

## Attorney general . . .

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Spire said he believes the states must work hard for civil rights to offset federal Department of Justice policies. That department, he said, has taken the view that civil rights programs, particularly affirmative action, have received too much emphasis.

"I would view the situation entirely the other way," he said. "Civil rights are not emphasized enough."

During the hour-long luncheon, sponsored by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, Spire answered questions about the death penalty, victim's rights, public confidence in the attorney general's office and his first impressions of the job.

Spire said he generally opposes the death penalty. As a member of the state Pardons Board, along with the governor and secretary of state, Spire will help decide whether death-row inmates will be executed. Thirteen prisoners await execution at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Spire said he will consider each case individually. But he admitted he has serious reservations about the death penalty, calling it "an act of vengeance."

On the subject of victims' rights, Spire said, the state should give victims formal input in the criminal justice process. For example, he said, victims should have their say in presentence investigations.

After a little more than a month on the job, Spire said he's still learning. He said many people in state government have offered welcome advice. Spire has never worked for the government before.

His biggest task, he said, may be to restore public confidence in the attorney general's office.

Spire said he plans to organize his 32-lawyer staff into six sections: law enforcement, litigation, claims, general legal services, investigations and roads. Spire will choose lawyers to lead each of the sections.

"The idea is to develop expertise in different areas and to make the staff more manageable," he said.

## Reuter Report

### Freed Lebanese prisoners chant anti-Israeli slogans

ANSAR, Lebanon — The Israeli army freed the last 752 detainees held in south Lebanon's Ansar prison camp and began dismantling the grim complex of barbed wire compounds and watchtowers.

Chanting anti-Israeli slogans, jubilant prisoners dressed in newly issued blue track suits were loaded aboard open-sided safari trucks in an operation supervised by the Red Cross and driven to towns around south and central Lebanon.

The detainees, mostly Shi'ite Muslims, taunted guards with "V" signs and shouts of "Death for Israel" and "Victory for Khomeini," the Shi'ite leader of Iran.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv said the troops had given the detainees a letter saying they would be given a chance to live in peace, but that the army would find a way to punish them if they caused trouble.

Meanwhile the State Department said that Israel's transfer of more than 1,000 prisoners across its border from Lebanon appeared inconsistent with international law regarding the rights of an occupying power.

The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits transfer of civilians to the territory of an occupying power. Israel has said it will observe the convention in handling the detainees, mostly Shi'ite Muslims.

### Weinberger demands Soviet apology

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union should apologize and pay compensation to the family of a U.S. Army major shot dead by a Soviet sentry in East Germany last week, Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger said Wednesday.

"It is important that the Soviets apologize and not just express regret that the man died. And I think it's important that they pay compensation," Weinberger said in the first call by a top Reagan administration official for Soviet payment in the death of Major Arthur Nicholson.

"There's no way you can compensate the family for that kind of loss, but at least you can recognize the fact that they have been deprived of support by this brutal murder," Weinberger said. He mentioned no specific sum.

Nicholson, 37, was married and the couple had an eight-year-old daughter.

Although no date has been set, U.S. and Soviet officials have agreed to hold talks on the incident. Nicholson was shot by a Soviet sentry in East Germany March 24 while on a monitoring mission. Moscow said he was shot after entering a restricted zone and ignoring a warning shot.

### Shultz requests delay in Israeli aid

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George Shultz Wednesday urged Congress to delay providing additional economic aid to Israel as a key House committee prepared to vote on a proposal for \$1.5 billion of new aid.

Shultz told a Senate Appropriations subcommittee that the Israeli government of Prime Minister Shimon Peres had much to do to straighten out the Jewish state's troubled economy.

"There are a lot of proposals in the air," he said. "Prime Minister Peres has taken a number of courageous steps, but in my judgment they are not there yet."

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, drafting a foreign aid bill, was preparing to vote on an amendment that would give Israel an additional \$1.5 billion in economic aid over the 1985 and 1986 fiscal years.

### Separatist guerrillas kill 9 policemen

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Separatist guerrillas set off landmines under two jeeps in Sri Lanka's troubled Eastern Province Wednesday, killing nine policemen and wounding 10, a government spokesman said.

The policemen were traveling on the Chenkaladdy road when the vehicles were blown up around 5:30 p.m., he said. Further details of the incident were not immediately available.

Residents there said shops closed and there was tension in the area soon after the incident.

Guerrillas are fighting to set up an independent homeland in northern and eastern areas for Sri Lanka's 2.5 million minority Tamils.

### 7 countries turn away brothers

NEW YORK — Two Afghan teenagers who unsuccessfully sought asylum in the United States are being flown from one country to another because no one will let them in, a prominent New York human rights group said Wednesday.

According to the Lawyer's Committee for International Human Rights, half-brothers Amanullah Roshan and Amanullah Obaidi have so far been flown three times to South Korea, twice to Taiwan, once to Hong King, once to Sri Lanka, once to Saudi Arabia and once to Thailand.

Arthur Helton, the Lawyer's Committee director, said that in Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia the teenagers were threatened with being returned to Afghanistan.

"They face certain jail, possibly worse if they are returned to Afghanistan. Right now they are refugees in orbit," Helton said.

The two were deported from the United States last Friday.

### Bank crisis encourages controls

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators Wednesday said the government should increase its surveillance of the financial industry to prevent a recurrence of the Ohio bank crisis.

Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman John Shad said his agency was considering measures to exert control over trading in government securities. The government now relies on voluntary disclosure by dealers.

Edwin Gray, chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, said all thrifts institutions should be required to obtain federal insurance instead of relying on state or private guarantees.

Their remarks came in testimony to a House Government Operations subcommittee investigating the temporary closure of 70 Ohio thrifts last month.

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