

Captives swelter in jumbo prison

LARNACA, Cyprus — For the dozens of passengers who began their second week as captives inside a sweltering jetliner, Flight 422 has become a journey of terror with mounting physical and psychological tensions.

The blue-and-white Boeing 747 was hijacked over India on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait eight days ago, but some of the hostages have lost track of time.

"It's been 10 days," complained passenger Ahmed al-Gabandi, who was put on the radio Tuesday by the hijackers to beg for the release of 17 pro-Iranian bombers imprisoned in Kuwait, the terrorists' main demand.

"This is what we're all waiting for," he said plaintively. "We all want to go home."

The Boeing landed at Larnaca Friday after a harrowing flight from Mashhad in northeast Iran. The veteran Iraqi pilot, Capt. Youssef Suphi, 53, frantically radioed he was running out of fuel after he was refused permission to touch down at Beirut and Damascus.

Since then, the Shiite hijackers, armed with guns and grenades, have repeatedly demanded that the jumbo jet be refueled.

Two captives, their hands tied behind their backs, have been shot in the head and their bodies pushed out of the jet onto the tarmac of the beachside runway.

"The hostages inside the jet must be terrified, wondering who will be next," said a Cypriot air traffic controller, one of a team assigned to

maintain contact with the hijackers. He asked that his name not be used.

"Every time the hijackers set a new deadline, each passenger must fear that maybe he'll be the one the hijackers pick on when it's not met."

Passenger Fadel Khaled al-Sabah, a businessman and cousin of Kuwait's emir, Shieik Jaber al-Almed al-Sabah, could barely talk when the hijackers put him on the radio to plead for fuel.

"We depend on God for our fate," he said in a strained voice after reciting a verse from the Koran, Islam's holy book.

When he suddenly broke off, the tower asked what was wrong. One of the hijackers snapped back in broken English: "He is sick. He cannot hold his food. He is vomiting."

Dukakis, Gore clash in N.Y. debate

Michael Dukakis and Albert Gore Jr. traded barbs in a New York debate Tuesday on the Middle East, welfare cuts and timidity in dealing with fellow Democrat Jesse Jackson. Republican George Bush said he "can't wait to take on" one of them in the fall campaign.

A week before the pivotal New York primary, the Democratic battle was turning into "a bloodletting," Bush said, as he moved sedately toward the GOP nomination that is all but his.

"We're warming up for the fall race," the vice president said before tossing out the first ball for a New York Mets-Montreal Expos game at Shea Stadium.

"I still intend to campaign right through the end of the primary season," Bush said in Schenectady. "I

can't wait to take on whichever one of those three Democrats wins the Democratic nomination."

The balloting in New York next Tuesday is a foregone conclusion for the Republicans. But for the Democrats, the primary offers rich prizes and harsh judgments.

For Jackson, it offers another chance to prove he can attract white votes and continue the growth of a mainstream campaign.

"I was an underdog for 45 years and 11 months, and now I'm one of the top dogs, and I just love it," Jackson said in the New York Daily News debate. "New York loves a winner, and I'm a winner. . . . Vote for a winner. Vote for Jackson action."

Dukakis, the front-runner in the polls, is hoping to make it three primary victories in a row and stretch out

his delegate lead with the lion's share of the 255 New York delegates at stake.

On Tuesday in the AP delegate count, Dukakis has 750.15 votes; Jackson, 713.1; Gore, 396.8 and uncommitted, 506.7.

In search of the 2,082 votes needed to win the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in July, Dukakis said he was seeking delegates who supported candidates who have dropped out and even "maybe for Al Gore's delegates."

"Don't lick your chops too soon, Gov. Dukakis," Gore fired back in the debate. "New York's going to have a bigger say about that than you will."

Gore, trailing badly in the polls, must do well in the April 19 primary just to keep his campaign alive.

In Brief

PTL tries to auction Bakkers' house

TEGA CAY, S.C. — The troubled PTL ministry tried Tuesday to auction the home used by former leaders Jim and Tammy Bakker, but there were no bidders for the plush, million-dollar mansion.

