

Thursday, March 8, 1990

Explosion in Frankfurt kills eleven

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP)—A gas explosion and a fire in an Asian restaurant in downtown Frankfurt killed at least 11 people and injured six others Wednesday evening, officials said.

Frankfurt fire brigade chief Guenter Burbaum told reporters at the scene that the blaze broke out about 8:40 p.m. (1:40 p.m. CST) and gutted the "Koryo" Chinese-Korean restaurant on the second floor of a five-story building near Frankfurt's Cathedral.

Burbaum said a gas explosion in the restaurant's kitchen was believed to have triggered the fire, which he said had left at least 11 people dead and six others injured.

Police and witnesses said the injured included restaurant guests who tried to escape the flames by jumping from windows. Most of the victims appeared to be restaurant guests, police said.

Hostage reports give hope

News from Lebanon hints at Americans' release

WASHINGTON (AP)—Secretary of State James A. Baker III said Tuesday he was unable to judge reports suggesting that American hostages in Lebanon will be freed soon but added that the existence of such speculation is encouraging.

Baker, asked if the administration had reason for optimism about the hostages, replied, "I don't know. I mean, you're asking me if all the smoke out there means there is a fire."

"We certainly hope that the hostages will be released," he added. "We'd like to see anybody that could have influence in that regard weigh in."

Baker commented at the State Department about the latest in a string of reports in Iranian newspapers, as well as optimistic assessments by Syrian officials, suggesting that the long hostage ordeal may be ending.

The Tehran Times, a newspaper close to Iran's president, said in an editorial that 1990 would be the last year of captivity for the hostages.

The report also said resumption of U.S.-Iranian ties was not a precondition for the hostages' release.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler, commenting on speculation about the hostages, said, "I don't know why this many rumors are out here. I don't have an explanation for that."

Baker, asked by reporters if he were encouraged by statements from Iran, said, "We don't have any better way of judging that right now, frankly, than you do. We see what is coming across here, and we are encouraged by the fact there is speculation. Let's see if that speculation proves out."

A senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "We see a lot of stuff going on."

"It's kind of like watching a lot of action under a blanket," the official added. "We're not quite sure who's doing what to whom."

"We're hopeful," the official said. "We don't know enough to be optimistic."

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater, asked

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— James A. Baker III, secretary of state

about the latest Tehran Times report, said, "It's just pretty hard to judge it. We certainly hope it's true."

Eighteen Westerners, including eight Americans, are being held captive in Lebanon.

While saying there is nothing to suggest an imminent release of the hostages, the administration says there are a lot of talks going on behind the scenes by officials outside the U.S. government.

GOP strategist claims Bush almost guaranteed second term

WASHINGTON (AP)—By Republican calculation, any Democrat who wants to challenge President Bush for the White House in 1992 should be at work by now, piling up primary campaign money at a rate of about \$250,000 a week. None is, and a GOP strategist claims that just about concedes Bush a second term.

Ed Rollins acknowledges his is a partisan analysis. It is a wishful one, too, with the next presidential election more than 30 months away. As Bush has said, popularity ratings that soar, as they have in his case, also can plummet.

Nevertheless, the political circumstances of 1990 may do what political reformers long have advocated, and abbreviate the campaign for the White House. The standard campaign plan has been based on an early, usually undeclared start by a presidential candidate, especially one running against an incumbent president.

It isn't happening this time. The prospective challengers all have other things to do. In the last two elections in which incumbents were unseated, the winners, Democrat

Jimmy Carter and, four years later, Republican Ronald Reagan were fulltime campaigners, former governors without other duties.

With the public opinion polls putting Bush at record approval ratings, running against him doesn't look like an inviting assignment at this point. That may change; the law of political gravity will pull the poll ratings down eventually. But if Bush can go into his next campaign at anything even approaching his current standing, the odds will be long against his challenger.

