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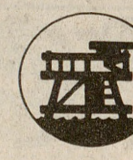
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**World and Nation**

**Government links businessman to missile, aircraft export plot**

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Chinese diplomats at the United Nations attempted to buy TOW and Sidewinder missiles and plans for F-14 fighter aircraft, U.S. authorities alleged in documents disclosed in court Wednesday.

The disclosure came during a detention hearing for Chang-Yao Chi, 65, a New York City businessman who was arrested Sunday and charged with conspiracy to illegally export arms.

Chi has links to "high-ranking members of the United Nations (Chinese) delegation and the People's Republic of China," Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark S. Olinsky said.

According to the complaint, all the negotiations were with a government undercover agent and no missiles or plans changed hands.

U.S. Magistrate Stanley R. Chesler ordered Chi detained without bail after finding him a risk to flee because of his diplomatic and government contacts.

The twin-seat F-14, which can fly at twice the speed of sound, is the Navy's primary fighter jet and has never been sold to China.

A Sidewinder is a short-range, air-to-air dog-fighting missile with an infrared guidance system and can be used on most U.S. fighter jets.

The TOW, a U.S. Army weapon normally fired from either a personnel carrier, jeep or tripod, is the most powerful anti-tank missile used by the infantry. It also can be mounted on Army Cobra helicopters.

The complaint filed in U.S. District Court said the case began last January, when a Qamar Babar introduced Charles Chang to a Customs Service informant to discuss the purchase of TOW II and Sidewinder missiles, launchers, parts and training and the aircraft plans. The complaint gave no further information about Babar.

The complaint, signed by Customs Agent Frank Ventura, said Chang asked the informant about prices of the missiles, a launcher, parts and training.

The informant gave a false name of a supplier, actually another undercover agent, to verify the reliability of the missiles.

After several phone calls with the undercover agent, Babar and Chang met him at Chang's business, Abacus Brokerage & Realty Ltd., in the Flushing section of the New York City borough of Queens.

Chang showed the agent a notebook with notes in Chinese that Chang said "were written

for him by some generals and engineers in China," the complaint said.

The agent said he could sell 10 stolen TOW missiles for \$250,000.

Chang was arrested in August and agreed to record telephone conversations with Chi.

At a meeting with Chang on Sept. 7, Chi "indicated that the buyers of the stolen missiles, who are individuals associated with the Chinese mission to the United Nations, were being cautious about the methods to... obtain and to transport these stolen missiles."

Chi's attorney, Alan Zegas, said he was a resident of the United States for nine years and lived in Taiwan for 30 years before that.

Zegas denied that Chi was involved in the plot and said a transcript he had prepared of the taped conversation, which was in Chinese, varied significantly from the government version.

U.S. Attorney Samuel A. Alito would not comment on the case. U.S. Customs Service Agent Richard Mercier said only that the investigation is continuing.

Officials at the Chinese mission to the United Nations had no comment.

**10 children, 2 adults die during blaze in overcrowded house in Milwaukee**

MILWAUKEE (AP) — One of the worst fires in the city's history swept through an overcrowded two-story house in a poor neighborhood Wednesday, killing 10 children and two adults who were about to be evicted for failing to pay rent.

Eleven of the dead were found on the second floor, trapped there when flames destroyed the main staircase, officials said. The ages of the children ranged from 11 months to 8 years.

Three adults who escaped the fire also lived in the home, located on Milwaukee's North Side, officials said.

"The children were so friendly," said Dottie Brewster, a neighbor

who lived in an adjacent house which was damaged by the fire.

Lt. Charles Grisham of the Milwaukee Police Department said the deaths appeared to be caused by smoke.

The fire, reported at 4:42 a.m., started in the first floor of the house, apparently in the kitchen, James Rechlitz, a fire battalion chief, said. Investigators did not know the cause immediately, but tentatively ruled out arson.

"We had enough people but because of the intensity of the fire it took several minutes to knock it down before we could begin search and rescue operations," Rechlitz said.

"We never expected to see this much fire in an occupied home," Rechlitz said. "If it was a vacant building, that was one thing, but this was full of people."

The owner of the building, Emmett Echols, said the residents were about to be evicted because they were two months behind on their rent.

The rental agreement, Echols said, provided that four people were to live in the house. He said he learned there was more than that number after a workman doing renovations at the single-family, wood-and-brick home reported seeing several families inside.

