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Cousteau, crew set 'sail' in cylinder-run boat

From the Reuter News Report

PARIS — Underwater explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau sets off for the United States today to prove that a revolutionary wind-powered vessel lacking any sails or motor can sail the Atlantic.

A spokesman for the Cousteau Foundation said the 42-ton catamaran Moulin a Vent will leave from Tangiers at sunset today for a voyage that the veteran 72-year-old explorer hopes will revolutionize sea transport.

Cousteau and his five-man crew hope to make the crossing in about a month, predicting an arrival in New York between Nov. 5 and 15, the spokesman said.

The Moulin a Vent is powered by a 44-foot cylinder mounted on the deck instead of conventional sails. A wind-driven propeller at the top sucks air through perforated windows and propels the craft by deflecting the air current.

Cousteau maintains that the revolutionary propulsion system has practical, energy-saving applications for sea transport. He thinks a cylinder-equipped ship which also has conventional power could save up to 35 percent in fuel.

Wind tunnel tests have shown that an 800-ton ship equipped with two "Aerolian" cylinders could sustain 15 knots in a 24-knot crosswind, Cousteau said. "We are convinced that the fixed cylinder wind boat has important and immediate commercial applications. It would be fairly simple to convert any ship to mixed propulsion by equipping it with one or more cylinders," he said.

France has helped subsidize the \$1 million project, and Cousteau says he eventually will replace his conventional powered research ship Calypso with one employing the new system.

Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Iran: Western winter may be 'very cold'

TEHRAN — Iran, renewing a threat to close the Persian Gulf if Iraq disrupts its oil exports, Tuesday warned that Western nations could face "a very cold winter." Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Iran is sticking by its earlier decision to block the Strait of Hormuz at the Gulf entrance if Iraq or any other power interrupted Iranian oil shipments. Rafsanjani's statement, carried by Tehran radio, came after a meeting Monday night of Iran's Supreme Defense Council, which he said discussed reports that five French warplanes, purchased by Iraq, had arrived in that country.

About one-sixth of the non-Communist world's oil comes from the Gulf.

Panic buying hits Israel

TEL AVIV — Israelis Monday emptied supermarket shelves in panic buying of basic foods after the new government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced it is slashing subsidies on bread, milk and other items today. Gasoline stations ran out of fuel and were forced to shut down after motorists hurried to fill their tanks before an announced 23 percent price increase.

"I don't quite know what I'm buying, I'm just taking whatever I can," one grocery store customer said. Some stores were so crowded that shoppers could not push through the doors.

Soviet threats worry U.S.

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials Tuesday expressed concern over fresh Soviet threats to break off nuclear arms control talks. As the White House urged Moscow to continue the talks in Geneva, a U.S. arms control official said he found the new Soviet walkout threat more believable than past intimations because of "the belligerency of their tone." He said this is especially true of a Soviet threat to break off talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe, but that Moscow seems more likely to toughen its negotiating stand at the separate Strategic Arms Reduction Talks rather than walking out of that meeting as well. U.S. officials said the latest threat was made at the INF talks, and the Soviet delegates told their U.S. counterparts they would let them know today how much longer Moscow wants to continue the current round, which began Sept. 6.

Court rejects Hiss appeal

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Tuesday rejected without comment an appeal from Alger Hiss, who was convicted of perjury in a highly publicized spy trial 33 years ago. Hiss, who is 78 and lives in New York City, spent nearly four years in prison and became a symbol of America's preoccupation with Communist infiltrators in the early 1950s. The former State Department official was accused of stealing sensitive documents in the 1930s and giving them to a former member of the Communist Party for relaying to the Soviet Union. He was found guilty of perjury in 1950. Hiss has mounted numerous legal campaigns to try to clear his name. He was not immediately available for comment on Tuesday's action.

Ice crushes Soviet ship

MOSCOW — The crew of a Soviet freighter trapped in frozen seas north of Siberia had to be rescued by helicopter as the pressure of the ice crushed the vessel's hull causing it to sink, the government daily Ivestia said Tuesday. The 45 crewmen of the Nina Sagaidak arrived in Uladivostok Monday, Ivestia said. A further 14 out of 40 ships reported Monday to be sitting in the ice are completely trapped, it added. The extreme cold that has caught ships bringing goods to isolated towns along the northern Siberian coast is the worst in 40 years, experts quoted by the newspaper said.

Burmese police kill Korean

RANGOON — Burmese police have killed one Korean terrorist, captured another and are seeking a third after Sunday's bomb blast in which four South Korean ministers and 15 other people died, the government announced Tuesday night. It gave no personal details of the Koreans and did not say whether they came from North or South Korea.

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inquiries about this popular line and have presold several components prior to their arrival on Monday. And we believe that once you investigate the Harmon Kardon value, you won't be happy until we pack up a whole system and send it home with you.



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