So a waiting game makes sense for Democrats, especially those with the ambition to run but the option of waiting until 1996 to do it. And that means most of them.

There's also an increased demand for pre-season fund raising in 1992, with costly California in the process of moving its primary election from the end of the schedule to near the beginning. That means assigning the biggest single bloc of nominating votes in March instead of June.

It will send Democratic contestants into the most expensive of primary campaigns in a state

in which Jesse Jackson gained 35 percent of the Democratic primary vote in 1988. Jackson has just announced that he won't run for mayor of Washington, which probably means that he will run a third time for the Democratic nomination. The new calendar works in his favor. The leadoff states, Iowa and New Hampshire, are not his territory — his 1988 percentages there were in single digits. But California would quickly eclipse them, and the southern Super Tuesday primaries follow that.

That raises the prospect that the Democratic nominee would have to get around a strengthened Jackson, trying not to alienate his black and liberal constituency, and struggling to stay near enough to the political center to have a chance against an incumbent Republican.

Rollins, co-chairman and operational chief of the Republican congressional campaign committee, said "we expect at this point for George Bush to have a tremendous victory. ... Democrats are almost conceding," he told the National Association of Home Builders.

Number of prospective jurors for Poindexter's trial reaches 35

WASHINGTON (AP)—The pool of prospective jurors for John Poindexter's Iran-Contra trial grew to 35 Tuesday, including a woman who campaigned for Jesse Jackson and another familiar enough with the case to know former President Reagan had refused to turn over his personal diary.

Eleven people were disqualified, including a retired CIA research analyst who conceded the agency had made mistakes, "but not very many."

On the second day of the jury selection process, U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene said, "I think we can do with 45 people" before proceeding with choosing a panel of 12 jurors and six alternates. He said he expects to fill the pool by midday Wednesday and have opening statements on Thursday morning.

Of the 35 accepted so far, 27 are women and eight are men.

Under questioning by the judge, the secretary who had campaigned for Jackson said she could be impartial, adding that she once had sent a get-well card to Nancy Reagan.

Another potential juror, an employee at the University of the District of Columbia, said she had seen Poindexter

aide Oliver North on television as North testified about shredding documents.

"I knew he (North) had a secretary and she sneaked out with documents on her person," the woman said. But, she added that she "wasn't familiar with Mr. Poindexter."

A bridal consultant who became part of the jury pool said she recalled that Poindexter was North's boss, but little else.

She said she heard that Reagan had refused to turn over his "diary or private letter book," to Poindexter. She added, "a video was offered instead."

Reagan's videotaped testimony taken Feb. 16 and 17 will be shown at Poindexter's trial, Richard Beckler, lawyer for Reagan's former national security adviser, said. Reagan and the Bush administration invoked executive privilege by refusing to turn over 36 of Reagan's diary excerpts to Poindexter. Greene is expected to rule on the question at some point.

Also sent into the jury pool was a retired Defense Department employee who got the Watergate scandal mixed up with the Iran-Contra affair.

Moslem rebels try to oust Afghan govt.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)

— Soldiers led by the defense minister joined with Moslem guerrillas Tuesday to try to overthrow Afghanistan's government, but were defeated by troops loyal to President Najib. Kabul radio reported.

The official radio said the loyalists controlled Kabul, the capital, and an indefinite curfew was imposed at 7 p.m.

Afghanistan's U.N. envoy, Noor Ahmad Noor, said in New York that security forces were searching for Maj. Gen. Shah Nawaz Tanai, the defense chief accused of being a coup leader. Noor told reporters at U.N. headquarters that Tanai was believed to be in hiding in the Kabul vicinity.

In the Soviet Union, which sponsors the Najib government,

"The loyal troops have now mopped up the main pockets of resistance, leaving the situation in Kabul firmly controlled by the government."

— Tass, Soviet news agency

the official news agency Tass said: "The loyal troops have now mopped up the main pockets of resistance, leaving the situation in Kabul firmly controlled by the government."

