

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Japanese emissary asks Reagan to lift semiconductor sanctions

WASHINGTON — A high-level Japanese emissary asked President Reagan on Tuesday to lift trade sanctions against Japan, but Reagan's chief spokesman said action is unlikely before Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit next week.

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe said that during a 20-minute meeting with the president, he "mentioned the semiconductor sanctions issue and emphasized that this measure should be lifted as quickly as possible."

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, however, said, "It seems unlikely to us that we will be able to make a change in the sanctions before the prime minister's visit."

Nakasone is due in Washington on April 29 and 30 for meetings with the president and other officials and a state dinner. Abe said he handed Reagan a personal letter from the prime minister.

Reagan and Nakasone have become friends in recent years, but recent U.S. trade action has put a strain on the relationship. The administration last Friday imposed a 100 percent tariff on some Japanese-manufactured lap-top and desk-top computers, some television sets with 18-to-20-inch screens and certain powered hand tools.

Reagan said he was trying "to enforce the principles of free and fair trade."

The U.S. government accused the Japanese of violating an agreement to refrain from selling semiconductors in third countries at prices below cost — a practice called "dumping" — and to open its markets wider to the pur-

chase of U.S.-made semiconductors, also known as computer chips.

Abe told reporters that during his visit with Reagan, "The president said . . . that he would like to discuss with the prime minister the broadly based relationship between Japan and the United States, not just trade but the entire breadth of our bilateral relationship."

On the trade issue, Abe said, "it is Japan's responsibility to discharge what is expected of it and I outlined the measure I have formulated before coming to Washington."

He said these were expanded international contributions by Japan, expansion of manufactured and other imports and measures dealing with "individual trade issues."

"I also emphasized that we should approach U.S.-Japan trade issues, not from the confrontation approach, but we should try to solve them through amicable talks," Abe said.

Fitzwater told reporters, "I would say that overall our position is that we have tried to take a deliberate approach" to the sanctions. "We are sympathetic to the disruption that (imposition of sanctions) causes . . . so that our precondition is one of looking for solutions."

Fitzwater reiterated administration opposition to an amendment to House trade legislation, sponsored by Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., that would require the government to automatically retaliate against countries found to have gained excessive trade surpluses through unfair competitive practices.

Accused Nazi delivered to Russia

MOSCOW — Karl Linnas, who lost his eight-year battle against deportation from the United States, was delivered to the Soviet Union on Tuesday where he may face a firing squad on charges of killing thousands of prisoners in a Nazi death camp.

The 67-year-old Linnas was flown from New York to Czechoslovakia and handed over to the Soviets. The official Soviet news agency Tass said he was put on a flight and taken to Tallinn, capital of his native Estonia.

A handcuffed Linnas struggled with U.S. officials Monday night when he was put aboard a Czechoslovak airliner at Kennedy Interna-

tional Airport. He shouted that police were carrying out a "murder and kidnapping" by sending him to the Soviet Union where he has been sentenced to death.

When the plane landed in Prague on Tuesday he was transferred to a Soviet plane for the flight to Soviet Estonia on the Baltic Sea.

Linnas directed a Nazi concentration camp in the Estonian city of Tartu during the early years of World War II and is accused of involvement in the execution of thousands of people, mostly Jewish women and children.

Tass said, "He staged and conducted mass executions of Soviet citizens and personally took part in

them." Tass said more than 12,000 people died at Tartu.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a Moscow news briefing that Linnas is under sentence of death based on a 1962 Soviet trial in absentia. Death sentences are carried out by firing squad.

"The criminal has been condemned. He was sentenced to capital punishment," Gerasimov told reporters. "He's entitled to ask for a pardon."

Asked whether Linnas would be allowed to speak to reporters upon arrival in the Soviet Union, Gerasimov replied: "I don't think he's the kind of hero to take pictures of."

INS official: aliens should be screened for AIDS

DALLAS — Illegal aliens who apply for amnesty should be screened for the AIDS virus so that those who test positive can be barred from the country, a regional Immigration and Naturalization Service official says.

But a spokesman for the agency in Washington said the INS has not taken an official position on requiring AIDS tests as a part of the amnesty program.

As many as 3.9 million aliens nationwide are expected to seek legalization under provisions of a sweeping immigration reform act that became law last year, said Stephen Martin, commissioner of the INS southern regional office based in Dallas. The yearlong amnesty period begins May 5.

Aliens who apply for legalization under the law's provisions must submit to a blood test for sexually transmitted diseases, but an AIDS test is not now part of those regulations, William Zimmer, director of the INS regional processing center in Dallas, said in an

interview Monday.

Zimmer said he wants federal public health authorities to declare AIDS a loathsome, contagious and dangerous disease so those who apply for legalization could be tested for it and deported if they have it.

Under present regulations, aliens who have been exposed to the disease can be barred only after they develop AIDS and constitute a public health burden.

"It would be more practical to have these people tested for AIDS and if they test positive, simply designate them as inadmissible," Zimmer said.

The issue is under consideration at INS headquarters in Washington and is being discussed with the Department of Health and Human Services, Zimmer said. His Dallas office is one of four INS regional processing centers in the nation.

INS spokesman Duke Austin in Washington said the INS as an agency won't



take a position on the testing requirements for AIDS until the Public Health Service rules on whether it is an inadmissible disease.

"It's not our responsibility to make that decision. They're the ones evaluating it," Austin said. "It's their provision of the law."

Federal regulations exclude aliens from entering the United States on seven grounds, all involving health, Ellen Casselberry, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Public Health Service, said Tuesday.

