Natal's main business groups, attended the opening session of the talks, expected to last six months.

Militant anti-apartheid groups boycotted the gathering, saying the plan implied recognition of the white-led government's policy of granting political rights to blacks only in 10 tribal homelands.

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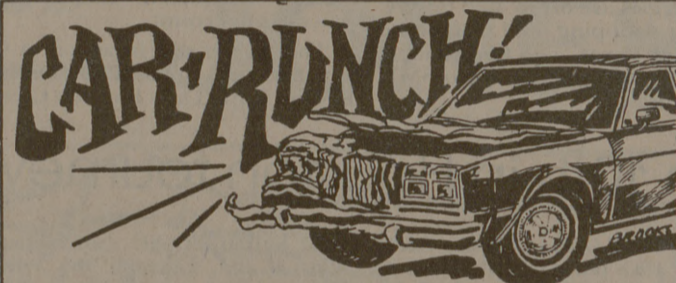
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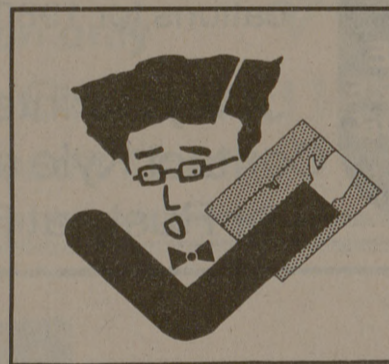
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