

World/Nation

U.N. votes to ask U.S. officials to grant PLO leader Arafat visa

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The General Assembly's legal committee voted 121-2 Tuesday night to ask the State Department to grant PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a U.S. visa. Only the United States and Israel were opposed.

It was an indication of how lopsided the vote is likely to be Wednesday when the 159-member General Assembly takes up the Arab-sponsored resolution deploring U.S. denial of a visa to Arafat so he can address the assembly at U.N. headquarters in New York.

In denying the visa on Saturday, the State Department said Arafat had condoned acts of terrorism committed by the Palestine Liberation Organization. On Tuesday it said its rejection was final.

All U.N. member nations are represented on the legal committee, but not all were present for the vote Tuesday night.

U.N. officials, meanwhile, began calculating the cost of the unprecedented step of moving the General Assembly to Geneva to hear Arafat speak on the Palestinian problem and Middle East issues. One source suggested it could run around \$150,000.

Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they have enough votes to reconvene the General Assembly in Geneva. They said the session probably would be in the week of Dec. 12-16, with Dec. 13-14 the likely dates.

Most nations were expected to assign their Geneva ambassadors to the session and nations would bear the cost of their own travel, diplomats said.

The General Assembly on Tuesday delayed its annual debate on the Palestinian problem, originally scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Dec. 6, to permit arrangements for Arafat to speak elsewhere.

The U.S. rejection of a visa set off an international uproar and demands that Arafat be allowed to speak.

If U.S. authorities reject the resolution to reconsider, as is expected, the next step will be a second resolution later this week seeking to move the assembly to Geneva, the diplomats said.

Backstage deliberations sponsored by the British failed to remove harsh language from the first resolution. It says America is in "violation" of the host country agreement and

"deplores" the failure to grant Arafat a visa.

Under the 1947 U.S.-U.N. Headquarters Agreement, the United States pledges not to impede the travel or work of U.N. diplomats or guests. The PLO holds non-voting observer status at the United Nations and is an honored invitee.

It is considered the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and is invited to speak in all such debates.

In Washington, Secretary of State George P. Shultz said the strong opposition to his decision to bar Arafat shows that people are forgetting what a threat international terrorism is.

Two dead, one wounded in bagel restaurant shooting

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Two men are dead and a woman was in critical condition Tuesday after a shooting at a bagel restaurant in Albuquerque's Northeast Heights, police said.

Albuquerque Police Sgt. Ruth Lowe said a man walked into the Bagel Lovers restaurant about 9 a.m. and opened fire, shooting a couple in the shop and a man behind the counter. All three were shot in the head, police said.

Lowe said one man, identified as Richard Wilt, 39, of Albuquerque,

was dead at the scene.

The other, identified as Joseph Famiglietta Sr., 62, of Rio Rancho, died at University of New Mexico Hospital at 10:27 a.m., hospital spokesman Bob Hlady said.

Wilt's wife, Jean, was in critical condition at the hospital, Hlady said. Officers said two other people inside the shop were not injured and no money was taken.

Police were looking for a white male in his early 30s, about 5-foot-5 to 5-foot-8 and clean-shaven. They said the man was wearing a ski mask.

Lowe said a witness told police the gunman paced back and forth in front of the restaurant before he went in.

Witnesses told police that when the man entered the shop he pulled out a gun and shot Famiglietta and Mrs. Wilt. Rick Wilt ran to help them and also was shot, police said.

The man fled and Wilt staggered outside the shop behind him before collapsing on the sidewalk, officers said.

Albert Chavez, manager of a neighboring office supply store, said one of his employees stumbled on the scene shortly after the shootings and thought Wilt had injured himself.

"But when I saw him I knew something more had happened and I set off our alarm," Chavez said.

Walt and Famiglietta, who was Mrs. Wilt's father, were co-owners of the shop. Both families had moved to Albuquerque from New York about a year ago, said Jim Moore, who owns another neighboring shop.

