

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 40 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, October 24, 1986



Photo by John Makely

Stump It, Ags

Workers, above, bring the centerpole for the 1986 bonfire to Duncan field Thursday and set it on blocks. The centerpole will be raised late next

week after the two sections are joined. Below, members of Company B-1 practice yells after unloading the centerpole.



U.S. seeks end to fight over diplomats, spies

Official says larger issues should be resolved

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States, without retaliating for the latest expulsion of five U.S. diplomats from Moscow, urged the Soviet Union Thursday to close a raging dispute over diplomats and spies.

Declaring a cease-fire, Chares E. Redman, the State Department spokesman, said, "We need now to get on with resolution of the larger issues affecting U.S.-Soviet relations and build on the progress made in discussions at Reykjavik."

But Redman also said that any restrictions placed on temporary American workers in Moscow would be matched by limits on Russian laborers here.

On Wednesday, the Soviets ordered the five U.S. diplomats to leave in retaliation for the expulsion on Tuesday of 55 Soviet diplomats amid accusations by U.S. officials that they were engaged in espionage. Also, 260 Russians who work as cooks and clerks at the U.S. embassy and the U.S. consulate in Leningrad were withdrawn.

Last weekend, the Soviets kicked out five Americans in response to the expulsion of 25 Soviets employed at the U.N. mission in New York.

Redman condemned the latest Soviet expulsion order as an unjustified act, but said "we hope this set of issues can now be put behind us."

The expulsion of the 55 Soviets will bring the size of the Soviet embassy here and the consulate in San Francisco down to equal levels with the American diplomatic complement in the Soviet Union.

Redman said the two governments should move on to other issues, such as arms control, taken up by President Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, at the Iceland summit two weeks ago.

The Reagan administration accused the Soviets of using diplomatic facilities for espionage purposes, while saying the United States intended to set equal ceilings of 225 posts at the embassies and 26 at the consulates.

Lawyer enters innocent plea for American in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The lawyer for Eugene Hasenfus declared to a revolutionary tribunal Thursday that his American client was innocent of terrorism and violating Nicaraguan security.

The attorney, Enrique Sotelo Borgen, also said the People's Tribunal, which is hearing the case, does not have the authority to judge Hasenfus because it "lacks impartiality" and was not appointed by the Supreme Court. Hasenfus, reportedly being held in a prison outside Managua, did not attend the hearing.

Sotelo Borgen said in a written statement delivered to court officials 20 minutes before the 5:30 p.m. (7:30 p.m. EDT) deadline for entering a plea, "I come before the authorities to deny, reject, and contradict all of the concepts of the accusations formulated against my defendant by the minister of justice."

The defense now has eight days, beginning Friday, to present its evidence to the tribunal in a written form, according to Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Angela Sadallos. The lawyer can request a four-day extension.

Former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell arrived Thursday night at Sandino International Airport and said it was "an absolute fact" that Hasenfus was on board a plane that contained weapons destined for the U.S.-backed rebels.

But, Bell added, "I have great reason to doubt that he is a terrorist or committed crimes that happened 110 years ago."

Bell, an Atlanta-based attorney who is assisting Sotelo Borgen in Hasenfus' defense, said, "Some of the government's 12 pages of charges are about the bad relations between our country and Nicaragua throughout history. He couldn't possibly be guilty about some of those things."

Bell also characterized the trial as political.

Sotelo Borgen had refused to say in advance what plea he would enter for his client. He and Hasenfus met Wednesday for two hours at the tribunal offices located about a half-mile from the U.S. Embassy in Managua.

It was only the second time he was allowed to meet with his client, the

first American taken prisoner in the Sandinista government's 4½-year war against U.S.-supported Contra rebels.

Bell, who served as attorney general under President Jimmy Carter, volunteered last week to defend Hasenfus, but the law requires the chief defense lawyer be Nicaraguan.

Sotelo Borgen, meanwhile, said he and Bell would "analyze the case deeply and establish a defensive strategy."

Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., was captured Oct. 5 when the C-123 cargo plane on which he was a crew member was shot down in southern Nicaragua. It carried arms and sup-

plies for the Contras, and the Sandinistas claim the operation was run by the U.S. government.

Three other men aboard the C-123 were killed — two Americans and one who has not been identified.

The People's Tribunal, made up of a lawyer, a truck driver and a laborer, refused Wednesday to grant more time for preparing the case.

If convicted, Hasenfus faces up to 30 years in prison. The tribunals were set up in 1983 to try people accused of counterrevolutionary activity. Reports from human rights groups indicate most cases brought before them end in conviction.

Texans form PAC to fight reductions in college budgets

DALLAS (AP) — University trustees, business leaders and former state officials have formed a political action committee to fight cuts in funding for Texas colleges and universities.

