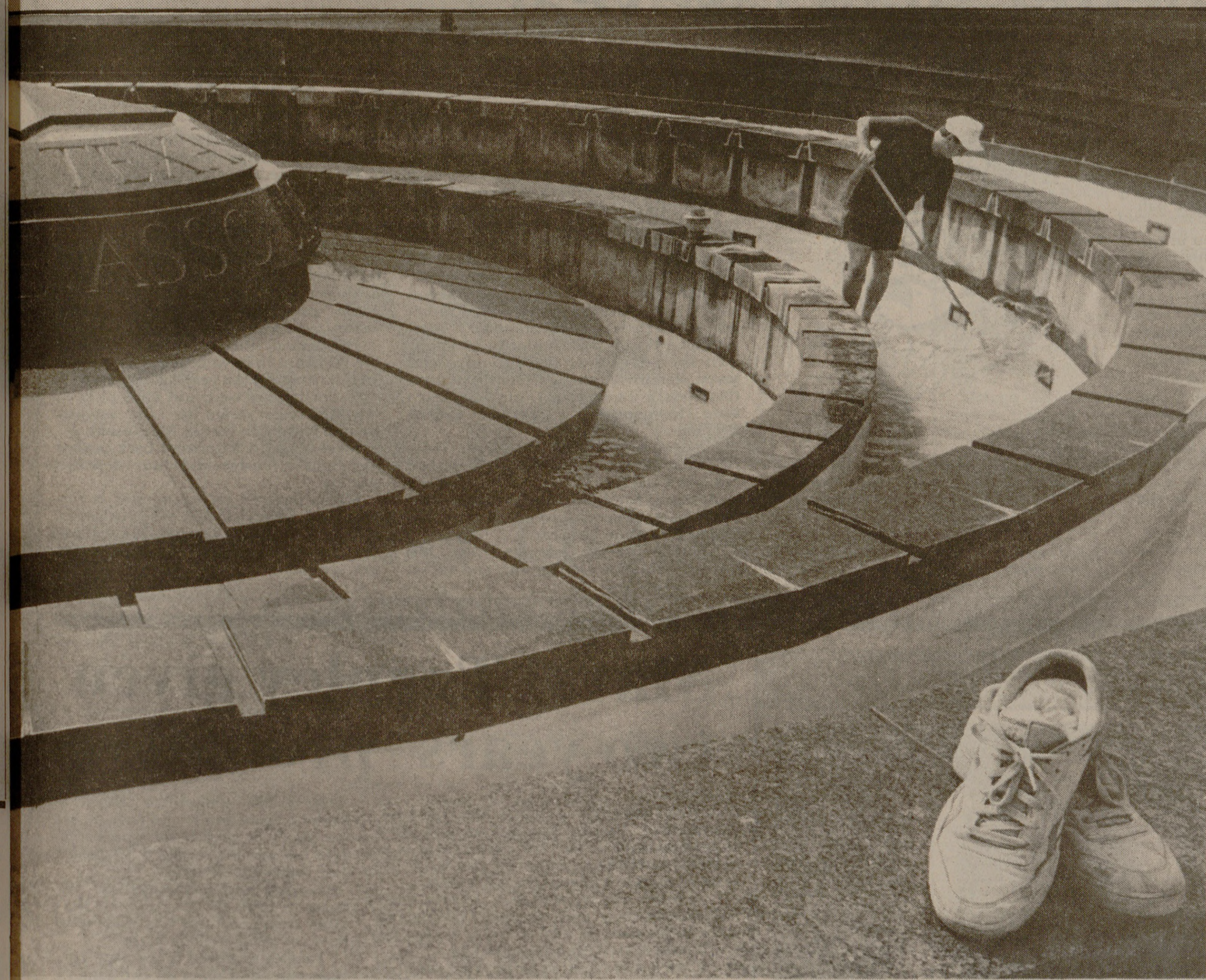


Friday, September 7, 1990

Scrubbin' down



Former A&M student Don Spelce, class of 1984, leaves his shoes next to the fountain in front of the Clayton Williams Alumni Center early Thursday morning as he cleans the fountain for the first time this semester.

Journey to freedom Former hostages welcomed home

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Twenty-four Americans held hostage in the Persian Gulf arrived in the United States Wednesday, weary from a 20-hour flight but thrilled to be back.

"I'm happy to be home," said Taleb Subh, 15, of Davenport, Iowa, who had been visiting aunts and uncles in Kuwait when Iraq invaded the country Aug. 2.