Western diplomats, guerrilla leaders in Pakistan and the Soviet media reported heavy fighting and said Afghan air force planes had bombed Arg Palace, Najib's headquarters in the heart of Kabul.

Heavy artillery and tanks fired for hours on the buildings of the Defense Ministry and the army's main political directorate, Tass said. It also reported shelling of residential districts.

U.N. Ambassador Noor reported "very, very limited" civilian casualties.

Peres threatens Israeli cabinet

Labor, Likud urged to decide on U.S. proposal

JERUSALEM (AP)—Vice Premier Shimon Peres on Tuesday threatened to bring down the government unless Israel's Cabinet gives immediate approval to U.S. proposals for starting a dialogue with Palestinians.

The decision-making inner Cabinet is scheduled to meet

"Labor ministers demand ... a discussion and decision on a positive answer to the questions U.S. Secretary of State (James A. Baker III) presented to Israel."

— Shimon Peres, vice premier

a 45-minute meeting of Labor Cabinet ministers at his office in Tel Aviv. He demanded a Cabinet meeting to decide whether to accept the plan, which the parties have been squabbling over since October.

"Labor ministers demand ... a discussion and decision on a positive answer to the questions U.S. Secretary of State (James A. Baker III) presented to Israel," it said.

Peres told reporters he would consider a tie vote in the inner Cabinet, which has six members of each party, as a negative response that would "bring an end to the government."

"We demand a vote and a decision tomorrow," he said.

Baker urged Israel to approve his terms for talks or run the risk of coming to a dead end in Middle East peace efforts.

He told reporters in Washington on Tuesday, "Without a dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians we can never move forward to peace."

Baker said he believed Israel was "working hard and in good

faith to resolve those problems and we certainly hope they are successful."

In an interview on Israel Television, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud declined to say if the issue would come to a vote Wednesday or even be discussed.

But he said in an Israel radio interview, "I don't see any reason for dismantling the government. I think, I hope and I expect that we can unite around the positions presented by Likud ministers."

Labor's statement Tuesday reaffirmed the party's commitment to "the status of Jerusalem as the sovereign and united capital of Israel," and stressed that "in accordance with the government's guidelines, Israel will not conduct negotiations with the PLO."

But the ministers said they "completely reject any attempt by Likud" to deviate from the original May 14, 1989, peace plan, which made no mention of barring East Jerusalem residents.

Do you have any of the following concerns?

- * Improving an academic skill
- * Finding a tutor
- * Locating programs for academic assistance
- * Establishing and clarifying academic goals
- * Finding a major or career

If the answer is YES, you may wish to utilize one of the following services.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE SERVICES

* **Academic Assistance Information Clearinghouse**--Located in the Student Counseling Services, this Clearinghouse consists of a file that contains the names, phone numbers and qualifications of people willing to tutor courses offered at A&M. It also contains information from many academic departments explaining procedures for obtaining extra academic help. Come to the Third Floor, YMCA Bldg., 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, to use this service.

* **Academic Burnout Prevention**--An academic life-style that includes social activities and physical exercise, as well as study, is generally considered the best method for maintaining academic motivation. Student Activities, Room 208, Pavilion (845-1133) and the Memorial Student Center Student Programs Office, Room 216 (845-1515) will guide students to campus activities that fit the student's interests and social needs. The Recreational Sports Office, Room 159, Read Building (845-7826) will guide students to physical activities that may help meet both a student's social and physical activity needs.

* **Concentration Problems Assistance**--Difficulties with concentration usually result from failure to establish a good study environment, from unfocused academic and life goals, or from relationship and other personal problems. The Student Counseling Service (845-1651) and the Counseling and Assessment Clinic (845-8021) offer both individual and group programs to help students with these concerns. Most services at the Student Counseling Service are free to currently enrolled students who have paid their student services fee. The Counseling and Assessment Clinic does charge a fee for services to students.

