

World and Nation

Robot photographs ship's interior

Titanic explored by Jason Jr.

WOODS HOLE, Mass. (AP) — Researchers sent an underwater robot back inside the Titanic on Wednesday to take pictures of first-class staterooms where an Astor may have slept and passageways where a Guggenheim may have walked to the Turkish bath before the ship sank 74 years ago.

Expedition leader Robert Ballard, who also headed the French-American team that discovered the "unsinkable" steamship last September, said the robot, Jason Jr., would be guided to the first-class cabins that, in today's values, cost about \$50,000 to book one way from London to New York.

He said the observations of the

ship that sank with more than 1,000 people were being made "in a very respectful way."

Ballard said the little submersible and its television and still cameras, which had already photographed unbroken crystal chandeliers, also would be sent to inspect the bow, the forecastle crew quarters, the captain's bridge area and the mast and crow's nest.

It was foggy and mild on the ocean surface 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland where Ballard and the two other scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution have directed the lawnmower-size Jason Jr. from a small submarine outside the sunken steamship,

resting at a depth of more than two miles.

The larger fixtures the researchers might see include a gymnasium Turkish bath, squash courts, a special compartment for automobiles, several libraries and a Parisian cafe. There also was a swimming pool.

Those facilities were intended for the likes of millionaires John Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim, and department store mogul Isidor Straus — all of whom perished on the Titanic.

They were among 1,513 people who died when what was then the largest passenger liner ever built went down April 15, 1912, after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage

from England to the United States. There were 704 survivors, mostly women and children.

The greatest percentage of survivors was among passengers in the first-class or steerage section of the ship. There were numerous reports that those passengers were not treated equitably during the evacuation.

On Tuesday, the men view the Titanic's grand staircase as the first glimpse of the interior of the ship sank.

Ballard said the researchers not yet used the expensive equipment to look for furniture.

Weinberger: U.S. will not abandon freedom fighters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rebel leaders fighting communism in some of the world's hot spots gathered Wednesday at a "Contra Summit" and were told by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the United States will not abandon them.

Guerrillas representing the well-publicized insurgencies in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Angola joined rebels from Ethiopia, Laos and Cambodia at a conference sponsored by the American Security Council, a conservative organization dedicated to a strong defense.

Weinberger, along with Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., and Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., attended events at which the rebels, called freedom fighters by President Reagan, wore suits, ties and buttons stating: "I'm a Contra, too."

The word Contra is used to describe the U.S.-backed Nicaraguans battling Managua's Sandinista government, but anti-communist rebels from Africa and Asia said they share goals and aspirations.

"Contras are now all of us... dedicated to fighting Soviet expansion," said Jeremiah Chitunda, an associate of Jonas Savimbi, the head of troops fighting Angola's government, which is propped up by Cuban troops and Soviet aid. "It is now perceived that Washington cares about freedom fighters."

Describing the resistance groups, Weinberger said, "They have, as so many have in the past, come to America for aid and encouragement. Our message must remain what it has always been: We shall not abandon you."

But Weinberger focused most of his remarks on criticism of the House Armed Services Committee for budget cuts he said reflect a "strategy of weakness."

The committee has so far approved a defense budget authorization totaling \$284.9 billion. President Reagan requested \$320.3 billion in defense budget authority in fiscal 1987, up substantially from the \$286.1 billion approved for the current fiscal year.

By contrast, Dole discussed the Senate's role in helping non-communist groups in the past year, and praised Reagan's policies.

"I believe the president is on the right course," he said. "I'm willing to suggest Ronald Reagan is committed to peace, to arms control..."

Adolfo Calero, a senior leader of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, the Contra umbrella group, said his fighters will not need help from American troops if Congress approves \$100 million in aid.

Senate committee skeptical of MIA evidence

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of a Senate committee voiced skepticism Wednesday over pictures and maps presented by a pair of former Army Green Berets appearing under subpoena to prove their claim that Americans still are being held in Southeast Asia.

Maj. Mark A. Smith and Sgt. Melvin C. McIntire, both retired, offered photographs of what they said were three Americans still in Southeast Asia and maps marking locations in the region where they con-

tend Americans have been held — one of them inside China.

But the two men didn't provide a videotape that they claim to have seen showing Americans held in forced labor in Laos.

