

## Soviets release airport

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Soviet soldiers Sunday handed over their last and most dangerous outpost as they prepared to return home and leave the Afghan army to defend the capital against Moslem guerrillas.

The Soviet-backed Afghan government renewed its offer to negotiate with the guerrillas.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said the remaining 300 Soviet soldiers in Kabul would leave Tuesday, weather permitting.

The departure would be a day ahead of the deadline set by a U.N.-sponsored accord to end nine years of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The last soldiers were guarding the Kabul airport while the Soviets completed a food airlift to the capital, which the guerrillas are expected to besiege when the Red Army is gone.

A U.N. airlift of food, medicine and blankets was suspended Sunday after Ethiopia pulled out of the program, officials said.

An Ethiopian airliner made one flight to Kabul, unloaded 32 tons of wheat and then refused to return to the city, said Sadruddin Aga Khan, coordinator of the U.N. Office of Economic and Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan. "I'm not able to say if or

when the next flight will be," Aga Khan said at a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan.

During a heavy snowstorm Sunday, Soviet troops turned over their last outpost, on the edge of Kabul airport.

Afghan soldiers raised their nation's red, black and green flag, and Soviet and Afghan troops cheered as the changeover was completed.

The Afghans arrived with luggage, blankets and other personal belongings as well as automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades.

The airport, the capital's key link to the outside world, has been a frequent target of guerrilla rocket attacks. It has not been hit in more than a month.

The guerrillas have been fighting the government in a civil war that began in 1978 when the communists seized power in a coup.

Some insurgent leaders operate from Pakistan. On Saturday, Afghan President Najib accused Pakistan of massing troops along the border to invade and then annex Afghanistan.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Sunday dismissed the allegation, saying her nation had enough problems of its own without "foreign adventures."

## Chief Justice delays North trial

WASHINGTON -- The chief justice on Sunday delayed the Iran-Contra trial of Oliver North, responding to Justice Department fears that the fired White House aide will pour out secrets in the courtroom that are damaging to national security.

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist ordered "that the trial proceedings in United States versus Oliver L. North... be stayed" pending consideration by the full Supreme Court on Friday.

The court will consider Attorney General Dick Thornburgh's request for a stay of the trial so that the Justice Department can seek a court order imposing more stringent controls on classified material North wants to use at trial.

The judge in the North case, U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, rejected the Justice Department's request for such an order on Wednesday.

Friday is the day the Supreme Court had scheduled its first regular business meeting since its winter break.

Rehnquist's administrative stay came as government sources said the Justice Department was working with prosecutors in an effort to reach

a compromise that would allow the trial to proceed without delay.

Discussions under way Sunday afternoon involved a possible compromise, with the Justice Department narrowing its objections to the planned release by North of classified material at his trial, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Justice Department last Wednesday detailed broad objections to many categories of classified material that North plans to introduce at his trial, saying the judge in the case has imposed far too few safeguards to protect national security.

The sources declined to discuss any details of the ongoing discussions over a possible compromise.

Since last Thursday, the Justice Department has been trying to delay the trial, while independent counsel Lawrence Walsh, whose office is prosecuting North, wants opening arguments to begin immediately.

A jury was seated in the case Thursday, and Gesell told the panel to return Monday morning.

The department on Saturday went to the Supreme Court in an attempt to delay the trial and the special prosecutor's office quickly filed counter

arguments.

It was not immediately clear what impact Rehnquist's order would have on the pace of those discussions, or even whether they would continue now that the high court has agreed to consider the issues raised.

The possibility of a compromise by the Justice Department came up Saturday when a government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the department wanted to try to work with Walsh's office to resolve differences which surfaced Wednesday.

The source said there would be a two-prong approach, with the attempt at cooperation taking place at the same time the department worked on preparing an affidavit to the court from Attorney General Dick Thornburgh that would in effect bar disclosure of certain classified material North plans to use on the grounds that it would harm national security.

Depending on the scope of the affidavit, such a drastic step could lead to dismissal of some or all of the 12 criminal charges against North, because he would be barred from using classified material that he planned to use in an attempt to prove his innocence.

## Five killed in protest of book

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Police fired on hundreds of protesters Sunday who stormed a U.S. government office to demand the United States ban a novel they consider offensive to Moslems. At least five people died and 65 were injured, doctors said.

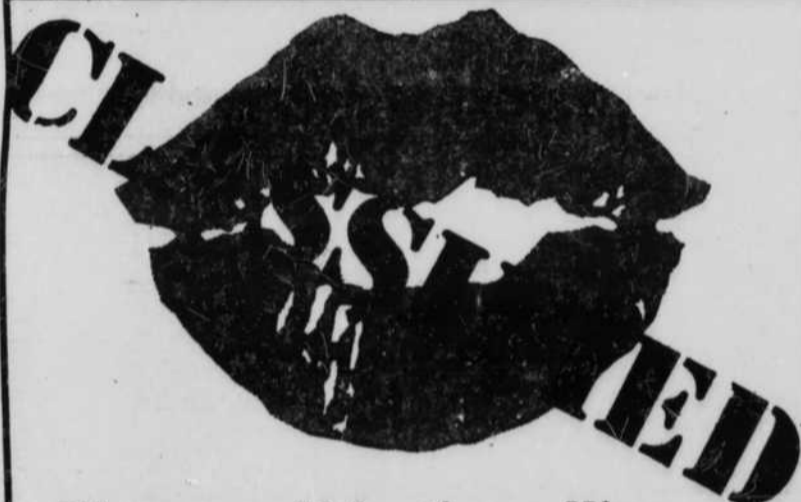
Police repeatedly fired semi-automatic weapons, rifles and shotguns at charging protesters who yelled "American dogs!" and hurled rocks and bricks during three hours of fierce clashes.

The rioting erupted when more than 2,000 fundamentalists tried to march to the U.S. Information Center to demand the United States ban "Satanic Verses," a novel by Salman Rushdie.

In Kennebunkport, Maine, where President Bush was spending the weekend, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said U.S. officials were monitoring the Islamabad situation closely. Fitzwater said the national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, telephoned Bush early Sunday to tell him of the riot.

"God is great!" protesters screamed as they smashed windows and started fires after driving off scores of police.

They tore down the American flag at the center and danced in delight as it was burned, along with effigies representing the Indian-born Rushdie and the United States. "Hang Salman Rushdie," one man yelled.



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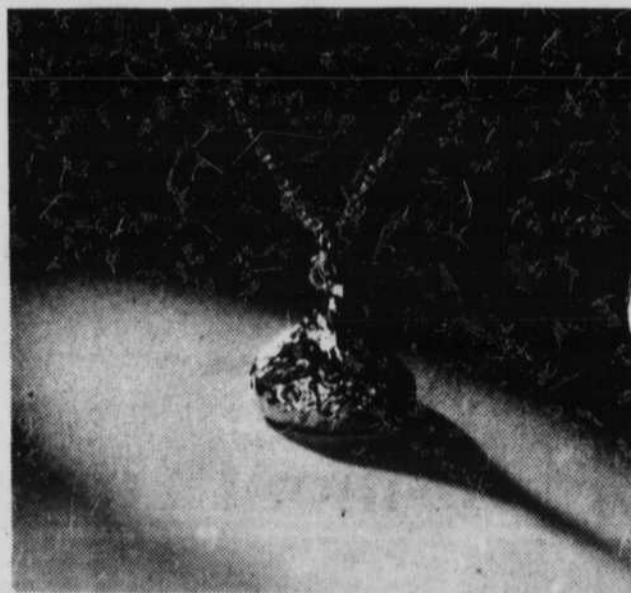
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