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South Africa defuses Soweto anniversary

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Millions of blacks stayed away from work Monday, the date which a bloody uprising began in Soweto in 1976, but the government said its state of emergency thwarted plans for "a day of anarchy."

Black activist Winnie Mandela was given a government order instructing her not to speak to journalists and to stay home at night.

"It's just like being back in prison again," she said.

The broadest restrictions ever imposed on news coverage in South Africa were announced before dawn. They kept reporters out of Soweto, a black city of 1.5 million people near Johannesburg, and all other black townships and banned reports on action by security forces.

Louis Nel, the deputy information minister, said early in the day that

"plans to turn June 16 into a day of anarchy have been foiled."

An aide, Leon Mellet, said soldiers and police "are on standby at every possible place where trouble could be expected, anywhere in the country."

Residents in Soweto and in eastern Cape Province townships outside Port Elizabeth said some youths blocked roads after nightfall with

barricades of burning tires and debris.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the black Anglican cleric who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, told a church memorial service that the prohibition of non-church gatherings was "grossly insensitive and highly provocative."

"They are trampling our dignity underfoot and rubbing our noses in the dust," he told an audience of

about 500 whites and a few blacks in downtown Johannesburg.

The government imposed the nationwide emergency at 12:01 a.m. last Thursday, claiming black radicals planned attacks and rampages.

Mandela, whose husband Nelson has been in prison since the early 1960s, said she was at her home in Soweto when she learned of the restrictions against her.

Speaking by telephone to The As-

sociated Press, she said: "I am to be restricted to my house from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. I am also forbidden from giving interviews to the press and all that sort of junk."

The Soweto uprising began June 16, 1976, with demonstrations by school children against a new law directing that they be taught in Afrikaans, the language of the white Afrikaners who control the government.

Soviets are 10 years ahead of U.S. in space, report says

LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Union has taken an "almost frightening" 10-year lead over the United States in its space program, Jane's Space Flight Directory says in its latest edition, published Tuesday.

Editor Reginald Turnill writes at the biggest surprise about the U.S. space shuttle disaster on Jan. 28 is that NASA had made no contingency plans for the space program case of an accident.

He said that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration had a 100 percent flight safety record for 25 years and "no transport item can hope to maintain such perfection in the face of human fallibility."

Turnill's assessments came in the introduction to the 1986 directory, published by the company that produces the authoritative Jane's reference works on aircraft, military vessels and weapons systems.

"The Soviet lead in space is now most frightening," wrote Turnill,

adding that because of the Challenger shuttle disaster, plans to use the shuttle as the West's main satellite launcher had failed beyond recovery.

He said another result of the Challenger explosion is that short-term launch costs, such as insurance, will soar. This will put pressure on satellite makers to increase capacity and, most of all, longevity.

In terms of space experience, the Soviets are so far ahead of the Americans "that they are almost out of sight," Turnill said.

Their cosmonauts have clocked more than 4,000 days in space compared with the American astronauts' 1,587, he wrote.

"Worse, the U.S. experience is largely based on short flights, giving no more than three days at a time of uninterrupted materials processing and crystal growth experiments," Turnill said.

The advanced Salyut space station Mir is already in place, he said. But

"for all NASA's brilliant interplanetary successes, the U.S. space station is receding into the mid-1990s and NASA . . . (is) now 10 years behind the Soviets in the practical utilization of what President Nixon so long ago dubbed 'this New Ocean.'"

On the military significance of the Soviet lead, the article noted that the Americans themselves have said the heavy-lift booster system for the Soviet shuttle could be used for launching heavy military payloads, including ballistic missile defense weapons, as well as for assembling very large modular space stations.

Such modules, say the Americans, could be fitted out as reconnaissance platforms, nuclear power substations, or laboratories for various types of research and experiment.

Once deployed, such a space station would provide the Soviets with a manned space-based military capability for missions such as reconnaissance, command and control.

Spending by state rises for 3rd month

AUSTIN (AP) — State government spending continued to rise during May despite Gov. Mark White's order asking agencies to slash expenses, the comptroller reported Monday.

