



A&M Ease

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game at A&M

Ambassador: U.N. 'best hope for peace'

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

A U.N. official told an audience at Texas A&M on Wednesday that although the United Nations has its flaws, it "is our best hope for peace on Earth."

Ambassador Jaime DePinies, undersecretary general of the United Nations, made his remarks during his keynote address kicking off the Memorial Student Center's 32nd annual Student Conference on National Affairs. He spoke to an audience of about 350 in Rudder Theater.

DePinies gave an overview of the U.N., touching on both its current functions and its history. He also addressed the organization's strengths and shortcomings.

"Perhaps the area in which the greatest progress has been achieved has been in the field of colonization," he said. "When the United Nations began, it had only 51 members. Only four were from Africa — Liberia, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Africa."

U.N. official discusses group's political role

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

Jaime DePinies

Editor's Note: Just prior to delivering the keynote address to the Memorial Student Center's 32nd annual Student Conference on National Affairs, Jaime DePinies, undersecretary general of the United Nations, spoke with The Battalion about the U.N.

That interview, which has been edited for length, follows.

Q: This conference has to do with the U.N.'s purpose vs. politics. With so many member nations, is it possible to de-politicize the U.N.? And if so, how?

A: Well, certainly not. The

U.N. is mainly a political organ. That's obvious. Everything is political. I think it serves a great purpose, particularly because it removes the steam of the big conflicts when they explode. . . .

It's a very good instrument, I would say, just to exchange views. As far as settling questions, sometimes they have settled. Some others, not. The machinery is there. We can cope with conflict. The problem is whether the member states are willing to cope with them, or whether they're trying to block.

Q: As it relates to an instance such as the Iran-Iraq war, what

type of machinery are we talking about?

A: Only Iraq has said it is willing to abide by the resolutions of the Security Council. Iran said no. Iran doesn't want to settle anything inside the United Nations.

They say the United Nations is biased, the United Nations doesn't condemn. The United Nations has not condemned the chief of state of Iraq. And the Iraqis, on the other hand, say why should we abide by your wishes? So there they are. And it's a ca-

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the principle of sovereign equality of all its member states."

This principle, however, doesn't apply to the Security Council, he said.

The Security Council has the power to decide what action the U.N. should take to settle international disputes. The council has 15 members. Five — France, Great Britain, China, the Soviet Union and the United States — are permanent members. By charter, many questions that come before the council can be blocked if one of the permanent members exercises its veto power.

DePinies referred to a mechanism the U.N. General Assembly can use to bypass the Security Council when the council becomes immobilized by a veto.

In 1950, the assembly approved a resolution giving it the power to step in whenever peace is threatened and the council has failed to act. In such a case, the assembly can suggest ac-

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Court withdraws 3rd-party liability in 'dram shop' suit

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court on Wednesday withdrew its October decision that said bar and restaurant owners could be held liable for damage caused when a drunken patron becomes a drunken driver.

The high court granted a motion for rehearing filed by attorneys for El Chico restaurants, which was sued as a result of a 1983 Houston traffic death caused by a driver who had been drinking at an El Chico "happy hour."

Supreme Court justices, who had ruled in October without hearing arguments, Wednesday set April 1 as the date for oral arguments in the so-called "dram shop" case.

In its brief, attorneys for the restaurant said there is no "public outcry" for dram shop liability in Texas.

The Texas Legislature has strictly resisted the implementation of pure dram shop liability such as that recognized by this court," the restaurant's attorneys told the court.

On Oct. 15, without writing an opinion, the Supreme Court ruled there was no reversible error in a Houston court of appeals decision in the El Chico case. The appeals court overturned a trial judge's decision that dismissed the lawsuit against El Chico without convening a full trial. The case was sent back to the trial court, but El Chico appealed to the Supreme Court.

The suit was filed by survivors of Larry Bryan Poole, 31, of Houston, who was killed Jan. 21, 1983, when a vehicle driven by Rene Saenz of Houston ran a red light and slammed into Poole's vehicle.

According to court records, Saenz said he had become intoxicated while drinking at an El Chico restaurant in Houston. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 10 months in prison and 15 years on probation. He testified he had consumed "a lot" of Scotch and water at El Chico.

The Supreme Court's October ruling had been criticized by the Texas Restaurant Association, which contends it put an unfair and expensive burden on restaurant owners.

In their rehearing brief, El Chico's lawyers said enactment of a dram shop provision is a legislative, not a judicial, matter. They said restaurants had no way of knowing that a court might rule they are responsible for drunken patrons once they leave.

But an attorney for Poole's survivors said El Chico management apparently was aware of the possibility because they had issued a 1983 memo to employees that said, "Don't risk your employer's investment by serving an intoxicated person."



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack.

Bicycle-Pedestrian Accident

Hobby Hall resident Melany Wolfe is treated by emergency medical technicians Wednesday afternoon. Wolfe was crossing Ross Street

when she was struck by a bicyclist. Although not badly injured, she was taken to the A.P. Beutel Health Center as a precaution.

House plans to release 500 inmates

AUSTIN (AP) — The House, moving quickly to try to ease prison crowding, approved a resolution Wednesday that sponsors said would rush up to 500 non-violent inmates to halfway houses around the state.

