

News Digest

Senate bows to Reagan; sanctions bill postponed

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — The Senate, following President Reagan's milder approach, voted Monday to postpone action on legislation that would impose economic sanctions on South Africa for its system of racial separation.

The vote in the Republican-controlled Senate was 53 to 34.

Democrats accused the Senate of abrogating its responsibility to make law on this controversial issue and promised they would try again later to force a Senate vote on the bill.

Last week, Republican leaders predicted the bill would pass overwhelmingly despite Reagan's strong opposition to sanctions against the white-ruled government.

But facing certain political defeat, Reagan on Monday announced he would take unilateral action to impose limited sanctions and Republican leaders agreed to try and postpone action on the stronger, more restrictive bill.

Among other things, Reagan announced a ban on U.S. computer sales to agencies that administer apartheid, curbs on exports of nuclear technology and a ban on new bank loans to the South African government that would not benefit all races.

In addition, he said he would consult with U.S. trading partners under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade about a ban on importing South African Krugerrand gold coins.

Today's vote came on a motion to stop an obstructionist debate and proceed to a direct vote on the bill. Anti-apartheid forces, led by Democrats, needed 60 votes to cut off debate but only won 53.

In Johannesburg, South African President P. W. Botha and one of his leading black opponents, Bishop Desmond Tutu, both attacked Reagan's limited anti-apartheid sanctions but from opposite political sides.

Botha said in a statement that the sanctions were regrettable and would reduce Washington's ability to influence events in Southern Africa.

Nobel Peace Prize-winner Tutu also criticized the sanctions, telling reporters that the mildness of the measures would make the Pretoria government "quite happy."

"He doesn't care two beans about black people in South Africa," Tutu said of Reagan. "I don't think he cares at all . . ."

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency Tass said Reagan's sanctions were so full of loopholes they were meaningless. "The 'sanctions' announced by Washington . . . once again expose the Reagan Administration as an accomplice of the racist butchers," it declared.

The Soviet Union supports the idea of comprehensive United Nations sanctions against South Africa, but dis-

misses any lesser step as a meaningless ploy.

Britain may end up virtually alone in opposing European Community sanctions against South Africa after Reagan's decision, diplomats said. Speaking on the eve of foreign ministers' discussions here on a common stand toward Pretoria, they said the timing of Reagan's announcement appeared to embarrass the ministers. A decision to impose sanctions would have to be agreed upon, unanimously and Britain's agreement was therefore vital, they added.

The sanctions are expected to have little impact on the domestic economy or on U.S. and other foreign corporations with business interests in South Africa, banking sources said Monday.

However, if U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa prompt retaliatory action, American industry would quickly discover how dependent it is on South African minerals to keep its production lines open, officials said.

South Africa is the United States' biggest supplier of chromium — needed to harden steel for aircraft — and platinum, used to refine gasoline. A recent Commerce Department study on South African mineral resources said a continued supply was vital to President Reagan's military buildup and U.S. industrial preparedness in the event of a national security crisis.

In Brief

Boycott staged over AIDS student

NEW YORK — Thousands of parents kept their children from school Monday in the New York borough of Queens because a child suffering from AIDS attended classes.

The child's identity, sex and school were kept secret, but officials said the pupil had been attending schools for the past three years and could not transmit the disease to other students.

In two Queens school districts where boycotts were called, more than 9,000 students stayed away from public schools on the first day of the school year.

A judge refused to issue an order stopping the AIDS child from attending classes and set Thursday as the date for a full hearing on the issue.

Shi'ite, Palestinian battle wages on

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shi'ite and Palestinian forces battled around a refugee camp for the seventh day Monday as moderate Moslem leaders pressed demands for an end to militia anarchy in the streets of West Beirut.

Palestinian sources said the Shi'ite militia, Amal, which they accused last week of carrying out a revenge killing of Palestinian civilians in the suburb of Haret Hreik, Sunday burned 20 Palestinian houses in the same district.

In a development likely to intensify political confusion, Finance Minister Camille Chamoun was reported ready to resign and leave the moribund "national unity" government with only six effective members out of the original 10.

