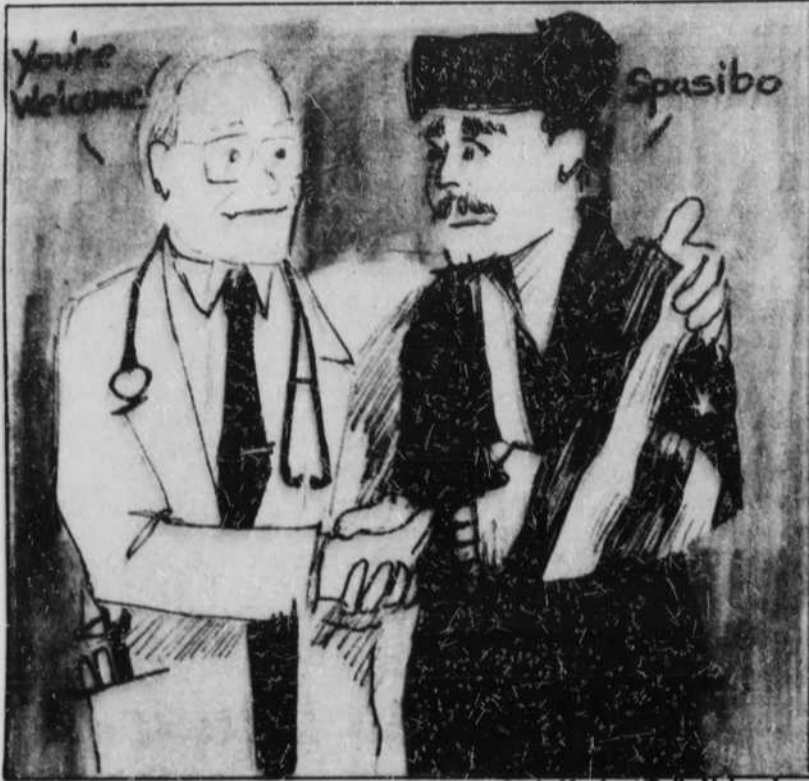


Armenians arrive for medical treatment



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

BOSTON -- Victims of the recent Armenian earthquake, some so severely injured that their limbs, skulls and bones are crushed, are beginning to arrive in the United States this week for medical treatment.

Their stories are varied and tragic, doctors who participated in the relief effort said Monday.

For example, 15-year-old Lena has come to the United States for operations that may restore her paralyzed left hand. Doctors say she was trapped under the rubble for three days with her mother. Unaware her mother had died, the teen-ager clutched her so tightly that her hand was frozen into a claw shape.

"The (Soviet) doctors told us very sad stories," Nishan G. Goudsouzian, chief of pediatric anesthesiology at Massachusetts General Hospital said at a news conference. "They said that they didn't get their first smile from a kid for three weeks. The kids couldn't sleep through the night. They said one would start crying and all the others would start."

Two American organizations, Project HOPE and Americares, are coordinating what are the first airlifts of Armenian earthquake victims to the United States.

Fifteen Armenians arrived Sunday in New York City with the help of

Americares, a relief agency based in New Canaan, Conn. The patients are scheduled to go to hospitals in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Missouri for treatment. Americares officials said they expect another airlift of victims to arrive in the United States by the end of the week.

A group of 37 children sponsored by the Virginia-based organization Project HOPE, is expected to arrive at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Thursday. Four of the children were taken to Massachusetts General Hospital for treatment. The others will go to hospitals in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, Florida and Ohio. Each child will be accompanied by a guardian, Project HOPE officials said.

Most of the adults and children need surgical and reconstructive treatment. The average stay will be from two to three months, doctors said.

Dr. John Remensnyder, a plastic surgeon from Massachusetts General who was part of the relief team, said the quality of care given in the Soviet Union to the victims was "excellent."

Nine physicians from Americares participated in the medical relief effort in Armenia. Eight doctors, including five from Massachusetts General Hospital, flew to Armenia in the Project HOPE effort.

