



La Toss

Attackman John D. McTasnoy (number 16) tries to get around defenseman Blair Allison during a lacrosse inter-squad scrimmage on Wednesday.

Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Aides say army rebels held Noriega in coup

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP) — Rebel officers trying to depose Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega captured him and held him for hours but released him after loyal forces warned the rebels would "face the consequences" if he was harmed, a Noriega aide said Wednesday.

Later, thousands of people, many of them public employees, demonstrated in front of the building to show him support. Noriega leaned out a second-story window, hanging onto a grating, as he smiled and waved.

Lt. Col. Arnulfo Castrejon, director for the Defense Forces Security and Defense Committee, told reporters that while being held Tuesday, Noriega "had tried to calm his captors . . . trying to avoid bloodshed."

Lower-ranking officers attempting the coup were defeated after loyal forces surrounded Defense Forces headquarters and counterattacked.

"The surrender came when the loyal officers took command of the combat units and gave the rebels a last chance to release the commander and members of his staff or face the consequences," Castrejon said. "The general was a hostage for four hours."

Later Castrejon said Noriega was held five hours. It was not clear if Noriega was held when the final assault was made by loyal troops.

"He was confident that elite forces and the special forces and rest of the officers and soldiers of the Defense Forces were going to solve the problem immediately, as it happened," Castrejon added.

Castrejon did not say who coordinated the rescue and counterattack operation.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity in Washington, said earlier Wednesday they were mystified by the decision to let Noriega go.

If things had gone right for the

Congress criticizes Bush for failing to help in coup

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration said Wednesday it was not asked and did not promise to aid in Tuesday's failed coup against Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega but reserves the right to use military force on its "own timetable."

Amid sharp criticism from Congress that the United States should have stepped in to help topple Noriega, officials said the administration was in the dark Tuesday about what was happening in Panama, with no details about the coup's chances of success. There were suggestions, though, that a clear effort to restore democracy might have brought U.S. help to the rebels.

U.S. officials, asking not to be identified, said the rebels had Noriega in custody for four to five hours but then let him go, an account substantially confirmed by Noriega aides in Panama.

In the Senate, Jesse Helms, R-N.C., proposed an amendment to an anti-drug bill to authorize Bush to use U.S. troops to forcefully remove Noriega from power and bring him to trial in the

United States on the drug charges already pending against him. The move was seen as symbolic, since Bush already has such powers.

Noriega blamed the uprising on the United States, saying, "The proof is that American troops closed access routes to the barracks, just as they closed the Pan-American Highway."

Marlin Fitzwater said Wednesday, "We did move forces in a position to secure the causeway and the bridge of the Americas as a means of protecting U.S. citizens who were on the base. Those are the major access routes to our base."

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney told reporters on Capitol Hill that it was not clear at the time that Noriega was being held, but the Bush administration now believes that was the case.

"Clearly they were not of the mind to turn him over to us," Cheney said.

Cheney said, "It was not a pro-democracy group that had taken over the PDF. It was more of a power struggle within the PDF itself."

rebels, "Noriega would have been at night court in Miami listening to a judge telling him he was being detained without bail," one U.S. official said wistfully.

In Panama City, neighbors said they saw Noriega enter Defense Forces headquarters with members of his staff Tuesday morning, and

that the shooting began about 10 minutes later. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

During the fighting Castrejon made a TV announcement saying Noriega was in an undisclosed location and was in radio contact with his troops.

Lebanese terrorist sentenced to 30 years for 1985 hijacking

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Lebanese hijacker convicted of commanding a jetliner in Beirut in 1985 with two Americans aboard was sentenced Wednesday to 30 years in prison.

Fawaz Younis, grabbed by FBI agents aboard a yacht in 1987 and brought to the United States to stand trial, told U.S. District Court Judge Aubrey Robinson that "I am not a member" of any terrorist group.

Younis said the two Americans on the Jordanian airliner were "treated as friends" by the hijackers during a 30-hour ordeal over the Mediterranean Sea that ended with the 70 passengers and crew members being freed. The hijackers then blew up the aircraft.

The judge ordered Younis to serve 30 years for hostage taking, 20 years for aircraft piracy and five years for conspiring to take hostages, following his March 14 conviction by a jury on three of six criminal charges. The sentences are to run concurrently.

After the sentencing, Younis' attorney, Frank Carter, promised to

appeal the case on "20 different issues." He said that the question of U.S. jurisdiction is a critical one and that "I don't think it (the hijacking) had anything to do with Americans whatsoever."

Assistant U.S. attorney Ramsey Johnson urged Robinson to impose a sentence of life imprisonment, but the judge said he wouldn't because no one was killed in the hijacking. Jordanian sky marshals aboard the plane were beaten, but there was testimony at Younis' trial that he ordered the violence stopped.

But the judge said a lengthy sentence must be imposed because time "will never wipe out in the minds" of the passengers and crew the "terror" they experienced.

U.S. Attorney Jay Stephens called the sentence "substantial" and "fair," adding that it "vindicates the victims" and sends a "clear message" to anyone "who would engage in acts of international terrorism."

Having spent the last two years in custody, Younis will be eligible for parole in eight years, Stephens said.

Search for missing crew continues in Gulf gas pipeline, boat explosion

Hazardous material experts check for chemical leaks in water

SABINE PASS (AP) — Two hazardous waste material experts boarded a fishing boat that struck a gas pipeline and exploded in the Gulf of Mexico to check for any missing crew members and dangerous chemicals, officials said Wednesday.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard's Atlantic Area Strike Team boarded the "North Umberland" about 6:15 p.m. to "check for traces of anhydrous ammonia, which the fishing vessel used as a refrigerator."

