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Iranian official: Attack on Gulf would hurt U.S.

Speaker offers aid in hostage negotiations

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The speaker of Iran's Parliament said Tuesday that Americans around the world would be in danger if the United States launches an attack in the Persian Gulf, where U.S. Navy forces have been strengthened.

Hashemi Rafsanjani also renewed Iran's offer to intervene with pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem kidnapers in Lebanon for the release of Americans if Washington returns an esti-

ated \$5 billion in Iranian assets frozen in 1979.

He did not link the threat and the offer, both of which were made in an interview with Tehran radio that was monitored in Nicosia.

The United States says Iran has deployed anti-ship missiles in the Strait of Hormuz, the 40-mile-wide southern gateway to the Persian Gulf through which 20 percent of the non-communist world's oil passes.

This has revived fears that the Iranians will close the strait. The United States has vowed to preserve free navigation in the gulf, which has been a battleground since the Iran-Iraq war began in September 1980.

"The events of Lebanon could be repeated for the Americans around the world" if the United States attacks, Rafsanjani said. "If, God forbid, such a thing takes place, Americans will be unsafe throughout the world."

"Of course, we don't want this to happen. We're not making threats, but we are warning the American people to tie the hands of their leaders."

By "the events of Lebanon," Rafsanjani appeared to be referring to the 1983 suicide bombings of the U.S. Embassy and Marine headquarters in Beirut, in which more than 300 people were killed, and to the abductions of Americans.

Eight Americans are among the 24 foreigners missing in Lebanon and presumed held by Moslem kidnapers. Most are believed to be captives of extremist Shiite groups backed by Iran.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Sunday the United States will protect oil tankers against Iranian attack and is making contingency plans for military action.

British, French and Soviet warships also patrol the Persian Gulf area.

Iran has attacked neutral ships in the gulf in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on its tankers, oil fields and petroleum export terminals.

Lloyds of London's Intelligence Unit reported that Iraqi warplanes attacked the Iranian tanker Dena in the northern gulf Monday.

Local businessman, 4 others charged in 1984 bombing

By Olivier Uyttebrouck
Senior Staff Writer

Local night club and restaurant owner Athanasios G. "Tommy" Dallis and four other men were indicted by a federal grand jury Monday in connection with the 1984 bombing of Graham Central Station, a country western night club in Bryan.

The four-count indictment names Dallis and four other men, Steve Duane Graham of Houston, brothers William Hershel Nash and Timothy Joe Nash of Lubbock and Phillip Simpson of Lubbock.

All are charged with conspiracy to bomb a building, which carries a maximum of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The indictment also names William Nash for malicious destruction of a building and unlawfully making a firearm, each with a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The other four are charged with aiding Nash in these crimes.

In addition, William Nash is charged with making a false statement to a grand jury on Oct. 11, 1985. Nash told the jury he had never worked with explosives, U.S. Attorney Albert Ratliff of Houston said.

A sixth man, Danny Lee Webb, who according to the indictment met with Dallis and Graham in August 1984 and helped arrange the bombing, is named as a "unindicted co-conspirator." Ratliff, who declined to elaborate on Webb's role in the investigation, said Webb has not been charged with a crime but is "involved with the investigation."

Officials with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Houston, the agency investigating the bombing, declined comment on the case Tuesday.

The indictment charges that William Nash entered the back door of

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Wheel People

Photo by Tracy Staton

Peter Glenn, left, a junior psychology major, cycles around with Pete McDonald, a senior electrical

engineering major, at the meeting of the TAMU One-Wheelers Club Tuesday evening.

Aggie's dad helps student stranded in Mexican airport

By Anthony Wilson
Reporter

All Aggies have heard stories of other Aggies being in bleak situations with no hope in sight. The story usually starts out with some poor Ag in desperate need of help.

As the Aggie's world is crumbling around him, others just pass by without a second thought, but then the story ends with a lone defender of humanity and Aggie good will charging in like John Wayne and the cavalry to save the day.

For Jonette Anderson, that story came true over Spring Break 1987.

Anderson, a sophomore general studies major from Arlington, was enjoying spring break with 12 other A&M students in Ixtapa, Mexico. Everything was well and Anderson said she was "having a blast" until someone stole her plane ticket for her return trip to Houston.

