

Syria 'will help' free hostages

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — President Hafez Assad promised Syria will do everything it can to help free American hostages held by Shiite Moslem extremists in Lebanon, his spokesman Jibran Kourieh said Tuesday.

Kourieh said Assad made the pledge during a visit with a delegation representing the American-Arab association and headed by Archbishop Philip Saliba of New Jersey.

Saliba, head of the Antiochan Orthodox Archdiocese of North America, arrived in Damascus last Wednesday carrying letters from the families of three American hostages and petitions calling for the captives' release.

Kourieh said Assad also pledged to help the delegation in all possible ways in its quest for the release of the hostages.

World and Nation

Subcommittee seeks probe, says Deaver lied knowingly

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House subcommittee, concluding that lobbyist Michael K. Deaver "knowingly and willfully" lied to it, asked an independent counsel Tuesday to investigate possible perjury by the former White House aide.

The House Energy and Commerce investigations subcommittee, in a report adopted by a 17-0 vote, said Deaver failed to testify truthfully when he appeared before a closed session of the panel on May 16.

Whitney North Seymour Jr., the independent counsel appointed by a federal court, already is investigating whether Deaver — the former deputy chief of staff to President Reagan — violated federal conflict-of-interest laws.

The subcommittee said Deaver

"knowingly and willfully testified falsely" under oath on three specific subjects, but panel members told reporters it was not their role to judge whether the testimony violated laws against perjury, false statements and obstruction of a congressional investigation.

They said Seymour and, if necessary, a jury would have to make that determination, although the report said Deaver acted on one occasion with "an intent to deceive" the subcommittee.

Randall J. Turk, one of Deaver's lawyers, said, "We are confident that after a full and impartial investigation, Mr. Deaver will be cleared of any wrongdoing, including the suggestion today that he may possibly have committed perjury."

"Some of the subcommittee's

members, and its staff, have now spent three months trying desperately to find a possible perjury charge.

"They did this because they could find no substantive violation of criminal law. Flipspeaking 5½ hours of testimony in a . . . memo does not support a perjury charge."

Deaver left the White House in May 1985 to form his firm, Michael K. Deaver and Associates.

He immediately began accumulating foreign and domestic clients, whom he represented before government agencies.

This led to investigations by the subcommittee and Seymour as to whether Deaver violated ethics laws applying to former federal officials.

World Briefs

Oil prices rise after report of bombing

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices rose Tuesday amid some strengthening belief in OPEC's intention to make its recent production-cut agreement stick, analysts said Tuesday.

Market-watchers also said buying was encouraged by word that Iraq had bombed Iranian oil in-

stallations on Sirri Island in the Persian Gulf, which could raise prices, since supplies of some Iranian oil would be removed from the market by the attack.

But the major impact of the attack was psychological, said Peter Beutel, a futures analyst.

Interest rate optimism spurs stock market

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices rose broadly on Tuesday, aided by continued optimism that interest rates will keep falling and that the stock market has more room to recover from its steep selloff of last month.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, aided by a late blue chip buying surge, rose 24.33 to 1,835.49. The gain followed a 28.54-point rise in the previous session and mirrored the advance of the broader market.

Drought not expected to hurt corn yield

WASHINGTON (AP) — This fall's corn crop is expected to yield 8.32 billion bushels, down 6 percent from the record 1985 harvest of 8.87 billion bushels, the Agriculture Department said Tuesday.

Despite drought in the Southeast and a sharp cutback in plant-

ings nationally, the 1986 harvest is shaping up as the second largest on record, officials said.

Based on surveys made on Aug. 1, it was the department's first estimate of the season for corn and some other major spring-planted crops.

N.Y. student kills 1 in shooting rampage

NEW YORK (AP) — A 29-year-old student shot five people in a rampage at a college Tuesday, killing one man, and two other people were hurt trying to escape, authorities said.

The victims lay while the gunman kept police and rescue work-

ers at bay for about an hour.

Four of the wounded were hospitalized in serious or critical condition from the shootings.

The shootings began at 2:20 p.m. on the campus of the New York Technical College in Brooklyn.

U.S.-Soviet talks end amid news blackout

KOTLIKOVO, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Top U.S. and Soviet nuclear arms negotiators ended two days of talks Tuesday with a news blackout in force and a cautious Kremlin spokesman saying it's still too early to talk about preparations for a superpower summit.

The delegations, comprising some of the two nations' foremost arms control experts, met for a total of 11 hours in a Foreign Ministry hideaway.

