

Thursday, August 31, 1989

'Cocaine country' under curfew

Curfew ordered for 9 Colombian cities, affects 3 million people

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Authorities imposed a curfew Wednesday in Medellin and nine other cities in the heart of cocaine country to try to halt violence by drug barons stung by Colombia's crackdown on narcotics.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. government ordered families of its embassy staff to leave Colombia, a spokesman said. The order apparently was given because of fears of attacks by drug traffickers.

A shipment of weapons bound for Medellin was intercepted, and authorities said three more judges resigned in the city that reputedly supplies the United States with 80 percent of its cocaine.

More than 100 judges have resigned since drug traffickers vowed to retaliate for a crackdown on drug trafficking.

The curfews imposed Wednesday by Interior Minister Orlando Vasquez affect a total of about 3 million people. He said the mayors of the municipalities under the curfew have broader powers to conduct searches, inspect vehicles and arrest suspects.

Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez said the curfew is in effect from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. for all vehicles and pedestrians, will remain in effect indefinitely in Colombia's second-largest city, "until the nights in Medellin quiet down."

The industrial city of about 2 mil-

lion people, 215 miles north of Bogota, is home to the world's largest cocaine cartel. Medellin has suffered almost daily bombings by the traffickers, who are pressing the government to end its 12-day-old campaign and negotiate a peace.

In a Medellin news conference broadcast by the national radio chain Caracol, Gomez Martinez said there would be no exceptions to the curfew. "We will not give safe conduct passes," he said.

Gomez Martinez complained of a lack of security assistance from the national government. He has asked for 3,000 additional national police

officers to bolster the existing force of 4,000. He said the government agreed to provide an extra 100.

The mayor favors talks with the traffickers, but said at the news conference that the suggestion had been rejected by the government, and that he was carrying out all anti-narcotics measures ordered by national authorities.

Communications Minister Carlos Lemos Simonds said on Tuesday, "There will be no dialogue."

At midday, Mayor Escobar Perez announced an identical curfew in the town of Itagui, 10 miles south of Medellin.

Vasquez ordered the curfew extended to eight other communities near Medellin. They are Bello, La Estrella, Envigado, Sabaneta, Rionegro, Copacabana, Guarne and Caldas.

"Medellin has become a center of perturbation in the country," Vasquez told reporters.

Since the government launched its offensive and drug barons responded with a declaration of war, the city and surrounding communities have been rocked by at least 17 bombings and three arson attacks, according to police reports. Several other bombs were found.

Government rids Colombian town of drug lord

PACHO, Colombia (AP) — Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, the drug lord who owned this town, was generous one day and evil the next. He gave money to adults and toys to children, killed people who displeased him and had a gallows in his yard.

Few residents of Pacho would talk with a reporter about the billionaire former pig farmer, who would pass out \$7,500 or so when he felt good and, when he didn't, might kill a motorist who got in his way.

Last week, the crackdown on drug traffickers led the army to his hometown of 20,000 people 50 miles north of Bogota, the capital.

Jaime Uscategui Ramirez, the army colonel who led the raiding soldiers, said Rodriguez Gacha was so feared in Pacho that, when his 18-year-old son went into a bar, the doors were closed to everyone else until

he left. The son, Freddy, was arrested last week, but his father is still at large.

At the main ranch, soldiers found 500 dolls wrapped for next Christmas inside the house and a wooden gallows outside. The government has confiscated the ranches and other property belonging to Rodriguez Gacha.

President Virgilio Barco ordered the raids and arrests after Colombia's cocaine barons killed Sen. Luis Carlos Galan, the leading presidential candidate and a foe of the drug trade, on Aug. 18.

Leaders of the drug cartels are said to own major office buildings and hundreds of ranches, and their importance to towns like Pacho is enormous.

"The people here will resent it, but in the end they will adapt to the new situation," Uscategui said of the raids. "We had no alternative."

Updated government economic report provides more good news for America

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' personal incomes rose a brisk 0.7 percent in July while consumer spending climbed at the fastest rate since April, the government said Wednesday in a report providing more good news about the country's economic prospects.

The Commerce Department said the rise in incomes, fueled by rapid growth in wages and salaries, was the biggest monthly gain since a 1 percent increase in March.

The department said that consumer spending also posted a 0.7 percent increase last month, the fastest advance since a 1.2 percent rise in April.

The government also made significant revisions to previous months showing that income growth and consumer spending were not as sluggish as previously believed.

Private economists said the combi-

nation of the strong July increases and the upward revisions in earlier months showed that the current economic expansion, which this month became the second longest in U.S. history, was picking up steam.

