

News Digest By The Associated Press

In Brief

Titan rocket carries secret payload into orbit

WASHINGTON: The Air Force late Wednesday successfully launched a Titan 3B booster carrying a classified payload from its launch center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, the service said today.

The launch, which occurred at 10:40 p.m. PST, placed the classified payload into a polar orbit around the earth.

The Air Force declined to discuss the nature of the payload, although one official who requested anonymity said it was not a weather satellite. That would suggest the payload might have been some type of electronic listening satellite.

The late-night California launch was the first involving any type of Titan booster since the Air Force lost two Titans in 1985 and 1986 and grounded the fleet. The booster launched Wednesday was also the last of the Titan 3B boosters in the Air Force inventory.

Bee attack in hospital kills one, injures 72

PRETORIA, South Africa — Swarms of bees forced from their hives inside a hospital wall attacked patients, killing a partially paralyzed man and stinging more than 70 people, authorities said Thursday.

The attack occurred Wednesday at the outpatient clinic of Pretoria's H.F. Verwoerd Hospital, a whites-only facility, when firemen were trying to disperse the bees with insecticide.

The man killed by the bees, Jurgens Barnard, 48, was receiving treatment for a partially paralyzed leg, hospital officials said. Two women stung in the attack were admitted to the hospital and listed in satisfactory condition.

Reagan proposes health insurance plan for elderly

WASHINGTON — President Reagan proposed Thursday that Congress protect 30 million elderly Americans "from the worst fear of old age" by enacting insurance covering the devastating costs of catastrophic illness.

Overruling conservative opposition, Reagan recommended that the government cover all hospital and doctor expenses under Medicare after a patient had paid \$2,000 out of his own pocket. The extra coverage would add \$4.92 a month — \$59 annually — to Medicare recipients' \$17.90 monthly "Part B" premium.

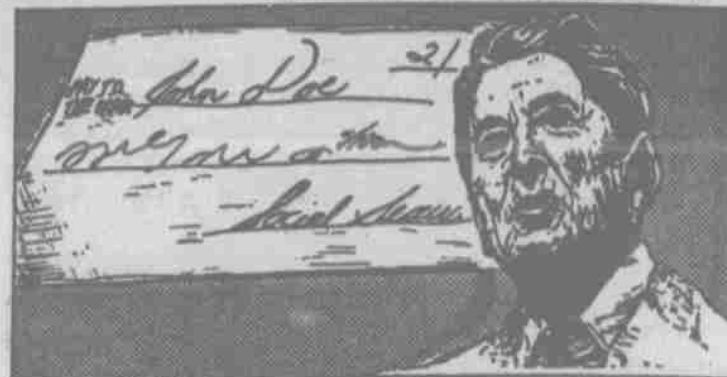
The program, the result of more than a year's debate within the administration, would not cover long-term nursing home care or expense such as prescription drugs and eye or dental care.

Reagan's announcement provided momentum for an issue that already has widespread backing on Capitol Hill.

"I think there is a very good chance of legislation," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "There will be a lively debate but I expect legislation to pass, and I think the Reagan plan will be the basis for that legislation."

Led by Attorney General Edwin Meese and the budget director, James Miller, conservatives had fought against the plan as it was being developed, arguing that it relied too much on the government and not enough on the health industry.

"The proposal I'm announcing today is a giant step



forward in helping those who before now would have had to make a choice between financial ruin and death," Reagan said in a speech to junior high school students.

"With the protection that this plan would provide, senior citizens will now be safe from the worst fear of old age — having their life savings taken away to pay the costs for an acute care due to a catastrophic illness."

Of the 30 million older Americans covered by Medicare, only 1.4 million people have medical expenses costing more than \$2,000 a year, Bowen said.

Under the current Medicare hospital insurance program, which is financed by Social Security tax deductions, only the second through 60th days of a hospital stay are covered.

The first day — as well as anything beyond 60 days a year — must be paid by the patient or private insurance.

Israeli jets, Shiites attack Palestinian camps

BEURIT, Lebanon — Israeli jets and Shiite Moslem militiamen attacked Palestinian guerrillas at refugee camps Thursday and officials haggled over how to get food into the shantytowns, which have been cut off for three months.

Police said three people were killed and 12 wounded in the attacks on Palestinian camps in Beirut and south Lebanon.

A dozen Israeli fighter-bombers were involved in the raid on two buildings used by the mainstream Fatah guerrilla faction near the ancient southern port of Sidon, police reported. Fatah is led by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Casualties from the Israeli bombing at dawn on the outskirts of the Mieh Mieh camp were given as one civilian killed and three people wounded, including two guerrillas.

There is no known coordination between the Israelis and the Shiite militia Amal, which is attacking the Palestinians on the ground, but they have the common aim of keeping the PLO from regaining the Lebanese base it lost in Israel's 1982 invasion.

The bombing raid near Sidon was the fifth Israeli air strike on Palestinian targets in Lebanon this year.

Shiite militiamen have surrounded the Beirut camps and the Rashidiyeh camp at Tyre in the south throughout the battle, cutting them off from supplies of food and medicine to replenish dwindling stockpiles.

Nazi-hunting group says 74 war criminals in U.S.

WASHINGTON — A Nazi-hunting group said Thursday it supplied the Justice Department with names of 74 suspected war criminals who came to the United States following World War II after serving in military units that killed tens of thousands of Jews in Eastern Europe.

Lawyers for the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles said they assembled from a variety of sources, including archives in the Soviet Union, the names of the former Lithuanian and Latvian soldiers assigned to units under the control of the Nazi SS.

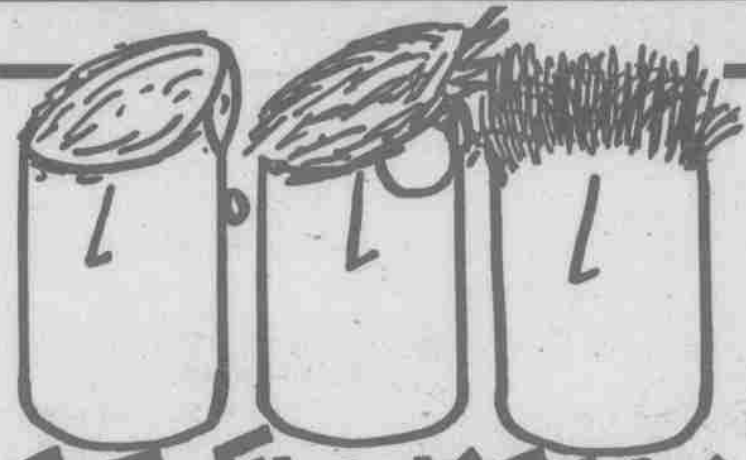
The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations will review the names and some of them may already be the subject of OSI inquiries, said Neal Sher, the office's director.

Sher said there will be a thorough review of whatever new leads are contained in the group's list of names. This could lead to in-depth investigations and denaturalization and deportation proceedings, Sher said.

OSI has 600 suspected Nazi war criminals under investigation and 13 have been deported or have left the United States due to its efforts.

The 74 on the Wiesenthal Center list are Lithuanians and Latvians who belonged to units under the control of the German SS and which participated in the systematic extermination of civilians, said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Wiesenthal Center. The main targets of the military units were the Jewish populations of Latvia and Lithuania, which now are part of the Soviet Union.

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