

# News Digest

By the Associated Press

Spy trial date still unannounced

## Daniloff fears 'long haul'

MOSCOW — Jailed American reporter Nicholas Daniloff fears U.S.-Soviet tensions over his case are "escalating dangerously" and believes he won't be released soon, his wife said Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters a "mutual solution" to the Daniloff case could be found, but he declined to be specific. Daniloff was arrested Aug. 30 and accused of spying.

Ruth Daniloff, accompanied by U.S. Consul Roger Daley, met with her husband for the third time in Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

She has accused the Soviet government of framing the 51-year-old journalist and holding him hostage so an exchange can be arranged for Gennadiy Zakharov, a Soviet U.N. employee arrested Aug. 23 in New York and indicted Tuesday on spy charges.

After seeing her husband for an hour and 20 minutes, Mrs. Daniloff told reporters he looked drawn but was composed and gave her a thorough rundown on his conditions and KGB interrogations that have covered 28 hours.

"He is philosophical. He thinks it

will be a rather long haul," she said.

Daniloff, correspondent for U.S. News & World Report magazine, was arrested by eight KGB agents after a Soviet acquaintance handed him a package later found to contain military photographs and maps marked "secret."

On Sunday he was formally charged with espionage, which under Soviet law can carry a prison term of seven to 15 years or the death penalty. Daniloff has denied the charge.

"He thinks his case is escalating rather dangerously and that he wouldn't like to see it torpedo the summit or torpedo U.S.-Soviet relations," his wife said, referring to possibility of diplomatic reprisal by the United States if Daniloff is not released.

Mrs. Daniloff said her husband feels isolated and finds it frightening "when you are alone in your cell and people are talking about death sentences."

Daniloff asked her to tell his colleagues he appreciated their support because "this could happen to any of you."

She said Daniloff fears "false evidence" is being prepared against him, and was especially worried his Soviet friends are being interrogated and coerced into testifying against him.

But Daniloff also said he believes "this whole investigation is basically a formality," his wife said. "He said it clearly relates to the Zakharov case."

At his news conference, Foreign

Ministry spokesman Gerasimov accused U.S. officials of using the case to spoil superpower relations but suggested it could be resolved to the satisfaction of both sides.

Gerasimov was asked to comment on President Reagan's warning that Daniloff's detention could become "a major obstacle" in relations between the two countries.

"U.S.-Soviet relations should not be held hostage to this case of Daniloff," Gerasimov said. "If both sides make serious efforts, I think it would be possible to find a mutual solution to this question."

Mrs. Daniloff said her husband complained earlier about being fed only thin soup and porridge-like kasha and wanted to be allowed out of his 8-by-10-foot cell more frequently. She said he is now getting better food and is allowed to exercise in a rooftop cage for two hours a day.

"Obviously they're bending over backward to appear civilized, after having done this horrible thing," Mrs. Daniloff said.

There has been no indication when Daniloff might be brought to trial.

The government newspaper Izvestia on Monday accused Daniloff of trying to gather intelligence on Soviet forces in Afghanistan, where Western officials say more than 115,000 Red Army troops have been deployed since the Soviet Union's intervention in 1979.

## S. Africans executed; Botha meeting cancelled

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Three black insurgents, including a 19-year-old convicted in a bombing that killed five whites, were hanged Tuesday after refusing to seek clemency.

U.S. civil rights leader Coretta Scott King, meanwhile, cancelled a meeting with President P.W. Botha at the last minute. She announced her decision a day after leading anti-apartheid activists said they would not see her if she met with Botha.

The execution of the rebels, members of the outlawed African National Congress of ANC members prompted worldwide condemnation and appeals for clemency.

The three — Sibusiso Andrew Zondo, Simno Bridget Xulu and Clarence Lucky Payi — were hanged at Pretoria Central Prison at 7 a.m., said Supreme Court Registrar Martin van der Westhuizen.

He said three other convicted murderers also were executed. South Africa executes about 100 people a year, most

of them convicted murderers.

