

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Ship capsizes near Belgium Dozens die, still missing in English Channel accident

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium — Engineers tried Sunday to right a capsized British ferry in an effort to retrieve the bodies of 82 people believed trapped in the half-submerged vessel off the Belgian coast.

Relatives of passengers, meanwhile, went to a makeshift morgue in a basketball court to identify the 53 bodies recovered so far. Of the 543 passengers and crew, 408 survived.

The Herald of Free Enterprise fell on its port side outside this port about 15 minutes after departing Friday night for Dover, England.

On Sunday, two salvage ships carrying giant cranes moved in on the stricken vessel. The unrecovered corpses were presumed trapped under heavy debris or in sections of the boat inaccessible to divers.

The operation was suspended at nightfall, after about three hours.

Officials said Sunday it was extremely unlikely anyone was still alive inside the vessel and that it was too dangerous for divers to try to retrieve bodies before the ferry was righted.

"We cannot get more bodies out of the vessel without killing somebody," said Lt. Stephen Wild, a British Royal Navy diver.

"The prime concern is to get the ship upright," said Paul Ellis, a



spokesman for the ferry's owners, Townsend Thoresen. "It will be a matter of weeks, rather than days."

Belgium and Britain have launched inquiries into the cause of the sinking.

"We have accepted that it is something to do with the (bow) doors," said a company spokesman in Dover, Paul Ovington. "That is how the water rushed in because there is no other hole in the ship."

Unofficial speculation focused on the possibility that the huge bow doors through which cars and trucks are loaded onto the ferry were left

open after departure. Shipping officials in Zeebrugge have said the doors which normally are above the waterline are sometimes left open to clear the area of exhaust fumes.

Officials said 22 bodies were identified, but would not release names or nationalities.

Flags were lowered to half-staff in Zeebrugge and near city hall.

The captain of the ship, David Lewry, 46, was in intensive care with a punctured lung after falling the width of the ship when it tipped over, his lawyer, Graham Bridge, told reporters.

Israeli ministers demand inquiry in Pollard spy case

JERUSALEM — Three Cabinet ministers on Sunday demanded an official probe into the Pollard spy scandal, which one minister said has caused "unprecedented damage" to U.S.-Israeli ties.

But the government blocked public discussion by referring the debate to a secret Cabinet committee.

The Cabinet has no right to hide information from the government," said Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein, one of three ministers who asked for an inquiry at the weekly Cabinet session.

Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former U.S. Navy analyst, was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison for selling classified U.S. military information to Israel.

Rubinstein told reporters after the two-hour meeting: "As a member of government, I want to know, not security secrets, but about the responsibility for this totally unjustified, totally irresponsibly act that caused unprecedented damage to our relations with the United States and also to American Jewry."

Israeli leaders have said the decision came from lower echelons in the defense ministry. But Pollard alleged in a presentencing document that the "highest echelons" in Israel's government were aware of his mission, and new questions arose last week after his alleged recruiter was promoted.

Cabinet Secretary Eliakim Rubinstein said the 25-member Cabinet voted to

'The Cabinet has no right to hide information from the government'

— Rubinstein

'... this matter requires far more than just a discussion, it requires a full investigation of what happened.'

— Egan

hold the debate within a 10-member forum of senior ministers who meet behind closed doors. He said no date was set for the meeting, but the committee's next regular session is scheduled for Wednesday.

Prominent legislator Abba Eban criticized the Cabinet decision, saying "this matter requires far more than just a discussion, it requires a full investigation of what happened."

Eban, who chairs the legislature's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin would brief the panel's subcommittee on intelligence this week on the affair.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would brief the panel's subcommittee on intelligence this week on the affair.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Rabin all oppose further inquiry into the affair, the Israeli media reported.

PTL's Tammy Bakker being treated for drug dependency

FORT MILL, S.C. — Christian television personality Tammy Faye Bakker, who has been absent from her daily broadcast for two months, is being treated for drug dependency, the PTL ministry disclosed Friday.

Mrs. Bakker and her evangelist husband, Jim, announced recently that she

could be away from the show for up to a year.

He blamed the problem on an over-the-counter allergy medicine his wife has been taking since their daughter was born 17 years ago and on tranquilizers doctors prescribed to reduce nervousness the medication caused.

Previously, PTL had said only that Mrs. Bakker was recovering from pneumonia complications from medicine she took after getting sick recently.

Mrs. Bakker was hospitalized in January at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., PTL said.

