

Army sergeant suspected of espionage

WASHINGTON — An Army sergeant stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland was arrested Thursday on charges of attempting to deliver defense information to the Soviet Union, the FBI announced.

Sgt. Daniel Walter Richardson, 42, an instructor in the tank turret division at Aberdeen, was arrested shortly after noon at the Chesapeake House Holiday Inn in Aberdeen, the FBI said.

"Richardson is accused of attempting to deliver information relating to national defense to a representative of the U.S.S.R.," spokesman William

Carter said, reading from a statement issued by FBI Director William S. Sessions and Maj. Gen. Harry E. Soyster, commander of U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, INSCOM.

Carter said he did not know if any such information actually was transferred to a Soviet representative, whether any such Soviet agent was being ordered to leave the country or if a double agent was involved.

But a federal law enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that if Richardson had

actually delivered the information, that would have been in the charge.

Richardson was being held at the Aberdeen Proving Ground "and will most likely have an appearance before a military judge within seven days," Carter said.

Asked if Richardson might face charges in a civilian court, Carter said it was more likely that he would be charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

The most serious offense, espionage, carries a maximum penalty of death under military justice.

Masked gunman robs Lincoln bank

LINCOLN — A masked gunman who said he hated Americans entered a branch of the Union Bank on Thursday, tied up two tellers, took another teller to a parking lot at gunpoint and fled alone in a car with an undisclosed amount of money, police said.

The robber forced his way into the Union Bank's Depot branch at 1444 O St. about 7:15 a.m. while a teller was unlocking a door, Capt. James Baird said.

The robber was armed with a blue

steel handgun with a four- to six-inch barrel, Lt. Jon Briggs said.

He was wearing a pink or peach colored robe, sweat pants and high-top black felt shoes, and his face was concealed with a white wool ski mask, Briggs said. Clothing thought to have been worn by the suspect was found later about three miles north of Lincoln.

Tellers said the robber appeared to have been of Mexican or Middle Eastern descent. Speaking in broken

English, he told the tellers whom he tied up that he hated Americans.

The getaway car was believed to be a dark-colored 1976 Ford Granada or Mercury Monarch, police said.

Police recovered a hubcap that may have come from the left rear wheel of the car. They also found a substance on the ground believed to be transmission fluid that could have been leaking from the suspect's vehicle.

Japan's prime minister welcomes 'new age' in U.S.-Japan relations

WASHINGTON — Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita Thursday welcomed a "new age" in U.S.-Japanese relations but cautioned against "misunderstandings and even prejudice" in that alliance.

Takeshita's comments, in an address to the National Press Club, came as U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter said that retaliatory sanctions might be considered if Japan continues to refuse to open public works construction to U.S. builders.

In a radio interview, Yeutter said a new Japanese plan to give U.S. construction companies more access to Japanese projects "does not meet our needs."

In their first face-to-face meeting on Wednesday, the Japanese leader and President Reagan vowed to ease trade relations between the world's two largest economies and unveiled a plan to help provide additional funds to stabilize the U.S. dollar.

Takeshita, conceding that frictions have resulted from his nation's \$60 billion trade surplus with the United States, vowed today that his government "will place the highest priority on developing the Japanese-American relationship."

He vowed that Japan will import more and export less and noted that it had imported 23.7 percent more in manufactured goods in the first 11 months of 1987 than in the same period in 1986. Takeshita said Japan planned to increase its spending on public works projects — including those in which U.S. companies would like a role — by 20 percent in the coming year.

Yeutter said the new Japanese proposal, which encourages joint ventures between American and Japanese companies, falls short of meeting U.S. objections. The plan "is a bit vague in terms of which public works programs are going to be opened up," Yeutter said.

U.S. builders are seeking access to the multi-billion-dollar Japanese public works market but claim that Japanese restrictions have made it nearly impossible for them to win contracts.

The proposal does not make clear whether all Japanese projects would be open to U.S. bidding, and also what Japan means in suggesting the bids be made through joint ventures with Japanese firms," Yeutter said in an interview with National Public Radio.

In Brief

Judge Bork resigns from federal appellate court

WASHINGTON — Federal appellate court judge Robert H. Bork has resigned from the bench, telling President Reagan he wants to "publicly respond" to the charges that doomed his nomination to the Supreme Court, the White House announced Thursday.

Bork's resignation letter was dated Jan. 7 but was released only Thursday.

In a letter accepting the 60-year-old jurist's request to leave the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Reagan said: "The unprecedented political attack upon you which resulted in the regrettable Senate action was a tragedy for our country."

Students, police clash on anniversary of death

SEOUL, South Korea — Some 3,000 students hurling rocks and firebombs clashed with riot police Thursday during a protest marking the first anniversary of the torture death of a fellow student by police.

The demonstration at the state-run Seoul National University, South Korea's largest and most prestigious higher institution, drew students from 18 colleges around the country. No arrests or injuries were reported.

Officials believe bearing caused hospital blaze

OMAHA — An overheated bearing in a fan was the apparent cause of a smoky fire that forced the evacuation of 165 Childrens and Methodist Hospital patients, hospital and fire officials said.

Childrens Hospital president Gary Perkins said a preliminary investigation revealed that a mechanical malfunction in a rooftop air handling machine probably was responsible for Wednesday's early morning fire.

Arafat says he will recognize Israel if talks held

BAGHDAD, Iraq — PLO leader Yasser Arafat said Thursday he would recognize Israel's right to exist if Israel and the United States agreed to an international conference on Middle East peace.

"As this conference would be under U.N. auspices, that means the full legality . . . of all U.N. resolutions, including 242, would be recognized," Arafat said in an interview at the Palestine Liberation Organization's military headquarters in a Baghdad suburb.

Security Council Resolution 242 recognizes Israel's right to exist. It was passed after Israel conquered Arab territory in the West Bank.

The PLO had rejected the resolution because it treated the Palestinian problem as one of refugees and did not refer to a Palestinian state.

Autopsy reveals woman shot

COLUMBUS — A preliminary autopsy report shows Hazel Maria Kuntzelman died of multiple gunshots from a small-caliber handgun, Police Chief David Purdy said Thursday.

Purdy said police would search the Kuntzelman home again to try to find the gun used to kill her.

Mrs. Kuntzelman's husband, Terry, is charged with first-degree murder.

Purdy said Kuntzelman has probably fled Nebraska. His car was found by police at Eppley Airfield in Omaha late Wednesday.

It was taken to Columbus, where police impounded it and will comb it for evidence, Purdy said.

The warrant charging Kuntzelman said Mrs. Kuntzelman's body was

found in a large cardboard box sealed with tape. The body was covered with a blanket and what appeared to be a bloody pillow.

Asked if Mrs. Kuntzelman appeared to have been beaten or shot, Purdy said, "I couldn't tell from what I could see."

The police said the Kuntzelmans had a history of problems in their seven years of marriage and "it just escalated."

Kuntzelman told police Jan. 8 that his wife had been missing since the day before. The couple's children, ages 7 and 3, have been staying with his parents since then.

Police conducted an informal search of the Kuntzelman house on Sunday for clues, but officers said foul play was not suspected then.

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