

# Battalion Classifieds

# World and Nation

## Shiite: Iranian group smuggled 2 U.S. hostages out of Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Iranian Revolutionary Guards have smuggled two American hostages from Lebanon to Iran, hiding them in coffins part of the way, a Shiite Moslem source said Tuesday.

A top U.S. official expressed skepticism about the report and Iran's foreign minister denied it.

The source told the Associated Press the Americans were "probably Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland," who were seized separately more than two years ago by Shiite extremists loyal to Iran. The source has been reliable in the past on information regarding foreign hostages.

Anderson, 39, chief Middle East correspondent of the AP, was kidnapped March 16, 1985, in Moslem west Beirut. Sutherland, 55, acting dean of agriculture at the American

University of Beirut, was seized June 9, 1985.

Other reports in the past few weeks, none confirmed, have said two or more Americans were taken to Iran. They were among many reports over several months about the fate or physical condition of American and other hostages, and where they were being held.

According to the Shiite source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, transfer of the Americans to Iran led Syria to impose travel restrictions on Revolutionary Guards based in the Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon and on Iranian diplomats.

Revolutionary Guards, fanatical followers of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, arrived in Lebanon in 1982 to help Syria against the invading, Israelis. Syria is the country's

main power broker and keeps 25,000 soldiers in northern and eastern Lebanon, including the Bekaa Valley.

A group calling itself Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War, has claimed to hold Anderson and Sutherland, who are among 25 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon. Nine are Americans.

Anglican Church negotiator Terry Waite also is missing. He dropped from sight after leaving his west Beirut hotel Jan. 20 to meet with hostage holders.

The source said the two Americans were taken from Lebanon to the Iranian Embassy in Damascus, the Syrian capital, late in May in coffins purported to contain the bodies of "Revolutionary Guards martyrs killed in action against Israel."

The coffins went from the Bekaa Valley to Damascus in a Revolutionary Guards jeep on a military road, the source said, and "an Iranian Embassy car with a diplomatic license plate transported them from Damascus to Iran via Turkey."

Syria now has banned the estimated 3,000 Revolutionary Guards in the Bekaa from military roads and also imposed "restrictions on the cross-border movements of Iranian diplomats in Lebanon and Syria," the source said.

His report comes two weeks after the June 17 kidnapping of American journalist Charles Glass, 36, in a Beirut slum controlled by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God. Many of the hostages are believed held in the Shiite slums of south Beirut.

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## Reagan says U.S. protection of Kuwaiti ships to proceed

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, unwayed by objections from Congress, served notice Tuesday that the United States will proceed with putting Kuwaiti oil tankers under the protection of American warships in the war-torn Persian Gulf by mid-July.

The White House announced Reagan's decision after the president met with Democratic and Republican congressional leaders in the Cabinet Room for more than an hour, listening to fears that his plan would draw the United States into the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the lawmakers raised "concerns about timing and tactics" of the planned escorts after 11 tankers are placed under U.S. flags and captains. He acknowledged that not a single member of Congress spoke up at the meeting in support of Reagan's idea.

Later, talking with reporters in the White House driveway, Democratic leaders conceded they failed to persuade the president to delay the convoy operation. However, they indicated Congress would not try to derail the plan with legislation prohibiting escort duty.

"To pull the rug out from under that commitment could be dangerous," said House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas. Yet, he said Democrats told Reagan they were worried about the possibility that in escorting Kuwaiti

ships, the United States could "inadvertently slip and slide our way into being an active participant in the Iran-Iraq war."

Senate Majority leader Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., said, "We came to express our hope that the administration would delay... until we can all think this thing through together."

Acknowledging that Reagan was unmoved by their plea, Byrd said, "We don't want to take action to stop this reflagging because we can't do that in a timely fashion. They plan to go forward."

On Capitol Hill, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 11-8 in favor of legislation to halt the operation. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., said he would "do all I can" to prevent the bill from being considered, and Byrd said he would oppose the legislation.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., a specialist on defense issues, said, "On this point, I clearly disagree with them (administration officials). I do not think they've thought through the strategic implications... I don't think the policy holds up to any kind of scrutiny."

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said, "It is not a risk-free operation and it has not been presented as such. But the risks of not doing it, I think, are a lot higher."

LONDON (AP) — Police emptied the streets, evacuated apartments and closed pubs. More than 500 people took shelter in community halls where soup kitchens and beds were set up hurriedly. Ambulances and fire engines stood by.

London held its breath for more than 30 hours until late Tuesday afternoon while arm experts defused a World War II bomb dropped by the German Luftwaffe near Tower Bridge and buried under 21 feet of rubble near the banks of the River Thames.

It was a scene out of the Nazi Blitz.

But this was 1987, not 1940, when the German war machine rained hundreds of thousands of bombs on London to soften the British capital for an invasion that never happened.

Construction foreman Michael Killeen said he thought his workers had hit a cast iron pipe about noon Monday while using a pile driver on a construction site where abandoned Victorian warehouses are being converted into apartments in the massive urban program in southeast London's Docklands area.

"We picked it up and then dropped," he said. "It was only then we realized it looked like a bomb and called the police. That goodness I didn't break it or it would all have been goners."

It was actually a 2,200-pound device, one of the largest of the Germans dropped over Britain during the Blitz which killed more than 15,000 Londoners and damaged or destroyed 3.5 million houses.

Londoners had nicknamed the particular type of bomb "Hermann" because its round shape with a wide band around the middle reminded them of Marshal Hermann Goering, the hefty head of the German air force.

## Army defuses WWII bomb in London

## South Korean president accepts plan for broad political reform

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Chun Doo-hwan announced Wednesday he "fully accepts" demands for broad changes in the nation's political structure, including direct presidential elections.

In a nationwide television address, Chun said he was taking measures to "promote epochal democratic development and national harmony."

South Korea has been ravaged by weeks of violent anti-government demonstrations.

Chun made the announcement two days after Roh Tae-woo, the chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party and Chun's chosen successor, presented an eight-point proposal and said he would resign if Chun rejected it.

The president said he had been briefed by Roh on the proposals.

Chun said the next election "will be held under a new constitution if the basic law is expeditiously revised and enacted following an agreement between the government party and the opposition on a direct presidential election system."

He also repeated his pledge that he will step down when his seven-year term expires next Feb. 25 and transfer "the reins of government to the president thus elected." The president is currently elected by an electoral college system that favors the party in power.

Chun declared that amnesties and the restoration of civil rights "will be extensively granted, while all those detained in connection with the political situation, except for a very small number of felonious offenders, will be set free."

He said he agreed with the sub-

stance of Roh's proposals "for grand national compromise and reconciliation."

"I thus decided to fully accept Mr. Roh's recommendations and take measures to promote epochal democratic development and national harmony," Chun said.

Roh, like Chun, is a former general and a close associate of the president.

The reversal by the government and by the ruling party came after 18 days of nationwide demonstrations. The demonstrations began June 10, the day the Democratic Justice Party formally nominated Roh to be Chun's successor.

Security forces were ordered off maximum alert Tuesday for the first time since protests began three weeks ago aimed at ousting Chun's authoritarian government.

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7:30 10:30

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BENJI: THE HUNTED G 2:10 7:10  
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