"As soon as I found that out," Anderson said, "I told security at the hotel. They said, 'We'll be looking for it, but otherwise, when you go to the airport Friday morning, you can just get another one.' I thought they could just punch it in the computer and give me another one."

On Friday morning, Anderson and her friends went to the airport in Ixtapa to fly to Mexico City. Because they had flown on a different airline to Mexico City, Anderson couldn't get a refund or a new ticket. She didn't have any money, so she bought a ticket using a friend's credit card.

Once in Mexico City, Anderson's friends had to board their 1:15 p.m. flight.

"I told them, 'Y'all just go ahead and go and I'll just catch the next flight,'" Anderson said. "The next flight to Houston was at about 6 o'clock. After they left, I went up to the lady at Continental."

The language barrier that came with being in Mexico presented another problem for Anderson.

"I can't speak any Spanish at all," she said. "And they were totally Spanish-speaking people. It was really hard for them to understand what I was saying."

"I explained to them as well as I could that my plane ticket had been stolen and I wanted to get another one, so she looked it up on the computer and said, 'OK, it'll be \$140.' I said, 'Well, I don't have any money.' I had no money, no credit card, no nothing."



Jonette Anderson

The airline told Anderson she would have to get her refund in Houston and she wouldn't be able to board a plane without a ticket that had been paid for.

"I was begging her and she just said, 'No dinero, no ticket,'" Anderson said.

Anderson asked strangers to talk to the lady at the ticket counter, but nothing helped.

"I was totally desperate, so I thought I would call my parents," Anderson said.

But she was not allowed to call collect from the airport and a call home cost \$15.

"I just started crying," Anderson said. "I was so upset. I had no other alternative. Nobody had any sympathy for me. Everybody was just looking funny at me. I was just stuck."

Anderson said a tall businessman in a suit walked up to her and asked if she was an American and what the problem was. She said she told him what was wrong and he told her he was from Houston. He then happened to mention that his son attends Texas A&M.

"I just freaked out," Anderson said. "I said, 'I go to Texas A&M! I can't believe that!' He said, 'You're an Aggie? I'm going to help you get back to Texas.'"

The man introduced himself as Paul Crozier and said he would buy Anderson a plane ticket home. Anderson had to wait a while before tickets went on sale and Crozier had to catch a plane, so he gave her money for a ticket, \$50 extra for any other problems and his address.

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Task force to study savings and loan industry

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements said Tuesday he is appointing a special task force to seek solutions to problems in the troubled Texas savings and loan industry.

"Our Texas savings and loans are in a critical financial condition," Clements said. "There's no question about that."

"So what I'm trying to do is bring from the private sector some very knowledgeable people who can assist us in coming up with some answers as to what we might do."

The governor named Bayard Friedman, 60, to head the new task force. He said about a dozen

other people will be appointed to the panel in the near future.

Friedman is a former mayor of Fort Worth, former chairman of the Fort Worth district of the Interfirst Corp. and former chairman of the board of the Texas American Bank, said Reggie Bashur, the governor's press secretary.

Clements said the task force, when completed, will be seeking ways to ease problems facing the savings and loan industry, which he said is suffering from distressed economic conditions.

"This is a serious problem," Clements told his weekly news conference. "It will have a real im-

act on our economic recovery here in Texas."

Clements said that due in part to changes in federal regulations and in part to the state's recent population boom, Texas savings and loans have undergone considerable growth.

"Their problems are, for the most part, related to real estate loans," the governor said.

He said he would ask the task force to find avenues in which the state could cooperate with the federal government and Congress to improve savings and loan conditions.

Although a number of banks have failed in Texas in recent months, Clements said his new task force would deal only with savings and loans.

Some unresolved issues remain after final OK

Core curriculum debate nears end

By Amy Couvillon
Staff Writer

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver's final approval of the controversial core curriculum proposal on March 13 has inspired sighs of relief from those involved in its 3-year-old debate, but some issues remain unresolved.

The curriculum will take effect in Fall 1988 for all undergraduate students entering A&M. It involves new entrance requirements as well as 48 hours of required college-level courses.

