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Statue stands ready for weekend festivities

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Harbor, gateway for generations of immigrants, is ready to salute Lady Liberty, whose towering beacon will be relighted today to set off an exuberant four-day birthday bash as colossal as the statue itself.

Millions of visitors, drawn by the re-in-a-lifetime event, were gathered in the city as the harbor came alive Wednesday with graceful tall ships, imposing naval vessels and all pleasure craft.

The harbor will be the center of attention during the four-day celebration featuring fireworks, street parades and a parade of tall ships. But the statue will be the star attraction as presidents and tourists gather to celebrate the monument's centennial.

Tonight the statue will be bathed in light in a ceremonial unveiling after a \$66 million restoration project and Lady Liberty's new torch will be

lit. But in the shadow of the statue in Battery Park City, about 50 of the city's homeless spent a rainy Wednesday in soggy cardboard boxes to draw attention to their plight.

They were joined by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who said they were being excluded by the celebration, here tickets to the opening ceremonies featuring President Reagan and resident Francois Mitterrand of France go for \$10,000.

The city's convention and visitors bureau said that 2,000 hotel rooms are still available and that many of the visitors would probably stay with family or friends. As for the city's 7.1 million residents, some undoubtedly are leaving to avoid the masses, but others would stick it out, a spokeswoman said.

In New York Harbor, tall ships from around the world were joined Wednesday by the battleship USS Iowa, which will carry Reagan down the Hudson River in an international naval review Friday. The 22 tall ships and their escorts will parade up the Hudson.

The harbor was jammed with boats, including small pleasure craft, and as many as 60,000 were expected, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Randy Midgett.



Total Loss

A car belonging to Cleveland Clark of 415 College Main in College Station caught fire at about 7:15 Wednesday evening at the intersection of College Main and Church streets. Clark, who said he bought the car Wednesday morning and insured it

that afternoon, said he was driving when he heard a popping noise from the engine and saw flames. College Station firemen extinguished the blaze. Clark and a passenger in the car were unhurt but the car was a total loss.

Photo by Tom Ownbey

Festivities set throughout state

Texans ready for July 4th

From wailin' Willies to fireworks frenzies, a human chair and the end of the Wagon Train trail, the Lone Star State will celebrate the nation's 210th birthday in Texas-sized style.

More than 80 performers and 30,000 fans will descend on Austin Friday for Willie Nelson's mobile Farm Aid II concert, an 18-hour marathon that after two moves has settled at Manor Downs east of the city.

In Fort Worth, meanwhile, the Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon train has rumbled into town on the last leg of its 3,000-mile journey that began

six months ago in Sulphur Springs.

The wagon train camped at its city stockyards terminus along with Texas' answer to the Statue of Liberty — the Goddess of Liberty, which perched atop the Austin Capitol dome for nearly a century until ill health forced her down.

In Houston, more than 10,000 people are expected to gather in Sam Houston Park in their attempt to set a world record for the largest human chair. Participants will form a giant circle, each sitting on the lap of the person behind him, in their effort to out-sit the current record of

10,323 as listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records."

As with dozens of other celebrations, that event accompanies an Independence Day picnic and fireworks display.

Soaring liability insurance rates, however, have fizzled fireworks shows in some Texas cities such as Hereford and Abilene. They even threatened the annual spectacular at Dallas' Fair Park, but officials there say the show will go on and join more than 50 in the Dallas area.

State will file charges against 780 detainees

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The government said Wednesday criminal charges ranging from murder to assault will be filed against 780 people detained under the three-week-old state of emergency.

The detainees who face charges will have access to lawyers, Bureau for Information spokeswoman Ronelle Henning told a news conference. If convicted, they could get lengthy jail terms.

The bureau refuses to say how many people are being held incommunicado and without charge under the nationwide emergency imposed June 12.

South African and foreign monitoring groups estimate the number of detainees at 1,800 to more than 3,000. The prisoners are known to include trade union leaders, priests, journalists and anti-apartheid activists.

White opposition Progressive Federal Party legislator Ken Andrew said he suspected the charges would amount merely "to a smear story put out to justify the repressive actions of the authorities."

Under the state of emergency, the

Bureau for Information is the only source of official information. Emergency restrictions prohibit the media from reporting statements that the government considers subversive and bar reporting on the activities of security forces. The regulations also ban the naming of detainees.

Despite a spate of bombings the government blames on the African National Congress and threats of disruptive action to protest detentions of labor union leaders, officials sounded confident the crackdown has quelled 22 months of black unrest.

"Although the radical element may be regrouping, the state of emergency is having the desired effect of restoring peace in the country," Henning said. "The African National Congress is out of touch... The people of South Africa will indeed share power but it will be done through negotiation."

Two of the eight people wounded in the latest bombing — an explosion Wednesday at a downtown Johannesburg bus stop — remained hospitalized, including a 2-week-old baby cut by flying glass. It was the 10th bombing in South African cities

High court OKs race-conscious hiring choices

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court reaffirmed race-conscious hiring and promotional preferences Wednesday, parting company with Reagan administration officials who insist that personnel decisions generally must be made on a colorblind basis.

The court's rulings in two disputes, one by a 6-3 margin and the other by a 5-4 vote, represented a major victory for civil rights groups and women's organizations which have pushed affirmative action programs in recent years.

At the NAACP convention in Baltimore, Executive Director Benjamin Hooks hailed the rulings as "a tremendous victory" and "a significant rebuke" to the administration.

But at the Justice Department, Attorney General Edwin Meese said he wasn't disheartened.

"We will continue to hold to the moral position that the court itself in each of these cases has re-established as the ultimate goal that we would have a colorblind society and that we would not have racial preferences," he said. "That is the preferred position of this administration and the one we will continue to urge."

