

News Digest

By the Associated Press

Reagan pledges aid to Philippines

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, praising Philippine leader Corazon Aquino's economic revival plan, is handing over more U.S. aid while cautioning her against trusting communist guerrillas at the bargaining table.

Aquino, the U.S.-educated widow of former opposition leader Benigno Aquino, is trying to hold together a faction-ridden, impoverished government. She was heading to Capitol Hill today to address a joint meeting of Congress and seek more U.S. financial support.

Aquino's counsel, Teodoro Locsin, told reporters that Reagan appeared to accept Aquino's plan for dealing with the insurgent New People's Army, which has picked up wide support in the poverty-stricken rural regions of the Philippines.

Her strategy calls for a good-faith government effort to settle the war by negotiations, economic reforms that might dissolve peasant grievances and ultimately — but only if necessary — tough military action.

Locsin said both leaders "have the same cynicism about the hard-core guerrillas coming down from the hills,"

but that Aquino feels a need to exhaust peaceful means before invoking military options.

Talks between representatives of the government and the guerrillas began this summer, but no progress has been reported.

A U.S. official, eager to dispel any suggestions that the administration is dissatisfied with Aquino's performance, said the United States is solidly behind the strategy. "We are completely in accord," said the official, who spoke only on condition he not be identified.

At a black-tie dinner at the State Department Wednesday evening, Secretary of State George Shultz told the Philippine leader, "We are on your side. Our partnership makes an irreplaceable contribution to stability in the Pacific."

In response, Aquino cautioned Shultz that in the "new, mature relationship" between the two countries, the Philippines would sometimes be difficult to deal with, but she said, for the United States, a democracy, "this should be a virtue, not a vice in your eyes."

Aquino's visit with Reagan for 45

minutes in the Oval Office and at a White House luncheon was the first official meeting of a nine-day trip to the United States and it was the first time they have met.

The president heaped unqualified praise on Aquino's economic program which is designed to nibble away at the country's \$26 billion foreign debt through economic reforms and increased incentives for private industry.

"I'm bullish on the Philippines," Reagan declared. "I would hope American as well as foreign investors take notice of this incredible opportunity to help build a country."

Following through on a pledge to give the Philippines as much financial assistance as possible, Reagan turned over a \$100 million installment on the multi-million dollar aid package promised for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

U.S. payments to the Philippines now total more than \$500 million in the current fiscal year, and Reagan said he would "continue to ask Congress for appropriate levels of economic and military assistance beyond existing U.S. base-related commitments."

Aquino applauded, cheered by Congress

WASHINGTON — Philippine President Corazon Aquino, in a speech that brought a shower of affection from a joint session of Congress, pledged Thursday to take up "the sword of war" if peacemaking with communist rebels fails.

Aquino, in the seventh month of her leadership of a major U.S. ally which was led for more than 20 years by Ferdinand Marcos, offered thanks for the role Congress played in changing U.S. policy toward her country.

At the same time, Aquino, widow of the assassinated Benigno Aquino, an opposition leader in the last years of Marcos, appealed for help to build "a new home for democracy, another haven for the oppressed."

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., said afterwards, "That's the finest speech I've heard in my 34 years in Congress." Members of the House and Senate, many wearing yellow roses symbolizing the color Aquino chose for her presidential campaign, crowded the chamber. Scores of Filipino Americans were in the gallery crowd.

Within hours of her speech, the House passed 203-197 a bill giving the Philippines a \$200 million cash infusion to help deal with economic distress. The measure was sent to the Senate, where prospects for approval were uncertain.

Some opponents suggested the money be spent instead on improving U.S. military facilities at Subic Bay Naval Station and Clark Air Base.

Aquino underscored her policy of negotiating with the Communist New People's Army guerrilla movement but said, "I will not stand by and allow an insurgent leadership to spurn our offer of peace and kill our young soldiers and threaten our new freedom."

