

World and Nation

U.S. Supreme Court Justice has prostate cancer, clinic claims

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, best known for the landmark 1973 ruling legalizing abortion, is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer at the Mayo Clinic, a clinic spokesman said Monday.

The clinic called the cancer "a small and localized recurrence."

"The justice is undergoing treatment which is not incapacitating and is short-term," spokesman Michael O'Hara said. "The prognosis is excellent."

Blackmun had his prostate gland removed Nov. 14, 1977, because of cancer. Mayo spokesman Meg Black said the new cancer was in the same area.

Blackmun's Washington office had said Friday that Blackmun was recuperating from minor hernia surgery at his vacation home in Wisconsin. His office said he had been swimming and had taken walks after the hernia surgery and made no mention of cancer.

Prostate cancer is the third-most common cancer in men, after skin cancer and lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

The society estimates that this year, prostate cancer will be diagnosed in 96,000 men and claim 27,000 lives.

Appointed to the high court by President Richard M. Nixon in 1970, Blackmun often sided in his early years on the bench with Warren Burger, his boyhood friend who be-

came the staunchly conservative chief justice.

Blackmun won unanimous Senate confirmation after two earlier Nixon nominees — G. Harrold Carswell of Florida and Clement F. Haynsworth Jr. of South Carolina — were rejected after bitter debate. He took the court seat of Justice Abe Fortas, who resigned during controversy over the ethics of some of his off-the-bench activities.

By the mid-1970s, Blackmun had become known as an independent voice, sometimes voting with the diminishing liberal contingent and sometimes with the growing conservative group.

He wrote the 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* opinion that said women in most circumstances cannot be barred from having abortions.

"Author of the abortion decision," he said quietly in a rare on-the-record interview with the Associated Press in 1983. "We all pick up tags. I'll carry this one to my grave."

Blackmun, who received thousands of letters opposing the decision, which was supported by a court vote, seems an unlikely candidate for the moral outrage many messages expressed.

A devout Methodist, he smokes nor drinks.

Born in Nashville, Ill., Blackmun spent most of his boyhood in Paul, Minn., where his father, a fruit wholesaler, grocer and insurance salesman who had aspired to a law career.

Blackmun entered law school at Harvard only after seriously considering a medical career. He combined the two interests during the 1950s, resident counsel of the Mayo Clinic.

He won a partial scholarship to Harvard and was admitted to Minnesota bar in 1932. Although a Republican, he backed Hubert Humphrey's campaigns. Humphrey later backed him for a seat on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which he held for 11 years.

O'Hara said the cancer was detected during a routine examination earlier this month. He said Blackmun was in Rochester but was not hospitalized.

Blackmun, 78, was a guest at a hotel in Rochester, a switchboard operator said. He did not immediately return messages left at the hotel.

The clinic and the Supreme Court public information office declined to provide further details of his case.

Iran ignores U.N. peace treaty effort, warns United States against attacks

KUWAIT (AP) — Iran said Monday the latest U.N. effort to end the Persian Gulf war is "not worth a penny" and told the United States it will retaliate for any attack.

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution demanding a cease-fire in the 7-year-old war with Iraq but the Iranians said they would ignore it, as they have several previous resolutions.

U.S. Navy warships are stationed just outside the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow southern entrance to the gulf, preparing to escort Kuwaiti tankers that will sail under the American flag.

Kuwait is Iraq's western neighbor at the gulf's northern end. Iran accuses it of serving as a conduit for arms shipments to the Iraqis, whose ports have been closed since the war started in September 1980.

Iran has attacked ships owned by or serving Kuwait frequently since last September and says it will not be deterred by U.S. Navy escorts for 11 reflagged Kuwaiti tankers or by Soviet presence in the Persian Gulf. Kuwait has leased three tankers from the Soviet Union.

Iran said its troops have launched new attacks in Iraq, but Iraq denied Iran's claim that its forces stormed the garrison town of Atrush in northeast Iraq on Sunday. Iraq said its soldiers drove back Iranian assaults on man-made islands in the southern Majnoon oilfields.

Dispatches from Iran, monitored in Nicosia, Cyprus, claimed 2,700 Iraqi soldiers had been killed or wounded in those attacks and others in the central sector of the 730-mile border. Iraq said its pilots downed an Iranian F-4 Phantom jet in a dogfight Sunday night over the northern gulf.

Conflicting claims could not be verified. Foreign journalists are allowed into war zones only on rare guided tours.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted President Ali Khamenei as saying the U.N. effort was worthless and threatened retaliation for any attacks on Iranian vessels.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Sunday that Iran would ignore any U.N. resolution that did not name Iraq, which began the war with an invasion, as the aggressor.

Khamenei, also head of the Supreme Defense Council coordinating the war, told an audience during

Observers: Power change favors rebels in Sudan war

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — The abduction of three American teachers and a British nurse has drawn attention to Sudan's largely ignored civil war, in which rebels backed by neighboring Ethiopia seem to have gained the edge.

The current rainy season and military morale problems have contributed to the shift of advantage in the contest between the predominantly Moslem north, which controls the government and army, and insurgents in the largely Christian and animist south.

Western diplomats and other observers say the change in favor of the Sudan People's Liberation Army occurred over about nine months.

"Militarily, it looks like the SPLA is in a stronger position," said Peter Woodward of Britain's Reading University, who has studied Sudanese politics for 20 years. "They're at their strongest yet" in the 4-year-old war, he said.

