

World and Nation

Video tape may show journalist

Group claims hostage killed

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems said Wednesday that it has killed kidnapped British journalist Alec Collett. The group released a video tape of a man who it said was the New York-based writer dangling from a scaffold.

The 4-minute tape was provided to the independent Beirut newspaper An-Nahar with a typewritten Arabic statement that the 64-year-old Collett was "executed" April 16 in retaliation for Britain's complicity in the U.S. air attack on Libya.

The hanged man bore a strong resemblance to photographs of Collett

that were released by the United Nations upon his abduction south of Beirut, March 25, 1985.

The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Moslems, believed to be affiliated with renegade Palestinian leader Abu Nidal, claimed to An-Nahar last Thursday that it had killed Collett and promised to provide photographs of his hanging later.

An-Nahar's editors said the video tape and statement were found Wednesday inside an envelope dropped by an unknown man at the ground floor reception desk of the newspaper's nine-story offices.

The video tape first showed an

empty noose swaying over green grass and scattered rocks while a man's voice read the text of the organization's statement.

When the recital ended, the lifeless body appeared on the screen dangling from a noose as a crowd could be heard but not seen chanting "Allah Akbar" — God is Great.

The statement that accompanied the video tape said:

"In retaliation for the monstrous joint American-British raid, and for the scandalous role of the British government in participating in the murder of innocent sons of our Arab and Islamic nation, our Orga-

nization announces the execution of the death sentence of British spy Alec Collett in a mass rally."

It said Collett's killing was a "punishment for criminal Thatcher and her Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey) Howe, and her backward reactionary regime that transformed her country into an American protectorate."

The statement urged all other factions holding American or British hostages to "execute them because the blood of Americans and Britons is now permissible as a result of the criminal acts exercised by murderer Reagan and criminal Thatcher."

Office ability of the president questioned, defended

WASHINGTON (AP) — Good-naturedly making light of the power of his office, the president says that his aide is the most powerful man in the world.

"There's a fellow that puts a piece of paper on my desk every day that tells me what I'm going to be doing every 15 minutes," President Ronald Reagan says.

The jest, which Reagan occasionally makes to visiting groups to explain why he can't stay with them, touches on a fundamental question — what does he do all day?

Some critics suggest that the president, a whiz at public speaking and an affable host, is a lightweight who is unwilling or unable to grapple with the intricacies of government.

David Stockman, in a forthcoming memoir of his years as

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Reagan's budget director, writes that the president "seemed as far above the detail work of supply side (economics) as a ceremonial monarch is above politics."

In "The Triumph of Politics," Stockman says Reagan "simply listened, nodded and smiled" in pre-inaugural discussions of economic policy.

Others say Reagan is better organized than most think and has a better grasp than his recent predecessors of over-all policy objectives.

R. Gordon Hoxie, president of the Center for the Study of the Presidency compares Reagan to President Eisenhower and predicts future scholars will raise Reagan's marks as they have Ike's.

"Eisenhower is viewed now as a much more activist and in-charge president than he was at the time," Hoxie says.

Reagan prefers to focus on the big picture rather than details, Hoxie says. But Hoxie adds, "the president has a much better mind and a much better sense of organization than most people have in the past realized."

Congressmen reimpose old income limit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House, nervous about the political consequences of a move to boost the outside earnings capacity of its members, reversed itself by an overwhelming majority Wednesday and reimposed the old income limits.

The lawmakers voted 333-68 to undo Tuesday's quickie maneuver that had lifted the ceiling on income earned in addition to House salaries, far more than the two-thirds majority needed to reimpose the previous limit.

The action came even as many members who voted to restore the limit agreed that the cost of living and maintaining two residences had outpaced the buying power of the \$75,100 congressional salary.

"They don't give themselves the proper salary," House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., had complained before Wednesday's vote. "They don't have the guts and the courage." He said members of Congress should make a minimum of \$100,000 a year.

Photos show shuttle cabin intact during fall

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA released 10 pictures Wednesday showing Challenger's nose section, with the crew cabin inside, breaking cleanly away from the exploding fuel tank and plunging apparently intact toward the ocean.

The pictures tend to support earlier reports by investigators that the nose and crew compartment were together throughout the nine-mile fall but shattered on impact with the ocean.

The crew of five men and two women died after the shuttle exploded 73 seconds after launch on Jan. 28.

NASA officials are uncertain at what point the astronauts died, but most feel they died almost at the moment of the explosion, either from shock or from a rapid decompression of the cabin.

"There is not enough detail available to ascertain the integrity of the cabin," a NASA statement accompanying the pictures read. "All available data sources, including these photographs, are being utilized in an attempt to understand the condition of the crew module following vehicle breakup. NASA will have no further

comment until the analysis is complete."

The first in the series of pictures released Wednesday shows the cone-shaped nose section and other unidentified debris being blown away from the fireball created when the tank exploded. The tank was appar-

ently struck by the upper part of the right solid rocket booster.

Investigators believe the accident was triggered when a plume of flame escaped from a ruptured rocket joint and severed a bottom attachment point, allowing the rocket to swivel into the tank, which contained

liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen.

The nine other pictures, snapped by a 70 mm ground tracking camera over a 26-second period, show the nose section and cabin continuing to fly upward for a few seconds before starting a downward plunge. It hit the water at about 180 mph between 3 and 4 minutes after the explosion.

Experts say AIDS rarely spreads in hospitals

BOSTON (AP) — A study of needle punctures and other accidental exposure to the blood of AIDS patients has found that the spread of AIDS infections in hospitals is extremely rare, even during direct blood-to-blood contact.

Researchers at the Center for Disease Control found that just two of 983 health-care workers exposed to AIDS patients' blood and other body fluids developed AIDS virus infections. Only one of the two clearly got the infection from the hospital exposure.

The researchers described their findings as reassuring. Compared to hepatitis B infection, they wrote, the risk of HTLV-III-LAV (AIDS virus) infection to health-care workers exposed to patients with AIDS appears to be extremely low.

The one clear case of infection was a female health-

care worker in New York state who accidentally jabbed herself deeply with a contaminated needle during an emergency procedure on an AIDS patient. Two weeks later, she developed flu-like symptoms that can occur in the early stages of AIDS infection. Later blood tests revealed that her body had begun to produce antibodies to the AIDS virus.

Dr. Eugene McCray of CDC said this case and a similar one in Great Britain support the idea that a substantial amount of contaminated blood is necessary to cause an AIDS infection and that a shallow skin puncture is not likely to be enough.

McCray's study followed 983 health workers for an average of 15 months after needle punctures and other accidents at 283 hospitals and state labs.



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