

Peruvian official heads home

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A high-ranking government official called on to lead the opposition to President Alberto Fujimori's authoritarian rule left Miami for home Saturday.

Peru's lawmakers want to swear in the official, First Vice President Maximo San Roman, as president in place of Fujimori, who dissolved Congress and shut down the courts on April 5.

Fujimori said his actions were necessary to fight judicial and legislative corruption and fight terrorism and drug trafficking.

On Saturday, the government announced the arrests of the second-in-command of one rebel

group and 15 members of another rebel group.

Lawmakers contend Fujimori violated the constitution when he seized total power with military backing and should be removed from office.

San Roman left in controversy. His American Airlines flight was at the runway when it was called back to the gate. He was escorted off the plane with his wife by security guards.

But he boarded the next flight for Peru, said Tim Smith, a spokesman for the airline in Fort Worth, Texas.

Xavier Barron, a congressman for the Popular Christian Party,

said the Peruvian government told the airline its flight would not be allowed to land if San Roman was aboard.

Both the airline and Peru denied the government was involved.

"It was a very minor bit of security information that we felt we wanted to check out, and we wanted to have the time to do so," Smith said.

The Foreign Ministry said it was surprised at American Airlines' actions, and that San Roman "did not know how to defend his right to return to his homeland, where . . . his rights and freedoms are totally guaranteed."

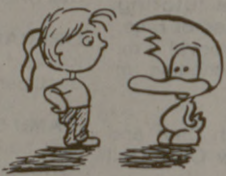
Spade Phillips, P.I.



(the story so far . . .)



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by thomas

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FISH OUT OF WATER by GREGORY GON

post-Easter syndrome (bûm'mer) noun.
1. a time for distressed parents to decide what to do with their childrens newly obtained live bunny rabbits. 2. A time for females to sulk and moan about all of the Easter candy they ate. This is also where they realize they have till March 15 to try to fit into their bikinis.

Teen-ager struggles with therapy following reattachment of arms

HARVEY, N.D. (AP) — At first, he jokes with his physical therapist as they stretch and move his reattached arms. But it is not long before John Thompson shows the wear and frustration of constant therapy and prolonged uncertainty.

A single tear falls down his face. A nurse wipes it away.

"Just one of those days, huh?" therapist Kelly Christenson asks as he stretches the farm worker's limp hand.

"I'm just really tired," the 18-year-old from Hurdfield replies.

Laconic, shy, edgy and amiable, the tall blond teen-ager lost weight from his already slender frame after a Jan. 11 accident at the family farm in which his arms were torn off at the shoulders. A surgeon reattached them.

Most of the time, his arms stay bandaged and in splints. Bared for therapy, a visitor sees his right arm is still swollen below the elbow and his arms are a patchwork of skin grafts.

Reservists complain of illness

Veterans blame symptoms on exposure to petrochemicals, radiation

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Staff Sgt. Steve Robertson returned from the Persian Gulf War complaining of aching joints and a stubborn cough. He ended up in the office of a psychiatrist, who prescribed an anti-depressant.

"They informed me my problem was anger and I needed to vent it," said Robertson, 42, a member of the National Guard from Fredricksburg, Va., who served with the Military Police in the Gulf.

Twice last year, Robertson took his anger and those of other veterans to hearings of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and told about illnesses they blame on wartime exposure to petrochemicals and microwave radiation.

Their afflictions include chronic fatigue, thickened saliva, rashes, aching gums and hair loss.

Army Surgeon General spokeswoman Virginia Stephanakis said few veterans have reported such ailments. And Robertson, now an American Legion lobbyist in Washington, would not venture an estimate on how many have been afflicted.

The military recently tested and examined 100 Army reservists based at Indianapolis' Fort Benjamin Harrison after they complained of illness.

The American Legion in Chicago said it has received about 60 inquiries. Reports of the mysterious ailments prompted about 10 calls to The Associated Press from members of the armed forces.

Maine to California seeking information.

Robertson expects the report to multiply after American Legion Magazine publishes its March issue which discusses the topic.

"We're afraid this is anger revisited," Robertson referring to the problems of War veterans suffered years of exposure to the defoliant.

However, Col. Norman head surgeon for the Indiana based 123rd Army Reserve command, said "it's only natural some to conclude that the ailments are connected to the Persian Gulf area, but there's no proven connection at this time."

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9pm-11pm	Math 251		Math 251	Math 308
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