In a telephone interview from England, he pointed to recent rebel victories, demoralization of the army, disagreement among army leaders over the war policies of Prime Minister Sadek el-Mahdi and the government's inability to keep the army supplied.

Woodward said the rebels remain unable to win a military victory, however. He said the fighting could continue "for many years."

Officials rarely comment on day-to-day fighting, but they say consistently in speeches that the government will make war until the rebels agree to talk peace.

Sudanese newspapers, among the least-restricted in

Navy offers cool reception to ships wandering in gulf

ABOARD GRAYDART, Gulf of Oman (AP) — Looming out of the morning haze 21 miles from land Monday, the gray and black supertanker was one of dozens awaiting a turn to run the Persian Gulf's gantlet of fire.

But the calm vanished when reporters aboard this privately owned supply vessel cruised past the U.S. Navy destroyers moored nearby and circled close enough to read the words "Bridgeton, Philadelphia" newly painted on the Kuwaiti tanker's stern.

Within seconds, a naval helicopter swooped low overhead while a non-sensory American voice crackled on the radio at Captain Eduardo Antisoba's elbow.

"Small powered boat off the bow of Bridgeton, state your name and state your purpose," it said.

Antisoba, the Filipino skipper, replied, "This is Graydart. We have reporters aboard. Want to take pictures of the Bridgeton."

The voice barked, "Remain one mile clear of all U.S. warships. Move one mile off the Bridgeton."

Antisoba said, "I will do it. I will do it," as he deftly spun the helm to take the 90-foot vessel out of what the unidentified voice had clearly implied was harm's way.

It happened off Khor Fakkan, United Arab Emirates, in international waters in the Gulf of Oman.

Iran's northwestern Azerbaijan province Sunday that President Reagan was behind the Security Council resolution.

He said the sponsors expected Iran to enter negotiations with Iraq for what the official news agency called an "ignominious" peace.

"If Iran does not accept the resolution, it will be internationally pres-

Monday's chilly reception came from a Navy still smarting from the May 17 Iraqi attack on the frigate USS Stark. The attack, which Iraq said was an accident, killed 37 U.S. sailors. The United States accepted Iraq's apology.

This week, U.S. warships are expected to begin escorting Kuwaiti tankers re-registered to sail under the American flag for protection from Iranian attacks. Iran regards Kuwait as an ally of Iraq in the 7-year Persian Gulf war.

The first two Kuwaiti tankers appeared ready to sail except for the hoisting of the Stars and Stripes.

The former Al-Rekkah, a 401,382-ton behemoth that ranks as the biggest in the Middle East and about sixth in size among the world's ships, became the Bridgeton over the weekend.

Anchored about two miles away was the former Gas Al-Minagish, a 46,723-ton liquid petroleum gas carrier newly renamed Gas Prince, also of Philadelphia.

The U.S. Navy's Middle East Force, recently bolstered to nine ships, will escort the Kuwaiti ships through the Strait of Hormuz, where they face a threat from Iranian missile batteries, and up the 600-mile gulf to Kuwait's oil loading terminals.

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"If Iran does not accept the resolution, it will be internationally pres-

ured, more than ever," Khamenei said. "The superpowers are making a mistake and are ignorant of the spirit of devotion and resistance of our heroic nation."

Iraq has sought a negotiated settlement for years and supported Security Council action. The newspaper *Al-Seyasseh* reported Monday that Iraq would sharply reduce military operations in response to a resolution.

Iraq urged the United States and Soviet Union to set their differences aside and work together to end the war. It made the appeal in an editorial Monday in the daily *Al-Thawra*, which speaks for President Saddam Hussein's Baath Socialist Party.

Bahrain's foreign minister, Sultan bin Mubarak al-Khalifa, was quoted as saying "we will bring chaos" if U.N. peacemaking failed.

The *Gulf Daily News*, published in the emirate, said the sheikhs that an international arms embargo be imposed on both combatants in the war continued.

Crown Prince Saad al-Ahmed al-Sabah, prime minister of Kuwait, said the United States will be how to respond to any attacks on reflagged tankers or their escorts.

He said the ships "are American vessels."

"They are carrying the American flag," he said. "I am sure the Americans will defend the American flag."

"There is no agreement" between Kuwait and Washington on how to retaliate, he told a news conference.

Two of the 11 reflagged tankers were anchored south of the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, with four more warships standing by.

Saad would not say when the escort operation would start, but a congressman said last week the convoy would pass through the Strait Wednesday on the three-day run to Kuwait's Al-Ahmadi oil terminal.

On Sunday, the emirate's Defense Ministry said U.S. Saudi and Kuwaiti teams had finished demining from the channel off Kuwait to be used by the convoys.

Delta plane safely avoids small aircraft

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — A Delta Air Lines Boeing 747 passenger jet making its final landing approach was forced to turn sharply to avoid a small engine aircraft, federal officials said Monday.

Delta Flight 1943 from Los Angeles made a 35-degree bank to 10,500 feet to avoid a Cessna that came to within a quarter mile of the larger plane, said Russ Park, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

There were no injuries and the Delta plane landed safely, Park said, adding that he did not know how many passengers were aboard.

The incident occurred at 7:15 p.m. Sunday, Park said. The owner of the Cessna was not identified and an investigation is continuing, he said.

Park said the Delta plane was descending on its approach to Sacramento Metropolitan Airport and was about 15 miles from the landing strip when the incident occurred.

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