"We face a communist insurgency that feeds on economic deterioration, even as we carry a great share of the free world defenses in the Pacific," she said in her only reference to U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

Invoking the name of President Abraham Lincoln, Aquino said, "I understand that force may be necessary before mercy. Like Lincoln, I don't relish it, yet I will do whatever it takes to defend the integrity and freedom of my country."

Aquino is on a nine-day official visit to the country where she lived for 10 years, first as a student and later in exile until her husband was assassinated on his return to Manila. She is to address the United Nations in New York on Monday.

Terrorist acts continue

French military attache assassinated

BEIRUT, Lebanon — A lone assassin using a silenced pistol killed the French military attache outside the French Embassy Thursday. It was the latest of a series of terrorist attacks on French targets here and in Paris.

Anonymous telephone callers in Lebanon and France claimed responsibility for the assassination in the name of two obscure groups and threatened further blows. One demanded release of an alleged terrorist jailed in France.

Police said Col. Christian Goutierre, 60, had parked his car near the French Embassy in Christian east Beirut at 8:30 a.m. and was about to get out when the gunman approached him.

They said the attacker shot Goutierre three times in the head with a silenced pistol and escaped in a waiting green BMW. Police described the gunman as a tall, dark-complexioned man wearing a white shirt and beige trousers and believed to be in his late 20s.

Goutierre had been stationed in Beirut since October 1984.

France, like most Western countries, moved its embassy to Christian east Beirut from the Moslem western sector two years ago because of frequent kidnappings and bombings.

Switzerland and Greece are the only Western countries that still have embassies in west Beirut.

The first claim of responsibility came from an anonymous telephone caller to a Western news agency in Beirut. He said the assassination was carried out on behalf of the Revenge and Justice Front, previously unknown.

"Let (French Prime Minister Jacques) Chirac know our next blow will be more crippling," said the caller, who did not say what the group wanted.

Later, a caller to a Western news agency office in Paris claimed the attache had been killed by Anti-Imperialist International Brigades "revolutionaries."

That group name was used previously in rocket and bombing attacks last May on the U.S., Japanese and Canadian embassies in Indonesia.

The second caller threatened all French diplomats, French President Francois Mitterrand and Chirac, and demanded release of three comrades jailed in France, including George Ibrahim Abdallah, reputed leader of the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Factions. Abdallah, a Christian from northern Lebanon, is serving a four-year sentence for possessing illegal weapons and false documents.

Rehnquist looks forward to new appointment; seeks to set aside promotion controversy

WASHINGTON — William H. Rehnquist, saying he is looking forward to his new job as chief justice, sought

Thursday to set aside the bitter controversy sparked by his promotion.

"I'm not going to address myself to the past. I'm glad the confirmation process has finally run its course," Rehnquist told reporters the morning after his 65-33 victory in the Senate. "I'm looking forward to the future and trying to be a good chief justice."

Antonin Scalia, the federal appeals court judge who won unanimous Senate approval to become the newest Supreme Court justice, refused comment Thursday. His secretary said he would not respond to press inquiries.

Both men are to be sworn in officially on Sept. 26, just three days before the Supreme Court begins a weeklong conference to prepare for the start of its 1986-87 term on Oct. 6.

While Scalia's nomination sailed through the Senate on its way to 98-0 approval, Rehnquist's was subjected to prolonged scrutiny. Democrats assaulted his integrity and commitment to equal justice.

He drew the most negative votes in history of any Supreme Court nominee to win confirmation.

Asked to compare this confirmation process to that of 1971, when he was named to the high court, Rehnquist said, "I know it was longer this time. Being longer, it was probably more arduous."

Rehnquist, 61, has been the court's most politically conservative member but Scalia, 50, generally is regarded as just as fervent a conservative.

Both men win high marks from those who know them best for their conviviality and intellect.

But whether President Reagan's elevation of Rehnquist and appointment of Scalia will have any substantive

effect on the Supreme Court's decision-making is far from clear.

Rehnquist is replacing retiring chief Justice Warren E. Burger, generally considered to be among the court's most conservative members.