Pentagon says B-1B crash does not show ice as factor

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force does not believe a buildup of ice on the wings caused the Nov. 17 crash of a B-1B bomber in South Dakota and sees no need to consider the addition of wing de-icing equipment to the long-range bombers, officials said Tuesday.

Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman said, "We do not have any evidence that icing was a contributor to the B-1B crash at Ellsworth (Air Force Base)."

"Wing icing was not considered a potential problem when designing the aircraft and there never has been any operational evidence that wing icing is a problem," he said.

Lt. Col. Rick Oborn, an Air Force officer and Pentagon spokesman, said, "We have no plans to study the addition of de-icing equipment. That hasn't even been considered."

The spokesmen were responding to continuing questions prompted by a published report last week that the B-1B may have been downed by excessive ice on its wings.

The Air Force previously had downplayed that report by the Chicago Tribune, but Hoffman's statement Tuesday was the most categorical to date.

In a related development, Hoffman said the Air Force would look into allegations by some Rockwell International Corp. employees that flawed parts might have been used in building the B-1B bombers.

"But the Air Force does not have any evidence at this time, which corroborates the assertions by former Rockwell employees that substandard parts were used in the construction of B-1s," Hoffman said.

"However, the Air Force is investigating or is looking into these allegations."

A copyright report Monday by WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio, quoted workers as saying substandard parts disappeared after being

rejected by plant inspectors. The employees said they believe those parts subsequently were used in building the bombers to meet production schedules.

The \$280 million B-1B, like many types of military aircraft, does not have any built-in de-icing equipment for its wings.

It does, however, carry an anti-icing system for its four engines and an ice detection system for the wings.

Pentagon officials, speaking on condition they not be named, said Tuesday the ice detection system on the plane that crashed at Ellsworth did not indicate the bomber had experienced a dangerous build-up of ice.

"There was some icing," one source said. "There was ice on the wings of another B-1B that landed just before this one. But it wasn't a problem."

Another official agreed: "There is no indication at all of a problem having occurred with icing that would eventually lead to an accident."

Capt. Jay DeFrank, an Air Force spokesman, said the rationale for leaving de-icing equipment off the B-1B was simple.

"The B-1B can fly at such high speeds at low altitude that it normally melts what would build up on (the wings)," he said.

"And if you know you're facing icing conditions, you normally fly to another base or move to a different altitude."

"The plane has an ice detection system for the wings."

The Pentagon sources insisted the problem of icing had been considered adequately in the design of the B-1B.

The plane's General Electric Co. engines, in particular, were built to survive the ingestion of ice and keep flying, one source said.

And the wings, which can be

swept forward and backward into different positions, were tested extensively in wind tunnels, the source said.

The B-1B that crashed Nov. 17 was practicing instrument landing approaches.

It was attempting to land shortly after another B-1B made a successful approach and for reasons unknown, came in too low and clipped a utility pole and power lines.

The four crewmen survived after successfully ejecting from the plane.

"What we still don't know conclusively is what caused what," one Air Force official, commenting on the service's investigation, said.

Forecast doesn't stall Atlantis countdown

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA forged ahead Tuesday with the countdown for the secret mission of space shuttle Atlantis despite a forecast for unacceptably high wind at launch time.

The forecast, which also contained clouds and isolated showers, was examined closely by shuttle managers as they met to decide whether to launch Atlantis on Thursday on a flight carrying five astronauts and a spy satellite.

"All countdown activities are on schedule," the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said in a five-paragraph status report.

That statement and the management team's decision were the only announcements expected from the usually open space agency. Air Force rules prevented the civilian agency from holding its usual pre-launch briefings.

The Air Force has said only that the launch is scheduled for Thursday between 6:32 a.m. and 9:32 a.m. EST. The precise time will be disclosed just nine minutes before lift-off. The big countdown clocks at the site were kept blank.

