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World and Nation

Fourth astronaut plans to leave NASA

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Astronaut James D. van Hoften, saying he can never hope to top his two dramatic spacewalking satellite repair missions, announced Tuesday he is leaving NASA to take a job in industry.

"I've had two of the most memorable flights and it's very difficult to beat that," said van Hoften, 42. "The next flight was going to be good, but I didn't think I would ever get any better than what I had."

Van Hoften, who was nicknamed "Ox" because of his strength and 6-foot-4 size, flew on two shuttle missions and helped repair two crippled satellites during a series of dramatic spacewalks. He was scheduled to fly again, but his mission was canceled after the Challenger accident.

The astronaut said Tuesday he is leaving the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to accept a position with the defense and

space division of Bechtel Corp. in San Francisco.

He becomes the fourth astronaut to leave NASA since the Jan. 28 Challenger accident caused the space shuttle fleet to be grounded. "The accident had essentially nothing to do with the decision (to leave)," said van Hoften. "The accident makes me feel worse about leaving. I had rather leave on a high note. I don't feel good about it in that respect."

Van Hoften said he felt the report by the Rogers Commission, which investigated the Challenger accident, was correct about NASA offer-

ing little management opportunity to astronauts. He said most NASA management jobs go to engineers from the flight control division of the space agency.

Van Hoften said most astronauts would rather fly than become man-

aging the ability of space astronauts aboard the shuttle to repair ailing satellites.

In April 1984, he and George Nelson fixed a science satellite called Solaris work required removing a faulty electronic box, which was the most difficult orbital attempted to that time.

And in September 1985, ten captured the Syncom communications satellite by hand, the 7½-ton craft in the bay of space shuttle Discovery and astronaut Bill Fisher wired the craft, bypassing failed electronics.

The astronaut, who weighs 300 pounds and is physically strongest of the

"The next flight was going to be good, but I didn't think I would ever get any better than what I had."

— Former astronaut James D. van Hoften.

South Africa Government reports 11 killed, says violent plans thwarted

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The government reported Tuesday that 11 more blacks had been killed but claimed its security force on the nation had frustrated plans for a campaign of violence.

Deaths during a strike by millions of blacks on Monday's anniversary of the bloody 1976 Soweto uprising, and through the early hours Tuesday, brought to 42 the number of people killed since the state of emergency was imposed last Thursday.

The average of eight daily compares with 2.4 last year and five this year before the emergency.

Authorities maintained that the security clampdown foiled mass protests and averted what they called plans by the outlawed African National Congress to change the country's history with a "multi-pronged offensive" on the anniversary.

Government spokesman Leon Mellet said, "Nowhere was there mass unrest. The incidents of violence were isolated." Mellet spoke to reporters at the daily briefing by the Information Bureau, the only

source of official information under stringent curbs on the press.

Reporters, taken in mesh-protected police buses on a tour of several neighborhoods in the vast township outside Johannesburg, saw no signs of unrest.

The trouble in Soweto 10 years ago began June 16 with demonstrations by school children against a new law requiring them to be taught in Afrikaans, the language of the white Afrikaners who control the government. Riots spread through the nation and 575 people had been killed, by official count, when it subsided late in 1977.

Mellet said the worst unrest on Monday's anniversary was in the Eastern Cape, an industrial area.

He said four of the 11 people killed were shot down by police who fired on blacks attacking patrols with stones or gasoline bombs in three clashes in the Eastern Cape and one in Munsiville, west of Johannesburg.

He said the others were burned or shot to death, presumably by other blacks.

Israelis deny working with Navy analyst spy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai denied Tuesday that his nation conducted spying operations in the United States beyond "a one-time deviation" involving an American civilian Navy analyst.

Following Jonathan Jay Pollard's guilty plea to selling secrets to Israel, U.S. officials, declining to be named publicly, said Israeli espionage in the United States might be more extensive than Israel has acknowledged.

Two of them, Joseph Yagur and Irit Erb, were recalled from their posts at the Israeli Embassy in Washington after Pollard's arrest last Nov. 21.

The third, Rafael Eitan, a senior Israeli intelligence official who allegedly ran the Pollard operation, has been given a job in a government-owned corporation, Modai said.

A fourth man named as one of Pollard's contacts, Air Force officer Avi Sella, was recently advanced from colonel to brigadier general.

This Modai said, was made by the Israeli armed forces chief of staff and not by the cabinet.

Countering allegations that Eitan and Sella had been rewarded with choice jobs for their roles in the Pollard affair, Modai said Eitan was given "a job by the Israeli authorities . . . not in reward for anything, but in consideration for past services . . . and the fact that he was being fired from a very high position."

Pollard, 31, a civilian counterterrorist analyst for the Navy, confessed to selling secrets to Israel from 1984 to his arrest last November. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unauthorized possession of classified documents.

But Modai denied those allegations, saying "not only are they lies, they are completely unfounded."

"If you intimate that this is the tip of the iceberg, where is the iceberg? If you intimate that there were other cases, where are the other cases? If you suggest that Israeli authorities knew about it, where is the proof?"

