


The Battalion

WEATHER

FORECAST for WEDNESDAY:
Mostly sunny and cool. Normal temperatures for mid-February are 64 and 43.

HIGH:52 LOW:28



Report suggests radical changes in foreign aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government report released Monday calls for a "radical reshaping" of U.S. foreign assistance programs because current aid concepts are based on a world that no longer exists.

"The challenges of today's problems, and tomorrow's, cannot be met with yesterday's solutions, suitable as they may have been to yesterday's problems," said the report, issued by the administrator of the Agency for International Development, Alan Woods.

The 158-page study said the aid program no longer seems able to fulfill its original mandate of helping poor countries achieve the transition

from dependency to self-sufficiency. Somewhere between 1949 and the present, the concept of aid as a transitional means of helping countries become self-sufficient was lost, it said.

A principal conclusion of the report calls for "radically reshaping" future assistance programs to face new realities and to complement the contributions to development of the U.S. private sector in providing humanitarian aid, education and overseas investment.

This reshaping "must be both an immediate concern and a major

long-term national priority. Nothing less will serve the national interests of the United States," the report said.

Woods noted in comments to a group of reporters that no country has "graduated" from less developed to developed status in the last 20 years.

All this is in sharp contrast to the Marshall Plan of the late 1940s and early 1950s, when an ambitious U.S. aid program helped put Western Europe on its feet after World War II.

One problem highlighted by the

report is that "succeeding Congresses and administrations, prodded by the dominant crises — and interest groups — of the moment, have piled differing and often conflicting foreign assistance objectives on top of each other.

"This 'dizzying' array ranges from winning friends for the United States, to alleviating poverty, to countering the Soviet Union and to finding markets for American farm products, the report said.

In a December speech, Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., a member of a bi-

partisan House task force on foreign aid, said the 33 separate statutory objectives for foreign assistance "are so numerous that they do not provide meaningful direction.

"All of these 33 objectives may be worthy. I probably voted for most of them. . . . However, a program that pursues all objectives risks accomplishing none of them," he said.

Complicating fulfillment of these objectives has been a decline from \$19 billion to \$14 billion in the foreign aid program from 1985 to the present, Hamilton said.

"The challenges of today's problems, and tomorrow's, cannot be met with yesterday's solutions, suitable as they may have been to yesterday's problems."

— Government report

Europe withdraws diplomats from Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

European Common Market governments decided Monday to withdraw their top diplomats from Iran to protest Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's renewed order for Moslems to kill novelist Salman Rushdie. Britain went further by pulling out its entire embassy staff.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said the death threats against Rushdie and the publishers of "The Satanic Verses" for allegedly blaspheming Islam were "unwarranted interference" in Britain's internal affairs.

He left open the possibility of expelling Iran's lone diplomat in London, where Rushdie lives.

The 12 European Economic Community governments, in a sharp blow to Iran's hopes of improving relations with Western nations, decided to recall their diplomats for consultations and suspend high-level visits to and from Iran.

They said they also will restrict the movement of Iranian diplomats in their countries.

Howe told a news conference that the EEC foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, had sent "a strong, concerted signal to the Iranian leadership that Khomeini's threats are an affront to international standards of behavior and will not be tolerated."

For Britain's part, he said, "it is no longer sensible to maintain a diplomatic presence in Tehran."

Iran's charge d'affaires in London, Mohammad Basti, will be summoned to hear "the reasons for this action along with the implications for Mr. Basti and his mission," Howe said.

Asked if that meant closing the Iranian Embassy, he replied, "I leave it for your own conclusions."

Rushdie, 41, apologized Saturday for any distress the publication of his book caused to Moslems, after Iranian President Ali Khamenei indicated that could lead to a pardon.

On Sunday, however, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Khomeini as ruling out any reprieve for Rushdie and urging Moslems to "send him to hell" for his writings.

Neither Khomeini's statement nor IRNA referred to Khamenei's comments, reflecting a widening rift in the Iranian hierarchy over the Rushdie affair.

"There plainly is confusion amongst the Iran authorities," Howe said.

