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South Africa retaliates against sanctions

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — The government said Tuesday it will impose controls on goods bound for landlocked Zambia and Zimbabwe because of the international sanctions campaign against apartheid.

Most trade of the two black-ruled countries passes through South Africa.

"Now they must put their money where their mouth is," Foreign Minister R.F. Botha said.

Zambia and Zimbabwe support punitive economic measures against South Africa, and their leaders pushed strongly for them at this

week's Commonwealth meeting in London.

Botha told a news conference South Africa would put a levy on all imports passing through its territory, citing Zambia and Zimbabwe as the first targets.

If the security situation deteriorates, Botha said, "there will be more strict border regulations."

More than half of southern Africa's trade passes through South African ports, the foreign minister said.

The government used meticulous border inspections in January, dramatically delaying shipments, to put

pressure on a hostile government in Lesotho. A military council more friendly to its powerful neighbor replaced that government in a coup.

South Africa's currency, the rand, fell in value from 39 cents to 38.40 cents Tuesday after the Commonwealth summit in London at which Zambia, Zimbabwe and four other countries agreed on tough sanctions. Britain, the seventh nation involved, endorsed only limited measures.

Helen Suzman, an opposition member of Parliament and veteran anti-apartheid activist, told a rally in Johannesburg that sanctions would

cause the government to become more defiant.

"Liberation is not around the corner," she said. "Whites put the government in power and it is up to whites to get them out."

In another development, the United Democratic Front said unrest will continue in black schools unless the government addresses the black community's grievances.

"The government's heavy-handed response to the crisis in our schools is threatening to reduce black education in South Africa from the shambles it already is to a national disaster," said a statement by the UDF, the largest coalition against the apartheid system of race discrimination.

"We have seen a dramatic increase in police and army presence on school grounds. . . . They are prepared to turn our schools into a battlefield," it said.

The government announced Friday that a license system will be established to control South Africa's imports from Zimbabwe, which total 200 million rand (\$80 million) a year.

Justice Dept. probes possible leak to Chile

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department is investigating an aide to Sen. Jesse Helms to determine whether the aide leaked secret information to the Chilean government, administration officials said Tuesday.

The State Department and CIA say they have evidence that Christopher Manion, brother of federal appeals court judge Daniel Manion, disclosed information that had been received in a classified briefing, according to the officials.

Manion is a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffer hired on Helms' recommendation and works for the senator on the panel's subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs. Helms is chairman of the subcommittee.

The investigation being conducted by the FBI is focusing on Manion, the sources confirmed.

The alleged leak involved U.S. ability to monitor internal communications of the Chilean armed forces, through which officials had

reportedly learned details of the July 6 burning death of a Chilean-born U.S. resident at an anti-government demonstration, according to the officials.

Claude Allen, a spokesman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, referred all questions to the Justice Department.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., meanwhile, said today he had talked to Helms about the matter.

Helms, R-N.C., was angered by the allegations that he or his staff gave the government of Chile information about the covert U.S. intelligence-gathering operation. Helms said Monday the accusations were made maliciously by Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs.

The allegations, publicly disclosed Sunday in the *New York Times*, have prompted the Senate Intelligence Committee to ask Attorney General Edwin Meese to open an investigation into potential violations and to report back.

Authorities catch brothers who escaped from prison

SUGAR LAND (AP) — Authorities late Monday apprehended two brothers who escaped some 15 hours earlier from a pest control squad at the Texas Department of Corrections Central Unit.

