

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Shiites free American Kidnappers hint more releases possible

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shiite Moslem kidnappers freed American hospital administrator David Jacobsen on Sunday after holding him for 17 months and said recent U.S. moves might lead to release of other American captives in Lebanon.

Jacobsen, 55, of Huntington Beach, Calif., was turned over to U.S. officials on a street in Moslem west Beirut. A U.S. Embassy official, who insisted on anonymity, said Jacobsen

was in good health and was at the embassy compound in Christian east Beirut.

Islamic Jihad, the underground extremist group that held Jacobsen, still holds two other Americans, journalist Terry A. Anderson and educator Thomas Sutherland. It said last year that it killed U.S. diplomat William Buckley, but no body was found.

Three other Americans were kid-

napped — Frank Herbert Reed, Joseph James Cicippio and Edward Austin Tracy — and other groups claimed to be holding them. Christian radio stations and television reported over the previous two days that six kidnapped Americans and two of eight French hostages would

Jacobsen was director of the American University Hospital in west Beirut when he was kidnapped off the street by six men on May 18, 1985.

## Church envoy re-emerges from hiding Negotiator meets free hostage

LARNACA, Cyprus — Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, resuming a shuttle to free foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon, re-emerged Sunday after dropping out of sight for two days.

Waite, 47, boarded a U.S. Blackhawk helicopter at the Larnaca airport Sunday and flew to Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, where he met with freed American hostage David

Jacobsen. He told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that he and Jacobsen talked "for some hours," but did not disclose details of their conversation or where they met.

A U.S. Embassy official in Beirut, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Jacobsen was in the embassy compound. "Our main hope now is to secure the rapid release of U.S.

and other hostages," Waite said, without elaboration.

Waite, a church layman who has worked for more than a year to free Americans and others held captive in Lebanon, flew to Larnaca Friday night, but then dropped out of sight until Sunday. Conflicting accounts of his whereabouts emerged in the interim, including that he had been in Damascus, Syria.

## In Brief

### Survey: Nebraskans oppose LB662

LINCOLN — Forty-five percent of the Nebraskans questioned in a newspaper poll last week said they were opposed to a mandatory school consolidation and finance law.

Thirty-five percent of those surveyed in the Sunday Journal-Star poll said they supported LB662, which will be on the ballot Tuesday as Referendum 400. Twenty percent in the poll said they were undecided.

The survey of 449 registered voters was conducted last Sunday through Wednesday by Research Associates of Lincoln.

LB662 was passed in 1985, but opponents collected enough petition signatures to suspend its operation pending the outcome of the referendum vote. If a majority votes against the bill on Tuesday, the legislation would be repealed.

The bill would require elementary-only districts to consolidate with districts that have high schools. It would also raise the state sales tax rate by one cent.

### Pesticide use greatest in Nebraska

LINCOLN — Nebraska farmers use four times more pesticides than farmers in other states, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln official said.

Nebraska farmers apply more than 30 million pounds of pesticides per year, said Roger Gold, head of UNL's entomology department.

One reason for the large amount of pesticide use is that the state has so much cropland, Gold said. Nebraska has about 17 million acres in major crops and another 17 million acres in rangeland and pasture, he said.

Gold was one of three UNL professors who addressed the Nebraska Groundwater Foundation's 1986 symposium on Friday.

Gold said the university is involved in a five-year study of the impact of chemigation on Nebraska's groundwater. The study is being funded by a \$1 million grant from the Burlington Northern Foundation.

## New radar system capable of detecting Stealth bomber

WASHINGTON — The super-secret Stealth bomber, for all its vaunted ability to evade radar detection, can be spotted by at least one type of sophisticated radar now entering the U.S. arsenal, officials say.

The Pentagon has for years advertised the capabilities of the new radar — the Over-The-Horizon-Backscatter or OTH-B — in the course of winning congressional approval to ring the U.S. coast with an OTH-B network to detect airplanes and cruise missiles.

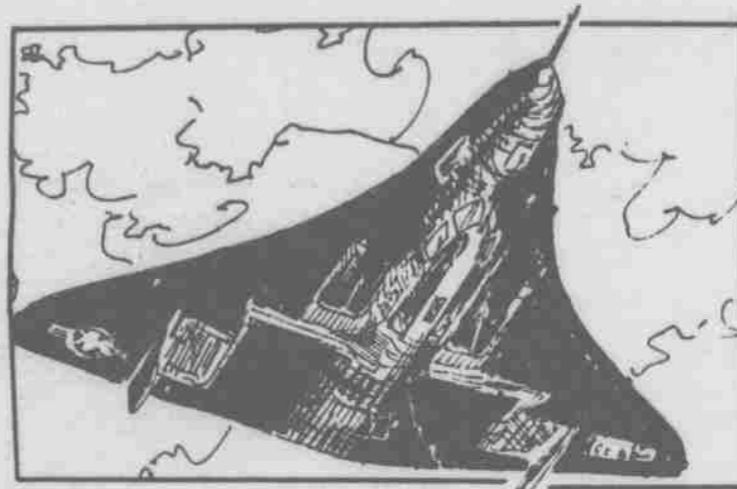
Indeed, the Air Force disclosed with some fanfare last month that it had used its first OTH-B radar unit to track President Reagan's Air Force One all the way to Iceland for his recent summit meeting.

