



# Pro-Iranian group promises hostage release

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A pro-Iranian group holding three U.S. educators hostage promised on Wednesday to free one of the Americans within 48 hours as a humanitarian gesture and said he would carry a message for President Bush.

Reliable diplomatic sources in Damascus, Syria, confirmed an American would be freed Friday in the Syrian capital.

The group, Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, did not say which of the three would be freed. Its statement was accompanied by an instant photograph of Jesse Turner of Boise, Idaho — the first photo of him alone since three months after

his 1987 abduction.

However, the White House rejected one demand of the hostage-takers: that a senior U.S. diplomat fly to Damascus to coordinate the release.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine holds Turner, Alann Steen and Robert Polhill. All were abducted from the campus of Beirut University College on Jan. 24, 1987. They are among 18 Westerners, including eight Americans, held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

The longest-held is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, kidnapped March 16,

1985.

The kidnapers demanded that John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs, fly to Damascus.

"The arrangements for the release should be accomplished by the arrival of John Kelly in Damascus to coordinate some final steps to guarantee success within 48 hours," the handwritten statement said.

It did not specify what the kidnapers expected Kelly to do in Damascus. Kelly served as U.S. ambassador to Lebanon from 1983 to 1988, when the eight Americans were seized. Kelly was in Bonn, West Germany, on Wednesday.

Diplomatic sources in Damascus said Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa last month carried a letter on the issue from Syrian President Hafez Assad to President Hashemi Rafsanjani in Iran.

The letter stressed the necessity to close the hostages' file, according to one of the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said the Syrians were following a pledge made by Sharaa in February to hostage families to seek the release of all the captives in Lebanon.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman, David Denny, said: "We have

long called for unconditional release of the hostages in Lebanon. We see this as an important humanitarian issue. I cannot predict any releases for you at this time; nothing would be served by speculation.

"We would, of course, welcome the release of any hostage, as we continue to urge the release of all of them."

The kidnapers said the decision to release a hostage came in response to behests from Iran and Syria. Iranian newspapers associated with Rafsanjani have urged the hostages be released on humanitarian grounds.

## Students protest logging of rainforests

### Action group demonstrates at Mitsubishi

By SUZANNE CALDERON  
Of The Battalion Staff

Motorists honked, shouted and gave the peace sign to members of the Texas A&M Rainforest Action Group as they demonstrated Wednesday afternoon in front of University Mitsubishi, 1912 Texas Ave.

Mike Worsham, founder and spokesman for RAG, said the group is protesting the logging of rainforests in Sarawak, Malaysia, by the Mitsubishi International Corp.

While sounds of a tropical rainforest played on a portable radio, the 14 protestors shouted "Save the rainforest!" to passing motorists and carried signs reading "Mitsubishi Kills Rainforests," "Mitsubishi Stop Logging Malaysia" and "The Roots Of Our Life System Are Planted In Rainforests."

The purpose of the protest was to raise awareness about the logging operations, Worsham said.

"We want to make everyone who is concerned about the earth — rainforests in particular — about the interconnectedness of companies, the economy, as well as people," he said. "If people want to help out they can write Mitsubishi and boycott their products."

Worsham said RAG is not endorsing a boycott of Mitsubishi products. He said that is a decision consumers have to make for themselves.

Mitsubishi has a subsidiary logging company called Daiya Malaysia which has been logging the rainforests in Sarawak for the last 15 years, Worsham said.

He said about 80 percent of the original rainforests in Malaysia are gone, primarily due to logging operations.

According to literature from the Rainforest Action Network, the national organization that RAG at A&M belongs to, the Mitsubishi Corp. also owns 25 percent of Agusan Wood Industries in the Philippines and 49.5 percent of a company in Brazil, both which manufacture plywood.

Worsham said A&M's RAG joined



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Jason Busch, A&M senior political science major, and 13 others picket University Mitsubishi Wednesday afternoon to protest the destruction of rainforests by Mitsubishi International Corp.

groups in Colorado, Washington and San Francisco, as well as RAG groups worldwide on Wednesday to protest Mitsubishi's logging operations.

But Mitsubishi is not the only Japanese company involved in logging operations, Worsham said.

"There are quite a number of Japanese companies that are involved in

logging in rainforests," he said. "Mitsubishi is one of them, it's not even the one doing the most logging, but it's the one people are most familiar with."

Ron Yokem, general manager of University Mitsubishi, said he is not familiar with Mitsubishi's operations in Malaysia.

"I am not familiar with what's

going on in Malaysia and as a result, I would not want to make a comment on it," Yokem said.

The A&M RAG has about 20 active members and has been in existence for a year.

Worsham said that in the past RAG has had benefit concerts to bring attention to other rainforests being destroyed.

## Permits proposed to aid bike registration

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Bicycle permits, which were made mandatory in a revision during an April 10 Faculty Senate meeting, will be free if they are implemented — and will not be mandatory.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services, said "mandatory" should never have been used to describe the bike permits because their is no way to enforce such a provision.