Modai asked reporters called to a news conference at the Israeli Embassy here.

In response to questioning, Modai said that there is no Israeli espionage operation ongoing in the United States.

Modai said that three Israelis named as unindicted co-conspirators in the Pollard indictment have been investigated by their government and fired.

Singer Kate Smith dies at age 71

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Kate Smith, whose rousing rendition of "God Bless America" made her an enduring symbol of joyful patriotism, died Tuesday of respiratory arrest. She was 79.

Smith died at the emergency room of Raleigh Community Hospital, where she was taken after being stricken at her home, said nursing supervisor Mike Leisey.

Smith had suffered brain damage during a diabetic coma in 1976 that made it difficult for her to walk or talk during her later years. Diabetes forced the amputation of her right leg above the knee in January, and she underwent a mastectomy May 9.

One of the most popular entertainers on radio during the 1930s and 1940s, Smith had no formal music training.

She was most closely identified with "God Bless America," making it a virtual second national anthem and inspiring her nickname, "radio's own Statue of Liberty."

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt introduced her to visiting King George VI of England, he said, "This is Kate Smith — this is America."

More than 40 years later, in awarding Smith the Medal of Freedom, President Reagan said Smith "sang from the heart so we always listened with our hearts."

Kathryn Elizabeth Smith was born in Greenville, Va., on May 1, 1907, though most reference books gave her birthdate as 1909. She made her first public appearance as a singer at age 4 in a church choir in Washington.

She caught the eye of stage star Eddie Dowling when she filled in for an ailing performer at a vaudeville house, and soon she was signed for a role in a musical. The 5-foot, 10-inch Smith, who weighed as much as 240 pounds, played a fat woman who was ridiculed by other characters.

She played comic roles in other musicals. As a foil for comedian Bert Lahr in "Flying High," she endured such lines as, "When she sits down it's like a dirigible coming in for a landing."

But in 1930, a Columbia Records representative heard Smith sing and asked to see her. He booked her for a record vaudeville run, and on May 1, 1931, she made her radio debut in a 15-minute broadcast for CBS.

In 1938, Irving Berlin gave her

the exclusive right to sing "God Bless America" on the air after him for a song that would be the spirit of the nation.

During World War II, nearly 520,000 miles of troops, she also sold a million in war bonds in a round-the-clock radio broadcast.

During the 1970s, "God Bless America" was the National Hockey League's theme song. Flyers never lost a game she performed.

She made a special award the 1982 Emmy Award. With Bob Hope pushing her chair, she wiped a tear as the audience sang "America."

World Briefs

Continental almost out of Chapter 11

HOUSTON (AP) — Continental Airlines filed amendments to its plan of reorganization with a federal bankruptcy court Monday, paving the way for the airline to emerge from proceedings later this month, the company announced.

The amendments incorporate technical changes to speed up the process of getting out of bankruptcy, the company said. A hearing on the amendments is scheduled for June 30. The plan calls

for Continental to pay all creditor groups in full and satisfy \$900 million in pre-petition obligations.

Continental filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the general bankruptcy code in late January. The airline suspended service a few days, laid off thousands of workers and trimmed its fleet. It returned as a discriminator and subsequently stored it work force and system.

the widow of an astronaut in an Apollo accident, identified the family he is resenting.

"We're hoping to avoid action) if possible," Kristof said.

The lawyer said he was resenting only one family that family lawyers represent other Challenger families called to ask if he is available. Their clients opted to initiate

Prices close lower on stock market

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices drifted down in a desultory session Tuesday amid uncertainty about the outlook for interest rates and the economy.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials yielded modest early gains and finished with a loss of 5.99 points at 1,865.78.

The weakness extended to the broader market where declines outnumbered advances by about a 5-to-3 margin on the New York Stock Exchange. The NYSE composite index fell 0.80 to 140.37.

Volume on the Big Board expanded to 123.09 million shares from 112.12 million on Monday. Wariness ahead of a presidential inauguration from President Reagan restrained activity in the afternoon on Wall Street.

Around midday the White House said Reagan would make a announcement at 2 p.m. and refused to disclose the topic.

The market's attempt to prove unsuccessful, and it eventually resumed its sluggish

People balk at potential nuclear risks

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Attempts to convince the public that nuclear power is safe can be thwarted by the public's psychological barriers of mistrust and by unappealing ways of describing potential risks, a psychologist says.

Statistics that compare nuclear energy risks to those of everyday life tend to be unsatisfying for lay people, whose notions of risk go

Cheap ways to treat AIDS searched

WASHINGTON (AP) — Health care experts, projecting billions of dollars in expenses for treating AIDS patients, are examining new and cheaper options that might avert many costly hospital stays.

Health planners are relying on estimates that each AIDS patient will cost between \$46,000 and \$92,000, and there likely will be at least 145,000 patients to be cared for in 1991.

Kristine Gebbie, director of Oregon's state health department, said the Association of State Health Officials, health administrators and to California, and especially San Francisco, for example, innovative treatment methods might hold down costs.

For AIDS patients in supportive families, home care is a likely alternative to hospital care.