He added, however, "If the threat were turned into fact, that would call for an even more serious response, but I hope that it will not come to that."

Iran's deputy parliament speaker, Mehdi Karrubi, reaffirmed Khomeini's execution order Monday, IRNA reported.

"Without doubt, Salman Rushdie, and those following the same line of thought, have no other fate but death and destruction and banishment to hell," it quoted Karrubi as saying.

Rushdie, and Indian-born Moslem, has been in hiding, reportedly under armed police guard, since Khomeini decreed Feb. 14 that he should be killed, and two Iranian religious leaders put a \$5.2 million bounty on his head.

In London, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, spiritual leader of Anglicans worldwide, appealed to Britain's Moslem community to contain its anger.

Commenting on the controversy for the first time, Runcie said: "Only the utterly insensitive can fail to see that the publication of Salman Rushdie's book has deeply offended Moslems both here and throughout the world."

But he condemned the murder call and appealed to Moslem leaders "to have regard to the expression of profound regret that Salman Rushdie issued on Saturday."

The Swiss foreign ministry in Bern called in Iran's ambassador Monday to express concern about the death threat, but did not plan to withdraw its ambassador from Tehran, said ministry spokesman Lorenzo Schnyder von Wartensee. Howe said normal relations between Britain and Iran would be impossible until Iran repudiates violence and respects other countries' laws.

Asked whether the latest rupture would worsen the plight of Western hostages in Lebanon and British businessman Roger Cooper, who is jailed in Tehran, Howe said: "Nobody can pretend that it makes our task . . . any easier."

The two countries had all but severed diplomatic relations in 1987 following the arrest of an Iranian diplomat for shoplifting in Britain, and the retaliatory beating of a British diplomat in Iran.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Up, up, and away!

Despite the wet conditions early Monday, 4-and-a-half-year-old Blake Anderton gives his new kite a try at Central Park in College Station.

Refugees seeking asylum face jail if INS qualifications can't be met

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Political asylum applicants will be arrested, jailed and marked for deportation if they do not qualify under a new plan to provide same-day decisions in southern Texas, where Central Americans continue to pour across the border, Commissioner Alan Nelson of the Immigration and Naturalization Service said Monday.

The new expedited asylum adjudication is designed to discourage the thousands of frivolous asylum applicants and "serious abuse of the asylum system that's undercutting our immigration laws," Nelson said.

INS will begin phasing in the new procedure Tuesday and has authorized 500 additional im-

migration personnel to be sent to its Harlingen District in southern Texas.

"We intend to send a strong signal to those people who have the mistaken idea that by merely filing a frivolous asylum claim, they may stay in the United States," Nelson said at a hotel about 100 yards from the Rio Grande. "This willful manipulation of America's generosity must and will stop."

At the current rate of Central Americans crossing the Rio Grande illegally near Brownsville, the INS estimates that 100,000 this year would pass through the area, the main entry point for asylum-seekers from that war-torn and poverty-stricken region.

Roughly half of the Central Americans seeking asylum are from Nicaragua, Nelson said.

Applicants approved will be granted asylum for one year from the date of approval, will receive work and be allowed to travel.

The U.S. government provides political asylum for those who can show they are fleeing persecution. The INS, however, maintains that most of the Central Americans are here for economic reasons, and therefore do not qualify.

Those denied under the new plan will be held in the custody of the INS and be given a deportation hearing. They will receive a "prompt hearing" before an immigration judge, Nelson said, but he did not know how long it would take.

National Guard fills in for striking nurses

CRANSTON, R.I. (AP) — National Guard troops in combat fatigues bathed and fed patients Monday at state-run General Hospital after scores of nurses and attendants walked out in a contract dispute.

The state, citing a law against strikes by state employees, sought a court order forcing workers to return to the 480-bed, mostly long-term-care hospital. Superior Court Judge Antonio S. Almeida said he would rule Tuesday.

Thomas Romeo, director of the state Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, accused the members of Local 1350, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, of "walking away from patients" and said patients' lives were threatened.