Rep. Bill Ceverha, R-Dallas, said the resolution would allow the Board of Pardons and Paroles to speed up spending money set aside for halfway-house placements of inmates who are within three to six months of release.

The Texas Department of Corrections has been forced to close its doors twice so far this year because the inmate population has exceeded a 95-percent capacity limit set by law.

Ceverha said there are 32 halfway houses statewide with which the state contracts to house inmates shortly before they are released on parole. But he noted that 750 of the 1,300 halfway house beds are now empty.

Parole officials have indicated that the resolution would allow them to place an additional 450 to 500 inmates in the halfway houses within two weeks, he said.

Inmates eligible for the halfway-house plan are non-violent offenders who have never been turned down for parole, or never convicted of crimes in which a deadly weapon was used.

Newspapers: Israel, Shiites negotiating swap

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Newspapers in London and Israel said Wednesday secret talks were going on for a major swap that would free foreign hostages in Lebanon in exchange for 400 Arab prisoners.

Lebanese Shiite leader Nabih Berri said there were no talks yet but indications were positive.

Berri, head of the mainstream Shiite movement Amal, made the original proposal on Saturday, setting off a frenzy of rumors, reports and speculation on the hostage crisis.

Berri, who is also Lebanon's justice minister, proposed that Israel free 400 Arab prisoners. In return, Amal would return a cap-

tured Israeli airman and a Moslem extremist organization would free the four kidnapped educators — three Americans and an Indian — it was threatening to kill.

On Wednesday, the Israeli newspaper *Davar* said Israel and the United States were negotiating a multinational deal to free all captives held in Lebanon by pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian groups, with Israel freeing 400 Arabs.

Davar, which has close ties to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labor Party, said the deal involved the Swiss and Syrian governments and the International Committee of the Red Cross. The swap would include re-

leasing the airman captured in October and three Lebanese Jews seized in Beirut last year.

The paper datelined its report from Washington and quoted unidentified American and Israeli sources.

Israeli officials have expressed doubt that Berri could deliver on promises involving organizations not his own.

Berri's militiamen do hold, however, the navigator of an Israeli Phantom fighter-bomber shot down over south Lebanon Oct. 1.

In Washington on Wednesday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater insisted anew that the United States is not involved in

talks with Israel about hostages and said, "We have not urged Israel or any other country to be involved in a deal with the hostage takers."

The *London Times* said Wednesday a "wide-ranging deal" was in the works involving the four educators, the Israeli airman and Arab prisoners.

It said the negotiations followed "months of secret contacts between the Israelis and guerrilla leaders in southern Lebanon" through the Red Cross.

Red Cross headquarters in Geneva denied it was involved in negotiations.

Student Senate board chairman resigns

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

The chairman of the Student Senate Judicial Board, who had refused at the previous meeting to swear in two vice-presidential appointees, resigned at Wednesday night's meeting.

When a motion was made to swear in the appointees, Chairman Jennifer Huang announced her resignation and named Rudy Rodriguez as her replacement.

"At the Board meeting last night I announced my resignation to the Board members," Huang said.

She declined to comment about her reasons for leaving, saying only, "I think the role of student government is to promote good relations between the student body and the Senate. I don't want to stand in the way of this."

She refused to say how she might be standing in the way of the relationship, but when asked if the Senate was fulfilling this role she

Student service fees increase 6 percent

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

The Student Senate voted unanimously Wednesday night to raise student service fees for the 1987-88 school year from \$61 to \$65.

The Senate Finance Chairman called the bill, "the single most important bill the Senate passes," because it gives the group temporary monetary power.

"If you don't listen to anything else I say all year, listen to me now," Chairman Spence McClung said. "This is important."

said, "I think they're trying." Student Body President Mike Sims claimed no previous knowledge of Huang's intention of resigning.

"We were as surprised by this as you were," Sims said. "She told me

the Senate's decision will be sent directly to John Koldus, vice president for student services.

The 6-percent increase, he said, represents hundreds of hours of work by the finance committee, including fourteen hearings.

This is the second year in a row that student service fees have increased. Last year fees were raised 11 percent.

Of the organizations receiving increases in funding from this fee hike, the Study Abroad program was

awarded the largest increase at 59 percent, while the shuttle bus program received the only decrease in funding, a decline of 1.5 percent.

McClung justified the large increase for the Study Abroad program by saying it is such a small-budget program that the increase from \$8,446 to \$13,446 was almost negligible.

He also said that the decrease in funding to the shuttle bus program was not expected to increase student shuttle bus fees.

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reform bill that would have cut the size of the group in half.

Although a majority of the members voted in favor of the bill, which was designed to combat problems with apathy and consistently poor attendance, it fell nine votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority to change a bylaw.

There were many complaints from senators that the bill was a quick fix and not precise enough for such an important move.

"By cutting our size in half we may increase our efficiency, but we won't increase our output," Senator Robert Russell said.

Others argued that the overall size of the Senate was too cumbersome, and very little ever got done.

"The student body has evolved," Senator James Johnson said. "We must allow the Senate to evolve to meet the changes of the student body."

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