

S. Africa's election controversy

Corporate chairman urges voters to reject apartheid

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — The chairman of South Africa's most powerful corporation said Sunday that apartheid "has made fools of us all" and urged whites to vote this week for candidates committed to racial equality.

Gavin Rely, chairman of the Anglo American Corp. mining and banking conglomerate, said in a newspaper column that the governing National Party has turned away from reform and should be defeated in Wednesday's elections for the white chamber of Parliament.

"The privileged white electorate, in my view, should support as far as possible candidates who have the courage to move forward to a policy of putting all South Africans first, irrespective of race, color or creed," Rely wrote in the Sunday Times, the country's largest-selling newspaper.

Rely was among the leaders of a delegation of South African businessmen who traveled to Zambia in September 1985 for talks with officials of the outlawed African National Congress, the guerrilla movement fighting to end white domination in South Africa.

In his column Sunday, Rely said meaningful black-white negotiations "will mean a dramatic, mind-wrenching and courageous act of leadership."

Under apartheid, South Africa's 24 million blacks have no vote in national affairs, while the 5 million whites control the economy and maintain segregated schools and neighborhoods.



Parliament has separate chambers for South Africa's Asian and mixed-race minorities, but excludes blacks.

President P.W. Botha, in a letter to voters published in English and Afrikaans newspapers Sunday, said the National Party's insistence on separation of races is "based on the practical realities of our population structure."

"You can criticize me and my government for our personal shortcomings," he wrote. "But never for a lack of love, or dedication to South Africa."

Investigators search site for remains of snipers

WOLF CREEK, Mont. — Forensic experts began work Sunday in the burned-out rubble of a summer home where police believe three snipers died in gunfire and flames after eluding officers for nearly a week following a four-hour shootout.

"I believe there's at least two bodies in there, but I don't know if there is a third," said Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Chuck O'Reilly, who led the nearly week-long manhunt.

O'Reilly said a limited search would continue, "as a precautionary measure," in case one of the fugitives remained at large.

Lingering heat prevented searchers from inspecting the rubble closely on Saturday, but the sheriff said he saw at least two automatic weapons in the debris of the mobile home near Holter Lake.

An FBI forensics team from Washington, D.C., was at the site Sunday, O'Reilly said, and would "grid" the site, subdividing it into squares to begin the painstaking process of collecting evidence from the fire scene.

Lewis and Clark County Coroner M.E. Nelson said it could be days or weeks before positive identifications are made, but law enforcement officials said they believe the people who died were the snipers sought since a four-hour gun battle with sheriff's deputies on April 27.

Three heavily armed snipers — two men believed to be escaped murderers from California and an as-yet-identified woman — ambushed O'Reilly and eight deputies last Monday from a ridge overlooking a campground on Holter Lake, a popular spot on the Missouri River between Helena and Great Falls.

In Brief

Falwell to step down as PTL host

FORT MILL, S.C. — The Rev. Jerry Falwell, in his final days as host of the "PTL Club," pleaded for donations Thursday and promised to account for every penny.

The fundamentalist evangelist and host of the "Old Time Gospel Hour" show in Lynchburg, Va., said he will step down as the "PTL Club" host in Fort Mill on Monday and may name his replacement Friday.

Exiled evangelist Jim Bakker turned the ministry over to rival Falwell on March 19. Subsequent disclosures have described Bakker's sexual tryst with a church secretary and the \$1.6 million in salary and bonuses paid to Bakker and his wife, Tammy, in 1986. The "PTL Club" founded by Bakker, is a satellite TV system that carries religious programming and appeals for donations to more than 1,400 broadcast and cable stations across the country.

Concorde, commuter plane nearly collide

LONDON — A British Airways Concorde supersonic jet bound for New York nearly collided with a 15-seat commuter plane west of London April 24, the airline said Sunday.

The near-miss occurred near Reading when the Concorde, carrying 66 people, flew within about 800 yards of a Brymon Airways twin-Otter flying from Birmingham to London's Gatwick Airport.

The Observer newspaper said Sunday the Concorde crew apparently mistook as meant for them instructions to an American Airlines jumbo jet to climb to 13,000 feet. It said this put Concorde at the same altitude as the Brymon aircraft.

Committee nominates Webster to head CIA

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee Friday unanimously approved the nomination of William Webster to head the CIA and sent the matter to the full Senate.

The approval, on a 15-0 vote, came after a one-hour delay during which the panel met with Webster in an unscheduled closed session on an unspecified, classified matter.

The panel's chairman, David Boren, D—Okla., refused to discuss the meeting, except to say that it dealt with a "classified" matter. He would not say if it involved the Iran-Contra scandal.

Webster, a 62-year-old former appellate judge and FBI director, replaces William Casey, a long-time confidant of President Reagan who resigned after brain tumor surgery.

Mount St. Helens reopens for climbers

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Mount St. Helens, its volcanic activity subsiding, reopens to climbers Monday for the first time since its eruption seven years ago left 57 people dead or missing, officials say.

The peak was one of the most popular for climbers in the Pacific Northwest before volcanic activity resumed in March 1980 after a 123-year hiatus. The May 18, 1980 blast devastated 230 square miles and reduced the symmetrical, 9,677-foot cone to an 8,365-foot mountain with a gaping crater.

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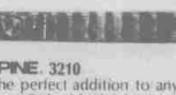
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