The victims were culled from the thousands injured in the Dec. 7 quake which killed about 25,000 people and left 500,000 homeless.

The Project HOPE team selected 32 children from hospitals in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, and five children were chosen from hospitals in Moscow where they had been transferred.

The Washington, D.C.-based Armenian Assembly of America found volunteers in various cities where the patients are staying to visit and watch over them.

"They have severe orthopedic or reconstructive needs," said Americares spokesman Steve Norman. "We're talking about crushed pelvises. We have cases in which whole buildings fell on people's legs and arms. The physicians believe these are salvageable cases."

Doctors plan to insert tendon implants, muscle implants and use skin grafts to "rebuild sections of bodies that are missing," Norman said.

In one case, he said, the leg of one victim had to be amputated quickly under less than ideal circumstances to save the person's life. But since the operation was not done properly, the victim is being sent to the United States so doctors can replace his hip and the upper portion of his leg with a prosthesis.

Soviet convoys roll north from Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan -- The last military convoys rolled north toward the border Monday. Soviet officials said, more than a week before the deadline for the Red Army to leave a frustrating war in which it lost more than 13,000 men.

Hundreds of Soviet soldiers guarded the airport, where military transports brought in food and fuel to ease shortages caused by a blockade of Kabul by Moslem guerrillas who surround it.

In Moscow, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said "the last Soviet soldier left Kabul" on Sunday. Soviet officials in the Afghan capital, however, said about 1,000 Red Army troopers would remain at the airport until the end of next week.

Eduard A. Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, met with officials in neighboring Pakistan but did not find a way to end the 11-year-old civil war peacefully. He said Monday the Soviets would continue supporting the Marxist government in Kabul but would not send troops back into the country.

Soviet envoy Yuli Vorontsov left Tehran after talks with Afghan guerrillas leaders in Iran, Afghanistan's neighbor on the west.

He said he hoped "all political forces" would join a coalition government after the Soviets are gone, Iran's official news agency reported, but the insurgents have consistently refused such proposals.

Moslem guerrillas began fighting after a communist coup in April 1978 and Soviet soldiers entered Afghanistan in December 1979, growing in numbers to an estimated 115,000 by the time the withdrawal began May 15 under a U.N.-mediated agreement.

All are to be out of the country by Feb. 15. The Kremlin says more than 13,000 Soviet soldiers were killed and 35,000 wounded in the nine years.

Soviet diplomats said Monday all Red Army soldiers in Shindand had left their garrison, the last Soviet military complex in the country. They said the soldiers headed out of the western city over the weekend to meet a convoy at Herat and were expected at the border Wednesday or Thursday.

Pravda said Soviet troops had

moved defensive checkpoints on the Salang Highway to about 50 miles north of Kabul at a tunnel through some of the roughest terrain of 260-mile withdrawal route.

Pravda said insurgents did not attack Soviet convoys on the Salang, the only land route to the Soviet border from the capital, but four avalanches crashed down on retreating columns Sunday. It reported three soldiers killed and one injured.

"Terrorist grenades" wounded three Soviet officers who were handing over vehicles to the Afghan army Sunday in a Kabul suburb, the paper said.

At Termez, a Soviet border city where an airborne regiment arrived Monday from Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Igor Korolev said the last Red Army soldiers were moving toward the border. He said units were traveling north from Balkh, Samangan, Baglan, Parvan and Herat provinces.

Thousands of residents, servicemen and relatives greeted the men of the 350th Parachute Regiment as they came across the Friendship Bridge over the Amu River into Termez. The unit had been in Afghanistan since 1984.

A brass band played. Soldiers waved flags and stuffed red carnations into the muzzles of their submachine guns.

On the road behind the Kabul airport, by contrast, several young Soviets clutched their rifles nervously as they manned checkpoint bunkers.

Andrei, a 20-year-old from Moldavia, said he and the others would be flown home before Feb. 15 but had not been told exactly when.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said guerrilla shelling killed eight people in Kabul province. It said one person was killed and two were wounded in the cities of Gardiz and Khost in Paktia province.