The ability of an OTH-B system to detect Stealth aircraft, however, is one capability about which the Pentagon and Air Force have remained quiet.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said they were willing to discuss the matter because while an OTH-B system can detect Stealth aircraft, such detection poses no threat because of the way the bombers would be used.

Since the Pentagon does not envision using its bombers for surprise first-strike raids, it is not concerned about OTH-B detection.

"What Stealth is intended to do is to fix it so that an aircraft can deliver its ordnance to a target within the enemy territory. Now, it's not designed to keep the other guy from knowing that the war has started. What you want to do is counter the things that are going to shoot at you and kill you," said one ranking defense official.



One of the limitations of the OTH-B system is that it cannot provide any radar coverage within 500 nautical miles of the transmitter. A Stealth bomber, then, would disappear off the scope as it approached a coastline, allowing a change in course or other evasive tactics.

"Nonetheless, it's true a functioning OTH-B system could detect these planes at range and at least attempt to scramble fighters to find them," added one official. "We think Stealth could get through to perform its mission."

Stealth is a variety of technologies, combined toward the goal of reducing an airplane's "visibility" to radar. A Stealth plane avoids sharp angles; uses special radio-energy absorbing materials, and attempts to blend engines into the fuselage.

## Experts: European weapons cuts would give Soviets edge over NATO

WASHINGTON — Eliminating all nuclear weapons without building up NATO forces would give the Soviet Union an overwhelming edge in Europe and the ability to conquer that continent quickly, say congressional, Pentagon and West European experts.

"We will need a massive build-up in conventional weapons if we have no nuclear deterrent," said the author of a congressional study on the impact of arms control proposals advanced at the stalemated Iceland summit.

The report, which has not been released, concludes that within two weeks of mobilization, Soviet-led Warsaw Pact forces would have a 2-to-1 edge in firepower over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, counting troops, planes, tanks and personnel carriers.

NATO could defend Europe even if the Warsaw Pact held a 1-to-1 edge, the report says, but West European countries over the years have balked at U.S. calls to increase the size of their forces.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev says President Reagan agreed to the total elimination of all nuclear weapons at the Iceland meeting, and initial statements by administration spokesmen concurred.

But the White House now says that Reagan had in mind a deal that would have maintained the nuclear deterrent in Europe, and that appears to be the only formulation acceptable to U.S. and NATO military officials.

Pentagon spokesmen, asked to describe how eliminating all nuclear weapons would affect the balance of power in Europe, said they were on White House orders not to comment.

They are on record, however, as saying that the Soviet Union enjoys a significant edge in non-nuclear forces in Europe and that without the nuclear threat, the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organization probably could not withstand Soviet attack.

European leaders have voiced concern over some of the proposals that the White House says Reagan agreed to in Iceland, particularly elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Reagan and Gorbachev hammered out a deal whereby all intermediate missiles would be taken from Europe, the Soviet Union could keep 100 warheads aboard medium-range missiles in Asia and the United States could retain the same number in America.

## Hasenfus denies link to CIA

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Captured American mercenary Eugene Hasenfus told a revolutionary tribunal Sunday he had no direct knowledge of CIA links to an air operation dropping weapons and other supplies to U.S.-backed rebels.

Hasenfus acknowledged he had written and signed a four-page document that the prosecution has described as a confession to charges that he was a part of the operation.

However, he took exception to a section of the document dealing with alleged Central Intelligence Agency involvement in his activities.

"I do not have the direct knowledge to definitely, personally know that," he said through an interpreter to the three-member People's Tribunal trying him on a charge of terrorism.

Hasenfus, 45, of Marinette, Wis., was the only survivor of a C-123 cargo plane shot down over southern Nicaragua on Oct. 5 while on what he has publicly described as a rebel resupply mission.

Hasenfus' remarks on Sunday conflicted with earlier statements to reporters.

He told reporters after his capture that two nationalized Cuban Americans, Max Gomez and Ramon Medina, worked for the CIA and assisted about two dozen other people in the operation out of Ilopango air base in San Salvador.

He told reporters at the time that Gomez, also known as Felix Rodriguez, spoke of ties to Vice President George Bush. Bush's office has confirmed he did know Rodriguez, but said the vice president had no connection with operations to supply the Contra rebels.

The United States maintains that Nicaragua has thousands of Cuban military advisers and sophisticated radar and radio tracking systems supplied by the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

Nicaragua does not deny receiving Soviet bloc aid. Most of the Cuban advisers, it says, do medical, educational and other civilian work.

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