Asked if he foresees any changes in life at the Supreme Court, Rehnquist said, "I believe you don't fix anything that's not broken. As far as I know, there's nothing broken."

Reagan was quoted by senate Majority Leader Bob Dole as calling Rehnquist's opponents "a lynch mob," and in a statement released by the White House the president added: "The attacks came from those whose ideology runs contrary to his profound and unshakable belief in the proper constitutional role of the judiciary."

Reagan said he has "no doubt William Rehnquist will prove to be a chief justice of historic stature."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said Democrats had "done everything they can to destroy this man's reputation" but had failed. He said the Democrats had conducted "a Rehnquistian" marked by "distortions and misrepresentations."

But Democrats noted that Scalia and Reagan's only other Supreme Court nominee, Sandra Day O'Connor in 1981, won unanimous confirmation.

As chief justice, Rehnquist will serve as the nation's top judge and the "first among equals" in the Supreme Court. When voting in the majority, he will control who writes the court's opinions.

The chief justice also heads the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policy-making body for all federal courts. He chairs the board of the Federal Judicial Center, involved in the training of federal judges.

In Brief

DWI's rise for Nebraska women

LINCOLN — The number of women arrested for drunken driving in Nebraska almost doubled from 1980 to 1985 and increased more than 800 percent since 1971, according to Nebraska Crime Commission statistics.

There were 830 women arrested in Nebraska for driving while under the influence of alcohol in 1980, compared to 1,560 in 1985, the statistics said. In 1971, 185 women were arrested for DWI in the state.

Although tougher laws and increased social pressures against drunken driving also have resulted in more arrests of men for DWI the percentage of women among the total arrested has risen steadily.

The 185 women arrested for drunken driving in 1971 accounted for 5.9 percent of Nebraska's 3,089 DWI arrests, the statistics said. The 1,560 women arrested last year represented almost 14 percent of all DWI arrests in the state.

While the number of men arrested for DWI from 1971 to 1985 also increased, the percentage of men among all DWI arrests declined from 94 percent in 1971 to 86 percent in 1985, the commission said.

MX test successful

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — An unarmed MX missile made a successful test flight of more than 4,100 miles Thursday, hitting targets in the Pacific Ocean near Kwajalein Atoll, the Air Force said.

The missile blasted off from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 5:30 a.m. and its six "unarmed re-entry vehicles" splashed into the sea in the Pacific Missile Test range about 30 minutes later, said Maj. Barry Glickman.

In time of war, the re-entry vehicles would carry nuclear warheads. The MX, dubbed the "Peacekeeper" by President Reagan, is the nation's latest intercontinental ballistic missile, designed to deliver several independently targeted bombs to locations hundreds of miles apart.

The Air Force expects to have 10 of the missiles installed in underground silos at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming by the end of the year, Glickman said. Congress has authorized deployment of 50 of the missiles.

Today's launch was the 14th in a series of 20 test flights.

Gorbachev calls Daniloff a spy

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, in his first public comment on the case of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff, said Thursday the newsman is a spy. He suggested the case is being exploited in the United States to try and spoil superpower relations.

Gorbachev referred to Daniloff, the Moscow correspondent for U.S. News & World Report magazine, as "the spy who was caught red-handed" and said Americans were trying to use it "to spoil relations . . . and to fan up hatred."

National Guard jets collide

WELLS, N.Y. — Two National Guard jets carrying a single person each collided and crashed Wednesday in the Adirondack Mountains, killing one pilot and injuring the other, officials said.

The twin-engine A-10 jets, used in combat to give ground troops air support, crashed at 2:45 p.m. about 50 miles northwest of Albany, Massachusetts Air National Guard Major Richard Whittaker said from Westfield, Mass.

One of the pilots walked away from the crash site and was taken to a hospital by emergency workers, said Hamilton County Sheriff Douglas Parker.

The pilot of the other was killed, said Whittaker. He said the man's identity was being withheld while family was notified.

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