

World and Nation

Kidnappers free 2 Lebanese, keep American journalist Glass

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Kidnappers released the son of Lebanon's defense minister and his driver Wednesday but kept American journalist Charles Glass, who was seized with them a week earlier.

Defense Minister Adel Osseiran told reporters after his son Ali was freed, "Charles Glass is still alive. Efforts are continuing to obtain his release."

Fourteen gunmen abducted the three men June 17 while they drove through Ouzai, a stronghold of the radical Iranian-backed Shiite Moslem Hezbollah, or Party of God, in south Beirut's Shiite slums.

Ali Osseiran appeared briefly Wednesday on the balcony of the family home in the seaside town of Rmeizeh, 20 miles south of the

capital. His 82-year-old father heads a prominent conservative clan of Shiite Moslems.

The 40-year-old engineer was asked where Glass was. He paused, then replied in a sad voice: "I don't know."

No group has claimed responsibility for the abductions. Hezbollah, the most militant Shiite faction in Lebanon, broke silence Tuesday night and declared it had nothing to do with them.

An Osseiran family bodyguard said Ali Osseiran had dinner Tuesday night with Glass, who was in Lebanon working on a book, but would not give further details.

Glass, 36, is a former ABC television correspondent from Los Angeles. He was the first for-

eigner kidnapped in Lebanon since 7,500 Syrian troops entered Beirut's Moslem sector Feb. 22 to quell fighting between rival militias.

His seizure embarrassed Syria, which is the nation's main power broker and keeps 25,000 soldiers in northern and eastern Lebanon, and it has pressed for his release.

Among the 25 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped since March 1985 are nine Americans, six Frenchmen, two Britons, two West Germans, an Italian, an Irishman, a South Korean, an Indian and two foreigners who have not been identified.

Glass was the first journalist kidnapped in Beirut since Terry A. Anderson, 39, chief Middle East correspondent of the Asso-

ciated Press, was abducted March 16, 1985. Anderson has been held longer than any other hostage.

Also missing is Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who vanished Jan. 20 after leaving a west Beirut hotel to meet with hostage holders.

Ali Osseiran and his driver Suleiman Salman, who doubled as a bodyguard, were freed early Wednesday morning. A Syrian official said privately they were blindfolded and turned loose on the coastal highway near the southern port city of Sidon, 25 miles south of Beirut.

They arrived at the nearby family villa in the same white Volvo from which they were abducted.

North to offer answers at televised hearings of Iran-Contra affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oliver L. North, the central figure in the Iran-Contra affair, will tell his story at the nationally televised hearings beginning July 7 after being questioned privately next week, the congressional panels said Wednesday. They said they had not made concessions North had demanded as a condition for his appearance.

North had earlier refused to testify privately, and his lawyers had set conditions limiting the length and scope of his public testimony.

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate investigating panel, said at the end of Wednesday's hearing that North attorney Brendan Sullivan had been informed "we would make no commitment on limiting Col. North's testimony or promise not to recall him as a witness."

However, he added, the letter also made clear that "we do not intend his testimony to last more than a week or anticipate that he will be recalled."

Sullivan declined to say whether he had agreed to the terms disclosed by the committees. "I just can't talk about it," he said when contacted by telephone.

Inouye's announcement came at the end of a long day in which former CIA general counsel Stanley Sporkin was the only witness.

Sporkin defended President Reagan's decision against notifying Congress about the secret arms sales to Iran, which began in 1985, but suggested it was wrong of the administration to keep the secret as long as it did.

North, in his only previous appearance on the Iran-Contra matter before a congressional committee, claimed his constitutional right against testifying on grounds he might incriminate himself. The former National Security Council aide is the subject of a criminal investigation by independent counsel Lawrence Walsh.

He will be testifying before Con-

gress under a grant of limited immunity from prosecution, which means his testimony cannot be used against him later.

Leaders of the congressional panels, while negotiating for the past week with Sullivan about conditions for North's testimony, have taken pains to make clear they were guaranteeing nothing.

"I would simply point out that in this agreement we certainly did not make any concessions," said Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the House committee. "We set the terms, we set the timing of the testimony, we set the length of the testimony and we have only given Mr. Sullivan, counsel of Col. North, a statement of our intentions."

The closed-door questioning on July 1 will be limited to President Reagan's knowledge of using the arms-sale proceeds for aid to the rebels.

The understanding did not meet with universal approval among members of the committees who felt that making concessions set a troublesome precedent.

Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine, said, "I would not say there is great euphoria in the cloakroom."

For half the day, the interrogation focused on language in the presidential document that Sporkin drafted directing the director of central intelligence "to refrain from reporting this finding to the Congress."

Asked by Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, whether a delay of several months could be justified, the former CIA general counsel said, "I think it would be wrong to do so but I'm not going to say it would be illegal."

As one member after another of the committees pressed the point, Sporkin murmured: "This is about the toughest bar exam I've ever had."

He said that "unless I'm all wet," the president has the prerogative of delaying congressional notification.

Chrysler Corp., 2 executives indicted on charges of mail, odometer fraud

WASHINGTON (AP) — Chrysler Motors Corp. and two senior executives were indicted Wednesday on charges they sold the public as new more than 60,000 vehicles that had been driven by company managers with the odometers disconnected.

Some of the cars were involved in accidents, were repaired and the company sold them as new vehicles, and the 16-count federal indictment alleging conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud and odometer fraud.

The indictment covers an 18-month period beginning in July 1985, but it said the practice goes back to 1949 and that millions of cars were sold to consumers under the same circumstances.

A copy of the indictment, handed

up by a federal grand jury in St. Louis, was released in Washington by the Justice Department.

If convicted on all counts, Chrysler Motors, the carmaking division of the Chrysler Corp., could face a maximum fine of \$120 million on the felony charges.

Two company executives, Frank J. O'Reilly and Allen F. Scudder, were charged with a single misdemeanor count of conspiracy to commit odometer fraud and could face a maximum penalty of one year in prison and fines.

In Detroit, a statement said Chrysler Motors "flatly denied that the company or any of its employees had done anything illegal or improper."

It called the proposed fine "an outrage," said it bears "no

relationship to the alleged problem," and will be vigorously contested.

The statement added that "the U.S. attorney's office is attacking a legitimate quality assurance program, beneficial to consumers, by attempting to apply to the quality testing of new vehicles a federal statute designed to preclude the rolling back of odometers on used cars."

"The law has never previously been applied in such a circumstance, or to an automobile manufacturer," the statement said.

The company said that as part of its quality assurance program, a small number of cars or trucks were picked at random each day at each assembly plant and were test-driven by a "qualified and authorized factory representative" and that the av-

erage number of miles put on the test vehicles was 40.

The indictment said that in one instance a 1987 Turismo driven by a Chrysler executive hit a pocket of water on a highway, hydroplaned, rolled over on its side, slid into a ditch and rolled over on its roof.

According to the indictment, the car was repaired, its odometer reconnected and then shipped to a dealer as a new vehicle.

According to the government, the investigation began after Missouri state highway patrolmen reported that after they stopped Chrysler executives for speeding, the drivers frequently explained that they hadn't realized they were exceeding the speed limit because their odometers had just been disconnected.



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