

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Terrorism shakedown in Paris Police arrest France's most wanted terror suspects

PARIS — Police swept onto an isolated farm near Orleans and without firing a shot, arrested four of France's most wanted terrorist suspects, the Interior Ministry said Sunday.

Two of the four were sought in the assassination three months ago of Georges Besse, president of the state-run Renault automakers.

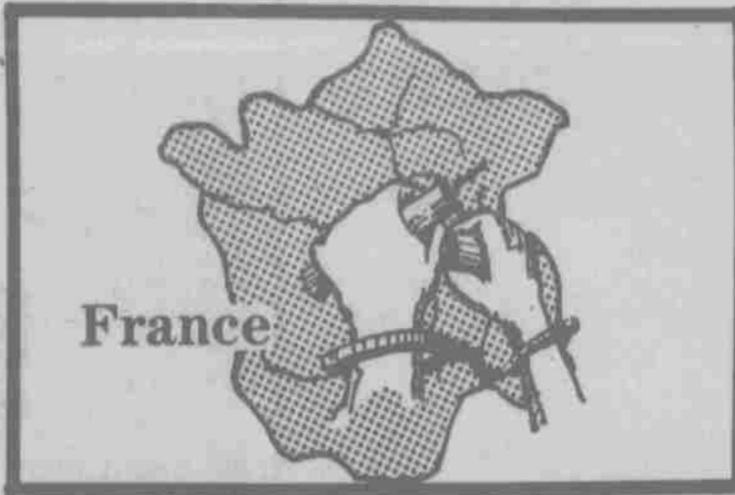
Police also seized a stockpile of arms, explosives, money and incriminating documents at the farm in north-central France, the ministry said.

Arrested in what President Francois Mitterrand called "a remarkable success," were Jean-Marc Rouillan, 34; his companion, Nathalie Menigon, 29; Joelle Aubron, 27; and Georges Cipriani, 35.

All four — two men and two women — are considered leaders of the extreme left terrorist group Direct Action. Police said that with the arrests Saturday night, all top leaders of the terrorist group had been caught.

Direct Action has been implicated in about 60 attacks since its founding in 1979, the last being the Nov. 27 shooting of Besse. The group is believed to have links with other terrorist groups in West Germany, Belgium and Italy.

The raid was carried out at 8:55 p.m. Saturday by dozens of agents from the elite RAID police unit, which stands for Research, Assistance, Intervention, Dissuasion. The four suspects were armed, but no shots were fired, police said. The four suspects were armed, but no shots were fired,



France

Officers had staked out the farm, just outside Vitry-aux-Loges village about 12 miles from Orleans, acting on information from police intelligence.

Police said documents were seized which dealt with the Besse killing, claimed earlier by Direct Action. Witnesses said two women shot Besse in front of his Paris home. Two days later, wanted posters for Aubron and Menigon went up all over France.

One room in the farmhouse had been prepared for holding a hostage, police said, and lists were found of people scheduled for kidnapping or killing.

Filipinos celebrate revolution anniversary

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos began celebrating the first anniversary of their "People Power" revolution Sunday with appeals to recapture the unity and sacrifice that drove Ferdinand E. Marcos from power.

Sunday marked the anniversary of the military mutiny that began the revolt. Marcos fled the country three days later, after Cardinal Jaime L. Sin's appeals brought tens of thousands of civilians into the streets to join the revolution.

Celebrations will go on for four days.

"We need reconciliation, we need the political will to construct our tomorrow together," he said in a statement. "We must, for instance, be able to set aside corruption, irresponsibility and the wastefulness of incompetence."

Juan Ponce Enrile called for a rekindling of the spirit of the rebellion to "strengthen the foundation



of unity."

Armed forces chief Gen. Fidel Ramos laid a wreath on the tomb of an unknown soldier three hours before the Mass. Last November, Ramos was credited with blocking a coup attempt allegedly planned by officers close to Enrile.

Aquino, meanwhile, visited a museum, attended parties for foreign correspondents who covered the February revolt and visited a university fraternity to which her late husband belonged.

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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Contragate panel expected to question former North secretary

WASHINGTON — Congressional investigators will question the former personal secretary to Lt. Col. Oliver North who reportedly helped North destroy White House records crucial to the Iran-Contra probe, a member of the Senate committee examining the affair said Sunday.

Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, a member of the Senate select committee investigating the secret sales of U.S. arms in Iran, said his panel had planned to interview secretary Fawn Hall even before The Washington Post reported Sunday that she had helped North shred documents.

Hall, North's former secretary at the National Security Council, has been granted immunity from prosecution by independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh and has told investigators that she helped North destroy documents and internal messages in November, the

Post said.

The paper quoted a government source as saying that the statements from Hall and other NSC aides, as well as the retrieval of multiple computer communication have established "a clear case of obstruction of justice."

Repeated efforts to reach Hall were unsuccessful, and her attorney, Plato Cacheris, was out of town.

"The congressional investigating committees are quite interested in talking to her and will do so at some point," a source close to the congressional investigation told The Associated Press.

A White House source said Hall now works in the Defense Department.

The Tower board, headed by former Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, which has been investigating the affair, is scheduled to submit its report on Thursday to Reagan.

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In Brief

Mainers debate Lobster plates

AUGUSTA, Maine — Some Mainers aren't happy with the state's plan to introduce new white license plates bearing a red silhouette of a lobster. The change in the design of the plates, to take effect in July, was unanimously approved by lawmakers last year.

State Rep. Mary H. MacBride, from potato-growing northern Maine, said she's sponsoring a bill to provide optional plates without the lobster.

Many Mainers resent having to promote a specifically coastal product, especially one they cannot afford, she said.

Joe Eragitano, the Saco schoolteacher whose students spearheaded the campaign for the lobster plates, argued that the lobster is not a promotion, but a symbol of the state.

Health official: Condom giveaway fights AIDS

NEW YORK — The city Health Department will give away an additional 1 million condoms in the coming year to help fight AIDS, a department spokesman said Thursday.

He did not have figures on the number of condoms distributed in the past.

The condoms have been dispensed at health clinics, family planning clinics and social service organizations where there are large numbers of intravenous drug users, Martin McGinley said.

Hand grenade attack injures 17 near Jerusalem's Old City

JERUSALEM — A hand grenade attack wounded 18 Israeli border guards and five Palestinian by-standers Sunday in a crowded street outside the Old City of Jerusalem and sent hundreds of foreign tourists and shoppers running for cover. Four Palestinian guerilla groups claimed responsibility.

Dozens of green-uniformed border patrol guards immediately converged on the area of stone-paved streets near the Damascus Gate and began searches. They detained more than 70 Arabs at gunpoint.

The grenade exploded 50 yards from

the gate, one of the seven entrances to the ancient walled city. Police said two victims were in serious condition.

Jerusalem police spokesman Rafi Levy said the grenade apparently was thrown at a border guard police patrol as the paramilitary guards changed shifts at 2:15 p.m. Israel Radio said the grenade was Soviet-made.

It was the worst attack in Jerusalem since Oct. 15, when terrorist hand grenades killed one person and wounded 69 people at the Wailing Wall, known formally as the Western Wall, the holiest site in Judaism.

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