

News Digest By The Associated Press

Concern for others tempers hostage's return

LONDON — American journalist Charles Glass had a family reunion Wednesday to celebrate his escape from kidnapers in Beirut, but the joy was tempered by concern for the 24 foreign hostages still in captivity.

Glass, who flew in Wednesday from Damascus, Syria, also discounted theories that his Moslem kidnapers, under pressure from Syria, allowed him to escape early Tuesday.

"I'm very proud of my wife and my children and all they did for me and the way they behaved. It's what I was living

for," the 36-year-old newsman said after being reunited with his wife Fiona and their five young children at a secret location.

A few hours later his parents and sister flew in from Los Angeles.

"Now I feel really sorry for all those other guys still being held, and their folks," his father, Charles Glass Jr. of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif., said when he arrived at Heathrow airport.

The younger Glass said the captives should be encouraged that Syria is increasing pressure to obtain their re-

lease in hopes of improving ties with the West. He met Wednesday with four U.S. officials from Washington who want to know if he can provide information about the other captives.

"Sadly, I did not see any of the other hostages," Glass told ABC TV's "Good Morning America" program. "None of the other hostages were referred to in my presence by the captors."

He said at a news conference that he thought especially of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson and Anderson's sister, Peggy Say of Batavia, N.Y., who has campaigned

hard on the hostages' behalf.

"It must be too much for her to see yet another one come out and Terry is still held," Glass said. "Believe me, I feel for Terry and Peggy so much that I can hardly speak."

Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was kidnapped March 16, 1985, and has been held longer than any other foreign hostage in Lebanon. He is one of eight American hostages.

Glass was kidnapped June 17 in Beirut by gunmen who identified themselves as members of the previously unknown Organization for the People's Defense. On leave from his position as correspondent with ABC, he had gone to Lebanon to work on a book about the Middle East.

He was the first foreigner kidnapped after Syria moved 7,500 soldiers into West Beirut in February to quell fighting among Moslem militias, and his capture was taken as a deep affront in Damascus, the Syrian capital.

In Washington, a Reagan administration official said U.S. intelligence believes Iran ordered Glass' kidnapping and is in control of the other U.S. hostages.

The U.S. official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity, theorized that Iran, under pressure from Syria for six to eight weeks, arranged Glass' release to improve its standing in the Arab world.

But Glass said on "Good Morning America," that if his captors had allowed him to escape, "it's certainly something that I couldn't have known at the time."

"It would've meant that the Syrians had somehow arranged for my guards to stay asleep during the time I was escaping, because everything else was my own doing," he said.

Glass said at the news conference that this may have been politically possible but not probable because his guards had been harsher in the past few weeks and had not altered their routine.

He said he had loosened his ankle and wrist chains over several days and was able to slip them off after midnight Monday.

In captivity, Glass made many attempts to escape, and his guards threatened to kill him if he tried again, though they did not torture him, he said.

Wind shear plagued airport before Northwest plane crash

ROMULUS, Mich. — Potentially dangerous wind shifts were recorded at Detroit Metropolitan Airport just 30 minutes before the fiery crash of Northwest Flight 255, which killed as many as 158 people, federal investigators said.

John Lauber of the National Transportation Safety Board said the condition, known as wind shear, was recorded by the airport's computer-controlled detection system a number of times on one runway, promoting air traffic controllers to move all traffic to another runway.

Such a sudden shift in wind can cause an airplane to suddenly lose speed and has been listed as a factor in several air crashes, including a fatal 1985 crash near Dallas.

However, Lauber said at a news briefing that the preliminary reports were not complete enough for investigators to draw a conclusion about what caused the Northwest crash.

Lauber also said the cockpit recorder chronicled the computer-generated voice of a warning system chanting "stall, stall, stall," only seconds after the MD-80 took off Sunday night.

Investigators have determined the plane reached an altitude of 100 feet to 150 feet before it began its final plunge, he said.

As teams of investigators crisscrossed the scorched crash site, grieving families waited for doctors and technicians to identify the bodies of the victims.

Relatives of other passengers were warned that some of the mutilated bodies might never be identified.

"If you have a mass of body parts and none of them have an identifiable item on them it's going to be impossible to identify," said Inspector Richard Stover of the Wayne County Sheriff's Depart-



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

ment's emergency management division.

Officials disagreed about the number of fatalities.

Dr. Werner Spitz, the Wayne County medical examiner, said the death toll could be as high as 158, figuring 152 were aboard the plane and "five or six" were killed on the ground.

Northwest officials said they believe 155 were aboard the plane, and 154 were killed. Stover said he believed three people on the ground were killed.

Spitz said about half of the bodies had been positively identified and that all of the bodies, which had been left at the crash site so they could be surveyed by investigators, were moved Tuesday to a hangar serving as a temporary morgue. Hearse were being hired to come to the hangar Friday to pick them up.

The 4-year-old lone survivor of the crash showed improvement and relatives marveled at her good fortune at the same time they despaired at the loss of her parents and 6-year-old brother.

Her grandfather said he had set aside his grief over the deaths of his son, daughter-in-law and grandson long

enough to come from Pennsylvania to an Ann Arbor, Mich., hospital to identify her.

Cecilia Cichan, of Tempe, Ariz., was upgraded from critical to serious condition Tuesday afternoon at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, spokeswoman Catherine Cureton said. The girl's breathing was being assisted by a respirator, which may be disconnected Wednesday, Cureton said.