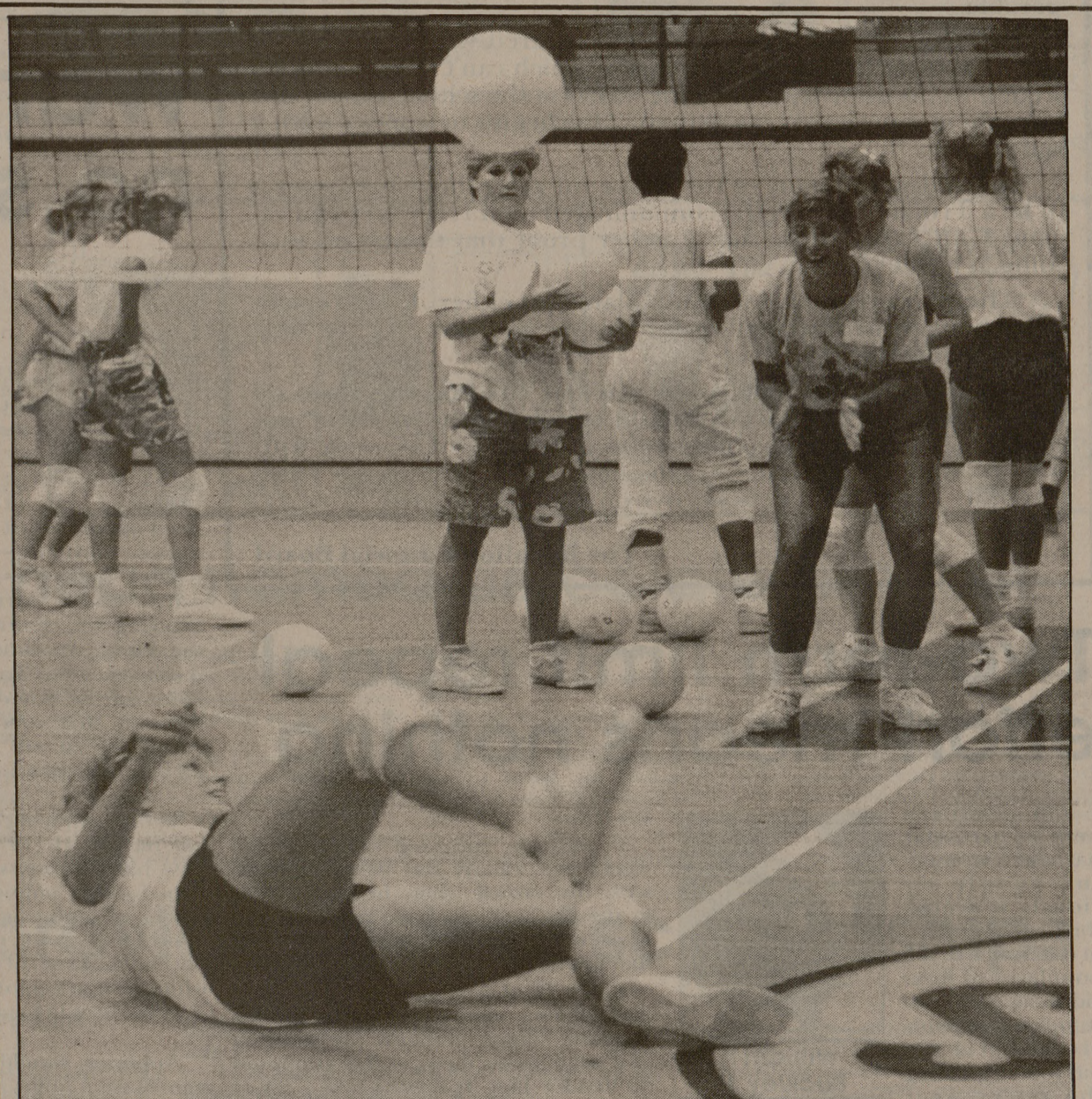
Chris Franklin Masterson, 18, and his 25-year-old brother, James Ivan Masterson, were found walking in north Harris County, said Jerry Riley, a spokesman for the Harris County Sheriff's Department.

The brothers, who are serving time for aggravated robbery convictions from Harris County, surrendered without a struggle, saying they

were tired of the chase, officials said. Authorities began looking for the pair in north Harris County Monday afternoon after they received reports the two were there, Riley said.

The brothers were discovered missing at 6:30 a.m. Monday by guards watching a pest control squad outside the unit, TDC spokesman David Nunnelee said.

The younger brother, who is not part of the pest control squad, apparently used a squad member's name to get outside the unit. He usually works in the prison soap factory, Nunnelee said.



An 'A' For Effort

Texas A&M Girls' Volleyball Camp coach Chris Zogata encourages a camper to "dive and roll" during practice Tuesday. This year's camp began

Sunday and ends Thursday with a mini-tournament. It is being attended by 78 girls between the ages of 13 and 18.

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Report: Fire school landfill may be leaking toxic wastes

By Olivier Uytendaele
Staff Writer

Texas Water Commission reports reveal that toxic wastes could be leaking from the landfill and drainage tanks at the Brayton Fire Training School, which is situated directly above an important water aquifer.

Texas Water Commission records show that a clay base below the drainage tanks may not be sufficient to prevent leaking of toxic wastes buried in the land fill.

A 1982 Water Commission report determined that groundwater contamination might still be possible de-

spite a 44-inch thick layer of clay under the landfill.

"Although the major water sands in the area generally are deeper than about 90 feet and appear to be protected by adequate thicknesses of clay . . . once allowed to seep into the subsurface, (wastes) could eventually migrate into a major water sand," the report notes.

These water sands under the drainage ponds constitute the Yegua aquifer, the principal water-bearing aquifer in the area, the report says. The aquifer provides water for

seven recorded wells within two miles of the fire school.

Based on these findings, the commission recommended that the school be required to line its drainage ponds with an added two-foot-thick layer of clay before the state approved the school's permit to discharge wastewater.