He said he went to the U.S. Embassy, where officials "snuck" him to Baghdad.

"They took care of me," said Taleb, who was among five men, nine women and 10 children who flew home aboard a Virgin Atlantic Airways Boeing 747.

The group was among 29 Americans who began the journey to freedom in Jordan on Tuesday, Lori Levin, an airline spokeswoman, said. She said she did not know why five of the Americans decided to stop in London rather than make the flight to the Newark.

The Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 landed about 3:20 p.m. at Newark International Airport, and passengers were expected to spend at least an hour passing through U.S. Customs before they could leave the airport or catch connecting flights.

"We welcome these people

home." Lucinda Florio, wife of Gov. Jim Florio, said in presenting yellow roses to Nithal George, who was traveling from Iraq with her three children, ages 11, 7 and 2, en route to San Jose, Calif.

Representatives of the American Red Cross met the former hostages at the airport to smooth their return.

"We'll make flight arrangements," said Jane Froton, director of emergency services for the Red Cross' Essex County chapter.

The Americans, who were among 11,000 Westerners believed to be stranded in Kuwait and Iraq, traveled through Amman, Jordan, and to London before arriving in Newark.

The plane, loaded with medical supplies and food, had flown to Jordan on Monday and had clearance to land in Baghdad, but was unable to do so because such supplies would have violated the trade embargo against Iraq, Levin said.

The hostages, freed by Iraq, made their way to Jordan for the flight home.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has said women and children can leave, but foreign men are being kept behind as human shields against any attack on strategic sites.

Anderson exceeds 2,000 days in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — American journalist Terry Anderson marked another grim milestone Wednesday in his 5-and-a-half years in captivity: his 2,000th day as a hostage.

Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, is the longest-held of the six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans and one Italian who are captives in Lebanon. Most are held by pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem militants.

Anderson, of Lorain, Ohio, was kidnapped in Moslem west Beirut on March 16, 1985, by Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War.

The last information on Anderson came from former Irish hostage Brian Keenan, who said after his release Aug. 24 that he had seen Anderson during his four years in captivity.

"I saw Terry Anderson some time ago. He's in good form," Keenan said after he was freed by

a group calling itself the Organization of Islamic Dawn.

The Irishman said he spent part of his time in captivity with Anderson, noting they were in chains and blindfolded much of the time.

Keenan said Anderson "appreciates the letters that he received from his family. He has a picture of his daughter, Sulome, which is some great companionship for him."

Sulome, Anderson's younger daughter, has never met her father. She was born nearly three months after he was kidnapped.

Lebanese newspapers have published several pictures and letters from Anderson's family.

In Dublin, the papal nuncio to Ireland pleaded with Iran's outgoing ambassador on Wednesday to undertake all possible efforts to obtain the release of the remaining Western hostages in Lebanon.

Secord links former CIA agent to Iran-Contra affair

BALTIMORE (AP) — Richard V. Secord testified Wednesday that a former CIA agent shared Iran-Contra arms sale profits, but that records of the weapons deals "were cooked" after the scandal became public.

The retired Air Force major general was the lead-off witness in the government's tax case against Thomas G. Clines, the retired CIA agent who is accused of under-reporting some of his arms sale earnings on his 1985 and 1986 tax returns.

The trial in U.S. District Court focuses on profits during the Iran-Contra affair, which involved the sale of arms to Iran and efforts to sup-

ply weapons to the Contra rebels in Nicaragua at a time when Congress banned such assistance.

Clines, 62, of Middleburg, Va., also is charged with failing to tell the Internal Revenue Service about overseas financial accounts. If convicted, he faces up to 16 years in prison and fines of up to \$1 million.

Secord pleaded guilty last year to a felony count of making false statements to the Iran-Contra congressional committees. He was sentenced in January to two years probation.

Secord said he asked Clines in early 1985 to help obtain weapons for the rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Secord said Clines agreed. "He managed the procurement," he said. "He used his contacts in the Communist East Bloc of Europe and western part of Europe to procure the infantry weapons that were needed."

Clines often worked out of a "closet office" in Lisbon, Portugal, he said.

Clines initially received 20 percent of the profits, and began receiving 30 percent in 1986, Secord said. The remaining shares went to Secord, Iranian-born businessman Albert Hakim and various companies, the general testified.

Prosecutors claim Clines received about \$882,000 in commissions in the arms deals.

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