It was the third month in a row that agency spending exceeded the monthly average recorded during the first half of the 1986 budget year, Comptroller Bob Bullock said.

Spending from all funds, including those dedicated to specific purposes, was up 80.5 percent, Bullock said.

Spending from the general revenue fund, which finances most state agency operations, increased 2.6 percent during May, Bullock said.

He said the all-funds total for May was \$2.36 billion, \$1.05 billion above the monthly average for fiscal 1986, because of large payments to schools, refinancing of veterans land bonds and payments on the state's unemployment debt.

Without those large payments, all-funds spending would have been 23.1 percent higher, he said.

Bullock began issuing monthly spending reports in March, the first month that some 200 state agencies came under the governor's executive order to reduce spending by 13 percent over the last 18 months of the 1986-87 biennium.

Spending in March, April and May has topped the average spent during the first six months of the 1986 fiscal year.

High court leak Gram: Officials upset by news

HOUSTON (AP) — Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, one of the authors of the Gramm-Rudman balanced budget law, said Monday that the Supreme Court's failure to issue a ruling on the act was the court's way of showing displeasure with a news leak.

"My guess is, given the leak, the Supreme Court is unhappy and is deciding to show the leaker by holding it up," Gramm said.

ABC News reported Sunday that the court would announce in a 7-2 ruling Monday that the legislation violates the constitutional separation-of-powers doctrine.

The court had announced previously it would hand down three decisions Monday. But it announced only two, neither involving the balanced budget law.

"I've told the President and I've told the Senator (Robert Dole) that if the Supreme Court strikes down significant provisions of Gramm-Rudman, there'll be a Gramm-Rudman II," Gramm said. "I'm not about to let Congress off the hook on balancing the budget."

He said if the high court finds problems with the bill then "we'll go back and fix it."

The network had reported that the court was about to announce a decision striking down the law's provision giving important powers to the comptroller general, an officer of Congress.

The Gramm-Rudman law calls for eliminating the federal deficit gradually by 1991. If the deficit rises above yearly targets, automatic spending cuts go into effect. The comptroller general, who heads Congress' General Accounting Office, is in charge of ordering the across-the-board cuts.

A three-judge appellate panel said Feb. 7 that, by calculating the precise amount of budget cuts for each federal agency and program, the comptroller general would be exercising "the sort of power normally conferred upon the executive."

Gramm, who referred to the ABC report as a rumor, said the problems with the comptroller general's role in the budget process would be easy to correct.

"To this point, the only challenge is the involvement of the comptroller," Gramm said. "If that's a problem, it's a problem with a 1921 law. We can correct that by simply repealing the offending provision."

Gramm said there is a fallback provision in the bill to get around using the comptroller. Congress also could amend the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921, which gives Congress the ability to remove the comptroller. That provision in the 1921 law creates the separation-of-powers problem, Gramm said.

In 1978, ABC carried leaked reports from the Supreme Court over a period of two weeks.

One was the court's ruling on a controversial New York case involving newspaper efforts to gain entry to pretrial proceedings. The high court determined that the right to a public trial did not entitle the press and public to attend such hearings.

After the ABC leaks, an employee of the Supreme Court's print shop was transferred to another job.

The first round of Gramm-Rudman budget cuts, \$11.7 billion worth, went into effect March 1.

The deficit for this year is estimated at more than \$200 billion. The Gramm-Rudman law requires the figure to be no higher than \$144 billion for the next fiscal year.

