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The Battalion WORLD & NATION

Friday, January 27, 1989

Hostages may be near release

British ambassador crosses to Moslem West Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Radio and press reports Thursday said the release of two British hostages might be imminent, and British Ambassador Allan Ramsay crossed into Moslem West Beirut.

After Ramsay's return to the British Embassy, in the Christian sector of the divided capital, an embassy official said, "We have no additional information."

Asked whether a hostage release was expected, he said, "All I can tell you is that we're not on alert." The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

Earlier, when asked by telephone if his trip was linked to the press reports, Ramsay said from the British consular office in the Moslem sector: "I often come to West Beirut and there's nothing significant in my current visit."

An embassy spokesman had said the purpose of Ramsay's journey was to check the reports.

The British Embassy and Ramsay's residence are in East Beirut. Most hostages are believed held in West Beirut's Shiite Moslem slums.

The reports said kidnapped British journalist John McCarthy and teacher Brian Keenan, who has Irish and British citizenship, could be freed within days.

Patrick McCabe, who is Ireland's ambassador to Lebanon but is based in Iraq, said he would fly to Beirut immediately to investigate.

McCarthy and Keenan are among 15 foreigners, including two more Britons and nine Americans, missing in Lebanon. Held longest is Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent

of the Associated Press, who was abducted March 16, 1985.

One of the other Britons is Terry Waite, Church of England envoy who disappeared Jan. 20, 1987, after leaving his West Beirut hotel to negotiate with people holding American hostages.

Most of the foreigners are believed to be captives of Shiite extremists loyal to Iran, but no faction has claimed to hold Waite or McCarthy as Keenan, who were seized in April 1986.

Reports of the possible release came from the Voice of Lebanon, a Christian radio station, and Al-Hayat, an Arabic-language newspaper published in London. The paper spoke of negotiations under way between Iran and others involved about freeing Keenan and McCarthy.

Bundy tape reveals location of victims in Colorado, Utah

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Serial killer Ted Bundy, in a tape recording made 45 minutes before his execution and released by Florida's governor on Thursday, disclosed where he left the bodies of two victims in Colorado and Utah.

Bundy's final confession came in a five-minute conversation with Florida State Prison Warden Thomas Barton at 6:15 a.m. Tuesday, Jon Peck, spokesman for Gov. Bob Martinez, told the Associated Press.

Although he didn't know the identity of his Utah victim, Bundy said he believed the Colorado victim was Denise Oliverson, 24, last seen riding her bicycle in April 1975 near her Grand Junction home.

Using a map, Bundy gave directions to the sites where he left his victims. His memory of the Utah victim was detailed, telling investigators to look for a dirt road between Price and Green River, Utah.

"About 200 yards in on the dirt road . . . and to the left, maybe 50 yards, there's the remains of a young

woman who disappeared from Brigham Young University in June of 1975," Bundy said.

"And that's as close as I can get it . . . with the map and with what we have here," said Bundy, who said he did not know the name of his victim.

Bundy had been suspected in the death of Susan Curtis, 15, who was attending a youth conference at Brigham Young University when she disappeared in June 1975, according to the Salt Lake Tribune.

Bundy, 42, also directed another confession to Colorado detectives about the killing of Oliverson.

"I believe the date was in April 1975," Bundy said. "The young woman's body would have been placed in the Colorado River five miles west of Grand Junction. It was not buried."

"That's all the ones that I can help you with," Bundy said. "The ones that I know about. No missing ones outstanding that we haven't talked about."

Barton then continued with more

queries from investigators in several other areas where Bundy was suspected in killing young women.

"Ted, I have some inquiries from Illinois and New Jersey," said Barton.

"Well, let's just deal with whatever is outstanding like that," said Bundy. "I can say without any question that there is no, uh, nothing for instance, that I was involved in Illinois or New Jersey."

Barton asked: "How about Burlington, Vermont, Vermont?"

"No," said Bundy.

"Nothing there?" Barton said.

"No," answered Bundy.

"Texas?" asked Barton.

"No," Bundy replied.

"Miami?" quizzed Barton.

"No . . . no," Bundy said.

"Okay, that's all we've got," said Barton. "Okay, Ted. Thank you."

Bundy quietly answered, "You're welcome."

Rest home residents endangered by tranquilizer use, study says

NEW YORK (AP) — Powerful tranquilizers with potentially dangerous side effects are being widely given to elderly people in rest homes, often by untrained aides without medical supervision, a study concludes.

Such drugs are available only through a doctor's prescription, but many patients continue to be given the drugs months or years after examination by a doctor, the study's principal author said Wednesday.

"It may well be that when they first started getting the stuff they needed it," said Dr. Jerry Avorn of the Beth Israel Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. "It may be that some people still need it."

But without follow-up examinations, there is no assurance that the drugs are being used properly, he said.

Drugs like Thorazine and Haldol, which are meant to treat psychotic patients, can cause a disfiguring and sometimes irreversible problem called tardive dyskinesia, in which patients develop uncontrollable facial twitches.

Avorn found that use of the drugs is not limited to treatment of psychotics.