The Sowetan, a Johannesburg newspaper for black readers, quoted relatives and defense attorneys as saying the condemned men did not want a last-minute appeal to delay the executions.

They were in good spirits and singing freedom songs on the eve of their executions, the lawyers were quoted as saying.

Zonbo's lawyer, Bheki Shezi, said his client's final message was that "the revolutionary loves his life but knows that life is not the end itself." Zondo was 19.

Zondo was convicted in April in the Dec. 23 bombing at a shopping center south of Durban. Two women and three children were killed and 48 others wounded.

Xulu and Payi were convicted last February in the May 1984 assassination of a former student leader who had turned against the African National Congress. Their ages were not available.

## U.S. school teacher kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon — An American who runs a private school in Beirut was kidnapped by two armed men while on his way to play golf Tuesday, and a caller claimed responsibility in the name of the Shiite Moslem group Islamic Jihad.

The U.S. Embassy identified the victim as Frank Herbert Reed, 53, of Malden, Mass., director of the Lebanese International School in Moslem west Beirut.

A spate of politically motivated kidnappings in west Beirut in 1985 prompted most Americans and other Westerners to leave the city. Reed's abduction was the first kidnapping of an American in Lebanon in 15 months.

A school associate said Reed has lived in Lebanon about eight years and had converted to Islam before marrying Sanmiya Dalati, a Syrian. The associate, who insisted on anonymity, said the couple have a five-year old son, Tarec.

Islamic Jihad, which espouses the fundamentalist teachings of Iran's Ayatolla Runollan Khomeini, has said it holds at least three other American hostages.

U.S. Embassy spokesman Christopher P. English said the embassy "does not have many details about it (the kidnap) now."

At the State Department in Washington, spokesman Bernard Kalb said, "we call on those who may be holding Mr. Reed as well as the other foreign hostages in Lebanon to release their captives immediately. We remind them further that we hold them responsible for the well-being of their captives."

Police quoted family friends as saying Reed was kidnapped at 11:15 a.m. near the ruins of a supermarket in west Beirut's Bir Hassan district while driving from his west Beirut home to play golf at the city's outskirts.

Gunmen in a dark blue Volvo intercepted Reed's car a few hundred yards from the headquarters of Syrian intelligence officers supervising a security plan for west Beirut, police said.

Other American hostages held by Islamic Jihad are Terry A. Anderson, 38, of Lorain, Ohio, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press; David Jacobsen, 55, of Huntington Beach, Calif., director of the American University Hospital; and Thomas Sutherland, 55, of Fort Collins, Colo., acting dean of the university's agriculture faculty.

Sutherland, who was kidnapped June 10, 1985, was the last American reported abducted in west Beirut before Tuesday.

Islamic Jihad said last fall it had killed another American hostage, U.S. Embassy political officer William Buckley, 58, but no body was ever found. Buckley was kidnapped March 16, 1984.

The group also claims it holds three French hostages.

In all, 17 foreigners are now missing in Lebanon, including Reed. They include five Americans, seven Frenchmen, two Britons, one Italian, one Irishman and one South Korean.

## Zakharov indicted on spy charges

NEW YORK — A federal grand jury Tuesday indicted United Nations employee Gennadiy F. Zakharov on charges he tried to buy classified military secrets on behalf of the Soviet Union.

The indictment charged Zakharov with three counts, including conspiracy, obtaining classified documents and attempting to communicate the material to a foreign government.

## 100 feared dead in sea collision

LAGOS, Nigeria — Two passenger ships collided off the Niger River delta, and about 100 people were feared killed, the local Transport Ministry said Tuesday.

The collision occurred off Port Harcourt in southern Nigeria, the Rivers State Transport Ministry said. It did not say when the crash occurred.

A statement from the ministry's inland waterways division said two motor vessels, the Nembe and the Assei, collided while trying to navigate a dangerous area off the Niger River delta.

The statement said the Nembe was carrying about 400 passengers, mostly women taking produce to markets, while 300 people were aboard the Assei. The Nembe was ripped open below the waterline, the ministry said.

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