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Non-Smoking, Please

Brayton Firemen Training Field has almost 200 men visiting from 12 Latin-American countries, including Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala

and Columbia. Most of them are here to learn about oil fires in case they encounter these types of fires on drilling rigs.

Photo by Sarah Cowan

Bomb blasts rock city, kill 63 in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — Two car bombs and two other explosions killed at least 63 people and wounded more than 300 Tuesday evening, officials reported. The blasts in a small area of downtown Karachi were almost simultaneous.

Witnesses and officials said the powerful car bombs blew passers-by to bits, spattering blood on buildings across the wide street. Police said about 20 vehicles were destroyed by the explosions and subsequent fires.

"The situation is very bad," said Dr. Abdul Karim, head physician at the Jinnah Post-Graduate Hospital in Pakistan's largest city. "We have declared a state of emergency in the hospitals, and we don't know what the death toll will be."

Karim and Dr. Abdul Maquim of Civil Hospital said they had received a total of 63 bodies and 300 injured people, many in critical condition. They said numerous fragments of bodies were not included in determining the death toll.

No group claimed responsibility, but the city government issued a statement saying: "The explosions appeared to be the work of saboteurs of foreign origin." It did not elaborate.

Terrorist bombings have killed dozens of people in Pakistani cities this year but these were the first in Karachi, a city of 7 million with a history of ethnic and political unrest.

Thousands of people gathered outside hospitals. Appeals for blood

donors were broadcast through loudspeakers.

Pakistan's official media reported two car bombs. Police and other witnesses said there also were two smaller explosions, and all four were within 200 yards of each other.

Police and soldiers cordoned off the area in the city's fashionable Saddar district.

The car bombs exploded shortly after 6:30 p.m. in front of two buildings with ground floor shops and three floors of apartments, police reported. They said a third bomb went off at a bus stop and the fourth on a nearby footpath.

Authorities in Pakistan routinely blame bombings on agents of neighboring Afghanistan's communist government, which denies the charges.

Pakistan aids and shelters Moslem guerrillas fighting the government in Kabul.

About 3.5 million Afghan refugees have come to Pakistan since Soviet military forces entered the country in December 1979. About 115,000 Soviet soldiers now are in Afghanistan helping fight the insurrection.

There also has been speculation that bombings this year have been the work of Pakistani dissidents opposed to the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, who rules under the protection of Gen. Mohammad Zia ul-Haq, the president.

McFarlane offers rebuttal to North's testimony

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lt. Col. Oliver North concluded six extraordinary days in the congressional hot seat Tuesday and was followed by his former boss, Robert McFarlane, who called North's testimony "passionate in delivery" but in major areas untrue.

North was dismissed with a declaration by the chairman of the House Iran-Contra committee that his activities were part of a policy "driven by a series of lies" that catapulted President Reagan into his most serious crisis.

"You said these hearings caused serious damage to our national interest," Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., said. "I wonder whether the damage was caused by these hearings or acts which caused these hearings."

Although McFarlane asked for the encore appearance to rebut North's testimony, he said, "I don't think Colonel North would ever make a deliberate misstatement or a lie. That leaves only the possibilities of differing interpretations between us."

McFarlane testified for three hours without the cloak of immunity that covered North. McFarlane's successor, Rear Adm. John Poindexter, will testify when the hearings resume Wednesday.

McFarlane said that in October 1985, North sent him some memoranda that "raised doubts about his compliance with the laws. I instructed him, in Colonel North's

A&M officials offer views of North's testimony

By Kirsten Dietz
Senior Staff Writer

Lt. Col. Oliver North — hero, presidential material, "fall guy" or liar?

Since North began testimony before the congressional Iran-Contra committee, he has been called all of these things.

Two Texas A&M officials connected with military studies say North only followed his superior's orders when participating in one of the many covert operations necessary to protect U.S. interest.

"I think if you're going to point the finger, you'll have to point it higher than Oliver North," Lt. Col. Donald J. Johnson, assistant Corps commandant, says.

Dr. Joseph G. Dawson, director of A&M's Military Studies Institute, says, "I really question his background at being assigned the re-

words, to fix it," meaning he wanted compliance with the law.

He said North changed two pages and McFarlane thought the episode was ended but that he later learned the document was revised again

and tremendous responsibility he was given. He was a man out of his element."

North concluded six days of testimony Tuesday before the committee, which is investigating the channeling of funds from Iran arms sales to Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Dawson says that, while it remains to be seen if any laws were broken, he believes North will be indicted but not tried.

"A real problem at the base of all this is that North was unaware of the various shadings or interpretations of various federal laws," he says. "Not being aware of breaking the law or believing you're not breaking the law is not a defense. Even if you're unaware of the law, you can be in violation of it, or even if you misunderstand the law you can be in violation of it."

Johnson and Dawson agree that

"without my knowledge and concurrence."

McFarlane said it was true that "narrow and changing restrictions" of the Boland amendment caused changes in conduct of covert operations "but this is a far cry from say-

ing I and other members of the administration authorized what was clearly beyond anyone's power to authorize."

