

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Attack authorized, Reagan says

WASHINGTON — U.S. military forces had shadowed the Iranian ship they attacked Monday night for days, waiting for conclusive evidence the vessel was laying underwater mines, Pentagon officials said Tuesday.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said the vessel Iran Ajr had been tracked by radar and by air for several days as it steamed through the central gulf toward Bahrain "because it had been seen loading suspect devices" before leaving an Iranian port.

"It was no accident" that U.S. helicopters from the Frigate USS Jarrett were flying near the Iranian ship Monday night, using infrared sensors to monitor its activities, one official added.

"When we caught them in the act, we had the evidence we needed and we moved in," he said.

The Pentagon said three Iranians were killed and two were listed as missing in the attack, while 26 Iranians were rescued, four of them wounded. It said a Navy boarding party found 10 mines aboard the Iran Ajr, a 1,662-ton amphibious landing craft.

President Reagan, meantime, defended the U.S. attack on the ship as clearly "authorized by law" because

the vessel was sowing mines in international waters.

Reagan also insisted, however, the United States had not entered a shooting war with Iran, and White House and



Pentagon spokesman said the crewmen of the Iranian vessel would be returned to Iran.

At the same time, Iranian leaders dismissed the U.S. account of the incident and vowed revenge.

Pentagon sources reported U.S. military bases around the globe had been reminded to maintain an alert for terrorist activity, and tensions in the gulf

itself remained high.

An unidentified Iranian hovercraft closed within one mile or so of an American frigate that was towing the crippled Iran Ajr on Tuesday afternoon and stopped its approach only after warning shots were fired across its bow, the Defense Department said.

Despite the confrontation and rising tensions, the Pentagon announced that Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger would proceed with a scheduled trip to the region. Weinberger will leave Wednesday on five-day trip that will include stops in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Egypt and visits to U.S. warships.

A U.S. military helicopter, believed to be an Army MH-6 Special Operations aircraft, attacked the vessel while a second copter flew nearby, sources said. Chief Pentagon spokesman Fred Hofman said the American aircraft used 7.62mm machine guns and 2.75-inch rockets to attack the boat and caused extensive damage.

Khamenei denounces U.S., vows revenge for gulf clash

UNITED NATIONS — Iranian President Ali Khamenei fumed at the U.S. "arch-Satan" before the United Nations Tuesday and swore Iran would avenge a U.S. attack on an Iranian ship in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. delegation stalked out in protest after the black-robed and turbaned Khamenei indicted the "bullying" United States and announced:

"This is a beginning for a series of events, the bitter consequences of which shall not be restricted to the Persian Gulf."

"I declare here, very unambiguously, that the United States shall receive a proper response for this abominable

act," the gray-bearded cleric said in an hour-and-20 minute speech in Farsi.

Hundreds of angry, dissident Iranians demonstrated against the fundamentalist Tehran government outside the United Nations building, shouting "Expel Khamenei from the U.N.! Down with the criminal, murdering regime!"

"I do not intend to sit passively when our country is insulted, our president pilloried and the truth trampled," Deputy U.S. Ambassador Herbert Okun told reporters.

He called Khamenei's charges against the United States "false accusations (which) distort the facts and misrepresent our policy totally."

In Brief

Report: commission lacks shutdown guidelines

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission lacks guidelines on shutting down nuclear power plants for safety violations, and some have operated for years with significant problems, according to a report by the General Accounting Office released Tuesday.

"The report shows that the NRC has failed in its basic responsibility" to protect the public, said Sen. Alfonse M. D'Amato, R-N.Y. He called the report "rather damning."

Boy rescued from burning house in Kearney

KEARNEY — Two men crawled through heavy smoke and kicked open a jammed door to rescue an 8-year-old boy from a burning house early Tuesday, authorities said.

Kearney Fire Chief Dick Rains said people sleeping inside the house were awakened by the 2 a.m. fire, and everyone ran out. Two others were sleeping in a camper in the driveway and did not wake up until firefighters arrived, he said.

Nicaraguan president announces cease-fire plan

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Daniel Ortega said Tuesday the government would start a partial truce and withdraw troops to designated areas to open the way to a total cease-fire with U.S.-supported Contra rebels.

"We are working on concrete actions to make known the first zones where the cease-fire will be declared," Ortega said. He said the location of the designated areas would be announced but did not specify a timetable.