* **Writing Lab**--Located in Room 241, Blocker Building, the Writing Lab offers help with acquiring effective writing skills. Call 845-2568 for information about current programs. Diagnostic testing, self-study and tutoring to aid development are services which are available. Fee charged.

* **Handicapped Student Service**--Programs and services to help A&M students compensate for learning disabilities of a physical, mental or emotional nature are provided by this office located in Hart Hall, Ramp B (845-1637).

* **Learning Resources**--This service is located on the sixth floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library. Over 120 microcomputers, 500 software packages, and a great variety of audio-visual equipment and materials are provided for students free of charge. Facilities and staff assistance for using these resources are also provided. Among the self-help materials available are programmed instructions for learning to use microcomputers and microcomputer software. In addition, short courses in the use of specific software packages are offered. A fee of \$3.50 per hour is charged for these courses and most courses are 10 hours long. Call 845-2316 for more information.

* **Help Sessions**--Tutoring for all students needing assistance with course work is sometimes provided individually by department. Please call each specific department to inquire about services.

* **Mentors**--A large university like TAMU is filled with busy people and can seem very impersonal. Mentors consist of more than 300 A&M faculty members who have volunteered to set aside part of their week to "just talk." This is an excellent opportunity for students who wish to have the guidance of someone on the inside of academia. Call your departmental office to ask about the Mentors Program.

* **Old Exam Files**--Professors and Student Government have placed copies of old exams in a file at the Sterling C. Evans Library Reserve Room. A call number, accessed through the computer terminals, is needed. Instructions are provided near the Library terminals.

* **Professors**--Very often the most effective resource for academic assistance that students have available to them is the professor of the course in which they are having trouble. It is wise for students to visit with each of their professors, especially if they have any questions. A professor can often help a student early in the semester, but the week before finals is likely to be too late for anyone having serious difficulties. Professors have office hours and a student should arrange to meet professors during that time.

* **Study Skills Improvement**--The Department of Educational Psychology offers a course each semester called "Improvement of Learning" (EPSY 101). The Student Counseling Service, 3rd Floor, YMCA Building (845-1651) offers to currently enrolled students both individual and group study skills assistance on a weekly basis.

* **Test Rehabilitation Commission**--Provides assistance to Texas A&M University and Blinn College students with permanent or handicapping disabilities. Examples of the disabilities covered are learning disabilities, orthopedic deformities, emotional disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, etc. Call 845-0350 or 845-1620, or go to Room 147, MSC, or Room 223, Beutal Health Center for more information regarding scholarships, financial assistance, tutors, diagnosis, treatment, and other services.

* **Volunteer Tutoring**--Phi Eta Sigma (Honor Society) offers free tutoring in most freshman courses. Go to the Student Activities cubicle area, Pavilion, for more information. Many departmental undergraduate honor societies will also offer free tutoring in freshman and sophomore courses. Contact the honor society's president through the appropriate academic department office or through Student Activities.

* **Academic Skills Program**--This program is designed to meet the academic needs of Texas A&M University students whose Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test results indicate basic skill deficiencies in the areas of math, writing, and/or reading. Various college credit developmental courses taught by specialists provide students with instructional aid and support while helping them successfully prepare for the TASP test and other academic coursework. Academic counseling and information regarding the TASP test are available. Contact this program at 241 Blocker, or phone 845-2568 for further information regarding these services.

* **Career Information**--If students believe they are in the wrong major, they may call the Student Counseling Service at 845-1651 or come to the third floor of the YMCA Building to make an appointment for career testing and group interpretation.

* **All services are subject to change. Please contact the service of interest for the most current information.**

or
**Student Counseling Service
Career and Academic
Resource Center
Third Floor, YMCA Building
845-1651**

Wednesday, with Peres' center-left Labor Party and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc still at odds over the U.S. plan.

Peres read an ultimatum after