"Sometimes they are used as sedatives, and that's not a good idea, because they will have side effects that outweigh their advantages," Avorn said.

Too high a dose of the drugs can cause confusion and lethargy, thereby raising the chances that patients will fall and injure themselves, Avorn said.

"If you oversedate a person, you are quite likely to put them at risk of a fall that can lead to considerable disability or death," he said.

Twenty percent of elderly people who fracture their hips, for example, will die within one year, Avorn said.

Avorn, with Stephen B. Soumerai of Harvard and Paul Dreyer and Kathleen Connelly of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, surveyed 55 rest homes in Massachusetts. These are institutions for the

care of elderly people not sick enough to be in nursing homes but too frail to live on their own, Avorn said.

The researchers found that 55 percent of the 1,201 residents were taking at least one psychiatric drug, and 39 percent were taking so-called major tranquilizers such as Thorazine and Haldol.

In a further study of 837 residents at 44 nursing homes, the researchers found that about half had apparently not seen a doctor for evaluation of their mental health for at least a year.

One-third of the residents did poorly on standard tests of mental function.

"It certainly raises the question of whether the medication might contribute in part to this lack of ability," Avorn said.

Six percent of the residents had moderate to severe cases of tardive dyskinesia.

The findings will appear Thursday in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Stanley Slater, director of the geriatric research and training program at the National Institute on Aging in Bethesda, Md., said Avorn's study "is not surprising, but of course it's a concern."

"Places for the care of the institutionalized elderly are constrained by a lack of resources, so that most of the care comes from nonprofessionals," Slater said. "The people who provide the care are often minimum-wage employees."

Avorn said that although the survey was limited to rest homes in Massachusetts, the findings are probably typical of what's happening elsewhere. "We are pretty representative of this level of care around the country," he said.

Avorn and his colleagues in December reported on a similar misuse of mood-altering drugs in nursing homes.

Washington opened fire on a crowd of students outside a District of Columbia high school Thursday, wounding four, police said. The incident apparently erupted because of a dispute earlier in the day.

One witness said the man "knew where he wanted to shoot and then he just started shooting at random." Police said the assailant seemed to have targeted the students involved.

There were no immediate arrests, but authorities were said to be searching for three men.

The shooting "seemed to be the result of an altercation that had taken place earlier in the day," said Capt. Robert L. Gates of the District of Columbia police.

School system spokesman Charles Seigel said two "outsiders" entered the school about noon and were involved in a "verbal altercation" with students.

The students agreed to a fight after school, Seigel said, and were on their way to the site when the shootings occurred.

When asked if any of the victims knew the assailants, Gates said, "I think some of the victims know who was involved."

The shootings at Wilson High School in affluent northwest Washington occurred about 2:30 p.m., moments after the students were dismissed for the day. None of the injuries was thought to be life-threatening, although police said at least one of the students was seriously injured.

Bush plans to visit China on trip to East

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush, who served as envoy to China during the rule of Mao Tse Tung, will spend two days in Beijing next month after visiting Japan, may extend his travels to other countries, the White House said Thursday.

There was speculation South Korea also would be on his itinerary.

"I don't have full dates of the trip yet in terms of starting and ending but it's clearly in an expanding mode here," said White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater.

On his first overseas trip, Bush will travel to Japan for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. He will spend Feb. 25-26 in China on a working visit, which traditionally is less pomp and ceremony than a state visit.

Fitzwater left open the possibility Bush would confer in Tokyo with other foreign leaders.

"Obviously when a president goes to these kinds of events there are opportunities for bilateral meetings and obviously there are a lot of countries who would like to host them, but we have to consider the time constraints involved in moving around — in this case moving out of China and protocol restraints associated with the funeral," Fitzwater said.

Describing the purpose of stopping in China, Fitzwater said it was "essentially to reaffirm our relationship, to offer support as we inch towards some openness in the society and some moves of economic reforms."

He said Bush will meet with senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping.

"The president of course has very close ties with China, having served there and having made two trips to China as vice president," Fitzwater said. "It just makes sense that he has gone that far in that part of the world that he also stop in to pay a visit to China."

American military police.

Milton said living in Turkey made her realize how much Americans take for granted.

"You don't appreciate anything until you see how much you have here," she said.

It was common to see people who had gangrene or rickets, a nutritional disease, on the streets, she said.

Many people, comparing Americans with the rich J.R. Ewing stereotype they saw on television, would ask her and her family if they were movie stars, she said.

Milton's experiences have instilled in her an interest in travel and meeting people from different cultures.

"I want to keep traveling," she said. "I've been spoiled. A lot of people can't imagine it, but it's all I've ever known."

While many children of military personnel feel that moving to the wide variety of places they lived was a valuable experience, they often acknowledge that this perspective was absent during their childhood.

Milton said she missed luxuries such as fast food and American television while living in Turkey.

"When you hear John Wayne speaking in Turkish, the effect is just not the same," she said.

Milton's family was living in Turkey when the government imposed martial law. For their safety, her family was instructed to stay in their apartment for nearly two days by the

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