The Higher Education Political Action Committee will begin soliciting money in about a week, said Jess Hay, leader of the committee. Hay is also chairman of the University of Texas System board of regents and chairman and chief executive officer of Lomas & Nettleton Financial Corp. of Dallas.

Hay said the committee will contribute on a non-partisan basis to legislators who "clearly and unequivocally" support Texas higher education.

A political action committee is a special-interest group registered with the secretary of state's office for the purpose of making financial contributions to political candidates.

The Legislature last summer cut funding for state colleges and universities by 10.5 percent. It was the largest cut in the state budget during

a round of budget cuts prompted by drops in oil prices and state revenues.

Legislators trimmed funding for senior colleges by \$95.9 million; medical schools and related institutions, \$63 million; community colleges, \$40.1 million.

Hay said the cuts reflect legislators' lack of commitment to higher education.

"There is a very direct linkage between the economic and social well-being of the state and the quality of higher education," he said. "Education has got to rank near the top of the list of services the state must provide."

He said the committee will also launch a public relations campaign to encourage the public to support Texas colleges and universities, Hay said.

"This is a long-term effort devoted to all the state's higher education institutions, not just UT," Hay said. "We won't enter into the upcoming November election, but we will be active in future elections."

Officials say earnings paid for construction

GSU: No actual earnings made in '86

BEAUMONT (AP) — One day after its bond rating was bumped down a notch, Gulf States Utilities Co. announced Wednesday it had no actual cash earnings for the first nine months of the year.

The company reported earnings of \$1.96 per share of common stock, but officials said 20 percent of that income went to pay for bonds used for construction, company spokesman Henry Joyner said.

"This means that none of our common stock earnings is real dollars," Joyner said. "It's the same as having play money but being required to pay your bills with real money."

College Station city manager William Cole said the announcement will have no effect on ongoing negotiations between GSU and the city.

"The city has known about it throughout negotiations of the contract," Cole said.

College Station buys electricity wholesale from GSU. On Aug. 25, GSU proposed a 40 percent rate increase for its wholesale customers, he said.

Cole said GSU requested the increase be-

cause its stockholders aren't receiving an adequate return on their investment.

"Their (GSU) concern is about the stockholders," Cole said. "Our concern is about the rate payers."

North Bardell, Lone Star Municipal Power Agency executive director, said the city has known about GSU's economic situation since the beginning of negotiations.

"The announcement won't have any effect at all," Bardell said. "This is a long-term situation that they have known about all along."

After GSU's wholesale customers complained about the proposed 40 percent increase, GSU proposed a 24 percent rate increase Sept. 8, Bardell said. Following a special session Sept. 11 the city council proposed a 7 percent increase, he said.

Cole said the city expects GSU's response to the proposed contract Monday.

For the third quarter ending Sept. 30, the Beaumont-based company reported a net income of \$90 million, compared to \$97.4 million for the same period of 1985.

The earnings per share amounted to 69

cents, while earnings were 83 cents per share during the same quarter last year. Total operating revenue for the quarter was \$406 mil-

"This means that none of our common stock earnings is real dollars."

— Henry Joyner, the spokesman for Gulf States Utility.

lion versus \$538 million from last year.

For the year, the utility company reported a net income of \$269 million, up from the \$273 million of 1985. Earnings per share in 1985 were \$2.24.

Tuesday, the New York-based bond-rating agency Standard & Poor's downgraded the ratings of Gulf States securities, making the company's first mortgage bond ratings one of the lowest for utility companies in the country.

The company said the allowance used dur-

ing construction is a non-cash procedure used by regulators only for the utility industry. It represents the utility's carrying costs on both debt and equity capital invested in construction projects.

Regulatory commissions allow utilities to use the allowance as income on the premise that it may be recovered in the future through rate increases, the company said.

Joyner also said GSU's earnings do not reflect any depreciation, operating or maintenance expense for its River Bend Nuclear Unit in Louisiana, which has been generating electricity since December 1985.

Neither the Public Utility Commission nor the Louisiana Public Service Commission has ruled the unit to be in commercial operation.

Without the commissions' ruling, the company has treated River Bend as if it is still under construction and has capitalized \$55 million of plant operating costs and accrued \$77 million of the River Bend allowance.

The action was to increase reported net income by \$132 million for the first nine months of 1986.

Texas college enrollment higher in '86

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas college and university enrollments increased slightly this year, according to preliminary figures of the state Coordinating Board.

Preliminary headcount reports for Fall 1986 show a total of 767,558 students in all public and private institutions, about 17,120 more than last year, the board said.

Eighteen public senior colleges and universities reported an increase of 3,910 students while 19 reported decreases of 5,640 for a net decrease of 1,730 or .48 percent.

All but two of the 49 public junior colleges reported enrollment increases. The net increase of 17,774 compared to a net decrease of 11,119 for Fall 1985, a 6.1 percent increase.