"Not all the individuals up there right now know exactly what they're doing," Romeo said. "There's not a lot of tolerance for error."

Seven of the 110 Guard troops on duty Monday had nursing training; the rest were given non-medical tasks like feeding, washing and dressing patients.

More than a dozen acute-care patients were transferred to other hospitals, and the facility stopped admissions.

"I think this is totally uncalled for," Connie Prior, 56, a quadri-

plegic who has been at the hospital for two years, said of the job action. "Number one should be the patients."

A four-day sickout ended Jan. 31 when the Guard was called in.

Doctors on Monday reported as usual, but about one-fifth of the 89 attendants and fewer than half the

13 licensed practical nurses showed up for the first shift, officials said. About half of the 26 registered nurses honored the picket line, Dan Caley, an MHRH spokesman, said.

Only one of 117 attendants scheduled to work at the state Institute of Mental Health, also staffed by union members, reported for work Monday morning, Romeo said.

Gov. Edward D. DiPrete called out the Guard late Sunday after the union voted 4-1 to reject a proposed 53-cent-an-hour raise offered in return for concessions on staffing, including a reduction in overtime and greater management leeway in transferring staffers from ward to ward.

tonio area, said Vernon Parker, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration in San Antonio.

J.J. Johnston, head of the U.S. Customs Aviations unit, said the single-engine Cessna 210 plane caught the attention of a radar technician in Houston after the plane took off from San Antonio in bad weather Saturday and after reaching its altitude it turned off its transponder.

The plane went into Mexico and returned to San Antonio Saturday evening. On Sunday, it duplicated its flight and when it arrived in San Antonio, Customs officials stopped it after it did not clear customs.

Parker said that along with the \$60,000 aircraft, police also seized a pickup truck that they believed was going to be used as ground transportation for the men.

San Antonio police seize airplane with \$13 million worth of cocaine

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Federal agents confiscated 715 pounds of cocaine worth \$13 million after seizing a small plane that made suspicious aerial maneuvers on two roundtrip flights to Mexico, authorities said Monday.

U.S. Customs officials arrested two men, a Mexican national and a Florida resident, after the pair landed at San Antonio International Airport Sunday evening, said Neil Lageman, special agent-in-charge of the U.S. Customs office in San Antonio.

The individual packs of cocaine, found in suitcases and boxes inside the plane, were wrapped in fiberglass material and had "USA 6" written on it, a mark to determine the destination and the narcotics group to receive it.

The seizure was the largest of its kind in the San An-

tonio area, said Vernon Parker, head of the Drug Enforcement Administration in San Antonio.

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Bill calls for reducing teachers' child-care tax

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill filed Monday would mandate school districts deduct the cost of child-care payments from their employees' salaries, thus allowing the workers to avoid paying federal taxes on the money.

State Rep. Lena Guerrero, D-Austin, said her legislation would "help the very people who teach our children."

By having child-care costs deducted from their salaries, school district employees would avoid paying federal taxes on that portion of their pay, Guerrero said.

The school district also would not have to pay taxes on that part of the employee's salary, she said.

John Cole, president of the 15,000-member Texas Federation of Teachers, said the deduction would save school districts — especially large ones, such as Dallas and Houston — millions of dollars annually.

Current law allows school districts to deduct child-care costs on a voluntary basis, but only three districts statewide — Corpus Christi, El Paso, and Northside in San Antonio — have taken ad-

vantage of the deduction, Cole said.

Guerrero's bill would make the action mandatory.

"I think there would be some people" who would consider the bill "one more mandated thing," she said.

But Guerrero and Cole said the law would benefit the districts.

"It truly is a case of forcing the districts to do something that is for their and the taxpayers' own good," Cole said.

Cole said the legislation is important because more than 60 percent of all preschool children have mothers in the workforce, and the cost of child care is increasing.

"Working women make our schools run and many of those working women cannot afford day for their own children," Cole said.

He said many school districts are not aware of the current option, while others have failed to act "because of inertia."

"This law gives them a little nudge," he said.