

Second hostage freed; Polhill visits White House

DAMASCUS, Syria - American hostage Frank Reed was freed Monday after being held for 43 "endless" months, much of the time blindfolded, by Shiite Moslem kidnappers in Lebanon. He was the second American freed in nine days.

"I'd like to tell my family, especially my son Tarek, that his daddy is well. He is a little skinny, but he will be home very soon," the 57-year-old educator from Malden, Mass., told state-run Syrian TV after his release.

In the Boston suburb of Malden, Reed's Syrian Moslem wife, Fahima "Fifi" Reed, 39, saw her husband on television and exclaimed, "He looks great! He's in a suit. . . I want to see everybody happy as I am now."

Reed, who lived in Beirut since 1977, converted to Islam to marry Fahima. Tarek is their 9-year-old son.

He was freed in Beirut at 8:30 p.m. (1:30 p.m. EDT), Syrian officials said, and was driven to the Syrian capital, where Foreign Minister Farouk al-

Sharaa turned him over to U.S. ambassador Edward Djerejian.

He left Damascus at 2:22 a.m. Tuesday (7:22 p.m. EDT Monday) on a U.S. military transport plane headed for the U.S. Air Force Base at Wiesbaden, West Germany, where he will undergo medical checks and a debriefing by a State Department team.

President Bush hailed Reed's release as Bush welcomed former hostage Robert Polhill to the White House, another U.S. educator who was freed in Lebanon on April 22 after 39 months in captivity. Bush thanked Syria and Iran for their help in securing the releases and said "things seem to be moving," but that there could be no rest "until all hostages are free."

There are still 16 Westerners, including six Americans, held hostage in Lebanon.

"I hope this is a forerunner to the release of the other American hostages and the others from other countries held against their will," Bush

said.

The Iranian newspaper Tehran Times said Tuesday that unless Washington answers the latest releases with goodwill gestures, no more Americans will go free.

Reed appeared pale and smoked a cigarette following his release.

At a briefing at the ministry, he said he could not answer some questions out of concern for the other hostages -- "I do not want to say anything that could harm them."

The freed captive appeared in reasonable health. He was clean-shaven, and wore a dark suit and a blue tie. His voice was husky.

"We had adequate fresh food, and the opportunity to bathe and shower, and given clean clothes," he said.

He told the briefing that although he was fed well and had warm clothing, "I was not very happy, of course."

Reed spoke haltingly at times, his eyes downcast. "I haven't talked much "as a hostage," he explained. "I feel

I'm well in terms of the basic organs I have in my body."

He said he did not hold the Lebanese people responsible for his ordeal, and that "I want to thank the Syrian government for all their efforts in helping me become a free man."

He said he was blindfolded 24 hours a day during much of his captivity.

"I feel odd that my blindfold is not here," he said, touching his face.

He had an opportunity to bathe, Reed reported, and was offered the chance to watch TV occasionally, except for newscasts -- but he refused.

"I did not want to be entertained when I had lost my freedom."

"I hope, Godspeed, that my colleagues . . . somehow will be released soon," he concluded.

"It was lonely, it was boring," he said.

Asked why he thought he was

captured, he replied: "No one ever said why I was taken. The bottom line was, I was an American."

Reed arrived at the Foreign Ministry at 11:20 p.m. (4:20 p.m. EDT) in a gray Peugeot. He was escorted out of the car by two Syrian security men, and whisked into the building through a side door.

The security men helped the white-haired Reed out of the car. But then he walked by himself into the ministry, where he appeared before a news conference.

In Beirut, Reed was handed to officers of the Syrian army contingent that controls east and north Lebanon as well as Moslem west Beirut, where Reed was kidnapped Sept. 9, 1986, said the Syrian officials, who refused to be identified.

They refused to say exactly where the release occurred. Journalists at the Summerland Hotel in Beirut, where previous hostages were released, said they did not see Reed.

Latvian citizen's group demands independence declaration

MOSCOW - A Latvian citizen's group claiming to represent hundreds of thousands of Latvians demanded Monday that the republic follow Lithuania's lead and declare independence from the Soviet Union, a spokeswoman said.

The Latvian spokeswoman, voicing sentiments identical to those heard in Lithuania, said, "This is an occupied country. We are under Soviet power here, under an occupying army."

The Latvian Citizens' Congress, elected mainly from among ethnic Latvians, convened Monday and called

for restoration of Latvian independence, spokeswoman Ivetta Buicke said.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were independent countries between World War I and World War II but were forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940.

Ethnic Latvians make up just over half of Latvia's population of 2.7 million, and a poll published Monday by the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia said that 92 percent of those polled favor secession. Non-Latvian residents make up 46 percent of the republic, and 45 percent were for independence.

The congress met three days before the official Latvian Supreme Soviet parliament was to consider whether to emulate Lithuania's March 11 declaration of independence.

The Estonian parliament also has made clear it intends to follow Lithuania in seceding from the Soviet Union, but more cautiously.

