

World and Nation

Lawmakers say North captured heart of America with testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the Iran-Contra committees took a wait-and-see attitude Wednesday about Oliver North's testimony, but agreed that he likely captured the hearts of millions with an emotional self-portrait as a lone-wolf enemy of international terrorists.

Asked whether he believed the questions by chief House committee counsel John W. Nields Jr. were fair, North said during the lunch break, "I'll leave that for others."

Sen. Paul Trible, R-Va., a conservative who has been one of the sharpest critics of the administration's conduct in the affair, was one of those who said North did well.

"I think he's been viewed sympathetically by a whole lot of Americans," Trible said. He said North "spoke very powerfully and convincingly" in testifying that he did not run the Iran-Contra operation for personal gain.

"My guess is he's come across very well on the tube and he will indeed be viewed sympathetically by a great many Americans."

— Rep. Richard Cheney, R-Wyo.

The lawmakers said North readily admitted his mistake in accepting a free security system at his home, and that he had testified convincingly that he never benefitted personally from the Iran-Contra dealings.

"The phone calls are almost unanimously for him," Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said of the way his constituents reacted to North's testimony.

North said during the lunch break, "I'll leave that for others."

Despite a generally favorable conclusion about North's appearance Wednesday, there also was a cautious attitude, with Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, suggesting, "We

good" on protracted questioning, he said.

Sen. Paul Trible, R-Va., a conservative who has been one of the sharpest critics of the administration's conduct in the affair, was one of those who said North did well.

Cheney said he understood the interruptions by North attorney Brian Sullivan and added, "If I were in North's shoes, I would want a van for my attorney."

U.S. officials warn Marcos against overthrow attempt

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration has warned former Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos against engaging in an apparent plot to topple the Aquino government and barred him from leaving the Hawaiian island of Oahu, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

The warning was delivered to Marcos at his home in Honolulu by Abraham D. Sofaer, the State Department's legal adviser, and concerned "his activities which we believe violated the understandings under which he is permitted to remain a guest in the United States," said Charles E. Redman, the department spokesman.

Two other U.S. officials, who demanded anonymity, said the U.S. government had a tape of a conversation between Marcos and an arms dealer that indicated the former president was plotting to overthrow his successor, Corason Aquino.

The Justice Department is expected to make some of these details public on Thursday.

"The United States is seriously concerned about indications that Mr. Marcos appeared to be seeking to destabilize the Aquino government and was contemplating a return to the Philippines without the

express permission of the Philippine government," Redman said.

Marcos, who lives on Oahu, not only was barred from going home but also from leaving the area or going elsewhere in the United States, a Justice Department official, Pat Korten, said.

Sofaer met with Marcos on Monday and Tuesday. He was accompanied by Gregory Walden, associate deputy attorney general; Charles B. Salmon Jr., director of the Philippines desk at the State Department; and William S. Craig, district director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Hawaii.

Death count after explosion less than feared

HERBORN, West Germany (AP) — Four people died and 36 were injured in a gas explosion Wednesday that destroyed a parlor and triggered a series of explosions and ejections, officials said Wednesday.

Fears of a much higher death toll from Tuesday evening's explosion subsided as most of the people originally reported injured were accounted for.

Nearly 24 hours after the explosion, Siegfried Hermann, chief of rescue services, said a body of one young man was believed to be buried under the charred wreckage of the ice cream parlor.

Two victims died of burns in hospitals Wednesday. Rescuers found two bodies in the rubble of the parlor and used dogs to search for more victims.

Town spokesman Gerhard Boeckel said the disaster injured 36 people, including the two women who died later in hospitals.

Authorities had said late Tuesday they feared 30 people were killed in the crash, which ignited a gas main, started a series of explosions and fires and turned downtown Herborn into an inferno.

Hindu mobs in India kill 5 Sikhs, injure 87 to avenge massacre of 72 bus passengers

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Hindu mobs killed five Sikhs and injured another 87, burned their shops and stopped trains in lynching attempts Wednesday to avenge 72 Hindu bus passengers massacred by Sikh terrorists.

The army went on full alert in north India and New Delhi and the capital braced for violence as opposition parties called for a protest strike on Thursday.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi met

with his Cabinet ministers and opposition politicians to discuss the crisis.

Authorities banned public assembly, shut down schools and ordered buses off the roads to prevent violence in New Delhi.

Sikhs are a minority in India but they have a slight majority in Punjab, a rich agricultural state in northern India that Gandhi placed under federal control in May. Militant members of the Sikh sect are fighting for separate state in Punjab.

The attacks against Sikhs were in Hindu-dominated Haryana and Uttar Pradesh states in northern India.

Three Sikhs died in Haryana, police said. Another two were slain in Rishikesh, the Himalayan Hindu city on the banks of the revered Ganges River in Uttar Pradesh, the United News of India reported.

At least 25 Sikhs were injured in mob violence in Rishikesh, and at least 62 were injured in Haryana and elsewhere in north India.

South Korean government grants amnesty

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The government on Thursday announced a broad amnesty covering 2,335 people and including the restoration of civil rights for Kim Dae-jung, South Korea's best-known dissident leader.

Earlier Thursday, thousands of people, many weeping and praying, went to a "democratic people's funeral" on a Seoul university campus for a student who died Sunday of injuries received in a clash with riot police a month ago.

Official government spokesman Lee Woong-hee, announcing the wide-ranging amnesty, said it was a move to promote national reconciliation and will be effective Friday.

The announcement came a day after the government released 357 political prisoners. Many

marched through prison gates shouting "Down with the military dictatorship!" and demanded freedom for all their comrades.

More than 500 prisoners have been freed, including 177 released Monday. Before the releases, the government said it held 1,100 political prisoners, but the opposition contends there are hundreds more.

The amnesty announced Thursday covers people convicted in connection with various anti-government activities going back to the 1970s.

Kim Dae-jung had been under a suspended 20-year prison sentence handed down in 1980 when he was accused of involvement in the bloody Kwangju uprising. He was tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to death. The gov-

ernment later commuted the sentence to life, then to 20 years.

The conviction took away Kim's civil rights and legally barred him from political activity. Despite the ban and despite repeated periods of house arrest, he had continued to take part in anti-government campaigns.

The release of prisoners and restoration of rights follow President Chun Doo-hwan's agreement July 1 to accept opposition demands for direct presidential elections and other democratic reforms.

Kim Dong-chul of the Justice Ministry told reporters more prisoners would be freed in coming months, but ministry officials said privately scores of Communists and unrepentant prisoners would be kept in jail.

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