Scores of Palestinians have fled their homes in a Shi'ite suburb of west Beirut following the killing of Palestinian civilians.

"The militiamen arrived, ordered people to leave the balconies, then started shooting at the houses," said a young Palestinian woman whose 21-year-old brother-in-law was among those killed. The woman, who asked not to be named, said her family was one of the few which had not left because "we are hated by everybody anywhere we go, so it is better to stay in our home."

Neo-Nazis go on trial in Seattle

SEATTLE — Eleven self-professed neo-Nazis went on trial in Seattle on Monday on federal racketeering charges stemming from activities prosecutors contend were aimed at overthrowing the U.S. government.

Authorities ordered elaborate security measures as jury selection began. Two armed guards were assigned to each of the 11 defendants and metal detectors were set up at building and courtroom entrances.

The trial, which officials said could last up to six months, will cover the alleged racketeering activities of a violent white-supremacist sect called "The Order" or the "Silent Brotherhood."

The indictment covers crimes committed in five states, including the June 1984 machine-gun murder in Denver, Colo., of Alan Berg, a sharp-tongued Jewish radio talk show host who had needled the white supremacists.

Iran, Iraq report raid on front

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iran and Iraq reported a major ground battle on the northern front of their Persian Gulf war zone Monday with each side saying it killed hundreds.

Baghdad also said its warplanes bombed Kharg Island again, dropping eight tons of explosives on Iran's main oil terminal in the latest in a series of raids that began last month.

Iran said its troops penetrated far behind Iraqi lines on the northern front, killing hundreds of soldiers and capturing strategic territory, but Iraq said its forces repelled the attack and killed thousands of Iranians.

Trial publicity angers lawyer

LOS ANGELES — A lawyer for Richard Ramirez, charged with one murder and suspected in the slayings of 15 others, Monday accused officials of finding his client guilty before his trial.

"They are talking about giving reward money and issuing certificates of appreciation to people who helped catch him," the lawyer, Allen Adashek, said.

Los Angeles police so far have charged Ramirez, 25, with the murder of William Doi, 56, identified as a "Night Stalker" victim, and rape and other sexual assaults on Doi's wife. District Attorney Paul Hailpin said he would oppose any request to move the trial away from Los Angeles because of the publicity.

First teacher in space in training

HOUSTON — The first teacher scheduled to ride in a space shuttle arrived at Johnson Space Center Monday to begin training for her flight next January, a NASA spokesman said.

Sharon Christa McAuliffe, a 37-year-old high school teacher from Concord, N.H., was chosen from among more than 11,000 applicants. She will be part of a six-member crew aboard the Challenger orbiter on the six-day mission, which will launch a satellite for voice and data communications and observe Halley's Comet.

In addition to learning how to live aboard the shuttle, she will be trained to use film and closed-circuit television cameras to document the trip and will perform experiments to be portrayed in educational films, the spokesman said.

5 states account for half of growth

WASHINGTON — Five Sun Belt states will account for more than half of the nation's population growth through the year 2000, but Midwestern states that had been looking at declines may not lose people after all, a private research group said Monday.

The National Planning Association projected that California will continue to be the nation's biggest population gainer, adding 6,688,000 people between the 1980 Census and 2000.

And California, Florida, Texas, Arizona and North Carolina will account for 21.8 million added people by 2000, or 54 percent of the nation's total additions, the report said.

From News Wires

U.S. reaffirms support

Thai coup attempt crushed

BANGKOK, Thailand (Reuter) — Thai troops issued a "surrender or die" ultimatum and crushed a coup attempt masterminded by a disgruntled former army colonel Monday after a 10-hour confrontation in which four people were killed.

Among the dead were two Western journalists caught in a hail of gunfire in the center of Bangkok from tanks manned by rebels. Fifty-nine other people were wounded, authorities said.

The dawn attempt, involving up to 500 rebels who commandeered 22 tanks, collapsed after the government issued a "surrender or die" ultimatum. Authorities said the two ring-leaders, Col. Manoon Roopkhachorn and his brother, air force Squadron Leader Manas, have surrendered.