The Latvian congress claims the right to replace the republic's Supreme Soviet during the transition to independence. Its members were elected in March by registered ethnic Latvian voters. It says it represents about 700,000 Latvians.

Latvian politicians are predicting a heated parliamentary battle on the independence issue later this week.

"May 3 and 4 are going to be very hot days," said Anda Anspoka of the pro-independence Latvian People's Front, which won a majority in the Supreme Soviet in elections held in March.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev recently warned Latvian delegates that he would offer the republic special status in a reconfigured Soviet federation but he would not accept outright secession.

Gorbachev embargoed oil and

natural gas shipments to Lithuania in response to its parliament's declaration of independence, although the sanctions do not seem to have dampened the Lithuanians' drive for sovereignty.

Official Vilnius Radio reported on Sunday that Moscow planned to ease the sanctions by increasing natural gas deliveries to a large fertilizer plant at Jonava.

However, deliveries did not increase Monday, and it was impossible to learn whether they would start before the end of the May Day holiday on Wednesday.

! ? WHY STUDY HARDER THAN YOU HAVE TO! ?
LET ZENITH SHOW YOU HOW TO TAKE A BREAK

ZENITH INNOVATES AGAIN™

SupersPort 286 model 20
This battery-powered portable computer goes everywhere you and your backpack go! And all the power of a desktop! The SupersPort 286 offers: 1MB of memory, 79-key full-function keyboard, detachable battery, zero wait states and much more!!

Z-286 LP 8MHz with FTM monitor
Let Zenith Data Systems make school work easier with the Z-286 LP, it delivers 286 speed and power in a compact, 4"-high cabinet design. Our award-winning FTM monitor gives you the level of compatibility and colors with greater depth and definition.

Zenith Data Systems
1-800-327-6234

ZENITH data systems
Groupe Bull

Graphics emulate Microsoft® Windows, a product of Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft® Windows is included with all hard disk models of Zenith Data Systems advanced desktop systems. Special pricing offer good only on purchases made through Zenith Contacts listed above by students, faculty and staff for their own use. No other discounts apply. Limit one personal computer per individual in any 12-month period. Prices subject to change without notice.

© 1989, Zenith Data Systems

Former HUD employee testifies

WASHINGTON - The Reagan administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development was a "domestic political machine" under Samuel Pierce Jr., handing out grants to the well connected, a former HUD official later convicted of bribery told a House subcommittee Monday.

Dubois Gilliam, a former deputy assistant secretary under Pierce, disputed the former housing secretary's assertion that he didn't decide who got federal grants. Pierce himself ordered federal grants in some cases, Gilliam said.

He linked the Reagan White House to the HUD controversy in at least one specific instance, saying the administration ordered federal money for a New Mexico project that had encountered problems.

"We dealt strictly with politics," he told the panel that has spent more than a year investigating allegations of fraud, mismanagement, influence peddling and political favoritism at HUD.

"During the period I was there . . . the Department of Housing and Urban Development was the best domestic political machine I have ever seen," Gilliam said.

Gilliam's testimony was the first the panel has heard from a former top HUD insider about Pierce's eight years as secretary.

Pierce's lawyers, who attended the hearing, dismissed Gilliam's testimony as lacking credibility.

Attorney Paul Perito called the testimony "a sordid menu from an admitted felon." He said Gilliam never accused Pierce of violating the law, and that Gilliam was testifying in an effort to win early release from prison.

Pierce testified before the panel last May, later invoking his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination to avoid further testimony. Three former top aides also refused to testify.

Gilliam is serving an 18-month prison sentence after pleading guilty to accepting gratuities and conspiracy to defraud the government for abuse of HUD programs.

Testifying under a court-ordered grant of immunity, he described receiving as much as \$100,000 in clothes, money, travel and other gratuities from developers and consultants. Gilliam said he did not believe Pierce ever took any illegal gratuities.

Subcommittee Chairman Tom Lantos, D-Calif., called Gilliam "the key missing piece in the jigsaw puzzle."

Gilliam's testimony about the Urban Development Action Grant program raised new allegations about a program under which grants were to be based on numerical formulas. He said HUD under Pierce considered who outside the agency supported projects when deciding which ones got money.

Lantos asked Gilliam if he would agree with statements Pierce made in a September magazine interview and to his committee in May 1989, saying he never told his top assistants to fund particular projects by developers seeking HUD grants.

"I know for a fact the secretary made decisions" on HUD grants, Gilliam said.

He said Deborah Gore Dean, once Pierce's executive assistant, would not allow approval of discretionary grants "without first clearing it with him." Dean also has refused to testify before the House Government Operations subcommittee on employment and housing.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor **Amy Edwards** 472-1766
Managing Editor **Ryan Steeves**
Assoc. News Editors **Lisa Donovan**
Eric Planner

Photo Chief **Dave Hansen**
Night News Editors **Jana Pedersen**
Professional Adviser **Diane Brayton**
Don Walton 473-7301

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE. Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Pam Hein, 472-2588.

Subscription price is \$45 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1990 DAILY NEBRASKAN