The Supreme Court rejected the administration's argument that affirmative action should be limited to actual victims of past bias to avoid "reverse discrimination" against the innocent, primarily white people.

Justice William J. Brennan said, "We reject this argument and hold that (federal law) does not prohibit a court from ordering, in appropriate circumstances, affirmative race-conscious relief as a remedy for past discrimination."

"Specifically, we hold that such relief may be appropriate where an employer or a labor union has engaged in persistent or egregious discrimination, or where necessary to dissipate the lingering effects of pervasive discrimination."

In one of the cases, the justices approved by a 6-3 vote a plan that reserves about half the promotions in Cleveland's fire department for qualified minority candidates.

In the other, the court ruled 5-4 that a union representing sheet metal workers in New York and New

Jersey must double its non-white membership to 29.3 percent by August 1987. The union, formerly all-white, had been found guilty of racial discrimination.

As in past rulings on affirmative action, the court was fragmented. The two cases yielded nine written opinions authored by five justices.

But in each case, seven justices rejected the administration's narrow view of permissible affirmative action.

Bill McEwen, a spokesman for the National Association of Manufacturers, praised the rulings. "We're pleased that the Supreme Court has reinforced the concept of affirmative action and has recognized its value as a tool to help eradicate the present effects of past discrimination," he said.

Ralph Neas, executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, said, "These decisions underscore the nation's bipartisan commitment to affirmative action goals. The Supreme Court has repudiated the (administration's) attempt to gut affirmative action."

In the sheet metal workers case, federal courts ordered the union to expand its non-white membership, noting that it refused to admit blacks until 1969 and had an "egregious" history of discrimination.

Dissenting in both cases Wednesday were Justice Byron R. White; Chief Justice Warren E. Burger, who is about to retire, and Justice William H. Rehnquist.

'Dangerous' armed man still at large

ROYSE CITY (AP) — An armed man who shot at a Royse City police officer, stole and then wrecked a squad car and abducted two fishermen was being sought Wednesday by authorities.

The suspect wore a flak jacket, had a pistol tucked in a side holster and carried a shotgun during the three-hour rampage Tuesday morning, Dallas police spokesman Bob Shaw said.

The man was considered extremely dangerous.

The two fishermen — Harold Buchanan and Kelly Mortensen of Garland — were eastbound on Interstate 30 east of Dallas when they stopped to help a man trapped in a burning, overturned police patrol car near Caddo Mills.

The man said he was an undercover narcotics officer but was actually being sought for assault on the Royse City police officer, authorities said.

Buchanan and Mortensen drove the man around for nearly two hours before dropping him off at an east Dallas motel, police said.

Royse City Police Chief Gary Jordan said the string of events began about 4:30 a.m. Tuesday. Officer Gary Sawyer, while on patrol, tried to pull over a sedan reported stolen Monday in Garland.

The driver tried to escape, and Sawyer chased the car until both men drove into a ditch and got out of their cars.

"The suspect pulled a 6-inch revolver, large caliber, and fired on shot at point-blank range, rupturing (Sawyer's) eardrum but missing the officer," Jordan said.



Photo by Tom Ownbey

If good catchers have to know how to get hit by the ball, this player at the Texas A&M baseball camp should be great. The camp, at which A&M coaches teach baseball basics to junior high and high school students, is attended by about 250 players a summer.

3 die as thousands strike to protest Chilean military rule

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Tens of thousands of shopkeepers, truckers and bus drivers stayed home Wednesday to protest military rule, siding the government to ban opposition radio broadcasts and charge strike leaders with state security violations.

Police said three slum residents were killed by gunfire, six others were wounded and 120 demonstrators were arrested in one of the largest protests against the regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who seized power in a bloody September 1973 coup.

The illegal protest failed to shut factories, mines, ports, banks, petroleum production or government offices, and directly affected only small independent businesses.

But the shortage of buses in Santiago and Concepcion, the two largest urban areas, forced thousands of commuters to find alternate ways to work and then go home early. There were no home deliveries of milk and bottled heating gas, a winter staple in the Southern Hemisphere.

Most downtown businesses opened in Santiago during the morning but closed for good at

lunchtime. Waitresses wearing gas masks served tables in a cafe near the Plaza de Armas as riot police nearby fired tear gas and water cannons to scatter hundreds of demonstrators from the city center.

Leaders of the work stoppage called it a successful first shot in their battle to drive Pinochet from the presidency he seized from Marxist President Salvador Allende. They said the strike would continue today.

Juan Luis Gonzalez, president of the two-month-old Civic Assembly that called the strike, said, "Many Chileans, in spite of their fear of re-

prisals, are demonstrating peacefully their desire for a return to democracy. This is the beginning of the beginning in our campaign of civil disobedience."

But his words were banned in Chile by a military decree limiting newscasts on four opposition radio networks — Cooperativa, Chilena, Santiago and Carrera — to government statements. Chilean newspapers agreed voluntarily to the censorship.

In the first government statement, the Interior Ministry charged Gonzalez and 16 other as-

sembly directors with violating the national security code by calling illegal meetings, inciting disorder, paralyzing economic activity and plotting against the government.

A government suit asked a judge to investigate the charges and order the 17 opposition leaders arrested. Each faces up to 25 years in prison if convicted.

Gonzalez said, "If we are summoned, we will go to court to make our case. We know we are right." According to estimates by assem-

bled leaders and independent checks, about half Santiago's 250,000 shopworkers and 85 percent of its 9,000 bus drivers stayed home.

Pinochet, 70, made no comment on the strike and none of his ministers came forward to assess its political or economic impact.

The general sent soldiers to patrol volatile working class districts. His police arrested two leaders of the truckers federation, the head of a teachers union and a university student leader who backed the protest.