"I didn't know they were all living there," Echols said. "They had so many people living in the house. They should have never moved in."

Rosella Ramthun, the mother of one survivor, Jill Schreck, said her daughter was due in court Wednesday to fight the eviction notice, but the residents nonetheless were preparing to leave the house.

"They had everything packed," said Ramthun, who lives down the street from the house. "They were going to move."

Ramthun said the residents complained about faulty wiring in the home, but Echols said the electrical system was safe.

**False alarm in Manila sets off rumors of coup**

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Soldiers backed by tanks encircled Manila on Wednesday to block any further attempt to topple President Corazon Aquino, but they withdrew after the military said no mutineers tried to enter the city.

Col. Emiliano Templo, chief of staff of the Capital Regional Command, said hundreds of battle-ready soldiers and marines rushed to the edge of the city late Tuesday after receiving reports "that rebel soldiers were coming to Manila."

But Templo said Brig. Gen. Ramon Montano, commander of a new "anti-coup" force, ordered the troops back to the barracks about 18 hours later after no mutineers showed up.

Wednesday's alert came nearly five weeks after a bloody Aug. 28 coup attempt. At least 53 people were killed in the military mutiny and hundreds were wounded.

The latest coup scare set in motion a chain of rumors about "unauthorized troop movements" that highlighted command and control problems within the divided, poorly trained armed forces.

Intelligence sources at Camp Olivas, the Constabulary headquarters for central Luzon, said the alert followed reports that the leader of the Aug. 28 coup attempt, Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, had joined forces with three other renegade officers for a new strike on the capital.

Despite the alert, one of the renegade officers, Lt. Col. Reynaldo Cabautan, managed to slip into Manila and meet with more than 20 reporters late Tuesday. Cabautan announced formation of a "nationalist provisional" junta to overthrow Aquino.

He denied any alliance with Honasan but said he expected the colonel's support "when we strike."

**Mine scare in Persian Gulf detours commercial ships**

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A new mine scare Wednesday sent commercial shipping on a circuitous route through the northern Persian Gulf as two U.S.-escorted convoys steamed north and south through the waterway.

The latest reported danger zones were near Farsi Island, a stronghold of Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Gulf-based shipping executives said several possible sightings had been reported by ships sailing to and from Kuwait.

British Royal Navy mine sweepers spent a second day searching waters off the southern gulf where possible sightings of mines were reported, but they apparently found nothing.

The 46,723-ton Gas Prince, one of nine reflagged Kuwaiti tankers sailing under the Stars and Stripes, steamed south through the gulf on its second outbound voyage since the con-

voy operation began in mid-July. Pentagon spokesman Maj. Larry Icenogle said another convoy moving north consisted of two U.S. Military Sealift Command ships carrying supplies, apparently to Bahrain for the U.S. Navy's Middle East Force.

The convoy's appearance created a stir among maritime observers, who speculated that the absence of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers indicated an expansion of the U.S. escort operation.

"This is a routine resupply operation... there is nothing new about this," Icenogle said. He identified the ships as the 39,000-ton transport oiler Gus Darnell and the motor vessel Patriot.

The United States began to escort 11 U.S. registered Kuwaiti tankers in July to protect them from attack by Iran, which considers Kuwait an ally of Iraq in the seven-year Iran-Iraq war.

**Commerce Department reports rise in economic gauge**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Commerce Department said Wednesday its chief economic forecasting gauge rose 0.6 percent in August, signaling continued growth for a recovery set to claim the record as the longest peacetime expansion in U.S. history.

It marked the seventh consecutive increase in the department's Index of Leading Indicators, which had

risen a smaller 0.3 percent in July. It was the longest string of monthly advances in the forecasting gauge since 21 consecutive gains beginning in late 1982 as the nation was pulling out of the 1981-82 recession.

In another report, the Commerce Department said new-home sales climbed 2.7 percent in August to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 688,000 units as buyers rushed to

close home deals before mortgage rates went higher.

Private economists said the gain in the leading index, while not spectacular, indicated continued steady economic growth with falling unemployment through the rest of this year and 1988 as well.

This forecast is certain to boost the spirits of Republicans hoping to hold onto the White House next year.

The current economic recovery enters its 59th month on Thursday, breaking the old record of 56 months for the longest peacetime expansion, set in the 1975-80 turn.

The longest recovery on record was the 106-month stretch from February 1961 to December 1980, period influenced by the Vietnam war.

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