

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Rebels agree to end 2-day coup attempt

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — About 200 rebel troops agreed Thursday to end their two-day occupation of a broadcast complex after pro-government soldiers called off an assault, Defense Minister Rafael Iletto said.

"I'm glad to announce we have ended another episode in the history of disturbances that have plagued us these many months," said Iletto at a news conference also attended by air force Col. Oscar Canlas, leader of the mutineers.

The announcement was made following a two-hour meeting at Camp Aguinaldo, the armed forces headquarters, between Canlas and top pro-government military officials, including Iletto and military chief of staff Gen. Fidel V. Ramos.

Canlas refused to call the lifting of the siege a surrender, saying "we never left the armed forces."

He was accompanied by the meet-

ing at Camp Aguinaldo by 13 fellow mutineers, all armed with M-16s. He was wearing blue jeans, a blue T-shirt and brown civilian jacket.

There was no indication that the mutineers had begun leaving the studios of Channel 7 television and radio station DZBB, which they had occupied since early Tuesday.

But private radio station DZRH reported that buses had been sent to pick up the mutineers. It said rebel soldiers and pro-Marcos civilians were still in the building.

Iletto said the question of punishment for the mutineers, who the government linked to ex-President Ferdinand E. Marcos, "would be discussed later."

Ramos said President Corazon Aquino was "perfectly satisfied with what was accomplished," and he was sending her a full report.

Aquino vowed Tuesday to punish "to the fullest extent of the law" hun-

dreds of rebel soldiers who attempted to take over major media and military facilities in the capital.

Pro-government troops surrounding the television and radio complex fired about a dozen tear gas canisters shortly after a late Wednesday deadline expired, but did not attack.

Jose Magno, military adviser to Aquino, said Ramos ordered a halt to operations against the rebels after a five-hour meeting with 200 officers ranging in rank from lieutenant to colonel.

Participants in the meeting told the Associated Press that they did not agree with the goals of the mutineers, and Magno said none of them actually refused to fight. However, officers said they believed an attack would threaten the unity of the military, and they interceded with Ramos because they were friends and classmates of some of the rebels.

Anglican Church official relays assurances about Waite's safety

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A group calling itself Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility Wednesday for the abduction of three Americans and an Indian professor from a west Beirut campus.

In London, the Church of England said the Archbishop of Canterbury had received assurances that his envoy, Terry Waite, was safe and continuing his mission to free foreign captives in Lebanon.

"These assurances have been conveyed to the Church of England from leaders of the Druse community who are Mr. Waite's hosts during his mission to Lebanon," a church statement said. "These leaders held conversations today with leaders of the Shiite community."

The four professors were "conspirators under the pretext of education," said the handwritten Arabic-language statement delivered to the

west Beirut office of a Western news agency.

The statement was accompanied by a Polaroid picture of one of the hostages, American professor Robert Polhill, 53, of New York City, a lecturer in accounting.

Polhill and three others were seized Saturday at the campus of Beirut University College by gunmen posing as Lebanese riot police.

The other hostages are Alann Steen, 47, of Arcata, Calif., a communications instructor; Jesse Turner, 39, of Boise, Idaho, a visiting professor of mathematics and computer science; and Mithileshwar Singh, 60, a visiting professor of finance.

The group said in its statement: "The Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine, as it announces its debut, declares responsibility for the abduction of four Americans who are conspirators un-

der the pretext of education.

"They have been using the facade of teaching to carry out American intrigues at Beirut University College."

The Beirut newspaper *An-Nahar* said it received the same claim of responsibility, along with a Polaroid picture of Singh.

It could not be determined whether the group is related to Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, the pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem extremist faction that holds American and French hostages kidnapped in west Beirut in 1985.

The fate of Waite had been uncertain following unconfirmed reports that he was placed under house arrest by Shiite Moslems who have held two Americans hostage since 1985. Waite vanished Jan. 20 after leaving his hotel to negotiate with the captors.



Photo by Tom Ownbey

Little Shop Of Horticulture

Kim Poff, a senior horticulture major, plants tiny impatiens seeds as a part of her greenhouse production class. Poff is using a vibrating seed dispenser to distribute the seeds evenly in the flats.

Clements to delay regents' choices as long as 45 days

By Curtis L. Culberson
Staff Writer

It may be at least 45 days before Gov. Bill Clements names his selections to the Texas A&M Board of Regents, a spokesman for the governor said Wednesday.

James Huffines, appointment secretary for the governor's office, said the governor has not decided if any of the current regents will be reappointed. But Robert Marbut, Mayor Henry Cisneros' assistant, said a reappointment for Cisneros is unlikely.

"It's naive to think that Henry will be reappointed," Marbut said. "The word on the street and from informal contacts in Republican circles since two weeks after the election is that the decision has been made not to reappoint Henry."

Marbut added that Cisneros has been operating on the knowledge that he would not be reappointed for about three months, so he hasn't even considered what he would do if the position was offered to him again.

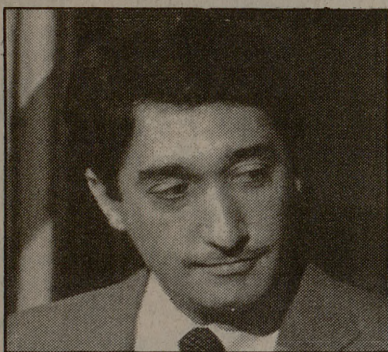
"Our office has not been contacted either way," Marbut said.