And the three pictures — photocopies of photographs — were indistinct and showed only unidentified males standing, not visibly under guard or in any identifiable location.

"I don't see anything in these papers... any tangible evidence that POWs, folks in the military, are the subject of any evidence here," said

Sen. Jeremiah Denton, R-Alabama, who spent seven years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

Smith and McIntire appeared before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee following months of public claims and sworn testimony that they have conclusive evidence of missing Americans.

The Senate panel had tried for months to gain that evidence, and in welcoming them before the committee, Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., told the pair: "Put up or shut up."

In a sometimes contentious ap-

pearance before the panel, Smith said that tape was made at his direction, but that his source — a South Asian — possessed the tape and wouldn't cooperate because his identity had been exposed.

Smith, in an interview after his appearance, said he still has other evidence including names of American prisoners and more photographs but that he isn't willing to present them to the committee because of fears leaks.

Reagan repeats nuclear weapons warning to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, while praising Pakistan's stand against the Soviet Union's "brutal aggression" in neighboring Afghanistan, warned anew on Wednesday that U.S. military and economic aid will end if Pakistan builds nuclear weapons.

Reagan, welcoming Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to the White House, commended him for his nation's economic gains and the peaceful transition from martial law that was imposed in the late 1970s.

The president pointed out that these advances had been made despite the continuing strife along the border with Soviet-dominated Afghanistan and the flood of 3 million Afghan war refugees, which has placed a severe strain on the re-

sources of the developing nation of 84 million.

"Through it all the courageous people of Pakistan and their government have remained stalwart in their opposition to the Soviet Union's brutal aggression," Reagan said.

"America deeply admires Pakistan's steadfastness and bravery in this noble stand," he said.

As a sign of its support, the Reagan administration has proposed a \$4.02 billion economic and military aid package for the six years beginning Oct. 1, 1987, when the current \$3 billion program expires.

The Southwest Asian nation has been a key U.S. ally since the 1979 Soviet incursion into Afghanistan and the establishment there of a pro-Soviet government.

Nearly all U.S. covert assistance to the guerrillas battling the Soviet army flows through Pakistan.

In their hour-long private discussions, the president and Junejo also engaged in "a very serious, substantive exchange" on the issue of nuclear weapons development, said a senior administration official.

The administration has been required by Congress to certify annually that Pakistan does not possess an atomic bomb.

"We made clear the need for restraint in this area and that our relationship presupposes such restraint," said the official, who spoke on condition he not be identified.

The official said the administration "underscored the continuing serious U.S. concern with unsafe-

guarded nuclear facilities in Pakistan." Pakistan has refused to take part in an inspection program by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"There is good reason to believe that the government of Pakistan understands that their relationship with us depends upon restraint that our assistance programs have served as a significant brake on nuclear program," the official said.

Asked whether the prime minister had offered Reagan any new element of the state of Pakistan's clear program, the official replied that Pakistan "has both publicly and privately assured us they neither the intention nor the ability to develop nuclear explosives."

Campaign

(continued from page 1)

Peru. The illegal drug trade has grown to such an extent that drug trafficking families in Colombia offered to pay that nation's \$12.5 billion foreign debt and repatriate their fortunes if the government would protect them from prosecution.

Many leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean have said they are worried by the potential or real in-

fluence of the drug trade on their governments.

U.S. officials have expressed concern about the threat to stability of civilian governments and military institutions posed by the traffickers in cocaine, marijuana and heroin.

In Bolivia, cocaine dealers financed the 1980 military coup, according to evidence presented by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Col. Luis Arce Gomez, who

helped lead the takeover, is under indictment in Miami on cocaine trafficking charges.

Under the Bolivian government headed by Victor Paz Estenssoro, there have been unconfirmed reports implicating top officials in drug-related corruption. There also is a great deal of police corruption, with little action taken.

Bolivia's cocaine exports are estimated to be worth \$2 billion, based on Miami prices, with an estimated \$600 million dollars coming back to

Bolivia. Legal exports for 1985 estimated at \$400 million, due to a drop in natural gas and tin prices.

There is little public concern in Bolivia with the money coming from cocaine, but the rising number of addicted children — now estimated at 80,000 — is increasing issue. Many addicts acquire their habit while stomping on a mixture of leaves and kerosene for \$10 a night, part of the cocaine production process.

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