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda raced home from an official visit to Indonesia after the coup attempt. He went on television shortly after land-

ing in southern Thailand and said his first priority was to restore national unity and clear up any misunderstandings in the military.

Prem survived an abortive takeover bid, dubbed The April Fools' Coup, led by Manoon in 1981. Monday's revolt, mainly affecting the area of Government House in the old quarter of Bangkok, caught Thais by surprise and many were unaware the attempt had taken place.

The United States said Monday it regretted the attempt by rebel soldiers to stage the coup and reaffirmed its strong support for Tinsulanonda's government.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb told reporters, "The U.S. strongly supports the legally constituted government of Prime Minister Prem and is pleased by reports that the royal family is safe," he said.

Among the four dead were Austral-

ian television journalist Neil Davis, who covered wars, coups and revolutions, death and mayhem for 21 years. Monday he filmed his own death.

Davis, 51, of NBC News, and his soundman, William Latch, were filming rebel tanks moving on an army radio broadcasting building in Bangkok when they were both hit by fire from the tanks.

Australian Gary Burns, a Visnews cameraman, related the incident in an interview: "Everything happened in a flash. We were on a direct line of fire and I think I saw the machine guns on four or five tanks fire directly at the broadcasting building before we all hit the dirt."

Burns said Davis, still filming, rolled on top of him and said, "I'm all right, I'm all right."

"During a lull in the shooting I rolled him over to help him up but . . . he was dead," Burns said. "He died filming his own death."

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

House majority leader Jim Wright, D-Texas, on Monday accused the Reagan administration of contributing to air safety problems by slashing the number of federal aircraft inspectors by 25 percent since 1981 and for refusing to spend \$3 billion in available funds for Doppler advanced radar equipment.

Democratic Mayor Edward Koch, 60, a symbol for millions worldwide of what's right and what's wrong in New York City, is expected to easily win renomination for a third term in today's Democratic mayoral primary. Winning the nomination is often tantamount to winning an election in NYC, where Republicans are considered an endangered species.

From Paul Newman, at 60 the youngest, to Cary Grant and Isaac Bashevis Singer, both 81, McCall's magazine has announced its picks for the 10 sexiest American men who are age 60 or older. President Reagan, 74, made the list, as did Frank Sinatra, 69; Joe DiMaggio, 70; John Huston, 79; Norman Mailer, 62; John Forsythe, 67, and Lee Iacocca, 61. "There's enough accumulated explosive force radiating from Grant, Newman, Singer, et al., to send a rocket to the moon . . . and farther," McCall's said.

Three-year-old Prince William, second in line to the British throne, is expected to be enrolled this month, along with 23 other young pupils, at a multiracial Montessori kindergarten class where he will be taught such non-royal chores as washing the dishes.

Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the Soviet Union's "angry young man" of the '50s, published a poem in the Commu-

nist Party daily Pravda in support of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's drive for economic renewal. The poem, "The No-Risk Takers," poked fun at bureaucrats and managers who prefer an easy life to "rolling up their sleeves and helping transform the Soviet economy." Once at odds with authorities, Yevtushenko, 52, has mellowed with age. Last November he received a state prize for his poem, "Mama and The Neutron Bomb."

West German spyhunter Hans Joachim Tiedge, who defected to East Germany last month, has written a letter to his three daughters defending his decision and saying he is being well cared for. "Sometime in the not too distant future we will meet again here," he said in the letter.

In Tehran, Iran, well-known singer Neemat Agasi was publicly flogged along with some of his audience for gambling and drinking at a party. Agasi received 50 lashes and was sentenced to one year in exile. A Tehran public prosecutor who oversaw the whippings said afterward: "As I promised in my speech before Friday prayers, perpetrators of corruption, prostitution and vice will be dealt with resolutely."

Pete Rose, player-manager of the Cincinnati Reds who singled twice Sunday to equal Ty Cobb's all-time career hit record of 4,191, didn't play Monday because the Reds' opponent, the San Diego Padres, started left-hander Dave Dravecky. Rose plans to play Tuesday against right-hander LaMarr Hoyt.

From News Wires