Cureton said doctors expected Cecilia to live. She was responding to stimuli Tuesday and was unconscious, but not comatose, they said.

Cecilia suffered a broken leg, broken collarbone, concussion and burns over 30 percent of her body. She underwent surgery for the broken bones.

Cureton said no additional surgery was planned except for possible skin grafts on her burned arms and hands.

The girl's identity had remained a mystery until 24 hours after the crash, when her grandfather, Anthony Cichan, 59, of the Philadelphia suburb of Maple Glen, Pa., arrived at the hospital with a son and another relative and went to her bedside.

"After a few seconds, I knew it had to be our little Cecilia."

Officials scout out state

Hoping to claim an economic prize dangled before 14 states, Nebraska officials Wednesday showcased the state to a U S West delegation that is scouting possible sites for the company's \$50 million research center.

Gov. Kay Orr and others greeted the four-member U S West Site Selection Committee as the group arrived from Denver to begin the daylong visit, which was to include stops in Lincoln, the Platte River State Park and Omaha.

After arriving about 30 minutes late, the company officials were shuttled from a Lincoln airport to the University of Nebraska Law School, where the

day's opening session concentrated on the state's education system.

From Lincoln the U S West officials were to be taken to Platte River State Park, where the second session dealt with Nebraska's business climate and quality of life.

The final stop was scheduled in Omaha, where the company representatives were to hear from Nebraska business leaders.

U S West has announced it will build the 1,500-job research center in one of 14 states in its territory, touching off an intense competition for the facility.

Humans to try AIDS vaccine

WASHINGTON — In what they called a first step on the long road to a vaccine to prevent AIDS, health officials announced the first human trials in this country of such an experimental vaccine.

Scientists said they have begun soliciting the 81 volunteers who will take part in the test, which will run from six months to a year, and that the first subject could be vaccinated as early as next month.

The prototype vaccine, made by MicroGeneSys Inc., a drug and biological products firm in West Haven, Conn., is the first of several similar candidate

agents to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration for clinical trials.

The tests, which will be conducted at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md., are designed solely to determine the safety of the potential vaccine and whether it raises any kind of immune response against the virus that causes AIDS, officials said.

Dr. Anthony Faudi, spokesman for the center, told a briefing that the first test will involve 81 healthy volunteers, including 75 homosexual men, who are not infected with the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

In Brief

Company to sell North videotape

CHICAGO — A home video company plans to sell a videotape of Lt. Col. Oliver North's appearance at the Iran-Contra hearings to people who were unable to follow the 30-plus hours of testimony on television.

"You can't get an in-depth look at Oliver North in 90 seconds on the news each night," said Jaffer Ali, vice president of sales at MPI Home Video.

More travel Nebraska highways

The number of travelers on Nebraska highways in July was well ahead of the levels last year, according to a state Department of Economic Development official.

On Interstate 80 east of Overton in central Nebraska, traffic last month increased 9.1 percent from July 1986, said Peggy Briggs, director of the Travel and Tourism Division of DED.

West of Seward in eastern Nebraska I-80 traffic rose 10.8 percent, and east of Chappell in western Nebraska, it jumped 16.2 percent, she said in a news release.

British say Hess strangled himself

BERLIN — Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, apparently strangled himself with a length of electric cord after nearly half a century in prison, British officials said.

Hess died Monday in a British military hospital in West Berlin at the age of 93. He had been in prison since a bizarre "peace flight" to Britain in 1941 and, for 21 years, the sole inmate of cavernous Spandau near the hospital.

Eugene I. Bird, once the top American officer guarding Spandau, told The Associated Press the one-time Nazi deputy fuhrer tried to commit suicide on four other occasions.

Gunman fires on street in England

HUNGERFORD, England — A gunman wearing combat fatigues opened fire on a shopping street Wednesday and killed at least nine people and wounded 14 others before fleeing on foot, police said.

Thames Valley Chief Constable Colin Smith said police chased the gunman. Four hours later officers surrounded a dead-end street outside a school and were heard calling on the man to surrender.

Such random violence is rare in Britain, where firearms laws are strict and most police officers still go unarmed. Violent crime is relatively uncommon in the picturesque Hungerford area, popular for its antique stores.

Lincoln ag forum unlikely

LINCOLN — No presidential candidate officially has agreed to attend a forum on agricultural issues the day before the FarmAid III concert in Lincoln organizers say.

With RSVPs for the proposed Sept. 18 forum coming in slowly or not at all, Lincoln Mayor Bill Harris said Nebraskans must face the fact that agriculture is not a topic the candidates want to address.

"Agriculture is receiving the silent treatment," he said. "The president came into the state last week and didn't even mention agriculture in his remarks. Nobody wants to rattle that 500-pound gorilla."

Police use pedal power on patrol

SPRING LAKE, Mich. — Police Chief Leon Langeland admits his latest twist in fighting crime will not increase arrests of fleeing felons or speeding motorists.

But putting an officer on "pedal patrol" may deter petty thieves and vandals who have plagued the village recently.

An officer began patrol Tuesday night on a \$270 10-speed bicycle the village recently purchased from a local bike shop.

Langeland said the bicycle will allow the officer to approach undetected in cases where a police car's engine and headlights might tip off criminals.

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