"We haven't heard from them, so we don't know if they have found any bodies," Lt. Cmdr. Mark Simpson said. "They're going to be working until dark."

Meanwhile, Coast Guard officials suspended their search for eight people missing after the boat exploded just before dark Tuesday. Three people were killed and three others injured in the accident.

Two Coast Guard cutters were out to keep other vessels away from the "North Umberland."

Mike Benson, spokesman for the National Transportation Safety

Board in Washington, said the agency was sending a team to investigate. The five-member team was expected to arrive in nearby Port Arthur late Wednesday.

A small fire continued to burn 18 hours after the 160-foot "North Umberland" apparently hit the 16-inch natural gas pipeline, triggering a spectacular blaze that sent flames hundreds of feet into the air, Lt. Scott LaRochelle said.

The main blaze burned itself out Wednesday morning, after the pipeline was turned off.

The hazardous material experts from Mobile, Ala., have equipment to test the air and water in the area. LaRochelle said anhydrous ammo-

nia is used on board fishing boats to preserve a catch.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department personnel were inspecting beaches because prevailing currents would send survivors or victims toward the shore, the Coast Guard said.

Two victims and three survivors were spotted by private helicopters Tuesday night. A third was found just after noon Wednesday.

The three injured survivors remained hospitalized in nearby Beaumont.

Lori Kerr, a spokesman at Baptist Hospital, said names of the victims were not being released immediately.

Marcos' controversial reign, death strikes close to students

By Cindy McMillian

Of The Battalion Staff

The death of Ferdinand Marcos, exiled former president of the Philippines, was a distant event to many Americans, but struck closer to home for some Filipino students.

Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for more than 20 years before being ousted in February 1986, died Sept. 28 in Honolulu without going to trial for U.S. criminal charges that he plundered his country's treasury.

Though his family and Philippine opposition leaders urged Philippine President Corazon Aquino to allow him to be buried in his homeland, Aquino refused and the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington prohibited any aircraft from flying his remains out of the United States for the Philippines.

Emmanuel Fernando, advisor to the Philippine Students Association, said he wished Marcos would have helped the Philippine government in locating the money missing from its treasury before his death.

"I don't have any particularly deep sorrow about his death, just that he died before this matter about his hidden wealth was resolved," Fernando said. "The government hasn't found where the money is, and now it might never be solved."

Fernando lived in the Philippines when Marcos first took power as president in 1964, and was also

there when martial law was declared.

Fernando said he couldn't speak for the students, but he did not think Marcos was a good president. "I don't think he did a good job," he said. "I believe things are better now that Marcos is not there."

Cherith Letargo, president of PSA, spent 24 years in the Philippines under Marcos and was educated under his martial law. She said that even when martial law was ended in the 1980s, the people had no rights and were still under his control.

"I would say the majority of our students feel happy about his death because of what he did to the country," she said. "His death might quell his supporters so the new government can move on."

Ariel Malicse, public relations officer for PSA, said that Marcos' death might make him something of a hero or martyr. Marcos' influence will fade eventually, Malicse said, but people who support him will still speak his beliefs for now.

His supporters in the government, including Vice President Salvador Laurel, might try to take advantage of the situation to further Marcos' beliefs, Malicse said. Laurel was supposed to run for president after Marcos was exiled, he said, but Aquino had more popular support. Aquino's government has survived six armed attempts to overthrow it.

Both students said that Aquino should not allow Marcos to be buried in the Philippines because it might lead to unrest.

"It will cause instability," Malicse said. "Most of the country still considers Marcos a criminal."

EPA sues four Texas cities for toxins in public sewage treatment systems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal lawsuits have been filed against four Texas cities — San Antonio, Beaumont, El Paso and Nacogdoches — accusing them of failing to control toxic industrial discharges into public sewage treatment systems, the Justice Department said Wednesday.

San Antonio and Nacogdoches, however, settled their cases with the

Environmental Protection Agency with a consent agreement and will pay fines of \$225,000 and \$60,000 respectively, for past violations.

In addition, the EPA has proposed penalties against Brownsville, \$125,000; Galveston, \$125,000; and Mineral Wells, \$125,000. EPA said federal administrative penalties had also been decided for Amarillo, \$25,000; McAllen, \$65,000; and Waxahachie, \$20,000.

Beaumont City Manager Ray Riley called the lawsuit naming his city "totally unwarranted" and "totally inappropriate."

Riley said he believes Beaumont was sued because of a "technical deficiency" several years ago in implementing a pollution control grant. He said the city had not assigned a specific person to conduct some test-

ing, although the procedures were being done by several employees.

"There was no pollution, merely a technical deficiency in procedures," Riley said. "We cannot understand why they would go to the extreme limits of filing a lawsuit."

In El Paso, Mayor Suzie Azar acknowledged the city is out of compliance but has been acting in "due diligence" since early this year to put in place by early 1990 a formal permitting, inspection and enforcement program.

"We do hope we can come to a consent decree and resolve the problem and pay the fine and move on with getting a pretreatment program in place," Azar said, adding that the city has been warned the fine could range from \$557,000 to \$2.3 million.

Yell practice

Thursday night yell practice times for out-of-town football games will be changed from 7:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. beginning tonight.

The time change will be permanent.