

World and Nation

Bombing injures 35 in department store

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— A bomb hidden in a shopping bag blew up Wednesday in a department store packed with Christmas shoppers, injuring about 35 people. A few hours earlier a prominent friend of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile was shot to death in an ambush.

President Corazon Aquino said on television that the escalating violence was directed at her. She vowed to retaliate once she knows which forces are with me.

Police said a homemade time bomb exploded at a ground-floor counter in the Shoe-mart Department Store about 7:20 p.m. No group claimed responsibility, and police reported no arrests.

Hospital sources said about 35 people were treated for cuts and bruises but no one was seriously injured.

A half-hour before the blast, an unknown assailant tossed a grenade into the crowded balcony of a movie theater two blocks from the department store, but the device did not explode.

Earlier Wednesday, David Puzon, 65, a right-wing businessman and friend of Enrile, was killed along with his driver and a factory manager by a band of gunmen dressed as women 10 miles northeast of Manila. Two senior police officers were killed in separate ambushes.

In the Puzon slaying, gunmen sprayed the

businessman's car with automatic fire, killing him and one of his factory managers.

Puzon's slaying followed last week's killing of Rolando Olalia, a leftist whose death his supporters blamed on "fascist elements" whom they said were allied with Enrile. Leftists planned a mass march through Manila today as part of Olalia's funeral.

No arrests were reported in any of the cases, but the military command blamed the Communist New People's Army rebels in the Puzon slaying.

A series of shootings and explosions around Manila since mid-October has fueled fears of a military coup by dissidents linked to Enrile, who has criticized negotiations be-

tween Aquino's representatives and the Communist insurgents.

The Communist-led National Democratic Front broke off the talks after Olalia's assassination, but government negotiators said the president told them Wednesday to reach a cease-fire this month in the 17-year-old insurgency.

During her televised interview, taped Wednesday before the department store bombing, Aquino said she was uncertain who was behind the escalating violence.

"I am convinced there is a time to do battle," she said, "but I want to be good and ready, to know which forces are with me. When I fight, I want to be sure I will win."

Cutting back smoking helps little, study says

BOSTON (AP) — Smokers who cut back tend to compensate by smoking more intensely, tripling the tar and nicotine they inhale from each cigarette and undercutting their efforts to improve their health, a study says.

People can cut back from two packs to 15 cigarettes a day but only slightly reduce their intake of the toxins in tobacco smoke, the study found.

"Our advice is that if they can, the best thing to do is quit entirely," said Dr. Peyton Jacob III, a co-author of the study.

"The next best thing is to cut down... and if they could, switch to an ultra-low yield brand," he said.

In addition, he said, they should concentrate on avoiding puffing more deeply, puffing more often or smoking each cigarette down to the butt.

The study suggests that by smoking more intensely, people are able to satisfy their nicotine craving with far fewer cigarettes than they ordinarily smoke.

This explains why people trying to stop smoking often are able to cut back but fail to kick the habit, researchers wrote.

"Our findings do not contradict the proposition that smoking fewer cigarettes per day poses less risk to health than smoking more cigarettes," they wrote. "However, the magnitude of the benefit from reduced exposure to toxins was much less than expected."

They also cautioned that their data do not apply to all smokers who are trying to quit. Some of them may consciously restrain the intensity of their puffing.

"However," they added, "our data are relevant to patients who are asked by their physicians to smoke fewer cigarettes."

At the American Cancer Society, Dr. Lawrence Garfinkel noted that the study was conducted under carefully controlled laboratory conditions, not under the conditions in which people actually smoke and live.

"Even if it's true," he said of the finding, "it's still good advice to cut down."

3 Mafia leaders among 8 convicted of racketeering

NEW YORK (AP) — Eight people, including three Mafia bosses, were convicted Wednesday of participating in a "commission" that has split territories, sanctioned rubouts and kept organized crime organized since the days of Prohibition.

The case proved for the first time that a panel overseeing the existence of Mafia national operations, the FBI said.

"It can no longer be passed off as a prosecutor's theory," U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani said. "It's been proven beyond a reasonable doubt there is a Mafia; La Cosa Nostra exists."

When the racketeering indictment was handed up in February 1985, Justice Department officials described it as the most powerful blow ever directed at the Mafia's symbol of power.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Chertoff, the chief prosecutor in the case, said the verdict was significant but does not mean the end of organized crime in the United States.

"This wasn't the only Mafia case and it won't be the last," he said. William Doran, head of the Crimi-

nal Division in the FBI's New York office, said, "As far as we are concerned, the commission that was involved in the policy decisions, the direction of La Cosa Nostra, is or has been convicted or killed."

Convicted of racketeering and racketeering conspiracy were Genovese crime family boss Anthony "Fat Tony" Salerno, 75; Colombo boss Carmine "Junior" Persico, 53; and Lucchese boss Anthony "Tony Ducks" Corallo, 73.

Also convicted on those charges were Colombo underboss Gennaro "Jerry Lang" Langella, 47; Lucchese underboss Salvatore "Tom Mix" Santoro, 72; Lucchese counselor Christopher "Christy Tick" Furnari, 62; Ralph Scopo, 58, a former labor leader and Colombo soldier; and Bonanno soldier Anthony "Bruno" Indelicato, 38.

In addition to the racketeering and conspiracy counts, all but Indelicato were convicted of extortion, extortion conspiracy and labor payoffs.

Corallo and Santoro were also convicted of loansharking conspiracy. Salerno, Persico, Langella, Fur-

nari and Scopo face maximum sentences of 306 years. Corallo and Santoro face 326 years and Indelicato faces 40 years.

The judge has set the sentencing for Jan. 6.

The verdict followed more than five days of deliberation. In their decision, the jurors found all eight defendants were members of, or worked for, a commission that acted as a "board of directors" for the Mafia since 1931.

The verdict was the second blow this week for Persico and Langella. Persico was sentenced Monday to 39 years on a previous racketeering conviction, and Langella received a 65-year sentence for his conviction in the same case.

The reputed bosses of the Gambino and Bonanno organized crime families also were named in the indictment but Paul Castellano, reputed boss of the Gambino family, was gunned down last December. The case against reputed Bonanno boss Philip "Rusty" Rastelli was dropped because of other federal charges in Brooklyn.



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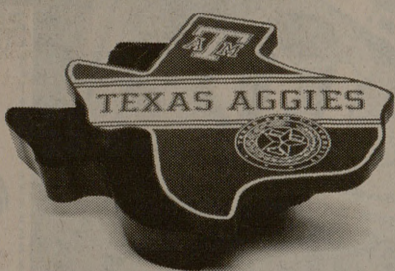
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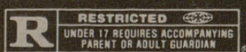


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