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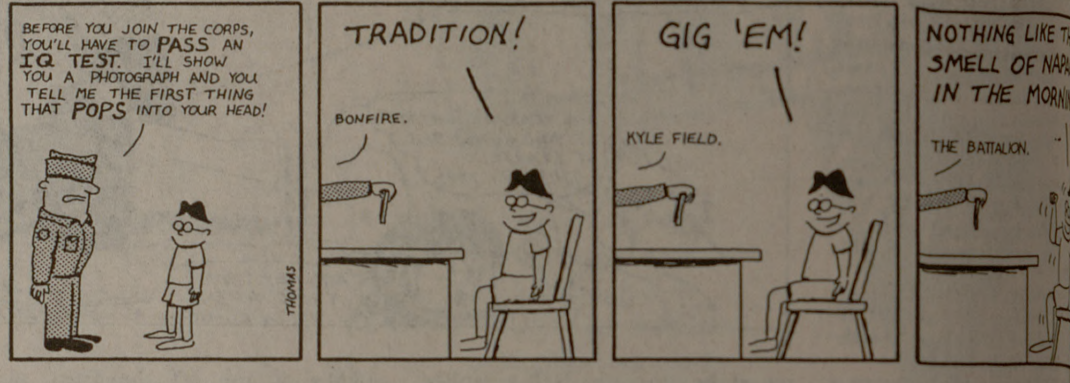
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**Former hostage claims U.S. employs double standard**

WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — Former hostage Benjamin Weir said Tuesday the government is following a double standard by negotiating with the Soviets over an American reporter but refusing to bargain for the Lebanese hostages' release.

Weir, held for 16 months by Shiite Moslem extremists, spoke at a conference in the Buffalo area.

Weir, 62, said a letter was released Tuesday by Islamic Jihad, purportedly from hostage David Jacobsen.

In Huntington Beach, Calif., Jacobsen's son, Eric, said the letter reflected the elder Jacobsen's views despite numerous misspellings and grammatical errors.

Islamic Jihad, a Shiite Moslem extremist group, released the three-page handwritten letter to a Western news agency in Moslem west.

Parts of the letter were read by Eric Jacobsen in a television view.

The letter asks: "Why would interested minute by minute spy journalist Daniloff had been interested one minute in us and he didn't do anything for us... Are not we Americans?"

Weir was released by the U.S. on Sept. 14, 1985. At the time he warned that the other hostages could be executed if 17 Shiite Moslem prisoners in Kuwait were freed.

**Moscow says it wants Daniloff case settled**

MOSCOW (AP) — A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that Moscow wants the case of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff resolved soon and that it should not be allowed to harm superpower relations.

Boris D. Pyadyshv, first deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's information board, was asked at a news conference if there was any movement toward solving Daniloff's case before Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George P. Shultz meet in Washington Friday.

The two are supposed to discuss a summit, and White House officials have warned a summit is in jeopardy unless Daniloff returns home first.

"I am not sure whether it is correct to relate this case to the encounter" between Shultz and Shevardnadze, Pyadyshv said.

"No one has placed any time limit on this case," he said. "As regards the Soviet side, we would be happy to have this case solved as soon as possible, and would be happy not to have this case at all."

"This case should not hamper Soviet-American relations, which are at a rather low level, even without this case, and our opinion is that this case should be dealt with in a quiet manner without dramatizing the situation."

Daniloff, a correspondent for U.S. News & World Report, was arrested in Moscow Aug. 30 by eight KGB agents and has been charged on three counts of espionage.

**French increase security after 8 days of bombings**

PARIS (AP) — The French, keeping a wary vigil for more terrorist bombs in their midst, are trying to juggle normal routines with new security steps that some say play into the bombers' hands.

The Stock Exchange and two Metro stations were hastily evacuated in what turned out to be false alarms.

In the past eight days, four bombings have killed a total of three people and injured more than 100. The most recent bombing, on Monday, was inside the central police station.

Even before Monday's bombing, new anti-terrorist measures, including stricter visa requirements, were put into effect.

Some commentators warned that the security measures ordered by Premier Jacques Chirac encourage the bombers by creating a mood of fear and doubt. Some worried that using the armed forces established a worrisome precedent for a democracy, while others said the imposition of visas would scare off tourists.

The French, who tend not to suffer officialdom lightly, quietly submitted to opening bags and even body searches at stores, theaters, and other public places.

**Air Force 2nd contract on fighters**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force and General Dynamics Corp., after months of negotiation, have agreed on a second, multi-year contract for jet fighters totaling \$4.5 billion.

The contract, announced Monday in a brief press release, calls for General Dynamics' Fort Worth, Texas, division to provide 720 F-16s by March 1991.

The contract reflects the purchase of 180 Fighting Falcon fighters each year during the period running from fiscal 1988 to 1991.

The four-year buy, the largest such multi-year procurement since the F-16, was authorized by Congress in late 1985 in a bid to down production expenses.

The Air Force and General Dynamics, the nation's second largest defense contractor, were negotiating the deal ever since the first multi-year contract was awarded in 1982.

The contract covers the purchase of 480 planes at a cost of roughly \$2.6 billion. The Air Force believes it saved \$257 million on that deal.

The Air Force said it expects to save roughly \$150 million by committing itself to the purchase of 720 planes over a four-year period.

The service previously had such savings result from the assembly-line operation.

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