

Wednesday, July 26, 1989

Officials want to question call girl linked to diplomat

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Austrian officials in the espionage investigation of senior U.S. diplomat Felix S. Bloch want to question a Vienna call girl who had a relationship with the envoy, a senior government official said Tuesday.

A former U.S. ambassador told Austrian TV, meanwhile, that Bloch had the same top clearance as the ambassador for top secret information and thus also knew the identities of CIA agents in Vienna.

"There is a woman with whom Mr. Bloch has maintained a long relationship in Austria," said the Austrian official, who refused to be identified.

He confirmed a newspaper report quoting Interior Ministry officials as saying that Bloch, who is suspected of spying for the Soviets, was involved with a call girl.

ABC News reported from Washington last weekend that during initial questioning by U.S. authorities Bloch claimed at one point that he spied because he fell into a Soviet sex trap, but the network said investigators have discounted that story.

He emphasized this was just one of the lines being pursued by the Austrian and American officials probing the Bloch affair.

In Washington, State Department officials declined to discuss the report. They have refused to respond to all questions that could have a bearing on the investigation.

Formerly the No. 2 official in the U.S. Embassy in Vienna, the 54-year-old Bloch was placed on leave with pay on June 22. He has surrendered his diplomatic

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— Unidentified Austrian official

passport and his State Department credentials, but has not been charged with any crime nor has his travel been restricted.

Bloch was appointed deputy chief of mission in 1983 by Helene Von Damm when she took over as ambassador.

In an interview with Austrian TV Monday, Von Damm said Bloch had had the same top clearance as the ambassador for top secret information and, therefore, also knew the identities of the U.S. secret agents in Vienna.

Space shuttle launch awaits valve check

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Engineers looked for the cause of a valve problem Tuesday on the space shuttle Columbia, while managers met to select a date in August to launch the orbiter on a secret military mission.

The date the managers finally choose Wednesday will depend on whether the valve has to be replaced, a procedure that could take two or three days.

The space agency reported earlier that liftoff most likely will occur the week of Aug. 7.

Bill Lenoir, NASA's acting associate administrator for space flight, headed the group assessing the readiness of Columbia, its booster rockets, the worldwide tracking network and other elements needed to support a launch.

The valve problem was detected early Monday following a brief test firing of Columbia's three auxiliary power units, which provide hydraulic power for moveable control surfaces such as wing flaps, rudder and speed brake.

Radio data indicated one of two hydrazine fuel valves leading to one of the units was stuck open when it should have been closed.

But engineers said the trouble might be with a sensor giving a false reading, and they began a series of lengthy checks to determine exactly what was wrong. The valve itself cannot be inspected unless some hardware is removed to gain access, something NASA doesn't want to do unless a replacement is necessary.

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State TV said Ryzhkov met Tuesday with miners from the Pechora Basin in the Arctic and the Dnepropetrovsk region of the Ukraine, and expressed sympathy for their demands for better housing, working conditions, food and transport.

It said he would issue a special decree next week aimed at meeting their demands.

Viktor G. Kucherenko, head of the Supreme Soviet's Planning and Budget Commission, has estimated strike settlements will cost up to \$8.6 billion. The government already has a budget deficit of \$156 billion.

The Voroshilovgrad strikers were among the last holdouts of the nationwide coal strike, which began July 11 in western Siberia and spread to coal fields across the country. Siberian miners returned to work last week after the government agreed to nearly all their demands.

The official told the Associated Press the woman was on vacation and believed to be abroad.

"We have no reason to look for her abroad, but when she comes back from her vacation we are going to talk to her to find out whether she had any suspicions (of spying) in any direction," he said.

"She is a source of information for us, but there is nothing pending against her," he said, adding that the woman, who was in her 30s, was an Austrian citizen and a Vienna resident.

Soviet miners return to work; shipyards face ethnic unrest

MOSCOW (AP) — Coal miners returned to work Tuesday, with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev guaranteeing their demands, but Estonian shipyard workers began a strike rooted in the restive Baltic republic's ethnic conflicts.

Strike leader Yuri A. Bolderev in Donetsk, the Soviet Union's richest coal basin, said Gorbachev and Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov signed a letter Monday pledging more pay, longer vacations and other benefits.

A document completed by negotiators Saturday outlined the concessions. Some of the Donetsk strikers remained off the job to demand guarantees, and went back to the pits Tuesday.

Members of the Supreme Soviet legislature issued a statement Tuesday pledging to pass laws giving workers more control over management and profits and ensuring democratic elections of local officials, who have been accused of insensitivity to miners' problems.

They also said they would make sure the government provided more food, health services, housing and good-paying jobs.

The statement appealed for unity in the face of ethnic conflicts and the coal strikes, which Gorbachev called the "biggest test" of his 4-year-old reforms. The Soviet Union "needs utmost unification of all forces standing for the further development of radical economic reform," the statement said.