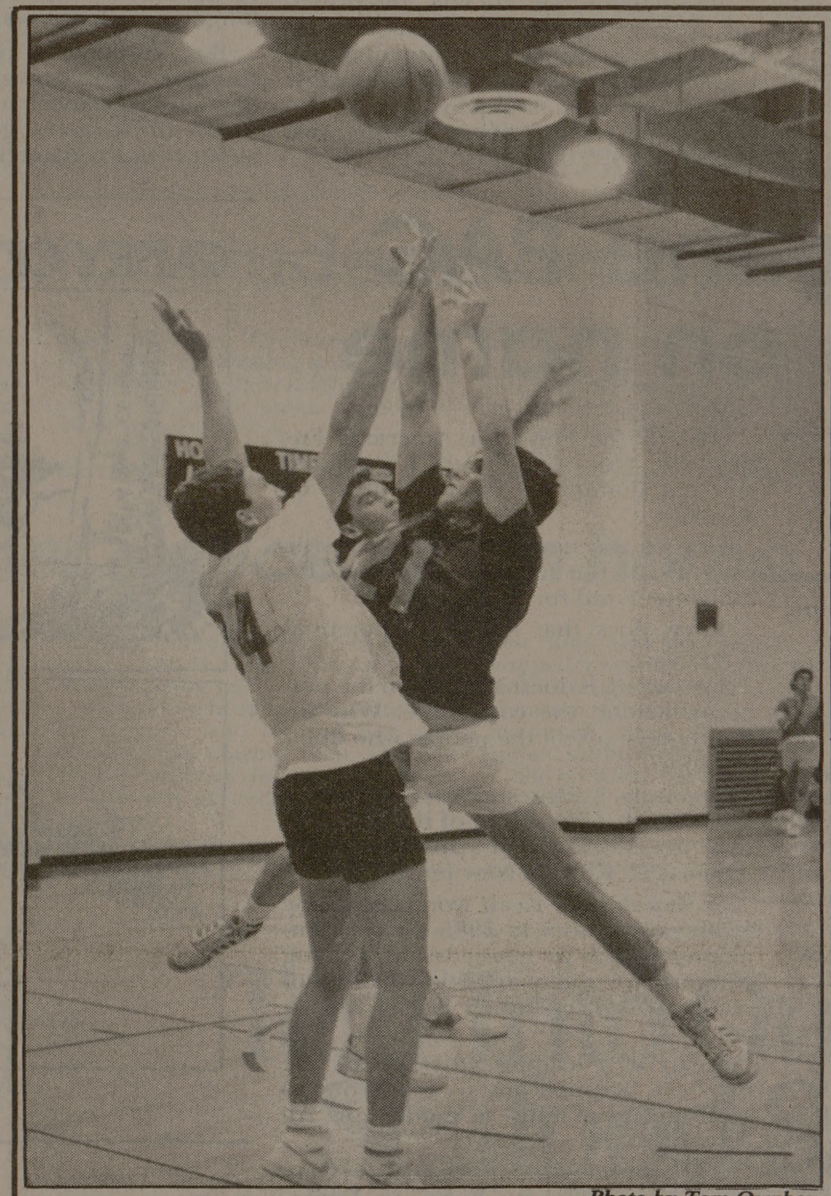


Photo by Tom Ownbey

Not Quite The Rockets

Three players struggle in an intramural basketball game on Monday, the first day of summer play. Play also began Monday for intramural slowpitch softball and tournaments for tennis, horseshoe, racquetball and golf.

Defeat of real estate loophole sought

Tax bill supporters rally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Backers of a radical tax-overhaul plan tried to rally votes Monday against a last-minute amendment that Finance Committee Chairman Bob Packwood argued would "open up the biggest personal tax-shelter loophole in the tax code" — real estate investments.

Packwood said he was unsure he could muster enough votes to defeat the amendment, which could delay passage of the overall bill beyond the Tuesday night schedule he had anticipated.

Packwood, manager of the bill, led the attack on a proposal by Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, to remove the retroactive feature of a section aimed at closing off real estate tax shelters.

Metzenbaum, in a theme repeated by more than a dozen senators during debate, said the retroactive provision — which affects the ability to use investment losses to shield other earnings from taxes — amounts to a rules change after an investment has been made.

Metzenbaum said, "I don't intend to bring any amendment to the floor that will permit taxpayers to zero out," or avoid taxes altogether.

Metzenbaum said the amendment is designed to help real-estate professionals, "not dentists, druggists, doctors and others who go into real estate as a means to shelter other income."

For the time being, the Senate was looking over some of the scores of special-interest tax breaks that were

written into the measure by the Finance Committee. And some members were looking for ways to add some more special provisions.