John Donovan, field manager of the fireman's school, said the school added the clay when the pond system was upgraded in 1982.

However, the toxic waste landfill located only 100 yards from the drainage ponds was not brought up

to the same standards. The landfill, which contains PCBs, toluene and benzene, was constructed in 1981 after a 1979 spill focused attention on toxic wastes at the school.

Whether chemicals actually are leaking from the landfill is hard to say because the fire school is not required to monitor groundwater.

Enforcement action taken by the Texas Department of Water Resources in 1981 did not require the school to monitor groundwater around the landfill. Even today the state does not require groundwater monitoring at the site, Don Wyrick,

water commission district representative, says.

"Why there was no requirement for monitoring the groundwater and submitting a report as other companies in the state of Texas are required to do, I don't know," he said.

Max Woodfin, environmental coordinator of the Texas Water Commission, said the state does not know if contamination has taken place.

"We have no way of knowing if there has been additional groundwater contamination," he said.

Today the water commission re-

quires that toxic landfills have a minimum of four monitoring wells. The fire school has a monitoring well but there are no records of tests being taken.

Milton Radke, associate director for programs at the Texas Engineering Extension Service, said the school was allowed to build the landfill on-site because the clay soil underlying the landfill was believed to be a fairly impervious base.

But a 1984 test by a Dallas company under contract with the water

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Hurricane specialist predicts four this year

HOUSTON (AP) — A weather specialist who accurately predicted the number of hurricanes last year says four such storms will form this season.

William M. Gray, an atmospheric scientist at Colorado State University, predicts four hurricanes, three tropical storms and 10 hurricane days will develop this season.

A hurricane day is any part of a day in which a tropical cyclone is estimated to have hurricane force winds.

One hurricane, a tropical storm and two hurricane days already have been recorded this season, which runs from June 1 through Nov. 30.

Statistically, the period from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31 is the most active part of the hurricane season. A tropical storm is upgraded to hurricane sta-

tus when sustained winds reach 74 mph.

Last year, Gray predicted seven hurricanes and three tropical storms would occur. As it turned out, he overshot his prediction only by one tropical storm.

Despite the accuracy of his 1985 predictions, Gray said that development of tropical storms and hurricanes undoubtedly is related to undiscovered factors.

The scientist bases his forecasts on four known factors that affect hurricane activity — El Nino, the weather phenomenon where sea surface temperatures in the eastern half of the Pacific Ocean occasionally rise; stratospheric equatorial winds; sea level pressures in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico; and tropospheric winds over the Caribbean in spring and early summer.

Nominee neutral on abortion

Scalia hearings begin

WASHINGTON (AP) — Antonin Scalia, President Reagan's nominee to the Supreme Court, said Tuesday he has no preconceived agenda to overturn past high-court rulings, including abortion rights.

"I assure you I have no agenda," Scalia told the Senate Judiciary Committee as it began its confirmation hearings on his selection. "My only agenda is to be a good judge. It's not a programmatic matter."

The low-key questioning of Scalia and opening statements by the 18 committee members were in marked contrast to last week's rancorous hearings on Reagan's proposed elevation of William H. Rehnquist to chief justice.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., asked Scalia, a conservative

federal appeals court judge, if he would vote to overturn the Supreme Court's 1973 ruling legalizing abortions. Kennedy said there are "some reports" that Scalia's supposed opposition to abortion was "a consideration" in his nomination by Reagan.

Scalia declined to say whether he believes abortion rights are protected by the Constitution on grounds he might have to confront the issue if confirmed and the high court decides to re-examine the question.

But the nominee said he respects court precedents and added that "no one arguing that case should think" he has made up his mind already.

The opening hours of the hearings were so free of confrontation that Sen. Joseph Biden

of Delaware, the ranking Democrat on the panel, said things were too dull.

Biden quoted from speeches Scalia has given in which the judge portrayed himself as playing the devil's advocate, taking controversial positions to provoke lively discussion.

"I'm trying to avoid that here," Scalia said.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who has been a staunch defender of Reagan court nominees, told Scalia he was "doing fine."

Practically the only disparaging words were from Kennedy, who said Scalia is insensitive to women's rights.

Murdered girl, 11, left plea for help

FORT WORTH (AP) — An 11-year-old girl who had left a hidden note begging for help was strangled by an assailant in her bedroom, the Tarrant County medical examiner's office said Tuesday.

Vanessa Villa, who police say may also have been sexually assaulted, died in her home Sunday night while her mother briefly visited a relative's house.

A note found Monday morning by family members in a dictionary read: "Mama, take me from this place. I'm scared."

The girl may have been previously accosted and threatened with death if she told about it, family members said. But they said they have no idea who is responsible, or when she wrote the note.