Non-Estonian workers at ship-

yards and several other plants in Estonia walked out to protest recent measures favoring the native population, the official news agency Tass reported. It did not give the number of strikers.

Tass said a republic-wide strike committee of non-Estonian workers called the strike Monday, demanding cancellation of a language law and withdrawal of a proposed measure that would allow only long-time residents to run for office.

A strike growing out of ethnic strife also shut down public transport and businesses in Sukhumi, capital of the Abkhazia region of Soviet Georgia.

Only 79 mines remained idle Tuesday, Tass reported, quoting the Coal Ministry. Officials said most of the 300,000 strikers had returned to work at Donetsk, in the Ukraine, 550 miles south of Moscow.

Strikers stayed out at Voroshilovgrad in the Donetsk Basin, Tass reported. It said 26,800 workers at 47 of the 93 mines at Voroshilovgrad had not returned to work.

Premier Ryzhkov sat down with miners Monday and worked out a "concrete program of actions for the entire country's coal industry," Pravda said. The Communist Party newspaper did not give details of the plan.

Bolderev said in a telephone interview the miners still on strike were staying out for "purely psychological" reasons arising from "an explosion of despair."

"People don't want to tolerate local officials any longer," he said.

In a reference to that, the Supreme Soviet statement said local elections scheduled for spring should be moved up to foster a "cleansing of the government apparatus of unqualified and incapable workers," reduction of the bureaucracy and "liquidation of undeserved privileges."

Gorbachev has said the Communist Party and government bodies need reorganization to remove people blocking reform.

Walesa says Solidarity won't join Communists

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Solidarity is willing to take over the government but won't join the Communist Party in a ruling coalition, Lech Walesa told President Wojciech Jaruzelski on Tuesday.

The union leader, making public a statement he gave Jaruzelski at a two-hour private meeting, told Jaruzelski the "bold solution" would be for the Communists to turn over to Solidarity the entire government, in keeping with the popular mandate of the June parliamentary elections.

"Everything indicates" the party is now unwilling to take that step, Walesa said. "For my part, I intend to form a shadow cabinet to prepare for the solution that sooner or later will become inevitable."

Advertising and retail trade — would be lost if the proposed restrictions become law.

Publishers, ad industry and tobacco industry groups also argued that imposing more restrictions would violate First Amendment guarantees of free speech and wouldn't necessarily reduce the number of youngsters who take up smoking.

Charles Whitley, spokesman for the Tobacco Institute, said the legislation "rests on the false premise that cigarette advertising is responsible for smoking by young people and that young people would not begin smoking if cigarette advertising were banned."

"We are convinced that the measure would do nothing to reduce smoking among young people," Whitley testified.

Model tells Congress he feels guilty for ads that portrayed smoking as macho pastime

WASHINGTON (AP) — A model who rapped down mountains to project a manly image for Winston cigarettes told Congress Tuesday he feels guilty about enticing youngsters to smoke and supports a bill to restrict tobacco advertising.

David Goerlitz, who portrayed a member of a search-and-rescue team in a long-running ad campaign, said he considers himself "an accessory to the systematic poisoning of our society."

"I have had children tell me that they smoked Winstons so that they could be just like me," Goerlitz told the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on transportation and hazardous materials. "For that I shall always feel guilty."

Goerlitz described himself as a 25-year, three-pack-a-day smoker who kicked the habit in November and now speaks out against smoking for the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association and American Heart Association.

The legislation he endorsed would strip billboards and printed ads of everything but words and ban

tobacco ads from all sports facilities. The bill sponsored by Rep. Thomas Luken, D-Ohio, is so broad that it would outlaw the names of cigarette brands painted on race cars.

The advertising industry said Tuesday that the restrictions, if enacted, could cost thousands of jobs.

The Freedom to Advertise Coalition released a study it commissioned saying that 62,992 jobs — mostly in printing, publishing, ad-

vertising and retail trade — would be lost if the proposed restrictions become law.

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Beijing students protest government actions

BEIJING (AP) — Hundreds of students upset by the government crackdown gathered this week to bang pots and sing mocking songs, participants said, in what appeared to be the first demonstration since the June 3-4 killings.

At least 300 Beijing University students massed outside their dormitories Sunday night to sing sarcastic renditions of patriotic songs and mourn those who died in the crackdown, said participating students who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The students also said they were protesting that work units, especially in government offices, have rejected some graduating seniors assigned to work for them af-

ter expressing doubts about the students' ideological purity.

After about an hour, the students marched to the campus area where they had put up thousands of political posters during the spring democracy movement, the participants said.

They said they sang and beat pots and pans in memory of classmates killed when government troops opened fire on protesters and their supporters.

Officials have said nearly 200-300 people died, but Chinese witnesses and Western intelligence sources said the death toll may have been as high as 3,000.

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