

State Department attacks Soviet criticism on Iran

WASHINGTON—The State Department reacted sharply Wednesday to an official Soviet commentary accusing the United States of using "crude military and political pressure" against Iran in its attempts to free 50 American hostages.

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Department spokesman Hodding Carter called the commentary, which appeared in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, deplorable and said Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance conveyed this message personally to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

Carter said the Soviets appear to have a two-track policy toward the Iranian situation. He noted the Pravda editorial contrasts with the "positive and constructive steps" the Soviets have taken in support of the hostages in the United Nations Security Council.

The Pravda editorial said the United States has decided to "intensify the crisis and turn it into one of the most serious international conflicts of the post-war era."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the State Department's Iran task force, George Havens, said U.S. officials were aware of rumors that several of the hostages in Tehran had been executed.

But, he emphasized, "We have no information that would in any way substantiate this report. Rumors of this nature have been circulating for a number of days."

Rhodesian accord reached

LONDON—Britain, the Zimbabwe Rhodesian government and the guerrillas fighting it reached agreement Wednesday on a cease-fire, British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington announced, clearing the way for elections and an end to seven years of war.

Carrington spoke to reporters after a 15-minute session with representatives of the Patriotic Front guerrilla forces and delegates of Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa's Salisbury government.

He said some details of a cease-fire agreement remained to be worked out but he hoped the momentum could be maintained to wind up the 13-week-old conference within the next few days.

Earlier, a spokesman for Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ram-

phal, who helped resolve the cease-fire dispute, told The Associated Press of the accord after Patriotic Front leaders Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe met with Carrington for an hour.

Carrington, chairman of the peace talks, said a British governor, whom he did not identify, would be traveling to Salisbury in the next few days to take power during a transition period for free, internationally recognized elections.

Female excommunicated

WASHINGTON—Feminist Sonia Johnson, whose family has been in the Mormon Church for five generations, was excommunicated from the church Tuesday because of her campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment.

"The verdict is excommunication," Mrs. Johnson said in a telephone interview. She said she would make no further comment until probably Thursday.

'Flirty fishing' advocated

NEW YORK—the latest summary of teachings circulated by the "Children of God" details its recommended use of sex to lure recruits.

"Flirty fishing," it has been called by the leader of the widely dispersed group, David Berg, known to his followers as "Moses David," "Father David," or "Mo."

"People today are terrifically desirous of sex and in need of sex, therefore if you don't satisfy their sexual appetite they have a hard time believing that you really love them," he writes.

"So sometimes we have to satisfy that appetite to prove to them that we really care and we're concerned and that we love them."

The advice is part of a new compilation of Berg's "love letters" currently mailed to possible recruits, seeking to enlist them as members with pledges of a 10 percent tithe of income, a \$10 monthly or other regular contribution.

The group, founded by Berg in California in 1968, is now scattered in 70 countries, according to a recent study by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and currently claims 8,000 young people belong.



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