Huffines said many candidates still are being interviewed for the three board positions that will be vacated Feb. 1.

No names will be released by Feb. 1, Huffines added, but they are hoping to make the appointments in February. The next meeting of the board isn't until March 24, so the vacancy period should not cause any conflicts.

The terms of regents Henry Cisneros of San Antonio, William A. McKenzie of Dallas and Joe C. Richardson Jr. of Amarillo will expire on Feb. 1.

McKenzie said he would like a reappointment, but also that he has not yet been contacted by the governor.



Henry Cisneros

McKenzie added that he has enjoyed his term on the board and is proud of the work it has done during the past six years.

He considers the hiring of Athletic Director Jackie Sherill, the hiring of Chancellor Dr. Perry L. Adkisson, the expansion of Easterwood Airport and the development of the new research park as some of the more significant accomplishments of the board during his term.

Cisneros served on the board for 18 months, finishing the term of H.R. "Bum" Bright, who resigned in 1985.

Marbut said Cisneros didn't have much of an opportunity to work on the board, although he was proud of the work he did in the areas of minority recruitment and the upgrading of the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service in San Antonio.

Although he was not available for comment, Richardson said he has enjoyed his term but doesn't want another.

Huffines said Clements is looking for strong, business-minded people with a sensitivity for higher education.

Democrats won't let Reagan 'off hook'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats controlling both the House and Senate served notice Wednesday they won't let President Reagan off the hook despite his plea that Congress not "let partisanship weaken us" over the Iran arms deal controversy.

The day after the president made the appeal in his State of the Union address, House Speaker Jim Wright said Democrats will waste no time pursuing their own legislative goals this year, without waiting for Reagan.

And even though congressional leaders pledged bipartisan cooperation, both sides quickly gave way to partisan sniping.

Amid a chorus of Republican praise for the president's speech, Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., rose to declare: "The Gipper has fumbled the ball, and he hasn't yet recovered."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes charged that "a few old soreheads hooted derision" at Reagan's call Tuesday night for a balanced budget amendment.

"I would like for the whoopers to stand up and identify themselves and see if they are the ones who voted for the clean-water bill at that \$20 billion level," Speakes said.

Referring to the Iran-Contra affair, Reagan conceded that "serious mistakes were made" in

trying to achieve the "worthy" goal of establishing contacts with Iran.

While pledging to "get to the bottom of this," the president urged Congress to avoid becoming "obsessed with failure" and letting "partisanship weaken us" over the Iran affair.

But Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd said Reagan's speech hadn't resolved the matter.

"The administration has the obligation to tell 'we the American people' exactly what led to the arms-for-hostage deal, and what happened to accountability in the White House," Byrd said on NBC-TV's "Today" show.

Faculty gets input on selection, review

Department head hiring changes

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

Texas A&M President Frank Vandiver has approved a Faculty Senate document that will substantially increase faculty involvement in the appointment of department heads.

Last February, the Faculty Senate voted unanimously to give faculty members more say in the department head selection process, a process which previously had been the exclusive job of the deans of the individual colleges.

Signed by Vandiver Jan. 12, the new guidelines state that selection should involve "the widest and deepest faculty participation and the fullest exchange of ideas between faculty and administrators."

The document outlines the process for appointing a department head when a position becomes vacant.

First, a search committee composed primarily of faculty members from the department concerned is established.

During the search, each faculty member from the department will be given the opportunity to talk with and evaluate the candidates for the position, rank candidates and eliminate those they find unacceptable.

The committee then will report to the dean, who will make a decision based on the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates.

Dr. Clinton Phillips, dean of fac-

ulties, said the provost's office worked on the original document submitted by the Senate before it was approved, making it less specific and more generally applicable to the varied departments.

In its earlier form, the document didn't allow for modification of the rules to suit any unusual circumstances that might occur in more complicated colleges such as the College of Agriculture, Phillips said.

For example, some department heads in the College of Agriculture also must work in the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, he said.

"This document reflects an approach that we think is a workable approach to the selection process," Phillips said. "We think it maximizes faculty input."

Associate Provost Jerry Gaston said he doesn't expect monumental changes to result from the document. Instead, he said, it just makes

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Sims: Comment on fees misunderstood

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

Student Body President Mike Sims says a comment he made at the MSC council meeting Monday night has been blown out of proportion and was never intended to be taken as student government policy.

At the meeting, in what Sims described as an off-the-cuff statement, he said that student service fees may have to be increased. The quote made the front page of *The Battalion*.

"The comment was made in passing as an answer to a ques-

tion," Sims said. "Someone asked what would happen if everybody who asks for a budget increase is granted an increase, and my answer was that if everybody is granted what they request the fees will have to go up."

"I was surprised to see it in *The Battalion* — it was taken completely out of context."

As a rule, most areas ask for increases, but the full amount requested rarely is granted, he said.

Sims went on to say he was in no way making a budget announcement at the MSC meeting. It was, he said, just a tag at the end of a sentence.

However, at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday night, Finance Chairman Spence McClung announced that student service fees may very well in-

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