Seriously ill twins described as fighters

BALTIMORE — West German Siamese twins separated two weeks ago in a 22-hour operation were described by their doctors as fighters. But the doctors say the semicomatose boys are still seriously ill and are not yet assured of survival.

"I don't think you'll find anyone here giving odds because there is nothing to compare it to," said Dr. Mark Rogers, director of pediatric intensive care at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Patrick and Benjamin Binder were born joined at the back of the head and shared a common vein.

Human rights group invited to Moscow

VIENNA, Austria — The Kremlin issued an invitation to a Western group highly critical of its human rights policy to meet officials in Moscow, the Society envoy to the 35-nation Helsinki review conference announced Tuesday.

Correction

Don Vrana's name was misspelled in last week's Sower. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

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1/4 carat	365	295	
1/3 carat	485	375	
1/2 carat	1695	995	
1 carat	2495	1995	
EARRINGs			
1/10 carat	Reg. \$165	NOW \$99	
1/8 carat	215	145	
1/5 carat	285	195	
1/3 carat	405	298	
1/2 carat	675	595	

*Earring weight is total carat weight



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Hahn story published

Church secretary says Bakker ruined her life

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jessica Hahn, declaring "I am not a bimbo," says in a Playboy magazine interview that she "hated every second" of her sexual encounter with PTL founder Jim Bakker seven years ago and "it has ruined my life."

A copy of the November issue of the magazine, which includes a 31-page interview and semi-nude photo layout of Hahn, became available Tuesday as she concluded two days of testimony before a federal grand jury looking into hush money paid her after the liaison.

"You know, two men had me in one day," Hahn said in the interview, referring to Bakker and Oklahoma City evangelist John Fletcher, who she said accompanied him to a Florida motel room for the tryst with the young church secretary.

"... I've been treated as less than human, as a thing, as a pawn," she said. "And just because I don't have a Bible or a microphone — just because I don't draw millions of people on TV

— doesn't mean I'm not human."

"This has been a game to Jim Bakker and John Fletcher," she said in the interview. "This has been politics to Jerry Falwell (who took over PTL from Bakker) ... I hate Jim Bakker for it. I hate John Fletcher for it."

Bakker, who resigned in disgrace from the TV ministry after Hahn's story became public, has acknowledged having sex with her but claims she was the one who seduced him.

Fletcher has acknowledged introducing Bakker to Hahn, but has not commented on her allegations that he also had sex with her.

Hahn's lawyer, Dominic Barbara, said her two days of testimony before the grand jury focused on possible IRS testimony under a limited grant of immunity from prosecution.

Bakker and his top aides are under investigation for possible mail, wire and tax fraud in federal probe focusing on how the \$172 million television ministry raised and spent money.

SAT scores still too low, education secretary says

NEW YORK — Minority students scored big gains on the Scholastic Aptitude Test in 1987. But the average for all groups stagnated for the third straight year, raising doubts about the progress of school reform.

The average verbal score among the 1.1 million college-bound students who took the two-part multiple-choice exam was 430, down a point from 1986, but still six points above the all-time low on that section reached in 1980, the College Board reported Tuesday.

The average mathematics score gained a point to 476, its highest level since 1976. The verbal and math portions are each scored on a scale of 200-800.

Secretary of Education William J. Bennett said in an interview, however, that he believed the SAT scores were "still too low" and that reforms "had not gone deep enough."

Blacks continued a decade-long pattern of gains. Average verbal scores have risen 21 points to 351 since 1977, and 20 points to 377 on the math.

But blacks remain a long way from closing the gap with white students who averaged 447 on the verbal section in 1987 and 489 on the math.

"The black-white SAT difference has been reduced by 50 points in 11 years. This is positive, but the simple truth is that the SAT score of black and white students are a long way from parity," said College Board president Donald M. Stewart at a news conference.

The national SAT averages, cited by the federal government and others as a barometer of school performance, have changed little since 1985. From 1981 to 1984, scores improved steadily.

Similar flat results were announced Monday for the rival ACT exam, the predominant college entrance test in 28 Midwestern and Western states. The four-part exam, administered by the American College Testing Program in Iowa City, Iowa, and taken by approximately 777,000 graduating high school students, dipped 0.1 percent to 18.7 from the year earlier, on a scale of 1-36.