Metzenbaum has put out a list of more than a dozen of the provisions that he considers least justifiable and was preparing amendments to eliminate some of them.

The list includes about \$100 million in tax cuts to help the Phillips Petroleum Co. over the hump caused in fighting a takeover attempt.

On a 74-13 vote, the Senate rejected Metzenbaum's amendment to eliminate the benefit for Phillips Petroleum and use the money to give a tax benefit for farmers. "Vote with Phillips or vote with the family farmer," Metzenbaum said.

Farm Aid funds reach programs

AUSTIN (AP) — The Farm Aid project, which staged a benefit concert in Illinois last fall and plans a second in Austin on July 4, has so far netted or committed \$4.3 million on programs in 37 states, officials say.

The project has \$2.7 million remaining in its relief fund, which organizers hope will be bolstered by proceeds from the second concert. Among the programs funded to help debt-ridden farmers are food pantries, telephone hot lines, legal services, community outreach programs and scholarships, officials said.

The first concert at Champaign, Ill., which cost about \$2 million to produce, and subsequent solicitations through advertisements have raised about \$9 million in dona-

tions, said Farm Aid director Carolyn Mugar.

Bill Wittliff, an Austin screenwriter who helps oversee the funds, said the total changes daily because donations continue to come in.

Funds are deposited in a Champaign bank, but donations from Farm Aid II will be kept in an Austin bank, Wittliff said.

Singer Willie Nelson, organizer of the Farm Aid project, has made all decisions on spending the funds and signed the outgoing checks, Wittliff said. Nelson has received suggestions from many sources, he added.

The 14-hour Farm Aid II concert July 4 at the University of Texas Memorial Stadium will include more than 50 entertainers and bands. The concert will be carried live on the ca-

ble television channel VH-1. Viewers will be asked to phone in pledges.

Nelson isn't predicting how much money Farm Aid II might raise.

Farm Aid is administered from the singer's studio at Briarcliff, near Lake Travis, and from a small office in Cambridge, Mass., with a staff of two full-time and two part-time employees.

Wittliff said he is helping Nelson with Farm Aid as a favor to the singer and because he developed an interest in farm problems while researching and writing the film "Country," which centered on the failure of a Midwestern family farm.

"So many of the farmers are so far gone it's not a question of them losing their land — they're going to lose the land — but how do you save

them to where they can leave with a little bit of dignity?" he said.

"What Farm Aid tries to do is help farmers help themselves," Wittliff said. "Willie decided early on that money should go to where it could do the most good for the most people."

"Farm Aid is not giving money directly to farmers. It's all going through places that hopefully can help the most farmers."

In addition to the other projects, Farm Aid will sponsor a national farm congress this September in Kansas City, Mo., where "farm groups and organizations get together under one umbrella and discuss the farm crisis and hopefully find some common ground to stand on," Wittliff said.

Copter crash seen on live TV

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A traffic helicopter spiraled out of control and crashed Monday, killing two of three people aboard, and television viewers saw live, tilted pictures from the aircraft seconds before it hit the ground.

A reporter and cameraman had just completed a report on traffic conditions when the helicopter crashed in a vacant lot at 6:44 a.m. EDT near the downtown interchange of Interstates 95 and 10, and burst into flames.

Killed were WAPE-FM reporter Julie Ann Silvers, 26, known on the air as Julie King, and helicopter pilot William Buddy Smith, 34, said sheriff's Sgt. Steven Richardson. Cameraman Brett C. Snyder was se-

riously injured in the crash.

The traffic report was being broadcast simultaneously on WAPE-FM and on "Good Morning Jacksonville" on WTLV-TV.

In the final seconds before the crash television viewers saw a live shot of the traffic from about 150 feet in the air, said Katherine M. Green, a news producer for WTLV.

Witnesses at the scene who saw the helicopter fall several hundred feet, spiral through some trees and slam into a vacant lot, ran over and freed the occupants shortly before the craft burst into flames, said George E. Banks, WTLV assignment manager.

Snyder, 22, was in serious condition at University Hospital.