The U.S. group, headed by Paul Nitze, President Reagan's special arms adviser, left Moscow on a U.S. Air Force plane about 4 p.m.

The participants made no statement on the meetings, billed as part of the efforts to arrange a 1986 summit between Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Genady Gerasimov cautioned that the superpowers are still a step away from scheduling a new summit.

"My colleague in the White House, Larry Speakes, is saying this is a step toward a summit meeting," Gerasimov said. "But I would say we should speak with respect to corresponding stages and we should speak about (preparation for) the meeting of the foreign ministers."

49 states file in libel case; Soviet assets may be seized

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lawyers filed a \$450,000 libel judgment simultaneously in 49 states Tuesday to clear the way for seizure of Soviet assets after that country branded a U.S. businessman a spy.

Such assets could include Aeroflot planes that land in the United States each week, U.S. profits from sales of the newspaper *Izvestia*, and property of a giant New York-based Soviet trading company, Amtorg, attorney Gerald Kroll said.

U.S. marshals can seize the assets if the Soviet Union refuses to pay the

libel award Raphael Gregorian won here June 30, Kroll said.

The judgment was initially filed in California, where the case was decided, and all the other states were added Tuesday to prevent the Soviet Union from moving assets from state to state to avoid seizure, Kroll said at a news conference outside federal court.

Gregorian said he was confident he would collect \$450,000 either by direct payment from the Soviets or through seizure of assets.

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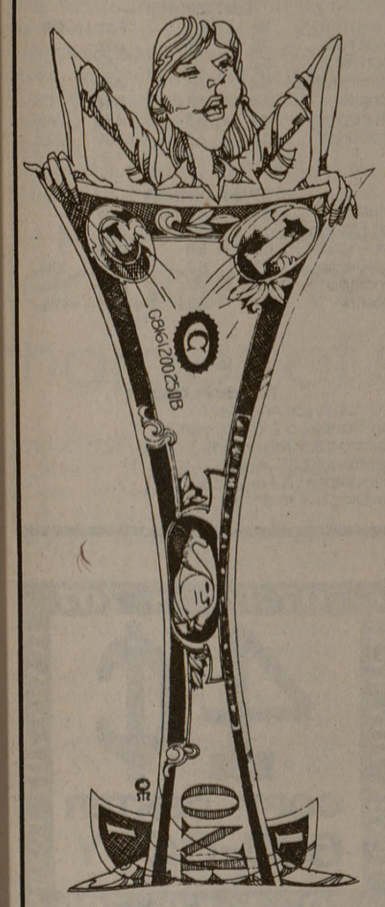
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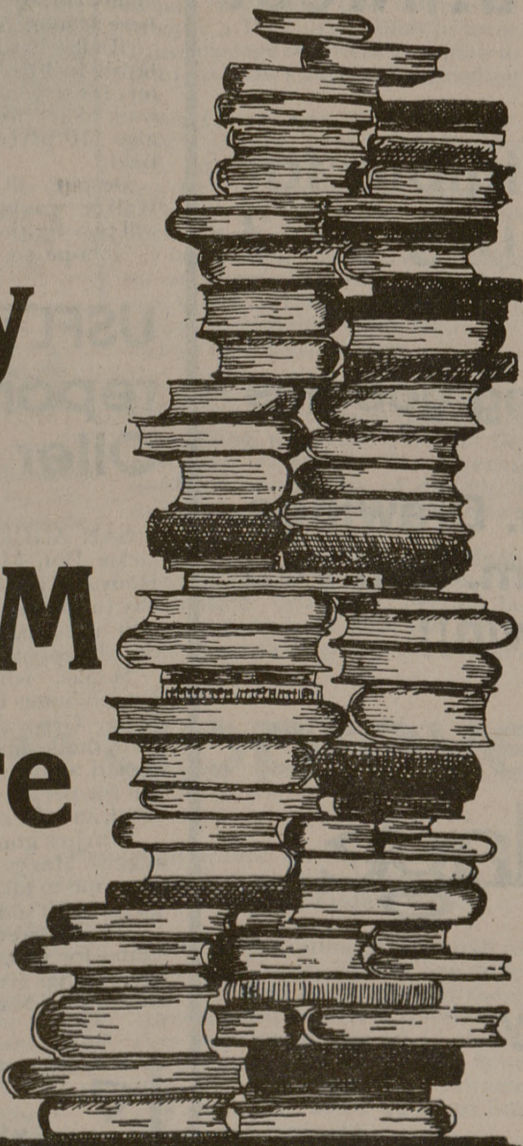
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