Despite the secrecy, much is known about Atlantis's mission. The astronauts will release a \$500 million satellite — the first of a series called Lacrosse — that can discern targets of military interest in 80 percent of the Soviet Union.

Once they have released the satellite, dropping it overboard using the shuttle's robot crane, Atlantis will hover nearby to make sure everything works. If it doesn't, the astronauts will retrieve the Lacrosse and bring it back to Earth.

NASA said there was a 70 percent probability that the weather will be below the strict limits laid down since the Challenger explosion Jan. 28, 1986, that claimed seven lives.

Those rules include winds of less than 19 mph from the south or 28 mph from any direction, no rain at the pad or in the flight path and no thunderstorms within five miles.

The forecast was for winds of 15 to 28 mph, three layers of clouds and isolated showers.

The flight will be the third shuttle mission dedicated to the military and the second flight since the Challenger disaster. No details will be released during the flight unless something goes wrong with the spacecraft. The other all-military flights were in 1985.

The crew will be Navy Cmdr. Robert L. Gibson, spaceship commander; Air Force Lt. Col. Guy S. Gardner, pilot; and mission specialists Col. Richard M. Mullane and Lt. Col. Jerry L. Ross of the Air Force and Navy Cmdr. William M. Shepherd.

Democrats elect Mitchell Senate majority leader

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Mitchell of Maine was elected Senate majority leader on Tuesday by Democrats seeking a forceful new spokesman during yet another Republican reign at the White House, and he quickly promised George Bush his initiatives will be met with "interest and enthusiasm."

Mitchell, a 55-year-old former federal judge, easily defeated Sens. Bennett Johnston of Louisiana and Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. He succeeds Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, who stepped aside after 12 years as the Senate's Democratic leader.

Asked if he would cooperate with Bush, Mitchell said he plans to meet soon with the president-elect.

Mitchell said he plans to move forward on a broad range of issues including the federal deficit, health care, day care and the environment.

Mitchell also planned to meet Wednesday with Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, re-elected by Republicans to a third term as their leader earlier Tuesday.

Mitchell received congratulatory calls from Bush and Vice President-elect Dan Quayle, as well as President Reagan.

"The Democrats await with interest and enthusiasm the proposals of

the next administration," Mitchell said.

Mitchell, who was just elected to his second term in the Senate, has a liberal voting record but promised "to work with all the Democrats in developing a broad agenda."

New Mexican president must deal with poor economy, opposition

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Carlos Salinas de Gortari has proved himself tough and flexible, necessary qualities for dealing with the economic crisis and growing political opposition he will face after becoming president on Thursday.

He is an economist with no experience in elective office, and at 40 will be Mexico's youngest president in half a century.

That may be fitting, since more than half the nation's 84 million people are under 16.

Salinas also has a disadvantage none of his predecessors has experienced: serious division within the Institutional Revolutionary Party, which is known by its Spanish initials PRI and has governed Mexico since 1929.

In addition to being the youngest president in decades, Salinas also is one of the best educated.

He has two master's degrees and a doctorate in pub-

lic administration, all from Harvard, and speaks fluent English and French.

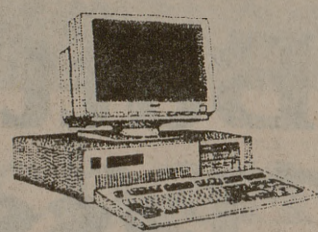
Salinas is known as a demanding boss who expects things to run on time — what Mexicans call "American time" rather than the less precise "Mexican time."

Salinas won narrowly in an election July 6 that was tainted by charges of fraud.

The PRI won only 260 seats in the 500-seat Chamber of Deputies, compared with its customary 70 percent or more.

Political analysts say the results last election's results indicate people are weary of the PRI's high-handed ways and want a change.

In speeches and interviews, Salinas has said he will "modernize" Mexico, paring down the bureaucracy, getting rid of state-owned companies that lose money, fighting corruption, balancing the budget, reducing inflation, forcing export industries to become more efficient and reforming the PRI.



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