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Sandinistas, Contras agree to cease fire starting April 1

SAPOA, Nicaragua (AP) — The leftist Sandinista government and U.S.-supported Contra rebels signed an agreement for a 60-day cease-fire to start April 1, both sides announced in a joint communique.

The two sides said that during the cease-fire, the process for negotiating a permanent truce will be worked out. Within the first 15 days of the 60-day truce, the rebels agreed to move into specified zones in Nicaragua.

The Contras also have agreed to accept only humanitarian aid from a neutral organization.

The Nicaraguan government said it would grant gradual amnesty and allow all political exiles to return to the country without fear of persecution.

The first Sandinista proposal, outlined Tuesday by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco, called for a truce of up to 90 days during which the Contras would lay down their weapons and join a "national reconciliation dialogue."

For every rebel who stops fighting, the Sandinistas offered to free a political prisoner deemed eligible by the government. The government is

holding an estimated 3,300 political prisoners. Tinoco also said rebels who put down their arms would be free from prosecution without applying for amnesty and could take part in Nicaraguan political life.

They would be permitted to operate uncensored newspapers, magazines and radio stations, but television would remain a government monopoly. Many press libertines were barred for almost six years under a state-of-emergency decree.

Gorbachev, Reagan set summit date

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan announced Wednesday he would go to Moscow from May 29 to June 2 for his fourth summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his first visit to a nation he once branded an "evil empire."

The five-day visit will mark the first trip to Moscow by an American president since Richard Nixon's 1974 summit meeting with Leonid Brezhnev. Later that same year, in November, Gerald Ford met with Brezhnev in the Soviet port city of Vladivostok.

The summit's intended centerpiece was the signing of a treaty to scrap 30 percent to 50 percent of the superpowers' long-range bombers, missiles and submarines. However, Reagan already has suggested an agreement will not be ready, saying time is too limited.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze reported Wednesday night that differences remained between the two sides on the accord.

The two said in a joint statement they would meet again in Moscow on April 21-25 and also in May but did not indicate where that session would be held.

"Both sides have worked hard, and some progress has been realized in a number of areas, but much more needs to be done," the statement said.

Asked Wednesday if a treaty would be completed, Reagan said, "I have no way of answering that" and added that the two nations were committed to the task.

Visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, asked if a treaty would be ready, said through a translator: "It is possible. This is not an easy task. This is a very complicated task, but we are becoming convinced that it is doable."

"There are many difficult questions of a technical nature, mostly in verification, but in principle this can be done," the foreign minister said as he left the White House following two hours of talks and lunch with Reagan.

The summit announcement capped three days of meetings between Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the president would spend all of his time in the Soviet capital, following the pattern set by Gorbachev during his December summit with Reagan.

The summit committee is holding activities this week to focus student attention on the tradition. The Muster committee is sponsored by Stu-

Visiting hours extension depends on officials' OK

By Tom Eikel
Staff Writer

A proposal to extend dormitory visitation hours by five hours per week, unanimously approved by the Resident Hall Association, is now in the hands of Assistant Director of Student Affairs Tom Murray.

If Murray approves the proposal, it will go to Director of Student Affairs Ron Sasse and Vice President for Student Services Dr. John Koldus, respectively, for approval.

Results of a recent RHA campus poll shows that about 82 percent of A&M on-campus residents are in favor of the change in visiting hours, RHA President David McDowell said.

Present visitation hours are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

If approved, RHA's latest proposal would extend weekday visitation hours to 11 p.m., while weekend hours would remain the same, he said.

The proposal, put together by McDowell and presented at the March 9th meeting, is the culmination of a lot of research and the revision of previous proposals.

"We've been working on this for the past three years . . . but this (proposal) is different from the last two," McDowell said.

First, if approved, the new hours would ideally go into effect in Fall 1988 on a one-year trial basis, he said.

Second, the proposal calls for the formation of a special oversight committee to help prevent and/or solve any problems that might arise. The committee, under the direction of the RHA vice president, will consist of two residence hall presidents, two RHA delegates, two resident directors, two resident advisers, two members of Student Affairs and one RHA executive board member.

Finally, if the proposal is approved, each hall will vote on whether or not it wants the extended hours. Three-fifths of the hall resi-

dents will have to vote in favor of the proposal before the hall will adopt the new hours.

The longer hours will mean that dorm resident advisers will have to make their rounds an hour later than usual. Despite this, McDowell said most advisers have shown a great deal of support for the proposal.

"There have been a few who are against it," he said.

McDowell said the opposition said the proposal possibly would increase staff workloads, roommate conflicts and security problems, particularly in women's dormitories.

RHA's latest proposal includes a 35-page report outlining the findings of three years of surveys conducted at A&M, as well as other colleges and universities around the country, he said.

The report also makes references and comparisons to the two previous proposals that were made in 1985 and 1986, he said.

Student Government sponsors events to spread information on Aggie Muster

By Andrea Halbert
Reporter

On April 21, Aggies will gather throughout the world, as they do on this date every year, to pay homage to all students and former students who have died during the year. The tradition of Aggie Muster began in 1883 and is considered one of the most sacred Aggie traditions.

At the Muster ceremony, a roll call is read for those who have passed on. A candle is lighted as each name is called, and someone at the ceremony answers "here" to symbolize that the Aggie always will be present in spirit.

Gerald Griffin, Class of '56, will speak at Muster. Griffin is president of the Houston Chamber of Commerce and former director of the Johnson Space Center.