And, he said — turning a North phrase back — no plan existed to

covert operations are necessary and inevitable. "As long as there's a world, there will be covert operations," Johnson says.

But while covert operations are supposed to be run within the law, he says, "When the law applies, you have to stay within the law. But the law is not going to cover every situation."

Dawson says many people have been surprised to learn that, while the covert activities must abide by the law, they do not have to abide by U.S. policy. While many national leaders have said one thing and done another, he says, this instance is surprising, considering the United States' bitter feelings toward Iran.

"For the administration to take any action after publicly condemning Iran was probably a mistake and probably a bitter pill for the American people to swallow," he says.

By law, the House and Senate intelligence committees are supposed to be informed of all covert operations. They say they never were told of the arms-for-hostages deal.

Dawson says this policy is "satisfactory," but that the administration can get away with informing the committees after a short-term operation by saying there was not enough time to do so before the operation. But this operation continued for more than two years, and the administration should have expected to be criticized for failing to inform the committees, he says.

Johnson says the policy of informing the committees should not always be followed, because fewer leaks are possible when fewer people know about the operation.

"There are times when certain committees under certain circumstances should not know what's going on," he says.

McFarlane said it would be in character for North to have thrown himself on a grenade to protect McFarlane or his commander in chief, but "Ollie North should not be the

make North the fall guy if the operations were disclosed.

Status on immigration for Nicaraguan aliens uncertain after 1 week

BAYVIEW (AP) — Nicaraguan aliens remain uncertain about their immigration status a week after a federal order that apparently granted political asylum to people from the Marxist Central American nation.

Last Wednesday, Attorney General Edwin Meese III issued the order barring deportation and granting work permits for qualified Nicaraguans who fear persecution back home.

But on Tuesday, 79 Nicaraguans remained detained at the Immigration and Naturalization Service's detention camp in Bayview, isolated on the coastal prairie about 22 miles north of the Mexican border.

INS officials are waiting, as well, for further instructions. "Our detention policy is still the same until we get some additional guidance from above," said David Turner, INS deputy chief director

for the South Texas district based in Harlingen.

INS policy includes a bond, usually of \$1,000 or more. The alien pays the bond and is released after agreeing to appear before an immigration officer in the district in which he chooses to reside.

"Many of us don't have money for the bond and we're waiting to see if they'll let us get out without paying a bond or maybe a reduced amount," said Manuel Salvador Aguilar, 26, from Managua.

Salvador, whose bond was set at \$1,000, said he fears arrest if he returns to Nicaragua, because he left the country illegally.

Amador said he thinks the attorney general's order presents him an unexpected opportunity.

"We think it's magnificent, because we consider that Nicaragua has a communist system," he said in Spanish.

Senate approves \$5 billion tax hike; business, individuals to split burden

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate voted Tuesday to raise Texans' taxes by more than \$5 billion, a plan which backers said seeks to split the burden between businesses and individuals.

Left pending was another \$669 million tax increase that would be achieved by keeping the motor fuels tax rate at 15 cents per gallon instead of rolling it back to 10 cents on Sept. 1.

"Nobody here wants to go home and say yes, I voted for a tax bill," said Sen. Bob Glasgow, sponsor of the tax measure. "But . . . we have have got to raise this money; there's no alternative. We have got to keep the penitentiaries open. We've got to have health care."

After nearly seven hours of debate, senators voted 23-7 for a lengthy list of tax and fee increases — topped by a \$3 billion hike in the state sales tax which

would raise the rate from 5 1/2 cents to 6 cents on the dollar.

"We have struggled with this tax bill as best we can," Glasgow said, reflecting the continuing deadlock that blocked tax and

about a \$5 billion tax hike, including the motor fuels increase, but Clements has said he would veto any increase larger than \$2.9 billion.

Glasgow said senators would

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— Sen. Bob Glasgow, sponsor of the tax bill

spending action throughout the Legislature's regular session that ended June 1.

"What we have done is try to write a tax bill, plain and simple, that the House would accept in some form and the governor would accept," Glasgow D-Stephenville, said.

The House earlier passed

pass a motor fuels tax increase later, after other budget issues are resolved. The Senate passed a similar fuels tax increase in the regular session.

The tax bill which won approval Tuesday would raise a total of \$5.25 billion and is headed for a conference committee with the House, Glasgow said.

As passed by senators, the bill also would expand the sales tax to cover motor vehicle repairs, interstate long distance phone calls and custom computer software, and would increase a variety of fees, including those for drivers' licenses and many professional licenses.

It would have businesses prepay part of their 1990 corporate franchise tax; charge businesses for sales tax permits; raise the motor vehicle sales-rental tax; increase the tax on cigarettes and tobacco products; increase the hotel occupancy tax and place a surtax on the insurance premium tax companies now pay, as well administrative insurance services.

To improve the state's cash flow, the bill also would double the current \$7.75 auto safety inspection fee, but make it good for two years instead of one.