

# Chinese activist claims sedition charge unfair

BEIJING (AP) — Looking pale and thin from a four-day hunger strike, a leading democracy activist told a court Monday that the sedition charge against him was "unfair and incorrect," sources close to his family said.

Chen Ziming, the 38-year-old founder of a private research institute, began the hunger strike Thursday in an attempt to postpone the trial so his lawyer would have more time to prepare a defense.

His lawyer was allowed access to the government materials on Chen only last week, after his charges were formally lodged with the court.

Chen's mother and sister were allowed to attend the trial but not to speak with him, so it was not known if he had resumed eating, the sources said.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he looked wan and told the court several times during the six-hour session that he was tired. But he rejected as "unfair and incorrect" the charge that he plotted to overthrow the Communist government during the 1989 democracy demonstrations.

Chen gave advice behind the scenes to the college students who led the movement. He was arrested in the fall of 1989, several months after the army crushed the movement, and has been in solitary confinement since.

The trial was adjourned without a verdict being announced. It is expected his sentence will be announced this week together with the sentences of three associates also charged with sedition.

The trials of two of them, Chen Xiaoping and Liu Gang, began last week and are suspended pending sentencing. Sources have said Liu insisted he was innocent, but Chen Xiaoping told the court boldly that he would have liked to overthrow the "corrupt government."

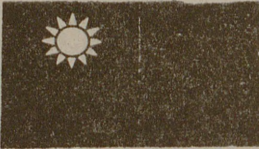
The two Chens are not related. Chen Xiaoping is a university law lecturer who also did research for Chen Ziming's institute. Liu worked at the institute.

The fourth man, Wang Juntao, who edited the institute's newspaper, is expected to be tried this week. He contracted hepatitis in jail, and his physical condition is not known.

The maximum punishment for sedition is death, but China rarely executes intellectuals, and the four are expected to get at least 10-year prison terms.

Altogether, 30 democracy activists have been tried or sentenced since Jan. 5 in carefully planned trials that authorities hope will put the democracy movement behind them.

The movement's impact lingers, however, in the leadership's continued preoccupation with security, close surveillance of students and dissidents and daily articles in the official media praising socialism and denouncing multiparty democracy.



# United, American airlines seek Heathrow spots British, U.S. battle for airways

LONDON (AP) — United Airlines on Monday urged the United States and Britain to break a deadlock over the right of it and American Airlines to use Heathrow airport, a key obstacle in the global expansion plans of both U.S. carriers.

United officials traveled to Britain for a few days to conduct a public relations campaign promoting the U.S. point of view on this side of the Atlantic. They also were applying a bit of pressure publicly and in private meetings with government and British airlines' officials.

The United officials also provided a detailed description of what is on the negotiating agenda.

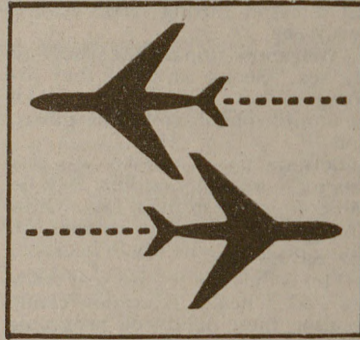
United plans to buy most of Pan American World Airways' London routes and other items in a deal worth \$400 million, and American has agreed to buy Trans World Airlines' London and some other overseas routes for \$445 million.

But the British government is not allowing United and American to assume the existing Heathrow landing rights without concessions.

The American side says the existing air services agreement between the two governments allows such

succession, and the U.S. airlines don't want to be diverted to London's less attractive Gatwick and other airports.

Talks between the United States



and Britain broke off Jan. 30 after six rounds of negotiations over four months.

Britain has offered two dates for renewing talks, in Washington, said Paul McKie, a spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry.

"There's been no response from across the way yet for getting the

talks going again," McKie said. Lawrence Nagin, senior vice president and general counsel for United States put forth an offer he called extremely beneficial to Britain, but it was "not going to be on the table forever."

If Pan Am — which has filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors — is forced out of business because of failure to get British approval, only one American carrier, the weak TWA, will continue to serve Heathrow, he said.

"There might be some reaction to put some balance in the (U.S.-British) aviation relationship, which is going to be good for either side," Nagin said.

"There are ways the United States could reduce services but I wouldn't want to speculate what they would do and not do," Nagin said.

The United States found unacceptable Britain's demand for a cap on United and American's capacity at Heathrow, and for the scrapping of rights of the U.S. carriers to fly onward to other destinations, negotiators have said.