Bomb ignites inferno, 150 dead

More terrorism in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A car bomb at rush hour created an inferno at the main bus terminal Tuesday that officials said killed up to 150 people, bringing the death toll from terrorism in five days to nearly 300.

A Health Ministry official said about 200 people were injured and some might die of burns or other wounds.

Many of the victims burned to death or were killed by smoke inhalation in six parked buses that were engulfed in flames, police and witnesses said.

The bombing was the third attack since Friday on this island south of India, where Tamil insurgents have waged a four-year war against the majority Sinhalese for an independent nation. Tamils killed at least 142 people in northeastern Sri Lanka Friday and

Monday.

Witnesses said many of the injured at the bus terminal had severe burns. Rescue work was hampered by heavy rain. Police took over private cars, buses and trucks to carry victims to hospitals.

Windows of many cars and buildings were shattered, but no major structural damage was reported.

Army helicopters with searchlights clattered overhead after dark, helping with the rescue and the search for the bombers.

No one claimed responsibility for the bomb, but the government issued a statement blaming two Tamil separatist groups, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Eelam Revolu-

tionary Organization of Students.

Eelam is what the Tamils would call the nation they want to establish in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where members of their ethnic group predominate. Tamils, most of whom are Hindu, accuse the Buddhist Sinhalese of discrimination.

Soon after the explosion about 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, when many of Colombo's 750,000 people were catching buses home, mobs of Sinhalese civilians stoned Tamil-owned shops about half a mile from the bus terminal. Police dispersed the crowd.

There were reports of Sinhalese youths stopping cars and demanding to know whether the occupants were Tamil or Sinhalese.

Million dollar computer sold to Iran

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's National Security Council has approved the sale of a \$900,000 computer system to Iran, industry and administration officials said Tuesday.

The approval represents the first major U.S. transaction involving Iran since disclosures in late 1986 that the administration had been secretly selling arms to Iran.

Analysts suggested the move underscored a growing sensitivity on the part of the Reagan administration to problems faced by U.S. manufacturers of high-technology goods as they seek to compete in overseas markets.

The NSC had been asked to referee a high-level dispute within the administration over the sale.

Administration officials said the council ruled late last week in favor of Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige and Secretary of State George Shultz — and against Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Approval of the sale of the computers, described as relatively unsophisticated devices to be used in an electric power grid, had been opposed by Weinberger on grounds the United States should not be providing any aid to the Iranian regime.

Spokesman Robert Sims said Weinberger feels "it is not in our interest to sell Iran any equipment except for humanitarian grounds."

Baldrige and Shultz contended the computer involved — the PDP-



11 manufactured by Digital Equipment Corp. of Maynard, Mass. — had no military application.

A spokesman for Digital, Jeffry Gibson, said the company was notified last Friday of the NSC action.

He said a second proposed sale involved in the dispute, a \$30,000 computer add-on memory system intended for the Iranian news agency, apparently is still awaiting NSC action.

Digital itself did not apply for a license. It was requested by an affiliated Swiss company, Brown, Boveri & Co., which has incorporated the Digital units in a system it plans to sell to Iran for monitoring electric power generation.

The computer units are already in Switzerland, Gibson said. But under various trade agreements, the equipment could not be shipped from Switzerland to Iran without approval of the U.S. government.

Last month, Baldrige told a Senate Banking subcommittee he was baffled by Weinberger's opposition to the sale, saying the computers at issue "have technologies that are eight to 10 years old."

In Brief

Brides wins \$1.15 million after wedding

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — A bride got an unexpected wedding present when she won \$1.15 million at Caesars Palace just hours after her wedding.

Lorraine Page, 24, of Norwalk, Calif., said her husband had been winning all evening Saturday and she just kept reaching into his slot machine tray for more coins.

"I had a sore shoulder," she recalled Sunday. "I wanted to stop playing and he wanted to play. I was down to my last three coins. That's when I hit the triple bars."

Lorraine and her husband, Robert, were married earlier Saturday in a Las Vegas wedding chapel.

The bride is a receptionist for a law firm in Bellflower, Calif., and the groom a salesman for a medical company.

"More than likely, we'll buy a house," Mrs. Page said while pondering her winnings of \$1,150,697.

"And I want to get her a nicer wedding ring," Page added.

Streisand releases first live album in 20 years

LOS ANGELES — Singer Barbra Streisand is releasing her first live, full-length album in 20 years and donating \$460,000 to non-partisan groups which support environmental causes and civil liberties.

Publicist Lee Solters said Monday that the Streisand Foundation funded by the star announced the donation to organizations "supporting such issues as safe nuclear energy and the abolishment of the threat of nuclear war, the preservation of the environment and the protection of civil liberties."

Solters said Miss Streisand was keeping a promise made last September when she taped "One Voice," a pay-cable television show for Home Box Office. The proceeds from that show are going to the Streisand Foundation for worthy causes, he said.

Pilot's family sues to pay bills

WASHINGTON — Saddled with debt, relatives of an American pilot killed in Nicaragua last year said Tuesday they have started legal action to determine who should pay bills he incurred while supplying the Contra rebels.

"The hurt of his death is just now beginning to be felt," said Wallace Blaine Sawyer Sr. in a telephone interview from his home in Magnolia, Ark.

After the crash, the pilot's Thai-born widow, Kasanee, and her 4-year-old son were paid by his private life insurer, but they haven't received any settlement from his unknown employer, the elder Sawyer said.

"Those bills were incurred in his line of work and we don't plan to pay them," he said.

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