Panamanian Embassy plans to shut down until democracy is restored

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Panamanian Embassy in Washington, which has been under the control of forces opposed to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, will be closed next week until democracy is restored to Panama, it was announced Tuesday.

Ambassador Juan B. Sosa, who has used the embassy as an anti-Noriega headquarters for the past 18 months, made the disclosure in a telephone interview on the eve of an Organization of American States foreign ministers meeting on Panama.

Sosa was appointed ambassador to Washington by then-President Eric Arturo Delvalle two years ago. Delvalle was deposed by Noriega's allies in February 1988 but the United States continues to regard him as the legitimate authority in Panama.

It has continued to recognize Sosa as Panama's official envoy. Sosa said he has decided to close the embassy on Aug. 31 because Sept. 1 is the date on which Delvalle's term was scheduled to

expire.

"We have always maintained we are fighting for a constitutional principle," Sosa said, adding he and his family are vacating the embassy and will move to an apartment in Washington. He intends to continue his struggle

against Noriega, he said.

Sosa said State Department officials have informed him they concur with his decision to close the embassy.

Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma attempted to replace Sosa last year but the envoy, with U.S. goverment support, refused to relinquish control of the embassy.

bassy.

Sosa has had partial access to Panamanian government funds in the United States which were frozen by the Reagan administration to prevent Noriega from having access to them. Sosa has used the funds to keep the embassy functioning.

Department pushes for extradition of most wanted alleged traffickers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Tuesday listed the "Dozen Most Wanted" alleged Colombian drug traffickers it wants extradited to the United States, including the leadership of the Medel-

lin and Cali cocaine cartels.

The list does not include the one alleged major money-launderer who has been arrested by Colombian authorities, Eduardo Martinez Romero, and the department has not yet said whether it wants Martinez extradited.

A Colombian official said in Bogota that the first moves toward extraditing Martinez had already been

"Facing trial in the United States is what these drug lords fear the most," Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said in a statement. "This list of a dozen priority offenders is only the first phase of our extradition efforts. Our review of those whom we seek for trial is ongoing and the list is likely to be supplemented in the near future."

Thornburgh said he was sending

the list to the Colombian govern-

Included are reputed Medellin cartel leaders Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria, 39, Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez, 40, and Jose Gonzalo Rodri-

In all, about 80 alleged Colombian drug traffickers are under indictment in the United States, but their cases have languished since the Colombian Supreme Court overturned its extradition treaty with the United

States in 1987, the department said.

Colombian President Virgilio
Barco instituted emergency mea-

Barco instituted emergency measures over the weekend to allow the immediate resumption of extraditions. His action was triggered by the assassination Friday of Luis Carlos Galan, a leading presidential candidate and an outspoken foe of the drug traffickers.

Also on the "Dozen Most Wanted" list are:

-Two of Ochoa Vasquez's broth-

ers, Fabio, 32, and Juan David, 41, along with Gustavo de Jesus Gaviria Rivero, 42, and Gerardo Moncada, 42. All are allegedly members of the Medellin cartel.

— Jose Ivan Duarte Acero, 37, a former policeman who allegedly works with the Medellin cartel. Acero is "the gunman . . . who was responsible for the attempted murder of two of our agents down there," DEA spokesman Con Dougherty

Judge sentences disbarred attorney to jail; found in contempt of court

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday ordered disbarred attorney William Borders to jail for refusing to answer questions from a Senate panel gathering evidence in the Alcee L. Hastings impeachment trial.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Pennfield Jackson found Borders in contempt of court and gave him until 10 a.m. Friday to put his affairs in order and surrender to federal marshals.

Jackson acted hours after Borders refused for the third time in a month to answer questions posed by the Hastings impeachment committee.

The committee is gathering evidence concerning charges that Hastings, a 52-year-old U.S. district judge from Florida, conspired with Borders to obtain a \$150,000 payoff and lied about it before a jury that acquitted him in 1983.

Hastings, who was impeached by the House in August 1988, is also accused of improperly disclosing information that government investigators obtained through a court-approved wiretap.

through a court-approved wiretap.

Once the committee finishes its report, the full Senate will vote on whether to remove Hastings from the federal bench and thus take away the \$89,500 annual salary he continues to collect.

While Hastings was acquitted by a federal court jury, Borders was convicted of the payoff conspiracy charges in 1982. He was disbarred, sent to prison for 33 months and shorn of the political influence officials say he wielded in the Washington of the late 1970s.

At the request of the Senate, Jackson held Borders in civil contempt of court for refusing to testify after being granted immunity from prosecution for anything concerning the payoff plot that he might say in the pro-

Groups file suit against Mosbacher for actions on behalf of shrimpers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five conservation groups have filed suit against Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, alleging his actions on behalf of shimpers have virtually assured the drowning of thousands of threatened and endangered sea turtles.

In a federal lawsuit filed late Monday, the organizations claim Mosbacher acted unlawfully when he suspended regulations requiring shrimpers to use devices that prevent sea turtles from becoming ensnarled in their nets and drown-

The lawsuit seeks to force Mosbacher to resume enforcement of the suspended regulations on turtle excluder devices, or TEDs.

Mosbacher suspended TEDs regulations after shrimpers, angry about having to use devices they claim reduce their catch by as much as one-third, blockaded shipping channels along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Under a court order to protect en-

dagered sea turtles in a separate lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation, Mosbacher then ordered shrimpers who don't use TEDs to limit their trawling times to 105 minutes.

Michael J. Bean, an attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, said there has been "no sign" that Gulf Coast shrimpers are complying with the limited trawl times. Under the rules, shrimpers can have their nets in the water at only prescribed intervals.

Although Mosbacher was led to believe shrimpers would comply with the restricted tow times by their organizations and congressmen, "all the evidence available suggests the secretary was tricked. They (shrimpers) don't want the federal government telling them they have an obligation to protect sea turtles," Bean said Tuesday.

Commerce spokesman Brian Gorman said the agency is waiting "for the courts to make a judgment about the appropriateness of our course of action."

Man accused of murder in 4 states

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — A New Mexico prosecutor says that once Gregg F. Braun is tried in that state for the slaying of a convenience store clerk he will be transferred to Kansas for trial there.

Braun, 28, of Garden City, Kan., is accused of killing five people in four states during a multi-state robbery and homicide spree last month. In addition to New Mexico and Kansas, Braun is charged in Oklahoma and

Braun, who worked at a feedlot near Garden City, is jailed in New Mexico in lieu of \$1 million bail. He is accused of killing Geraldine Valdez, 48, a clerk at a Springer, N.M.. gas station and convenience store during a July 23 robbery.

Braun was arrested at a roadblock north of Springer a short time after the shooting. A .25-caliber pistol was found in the car. Police have said all of the victims were killed with a .25-caliber weapon.



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