

U.S. Embassy again issuing visas after security improve

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. Embassy is again issuing non-immigrant visas this week after improved security measures were put into effect during a four-month shutdown, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Vincent Hovanec, the embassy's press attache, said about 600 visas were processed Monday, the first time the office has been open since April.

The shutdown was ordered after numerous bomb threats were received at the embassy following the April 15 attack on two Libyan cities by U.S. military aircraft. Days later, a homemade bomb was deactivated in a car parked next to the embassy.

"The bomb threats were a threat not only to the embassy itself and all the U.S. and Mexican citizens who work there, but also to the 1,000 or so Mexicans who were literally circling the building every day," Hovanec said.

He said the office had been closed until adequate security measures could be put into effect.

Among the measures are a new

building constructed in what had been a parking lot behind the embassy to take care of visa requests and other high-traffic matters.

"We are the third largest visa-issuing post in the U.S. foreign service, so we handle a tremendous volume of people, between 1,000 to 1,250 per day," Hovanec said.

The embassy remained open to renew expired visas but did not issue any new visas in the past four months, Hovanec said.

Visa applicants now enter the area from Rio Lerma, the street behind the embassy, instead of using the front entrance on the major Reforma Boulevard. The sidewalk where the car bomb was found also remains closed to traffic.

Mexicans not wanting to wait for the visa office to reopen here for tourist or business trips to the United States had to go to one of the U.S. consular offices in nine provincial cities.

At the consulate in the northern industrial city of Monterrey, just a three-hour drive from the U.S. bor-

der at Laredo, the number of immigrant visa applicants rose an average of 600 to 800 per day up to 1,000 per day during the Mexico City office was closed.

Robert Brown, a consular spokesman, said one office was brought in temporarily from the embassy in Mexico City to help process the applications.

Long lines of anxious visa applicants began forming in the morning hours in front of the consulate.

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GOP forecast to gain 6 governors' chairs

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Democratic National Chairman Paul Kirk said Tuesday his party's past divisiveness has been reversed and he discounted Republican predictions the GOP will gain six governors' mansions.

"The period of soul searching of the Democratic Party is over," Kirk told reporters after a meeting of the Democratic Governors Association at the National Governors Association conference.

"I see a growing consensus around a future agenda, especially in the economic area," he said.

Democrats hold 34 of the governors' seats, but New Hampshire Gov. John H. Sununu, newly elected chairman of the Republican Governors Association, said the GOP feels it can come close to evening the odds.

"We think this is a year we could pick up a half dozen," Sununu told reporters.

The Republicans will concentrate on states where President Reagan received at least 60 percent of the vote

and governors are leaving office, he said.

"But we have to be selective," he said. "The question is where we can make a difference."

The GOP will concentrate on the Rocky Mountain states, Maine and South Carolina, but not Texas, Sununu said. "Texas is such an expansive state... we can't (make a difference) in Texas," he said.

Kirk said Sununu's predictions were premature and cited the victory of Virginia Gov. Gerald B. Baliles of the GOP as an example. Even though the GOP brought in its heavy hitters, including Reagan, and spent large amounts of money, having a quality candidate and marshaling resources made the difference, he said.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, newly elected chairman of the Democratic governors, said Sununu's prediction was less optimistic than his earlier one that the GOP would gain as many as 12 governors.

Actor Ted Knight dies at 62

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ted Knight, who won two Emmys for his portrayal of a poor man, died Tuesday of a cancerous growth from his urinary tract. Earlier this month he returned to the hospital for treatment of complications from that surgery.

His doctors ordered him to return to work because he was not fully recovered from the surgery, spokesman Henri Bollinger said after Knight was released from the hospital for the time. Bollinger announced Knight's death.

Knight won Emmys in 1965 and 1976 for outstanding performance by an actor in a supporting role in comedy for "The Tyler Moore Show."

Knight played Roger DeBorja, owner of a New York City taxi service, in "The Ted Knight Show," in the spring of 1978. CBS. He also played a magazine editor in "The Ted Knight Show," ABC's "Too Close for Comfort."

Knight launched his acting career at the Randall School of Dramatic Arts in Hartford, Conn., performing in productions "Liliom," "Grand Hotel," "The Gone with the Wind" and "Time of Your Life."

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