Rockets and rocket-propelled grenades hit residential areas in Herat and the airport at Kandahar in the south, the agency said.

Guerrillas control nearly the Afghan countryside and, when the Soviets are gone, holding the conspiracy will be left to Afghanistan's conscript army. The insurgents predict the Marxist regime of President Najib, who uses only one name, will collapse quickly.

Roll call vote set for Wednesday

WASHINGTON -- House Speaker Jim Wright, bowing to opponents of a 51 percent congressional pay raise, announced today he would order a roll call vote on the issue Wednesday

before the boost can take effect. "The majority has spoken and the majority will speak even more emphatically tomorrow ... The majority will rule," he said.

Adviser: change would allow Solidarity

WARSAW, Poland -- The government's top delegate to historic talks with the opposition opened the first session Monday by offering to legalize Solidarity if the union agrees to economic and political reforms.

Interior Minister Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak, seated opposite Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, called for the opposition to participate in Poland's government.

Fifty-seven delegates from the government, the opposition and the Roman Catholic Church gathered for the talks at the ornate Council of Ministers Palace, the building where the Warsaw Pact was created.

The delegates met for about three hours and issued a short

communiqué that said talks by three "working groups" would resume Wednesday. One group will consider economic and social policies, another political reforms and the third the issue of allowing more than one union to exist.

"We were brought together here by the sense of responsibility for the future of our motherland. We are all responsible for the Poland to be," Kiszczak told the participants, the state-run news agency PAP reported.

"We must accept the philosophy of necessity alongside that of the gradual character of transformations," he said. "As it goes for trade union pluralism, there is no question if, but the point is how."

"We demand Solidarity. We

have the right to it," Walesa said in his speech, PAP reported.

Walesa blamed Poland's economic and political crisis on a lack of freedoms, but said he sensed the government was ready for change, state-run TV reported.

Known as the round table, the talks are the first between Solidarity and the government since the union was suppressed by the martial-law crackdown in December 1981.

"If we work out at the round table ... a confirmed consensus on the idea of non-confrontational elections as well as support for planned political and economic reforms, there will be an immediate possibility" to allow more than one trade union to exist at a given factory, Kiszczak said.

Some sex therapists face an ethical dilemma with new AIDS-infected patients

LOS ANGELES -- AIDS is forcing sex therapists to confront new ethical issues in deciding how to treat patients who also are infected by the virus.

"Do we as physicians have the right to withhold treatment of sexual dysfunction in patients who have a potentially lethal disease?" Dr. Brenda Lightfoote-Young of the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital asked in January's issue of *The Western Journal of Medicine*.

The ethical dilemma was illustrated by the case of a 55-year-old AIDS-infected man who was unable to have an erection because of circulation problems stemming from diabetes.

Before the man's AIDS infection was diagnosed, a sex therapy clinic had promised him a device that would help him achieve and maintain erections so he could have sex. After it was revealed the man carried the acquired immune deficiency syndrome virus, he complained that clinic staff members were stalling him.

"This patient had frequented bathhouses before his positive (AIDS) test and was ambivalent regarding his sexual practices, in the

future," Lightfoote-Young wrote in a letter to the journal. "He made no commitment ... to use his newly functional penis inside a condom."

The man got the device after promising to wear a condom and inform any sex partners that he was infected, she said in an interview.

His case not only raises the question of whether doctors should withhold treatment for such people's sexual disorders, but also whether treatment should be provided only if patients promise to engage only in "safe" sexual activities that won't spread the virus to other people.

Among the questions it raises, said Lightfoote-Young, are, "By what measure can we be responsible if a patient does infect another person while using a device to enhance sexual function?"

"If we do not treat sexual dysfunction in (AIDS-infected) patients, are we infringing upon the rights of the individual, as this patient alleged?"

"And what of society and our responsibility to the health of potential partners? Are the patient's verbal assurances sufficient, or does there need to be a formal psychiatric assessment of a patient's stability and reliability?"

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