"I was delighted to see it finally become reality," said Dr. Paul Parish, an English professor who sponsored the original Faculty Senate core curriculum resolution in 1983.

But Dr. Ronald Darby, professor of chemical engineering, worries that the curriculum will add too many hours to the chemical engineering degree plan, which he said is constrained by rigid accreditation requirements.

"I don't object in philosophy to the core curriculum," Darby said. "I think it's justified... but the chemical engineering curriculum will probably be strained."

In a March 13 letter to Dr. Sam Black, Faculty Senate speaker, the president congratulated the Senate's hard work on the core curriculum proposal and, with a few exceptions, approved the Senate's version of the plan.

Vandiver took out one requirement for all students to complete a course in technology and renewable resources, calling it too vague.

Black said the executive committee will decide how to make the item more specific at its April 1 meeting.

Dr. Don Russell, an electrical engineering associate professor who proposed the technology section along with Dr. Tom Kozik, explained the motivation behind the proposal and said he would be will-

ing to help amend it to meet Vandiver's approval.

"Our real intent was to try to expose the people in non-technical programs to technological issues and help them learn to appreciate how those issues affect them," Russell said. "We hope that still can be done in some fashion, and if asked to, I would serve on such a group (a com-

mittee to suggest specific courses)."

The Senate had recommended creating a special subcommittee to help implement the core curriculum, but Vandiver's approval letter did not refer to this, Black said.

Curriculum Requirements

Entrance requirements
If these are not met upon entrance, the student will be required to fill them with college-level courses.

- At least one high-school course in computer science or demonstrated proficiency.
- Two years of foreign language in high school or demonstrated proficiency.

Core Requirements
No course can be counted twice by a student in satisfaction of these various requirements.

- Six hours of speech and writing skills, including ENGL 104 and one of the following: ENGL 203, 210, 212, 221, 222, 227, 228, 231, 232, 301, 325, 341 or SCOM 103, 243, 403, 404.
- Six hours of mathematical or logical reasoning (at least three in math) to be selected from MATH 166 or any higher math course and PHIL 240, 341, 342.

- Eight hours of science with at least one corresponding laboratory. Acceptable courses include: BIOL 101, 107, 113, 114; CHEM 101, 102; GENE 301, 310; GEOG 203; GEOL 101, 106; METR 301; any PHYS 200 level course.

- Six hours of cultural heritage to be selected from fine arts, humanities, foreign language (excluding skills courses in native language), history, literature, philosophy, archaeology, geography and theater arts.

- Six hours of social science to be selected from cultural anthropology, geography, political science, psychology, sociology, applied ethics and economics.

- Four hours of physical education.
- Twelve hours of citizenship, including six hours of political science and six hours of history.

"The core curriculum will have very little overall fiscal or curricular impact on the University," Cress said. "There may be a little less flexibility, but the deans expected very little net gain or loss in student credit hours."

The impact study's Nov. 17 report said that four of A&M's 10 colleges — business administration, education, architecture and engineering

— expect to add credit hours to their graduation requirements. The College of Engineering's anticipated addition, a maximum of nine credit hours, was the highest estimate.

In last April's debate, several members of the Faculty Senate expressed worries that the lengthy core eliminates electives for engineering students and could delay graduations.

Darby, a chemical engineering professor, explained his concerns about the addition of hours, saying the department of chemical engineering must meet extra accreditation requirements from the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Because of this, Darby said, the department is less flexible.

"We could do it (implement the core curriculum) without adding hours," he said, "but we would have zero flexibility in the degree plan and no free electives at all."

Russell said he doesn't think the core curriculum will force engineers to take more years to graduate.

"It will cause some reorientation of the degree plans," he said, "and possibly some increase in the flexibility of the degree plans."

Darby suggested that the state requirement for 12 hours of political science and history is outmoded.

"(This requirement) in addition to the cultural heritage and social science requirements is 'double-kill' in a way," he said.

The impact study report endorsed the Faculty Senate's recommendation that these state requirements be reconsidered.

"The core's cultural heritage and social science requirements, while not addressing the particular issues that motivated the Texas Legislature 30 years ago, serve the broader goal of acquainting our students with the nature and origins of our society," the report read.