Mrs. Bakker said that megadoses of over-the-counter medicine had caused her to go days without sleeping and to suffer hallucinations.

At one point, she said, she tried to leave a private plane while it was in the air because she saw bugs crawling on the floor and people on the wing.

Tower panel, Meese adviser reach different conclusions

WASHINGTON — An in-house adviser to Attorney General Edwin Meese, in an opinion issued shortly after disclosure of the U.S. arms sales to Iran, said the White House did not violate congressional reporting requirements and that an oral go-ahead from President Reagan was sufficient for one of the shipments.

The legal opinions by Assistant Attorney General Charles J. Cooper, which back the Reagan administration's handling of the arms sales, are sharply at odds with the conclusions reached by the Tower commission.

One legal opinion by Cooper concludes there was no violation of a requirement under the National Security Act for timely notification of Congress when the administration failed to tell key congressmen about the arms sales.

The Tower report concluded that notification appears to be a requirement. The report says Congress should have

been notified shortly after Reagan's Jan. 17, 1986, written authorization for the arms sales failed to gain the expected release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

The administration never did notify Congress, and the deals with Iran didn't become public until last November, about 15 months after the shipments began.

A second opinion by Cooper concludes that it was sufficient legally for Reagan to have given oral authorization for one of the arms shipments that took place in November 1985 involving the CIA.

The Tower panel said it doubted an oral go-ahead was sufficient.

The disagreement reflects a longstanding division between Congress and the administration about proper notification.

Congress to battle over Contra funds

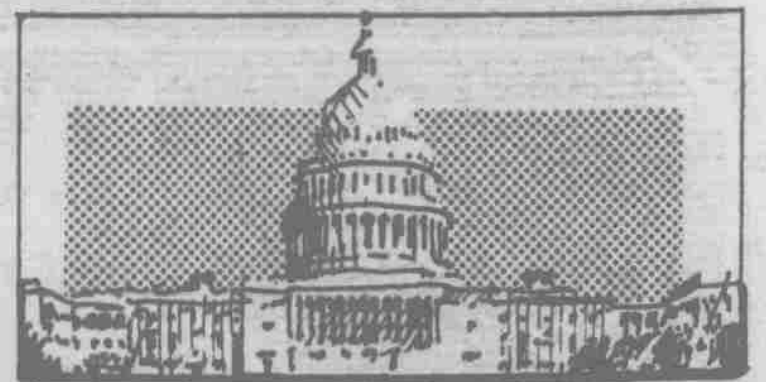
WASHINGTON — Congress is facing its first battle of the year over aid to Nicaragua's Contra rebels, a fight that also will provide a measure of how well President Reagan has regained his political footing on Capitol Hill.

At stake this week is the final, \$40 million installment of the \$100 million aid package for the anti-Sandinista fighters that Congress passed last year.

Even if the Democrat-controlled House and Senate vote to block the \$40 million payment, a Reagan veto could still ensure that the Contras get the funds. But lawmakers on both sides of the emotional issue are looking beyond this skirmish to the larger issue of future U.S. policy in Central America.

When Reagan formally requested the final \$40 million last week, he also certified to Congress that there was no reasonable chance for a near-term diplomatic settlement of the region's problems without the military aid to the rebels. Democrats attacked that finding.

The House will vote Wednesday on a Democratic proposal to place a six-month moratorium on any aid to the Contras, including the \$40 million, while the administration prepares



an accounting of where the past aid has gone.

When the matter goes to the Senate, perhaps as early as Thursday, the moratorium proposal probably will be bypassed for procedural reasons in favor of a simple resolution of disapproval of the \$40 million aid installment.

Even if Democrats can achieve a majority, they admit they cannot muster the two-thirds vote needed to override a certain presidential veto.

In Brief

Kin of Constitution's signers sought

PHILADELPHIA — Planners for the U.S. Constitution's bicentennial celebration have located descendants of 27 of the 39 signers of the document, the group announced.

We The People 200 Inc. said last week it had found 500 people descended from the original signers of the Constitution in the last three months.

But the group has yet to find descendants of 12 signers including James Madison of Virginia.

HBO: Tyson to defend titles in May

LOS ANGELES — Mike Tyson will defend his world heavyweight boxing title against a yet-to-be-named challenger on HBO television in May.

Tyson, who has won the title twice, will defend it against a challenger who will be named in the next few weeks.

Tyson's next fight will be on HBO television on May 1, 1987.

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