Just a month ago, there were widespread fears that just the reverse was occurring, with many analysts predicting, on the basis of weak reports, that the country was in danger of toppling into a recession.

"The economy was not nearly as weak in the spring," Bruce Steinberg, senior economist at the New York brokerage firm of Merrill Lynch said. "The image of an economy on the verge of a recession has been changed by these revisions."

The government on Tuesday significantly revised upward its estimate of total economic growth, putting the increase in the gross national product from April through June at a healthy 2.7 percent annual rate instead of the anemic 1.7 percent rate reported a month ago.

Most of the upward revision in GNP growth came from a doubling of the estimate of how much consumers spent during the April-June quarter.

Wednesday's report showed that consumer spending was even stronger in July, primarily because of a surge in sales of autos spurred by incentive sales programs aimed at reducing a high inventory of unsold cars.

With car sales remaining strong, consumer spending this quarter should surpass the second quarter pace.

Consumers clash with USDA over lunch food

WASHINGTON (AP) — School lunchroom cooks are hampered in efforts to provide nutritious meals because the government donates mainly "fat-laden foods" such as ground beef, pork and luncheon meats, a consumer health group said Wednesday.

Ellen Haas, director of the Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, criticized the Agriculture Department, the agency responsible for administering the National School Lunch Program, for "not providing the critical leadership necessary to speed progress in reducing fat in school lunches."

Scott Dunn, acting administrator of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, countered by saying the department is committed to dietary guidelines developed jointly with the Department of Health and Human Services. He said the guidelines don't set quantitative standards for fat.

"There is no scientific consensus on appropriate levels of fat in children's diets," Dunn said.

The American School Food Service Association noted in a statement that "children's eating habits are influenced by multiple factors such as home, school, and restaurants." It said parents and community groups must share responsibility for improving young people's dietary preferences.

The consumer group said its survey of school food service directors shows, nevertheless, that the government school lunch program lends little encouragement to dieticians seeking to lower the fat content of lunches.

Public Voice said 67 percent of 177 school food service directors surveyed said that the USDA's commodity distribution program is one of the most significant barriers to their efforts to provide nutritious meals.



THE GRAPEVINE
Bistro & Restaurant

201 Live Oak College Station, TX 77840
Behind La Quinta
696-3411

AS SEEN ON TV!



VAVOOM!

SAY FAREWELL TO FLAT HAIR.

High energy hair, more volume and life, plus truly incredible, shine. That's what you get with VaVoom, and you get them all with incredible ease.

The VaVoom Volume Generators™ from Matrix. For today's active men and women. Enjoy sensational body, styling excitement, a dramatic difference in how your hair looks and responds.



ferguson
and company

846-1019
809 east university drive, suite 410, at creekside-College Station, tx 77840

Northgate Pizza Hut
presents



Bottle Beer and the Big Bad Bodacious Buffet are Back!

Nightly Specials

Monday thru Wednesday	99¢ Nights - From 5 p.m. to Close All Domestic Longnecks, Pepperoni Personal Pans or Breadsticks only 99¢ each.
Thursday	Thirsty Thursday - 50¢ Wine Coolers, 75¢ Domestic Longnecks and 99¢ Imported Longnecks from 5 p.m. til Midnight.
Friday and Saturday	Free Movie Night - Come in and see two different new releases nightly on our big screen television. Watch our marquis for each weeks features.
Sunday	Buffet Night - All the pizza, pasta and salad you can eat from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. for only \$3. ⁷³

Watch For Our Daily Beer Specials!

INTERNATIONAL WORK • STUDY • TRAVEL

WORK			
Britain • Costa Rica • France • Germany • Ireland • New Zealand			
• Enhance your resume!			
• Call for free brochure			
STUDY			
France • Germany • Switzerland • Italy • Spain • Japan			
• Learn a language the European way			
• 22 centers in the above countries			
TRAVEL			
LONDON	\$289	PARIS	\$309
CARACAS	\$155	RIO	\$380
MADRID	\$325	TOKYO	\$508
One way from Houston			

BOOK NOW FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Council Travel


The Travel Division of The Council of International Education Exchange

3300 W. Mockingbird #101 Dallas, Texas 75235

1 (800) 777-2874
(214) 350-6166

ΦΚΘ Phi Kappa Theta

Savage Island Party



Thursday, August 31

TAMU
University

Wellborn
FM 2818

PHI KAPP HOUSE

Sigma Something Event

Call Phi Kapp House for details
846-2731