

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

U.S. pushes for support of peace plan for Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Wednesday it is dispatching its top Middle East policymaker to the region to advance a "revitalized" peace initiative, and a source said Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel would be visited.

"Our objective is early face-to-face negotiations to resolve the problems which have existed for so long between Israel and its neighbors," said spokesman Charles E. Redman.

He said Assistant Secretary of State Richard W. Murphy would travel to the region but declined to

give a detailed itinerary out of "security concerns."

A source familiar with the travel plans, speaking on condition of anonymity, said later Murphy's trip would include talks with leaders in Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Syria is on a State Department list of nations supporting terrorism, but it has been credited on occasion with being helpful in efforts to win the release of hostages.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz mentioned Syria on Tuesday as one of the countries the United

States would "want to touch with" on the peace initiative.

"We hope a revitalized peace plan will lead promptly to substantive change in the (Israeli-held) Bank and Gaza, and in the long term, to a broader political settlement," Redman said.

Murphy met briefly Wednesday with Moshe Arad, the Israeli ambassador to the United States. Arad Murphy gave his impressions of the U.S. envoy Philip C. Habib last weekend with King Hussein of Jordan.

World Briefs

Exit poll ban ruled unconstitutional

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A Washington state law banning media "exit polls" within 300 feet of the voting booths was ruled unconstitutional by a federal appeals court Tuesday as a violation of freedom of speech.

Upholding a lower-court decision, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the law improperly restricted certain speech based on its content, was overly broad and was not "the least restrictive means of advancing the state's legitimate interest of keeping

peace, order and decorum at the polls."

The court also said the law aimed at preventing network projections of election results would be unconstitutional because "a general interest in insulating voters from outside influences is insufficient to justify speech regulation."

In an exit poll, news organizations ask voters leaving the polls how they voted and why.

The results have been used to project election returns.

SEC head wants control of market

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission said Wednesday his agency — not the Federal Reserve Board — should have the lead role in regulating the nation's financial markets.

David S. Ruder, testifying before the Senate Banking Committee, rejected a key recommendation of the presidential task force headed by former New Jersey Sen. Nicholas Brady.

"The Federal Reserve lacks the necessary expertise regarding both equity and futures markets," Ruder said during hearings on

the Oct. 19 stock market plunge.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified Tuesday against the Fed overseeing the markets, saying that involvement of the Fed in the securities market might leave the impression it stood ready to bail out bankrupt stock brokerages.

Brady, who appeared before the panel Tuesday, argued that the explosion of computer technology has inextricably linked the stock markets, regulated by the SEC, with the futures markets, regulated by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Smoke causes evacuation of plane

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Passengers of American Airlines Flight 152 from Dallas were evacuated on chutes Wednesday afternoon after smoke streamed from the luggage compartment of the plane, officials said.

Martha Bradley, a spokesman for the Metro Nashville airport, said smoke was seen coming from the plane when it landed about 4:20 p.m. CST. She said at least one passenger, who was recovering from recent heart surgery, was taken to a hospital for observation.

She said she was aware of other injuries, but a Metro dispatcher said several passengers and some firefighters were overcome by smoke.

The dispatcher said the fire units and ambulances were on the scene but said the plane was on fire as of 5:30 p.m.

American Airlines spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

Passengers told reporters of the scene that they began smelling smoke about half an hour into the flight.

Morocco offers to have U.S. jet base

WASHINGTON (AP) — Morocco's ambassador to the United States offered his country Tuesday night for consideration as the future base for U.S. F-16 fighter jets being evicted from Spain.

"Morocco has always been dedicated to the sense of peace and liberty and will be proud to continue to do just that, today and tomorrow," said M'hammad Bargach at a dinner at the Moroccan Embassy for a U.S. congressional delegation.

Spain recently demanded that

the 401st Tactical Fighter Wing of 72 F-16s be removed from base there within three years.

The United States and its NATO allies have been reviewing the deployment of the planes since then.

The ambassador said Morocco would like to be considered a "privileged ally" of the West European defense group.

But Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday the United States hopes to find a home for the fighters in Europe.

Reagan gives approval to FBI probes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan is satisfied the FBI had a solid basis for starting and continuing its investigation of a group opposing the administration's policies in Central America, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Wednesday.

Fitzwater also said Reagan believes FBI director William Sessions is properly handling an inquiry into the bureau's investigation of the Committee in

Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. Sessions said Tuesday the investigation was not being properly directed but did not amount to "massive" spying on opponents of Reagan's policies.

Fitzwater said the investigation "had a solid basis for its initiation and continuance."

And he repeated his claim that the White House has not had direct involvement in the FBI probe.

Israelis shoot six Palestinians in West Bank

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians, and Arabs with slingshots, stones and marbles injured five Israelis in battles Wednesday in the West Bank, witnesses and officials said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir rebuffed a call from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for a six-month freeze on Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a prelude to peace talks.

During a visit to a West Bank settlement, Shamir told Jewish settlers he hoped their communities "will grow and prosper."

Asked what advice he would give to Jewish settlers to deal with the unrest, Shamir said, "Be strong." Asked what he would advise Palestinians, Shamir said, "Be quiet."

Dozens of Arab youths in the Aida refugee camp near Bethlehem used slingshots to fire metal scraps, marbles and stones at soldiers. The army fought back with tear gas, rubber bullets and live warning shots before imposing a curfew.

Arab residents said the trouble started after soldiers beat people during a raid on the camp.

The army said two Israeli civilians were hurt when stones were thrown at passing cars on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

Three Arabs were shot in the legs in the village of Silwad.

Mohsin Salah, 19, told the Associated Press from his bed in Ramallah Hospital that the Silwad clash occurred after several hundred Palestinians rushed to the village's high school when a rumor spread that Israeli settlers were trying to take five boys.

Rebels attack camp, killing eight civilians

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Contra rebels attacked a resettlement camp in the rural northeast Tuesday, killing three children and five other civilians, the Defense Ministry said.

Resettlement camps established by the leftist Sandinista government accommodate Nicaraguans who fled combat zones or were forced out by the government. In late 1987, there were 145 camps housing 8,250 families.

Voice of Nicaragua radio said the pre-dawn raid was meant as "propaganda" the day before the U.S. House of Representatives votes on President Reagan's request for \$36 million in aid for the rebels.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said it occurred at San Agustín, about 75 miles northeast of Managua in Boaco province. No details were given.

There was no immediate reaction to the report from Contra representatives. The rebels have been fighting for six years to overthrow the leftist Sandinista government.

In the capital, a few Americans protested Contra aid with a hunger strike outside the U.S. Embassy.

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