The price for the permits also was not announced during the April 10 meeting, because the permits will not cost anything, he said.

Faculty Senate resolutions are formal recommendations for action. A&M President William Mobley or the Board of Regents determine regulations.

Williams said the voluntary permits are a way to increase bicycle registration and connect bicycles with their owners.

"At the end of every year, hundreds of unclaimed bicycles are hauled off and later auctioned at campus lost-and-found auctions," Williams said.

If more bicycles were registered with parking and transit, the owners

could be located easily and reunited with their bicycles instead of auctioning off the property, Williams said.

Additionally, registration of bicycles is a good idea, Williams said, because some homeowners' insurance policies will not cover the theft of bicycles that were not registered.

He said Student Services, the University Police Department and parking and transit want to know how many bikes are on campus so those departments can begin to develop a bicycle and pedestrian system.

In the future if bicycle riders want services like bike trails or more bike racks, Williams said they might have to pay a fee for those services which only they use.

"If they want such a system, then we will truly go in and enforce regulations," Williams said. "Students with parking permits for cars shouldn't have to pay for what they don't use."

Williams said there is no way to guarantee that everyone registers their bikes because bike registration is voluntary. But he said he hopes students will cooperate because there are no drawbacks to registration.

It can only benefit the students, Williams said.

## Supervisor: A&M lags behind in census return

By DEAN SUELTFUSS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Mary Basmann is not happy. Many Texas A&M students, it seems, have not turned in their 1990 census forms, which were due last week. And time is running out for the Census Bureau's special places operations supervisor.

"This operation has to close out entirely within this coming week," Basmann said. "My job ends. So we don't have a lot of leisure time to devote. And we feel that for a group like this we should have gotten a better response, and we should have gotten it more promptly. This does come only once every 10 years."

Basmann, who is in charge of taking the census to schools, nursing homes and prisons in a 16-county area that includes Brazos County, said A&M students are lagging behind other Texas students in returning their census forms.

She said about 64 percent of A&M students have returned their census forms, while up to 98 percent of the students at some Texas colleges have done so.

"It's probably because they consider it more important," Basmann said. "And maybe they just have a little different idea about the reasons why one should do it. I don't really know why others are better. I'm very

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# East European diplomats arrive for lecture series

## Leaders focus on change

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Two officials from East Germany and Hungary visiting Texas A&M believe hard times lie ahead of their two countries as they seek to democratize nations that were under communist systems for almost 50 years.

Ambassador Andre Wieland of the German Democratic Republic and Ambassador Andre Erdos of Hungary spoke candidly in an interview Wednesday night about German reunification, economic problems, and the improvement of East-West relations taking place in their countries.

Wieland and Erdos are two of five guest speakers participating in the A&M MSC Wiley Lecture Series, "The Changing Faces of Communism," which is Friday night. The lecture will be moderated by ABC journalist Sam Donaldson.

The director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under former President Reagan, Kenneth Adelman; deputy chief of the Propaganda Subdepartment of the Communist Party Central Committee, Nikolay Shishlin; and Solidarity economic advisor, Witold

Trzeciakowski also are scheduled to lecture Friday.

Wieland, who currently serves as head of the East German delegation to the Open Skies Conference in Ottawa, Canada, has been at the forefront of events affecting superpower relations and German reunification.

Erdos is head of the Department of International Multilateral Relations in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry.

Both men believe many economic problems face their countries, which have been Warsaw Pact nations since the end of World War II.

"A lot of problems have to be solved in the next five years," Wieland said. "Of course, they will be hard times. But we hope that the living standard will increase; hopefully, dramatically."

Erdos said, "No matter what government comes to power in Hungary, it inevitably will have to take very unpopular measures. Possibly the next two to three years will be difficult for the population."

Unemployment rates will be among East Germany and Hungary's most pressing problems when state companies, which Wieland

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Photos by Fredrick D. Joe

Andre Wieland (left) of East Germany and Andre Erdos of Hungary discuss hardships ahead.

## Committee greets guests

By JILL BUTLER  
Of The Battalion Staff

Six members of Texas A&M's MSC Wiley Lecture Series Committee rolled out the maroon carpet Wednesday for three diplomats from Eastern Bloc countries at Easternwood Airport.

Polish Minister Witold Trzeciakowski, East German Ambassador Andre Wieland and Hungarian Ambassador Andre Erdos arrived in College Station from Dallas to take part in the program.

The lecture series, "The Changing Faces of Communism," features a discussion involving four foreign diplomats and Kenneth Adelman, of the United States.

Twelve members of the Ross Volunteers helped welcome the three diplomats by forming a saber arch for the diplomats to walk under upon exiting the plane onto a 12-foot strip of maroon carpet.

The three diplomats left the airport after meeting members of the lecture series committee and toured

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