The auction of that home and eight other properties, chiefly homes used by other ministry officials, raised only a fraction of the \$4 million that ministry officials had hoped for.

The ministry accepted bids on five of the nine properties, raising about \$596,500. The Bakker home attracted no bids, bids on two other properties were deemed insufficient, and a \$425,000 bid on former PTL President Richard Dorton's home is still being considered, said PTL Trustee David Clark.

Clark said the setback means the ministry based in nearby Fort Mill will have to re-examine its options for raising \$5.3 million by a May 2 bankruptcy court deadline.

FAA announces investigation of Boeing

SEATTLE — Federal Aviation Administration officials announced an investigation and issued a safety directive following complaints by four airlines about alleged defects in Boeing 747 and 767 widebody jets.

FAA officials revealed Monday that an "airworthiness directive" on the 747-200 was issued Friday because of reports that fuel leaked into cargo compartments.

Boeing Commercial Airplanes officials refused Monday to respond to the airline complaints or comment on the FAA action, but said they would hold a news conference later.

Airlines, Boeing and FAA officials have noted that none of the defects cited to date has been linked to a crash or other major damage, but the directive warned, "Fuel in this (cargo) compartment could result in a fire and substantial damage."

The directive said the leaks were caused by loose or broken bolts that attach fuel tanks to the wings and called for immediate repairs.

Catholic priest sentenced in Offutt protest

OMAHA — A Roman Catholic priest from Iowa and an Omaha woman were sentenced to six months in jail Tuesday for their part in an anti-nuclear weapons demonstration at Offutt Air Force Base.

The Rev. Frank Cordaro of Logan, Iowa, and Joyce Glenn, 37, were issued the maximum penalty by U.S. Magistrate Richard Kopf for trespassing on the military base.

Cordaro, who bid farewell to about 150 parishioners at his St. Anne Catholic Church on Monday night, made a statement to Kopf after answering a series of questions about previous convictions and sentences for re-entering the military base.

"Judge, you are on the wrong side of history. Folks are going to keep coming back at you," Cordaro said.

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White House angry over Speakes quotes given to reporters

WASHINGTON — The White House said Tuesday that President Reagan was upset and it was an "outrage" that former presidential spokesman Larry Speakes had made up quotes and given them to reporters as Reagan's words.

"Everyone is appalled that he made up quotes," said spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, who replaced Speakes 14 months ago.

In a kiss-and-tell book that has roiled White House officials, Speakes disclosed that he made up a widely reported statement that was attributed to Reagan during his first summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985.

In another instance, when a Korean Air Lines passenger jet was shot down by the Soviets in 1983, the president "had almost nothing to say" during meetings with the Cabinet and congressional leaders, Speakes said. So, he said, he took statements made by Secretary of State George P. Shultz and attributed them to Reagan.

Fitzwater, at a news briefing dominated by questions about Speakes' revelation, blasted his predecessor, who in his six years as White House spokesman had boasted that he never lied to the press.

"It's a damned outrage, that's what it is," Fitzwater said. "I resent it so much. It casts aspersions on the presidency and on my position. . . . It's wrong. . . . he shouldn't have done it and. . . I won't do it," Fitzwater said.

He said he had not talked to the president, "but I'm sure he would be upset about it. I'm sure he is."

Conservative leaders who met with Reagan on Tuesday also were angry.

"I think Larry Speakes has done a disservice to the president," said Peter Flanerty, chairman of Citizens for Reagan.

Paul Weyrich, head of the Free Congress Foundation, said, "The president is ill-served by all of these people who are in public service and then write books the minute they get out and reveal things that ought not to be revealed."

"All they're in it for is making a buck. . . and frankly, they ought to be ashamed of themselves," Weyrich said.

Speakes had no reaction to the White House statements. "I'd be better off not to comment," he said in a telephone interview from New York, where he is vice president for communications at Merrill Lynch Corp.

Correction

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale was misquoted in a story about the UNL Air Force ROTC program (DN, April 12). Massengale was quoted as saying UNL was the only Nebraska college with an Air Force ROTC program. Massengale said UNL offers other academic programs that Air Force ROTC cadets can enroll in that other Nebraska colleges do not offer.

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