## Airline ponders selling routes, merger options

EAGAN, Minn. (AP) — Northwest Airlines Co-Chairman Alfred Checchi has broached the idea of merging with a stronger airline or selling the carrier's lucrative Pacific routes in talks with Northwest's pilots union.

But airline industry analysts said it was unclear whether Checchi was sincere or just posturing in a strategy to extract concessions from employees to help the airline get through a financially troubled period.

The Air Line Pilots Association said Checchi discussed a possible merger with AMR Corp.'s American Airlines or Delta Air Lines as a possible solution to Northwest's problems. The pilots' account of the discussions was reported Monday in the Wall Street Journal and confirmed by the pilots union.

As another solution, the union said, Checchi explored the idea of selling the Pacific routes as a step toward retrenching the Minnesota-based carrier as a solely domestic airline.

Checchi's comments about a possible merger or a Pacific route sale came early last week when he and John Dasburg, the airline's president and chief executive officer, met with the pilots union to seek contract concessions, the union said.

## Barton

Continued from page 1

is close to 100 percent." Barton said the cost of the war — an estimated \$1 billion a day — will not strain the budget if the conflict is resolved in six months.

"The equipment in use is from war stocks that have already been paid for," Barton said. "We only pay if we have to replace it."

He said it is still too early to tell if a prolonged conflict will drain resources from other areas of the budget, but he said it was unlikely any large burden would be created.

## Senate

Continued from page 3

gram of administrative internships for female faculty members.

- A request from the Rules and Regulations Committee to change the 1991-92 Texas A&M University Regulations attendance policy to grant excused absences to students experiencing a major illness in their immediate families; and to allow departments and colleges to set GPR requirements for post-baccalaureate non-degree students and students in graduate degree programs.

- A request by the Bylaws Committee to alter the Chapter V Meetings portion of Senate bylaws.

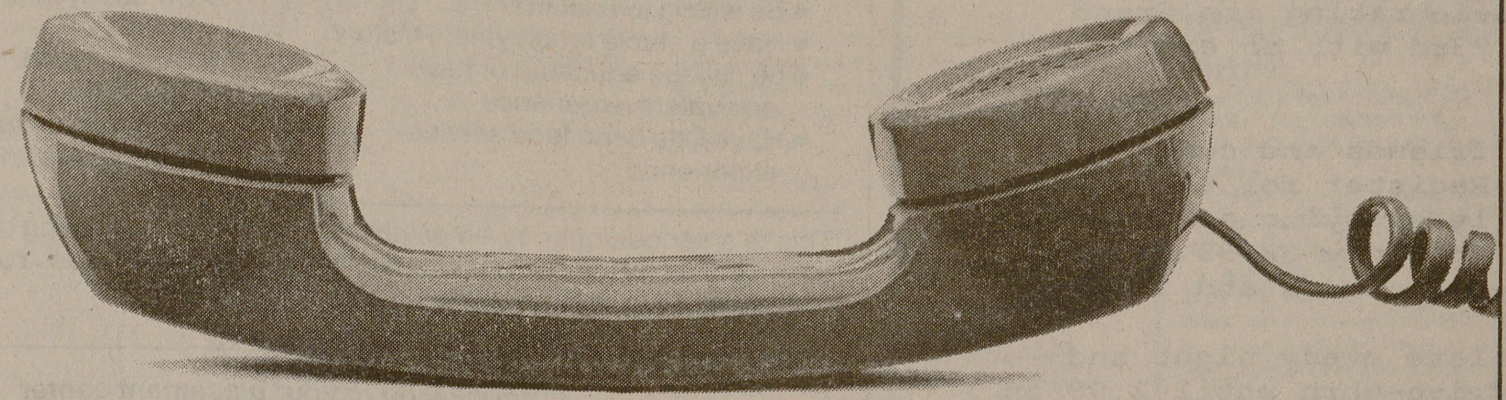
- A request from the University Curriculum Committee to add a bachelor of arts in International Studies and a bachelor of science in Agribusiness (deleting Agribusiness option in Agricultural Economics); to revise the WFSC teaching option and to change the B.S. in Biology to a B.S. in Molecular and Cell Biology.

- A request from the Graduate Council to add HIST 637 Birth of the Middle Ages.

- A request from the University Curriculum Committee to add WFSC 202 Natural History of the Invertebrates.

All resolutions passed. All action taken by the Senate must be approved by Mobley before being enacted.

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