The Muster committee is holding activities this week to focus student attention on the tradition. The Muster committee is sponsored by Stu-



Battalion file photo

A woman attends the Aggie Muster ceremony.

dent Government and exists to promote the tradition of Aggie Muster on campus.

A Muster Awareness subcommittee was formed two years ago to

keep the growing student body informed.

"Pass it on" is the theme for Muster Awareness Week, Subcommittee Chairman Barbara Graham said. She said the committee is encouraging students to pass on the tradition with "pass-it-on" cards.

Students sign the cards — which are printed with the date of Muster — and pass them on to someone else.

The big event of the week is the Muster Awareness Presentation to be held Thursday at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

John Adams, class of '73, will speak about the history and evolution of Aggie Muster. A slide show about tradition at Texas A&M also will be presented.

Adams is author of "We Are the Aggies," a book about the history and evolution of Aggie traditions over the last 100 years.

As an undergraduate, Adams was a member of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets and the Muster committee.

Court OKs Texaco plan to restructure

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Texaco Inc. on Wednesday won final bankruptcy court approval for a plan that would settle its multibillion-dollar dispute with Pennzoil Co. and bring it out of Chapter 11 protection early next month.

After a day and a half of closing arguments, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Howard Schwartzberg confirmed the reorganization plan, which features an agreement by Texaco to pay Pennzoil Co. \$3 billion to drop a \$10.3 billion judgment held by Pennzoil against the nation's third-largest oil company.

When the plan goes into effect on April 7, Texaco will deliver the money to Pennzoil and will be officially free from the legal constraints that have limited its operations since the company filed for protection from its creditors last April 12.

It was the largest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history.

Texaco said it took that action to avoid having to pay a potentially ruinous \$11 billion security bond while appealing the judgment.

A Houston jury awarded the judgment to Houston-based Pennzoil in November 1985, after finding that Texaco had improperly interfered with a Pennzoil acquisition of part of Getty oil company so Texaco could buy Getty itself.

Schwartzberg's approval marked the last step required for Texaco to emerge from bankruptcy protection under federal law.

Texaco officials and Pennzoil Chairman J. Hugh Liedtke expressed profound relief that the four-year ordeal of litigation that had paralyzed both companies was finally over.

Liedtke said he never doubted that the jury's verdict would be vindicated, despite lingering criticism from some quarters.

"Quite frankly, all the smoke aside, people don't pay \$3 billion for something you don't have some liability," he said.

Told of that remark, Texaco Chairman Alfred C. DeCrane — who at Tuesday's hearing had stoutly defended Texaco's view that it had done nothing wrong — said, "What we did here today is to settle this matter."

In announcing his decision to confirm the plan, Schwartzberg noted that 96 percent of Texaco's shares were voted in favor of the package, which was laboriously worked out among Pennzoil, Texaco, and committees representing Texaco's creditors and shareholders.

Aggies help put out fire on Galveston Island

By John H. Neill
Reporter

Playing the good samaritan may not come naturally to most people, especially during a vacation, but 10 A&M students did stop and helped to put out a fire on Galveston Island during spring break.

Donnie Boehnke, a senior agricultural economics major from Tomball, said he and some friends were driving on the road that leads to the city of Crystal Beach about 12:30 p.m. last Monday when they saw smoke coming from the side of the road. The group turned on a dirt road and saw three firefighters struggling with a grass fire.

Although initially reluctant to accept assistance, the Galveston Island firefighters agreed to allow the A&M students to help.

Crystal Beach Police Chief Farris Collier said the fire started as a trash fire that started burning out of control. He said the firefighters appreciated the help from the A&M students.

"They were super," Collier said in a Battalion phone interview Wednesday. "We would have lost a couple of houses if it wasn't for them."

Chris White, an A&M freshman and volunteer firefighter from Friendswood, was among the group.

Boehnke said White took over the firehose while the others worked with "flappers," heavy material connected to mop-like handles used to press out fires.

Brad Isenhart, a 21-year-old junior from Tomball, said, "We had to do most of the work and one of the Galveston firemen had to rest."

Collier said the fire covered two to three acres of land.

The fire, on a 15- to 20-acre lot of waist-high grass, was being blown toward some beach houses when they arrived, Boehnke said.

"It was spreading pretty fast toward those beach houses because of the wind," Boehnke said. "We saved at least one beach house, if not more, because we were there."

The Aggies noticed the fire was

spreading despite the firefighters' efforts, Isenhart said.

"They (the Galveston firefighters) were fighting the fire from the north end and it was moving south toward the beach houses," Isenhart said.

White, a volunteer firefighter for two years, said he believes that the people who were there have a better outlook on college students because the men had the courtesy to stop and help. He said that some of the people believe that students will help in certain situations instead of going to the beach to get drunk.

"It felt good," White said. "You get a sense of accomplishment and self-fulfillment."

Isenhart said the experience of fighting the fire was demanding.

"It was pretty exciting," he said. "It gets your adrenaline pumping and we were pumped at the time."

Although there were not many people there, Boehnke said the ones watching were thankful for the Aggies' efforts.

"It was a good experience for all of us," he said. "It was fun."



Photo by Brad Isenhart

Steve Fuqua, Robbie Legg, Joe Isenhart and Chris White fight a fire at Crystal Beach on Galveston Island Monday, March 14. They were on spring break when they saw the fire and decided to stop and help.