

## Planning key to raid's success

**Peru hostage crisis lasted four months and was ended in less than an hour.**

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Tipped by a hidden radio receiver that rescuers were about to blow their way into the Japanese ambassador's home, one of the 72 hostages thought it was a joke — gallows humor. For another, the three-minute warning seemed like an eternity.

Downstairs in the reception area, eight rebels wearing the T-shirts of their favorite Peruvian teams were having fun, playing a four-on-four game of soccer with a makeshift ball made out of rolled-up, taped curtain.

With a boom, the floor suddenly buckled beneath the rebels from a blast set off in a tunnel dug under the reception hall, and 140 commandos rushed in with guns crackling. After four tense months of captivity, the hostages were free, all 14 of their guerrilla captors dead.

Also dead was one hostage and two soldiers. But exactly how did Peru's security forces pull off a raid that rivaled some of the most stunning hostage rescues in years?

With patience, detailed planning and even a bold warning to the hostages just ahead of the raid.

"We'll free you in three minutes," authorities reportedly told a retired

naval officer who had been able to hide his radio receiver from rebels the entire four months he was in captivity. The hostage, identified by Lima's El Sol newspaper as retired Adm. Luis Giampietri Rojas, quickly passed the word on to the others.

For Bolivian Ambassador Jorge Gumucio, the wait "seemed like forever."

Another captive, Roman Catholic priest Juan Julio Wicht, had just finished a game of chess when someone whispered that the rescue was imminent.

"He tells us that they're going to free us in a few minutes, everything will be OK. I thought it was a joke, because we've made a lot of black-humor jokes," he said.

The rebels, many of them teenagers, had been careless. Frustrated by months of being cooped up in the mansion, they had been playing soccer for 20 minutes. Even rebel leader Nestor Cerpa was among the players.

Suddenly the floor exploded below their feet. Police had burrowed under the building over the months since the Dec. 17 takeover, monitoring rebel discussions and movements and planting explosives in the tunnel.

Looking down from upstairs, three guerrillas who were watching the soccer game in the reception area and another three who were on guard barely had time to react. A few tried to open fire.

One threw a grenade that killed at

least one of the two soldiers who died, said Gumucio, the Bolivian ambassador.

But commandos were everywhere, blasting through the front door, blowing a hole in the roof and even popping up like moles out of a tunnel that led out in the garden.

Unlike the rebels, some of the hostages were ready. They sprawled on the floor and covered their faces so guerrillas couldn't identify the most important captives for what they feared would be an execution.

"Don't move, don't move," Japanese Ambassador Morihisa Aoki warned other hostages as they lay choking on billowing smoke while explosions shook the walls.

Somebody dragged a mattress over Aoki's head. Others covered their heads with books. Then they got to their feet and fled, one in his underwear and clutching his trousers.

Elite commandos had plenty of time to plan their split-second raid. And they were painstaking, reportedly slipping unnoticed in civilian clothes into houses near the compound over several weeks and training at a crude wooden replica of the ambassador's home in the dusty hills outside Lima.

The tunnel, a key in the rescue's success, reportedly led to three points within the compound — the kitchen, the main reception area and under the tent set up in the back garden for the cocktail party that the rebels stormed on Dec. 17.

## Nation/World

from The Associated Press

### Judge rules California term limits unconstitutional

OAKLAND, Calif. — Term limits for California lawmakers, approved by voters in 1990, were ruled unconstitutional Wednesday by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken said the California initiative, Proposition 130, went too far by imposing a lifetime ban on lawmakers who have reached their term limits — three two-year terms in the Assembly, two four-year terms in the state Senate.

"California's extreme version of term limits imposes a severe burden on the right of its citizens to vote for candidates of their choice," Wilken wrote.

She agreed to suspend her ruling during the state's appeal. That probably means term limits will remain in effect for the 1998 elections.

### Wreckage in Rockies is missing A-10, Air Force says

EAGLE, Colo. — Two pieces of wreckage found on a snowy Rocky Mountain peak are from the Air Force A-10 warplane that vanished on a training mission over Arizona three weeks ago, the military confirmed Wednesday. The search for the plane's missing pilot continued.

### Islamic court executes man by slitting his throat

GROZNY, Russia — In the first capital punishment case handled by Chechnya's Islamic courts, a man convicted of murder was put to death by an executioner who slit his throat with a dagger, a news agency said Wednesday.

The man, identified only as Ibrahim, was found guilty of killing a man, a woman and their 6-year-old son with an ax, the ITAR-Tass agency reported. He was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time of the killings last October, it said. The execution was broadcast on state television.

### Iran launches part two of 'Road to Jerusalem' war games

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran launched the second day of its largest-ever war games near the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, maneuvers designed to test Tehran's array of missiles and demonstrate its military prowess.

The maneuvers focus on demonstrating Iran's naval might and its ability to control the strategic strait, gateway for one-fifth of the world's oil supplies.

More than 200,000 Revolutionary Guards and Islamic volunteers are taking part in the three-day war games, nicknamed Tariq-ol-Qods, or "The Road to Jerusalem."

### Supporting Clinton, Dole backs chemical weapons ban

WASHINGTON — On the eve of a Senate showdown, President Clinton won surprise support from former rival Bob Dole on Wednesday for a worldwide treaty to ban chemical weapons. Clinton also courted backing from Majority Leader Trent Lott.

"Is it perfect? No," Dole said at a White House ceremony attended by Clinton. "But I believe there are now adequate safeguards to protect American interests."

The treaty, already ratified by 74 nations, would ban the use, development, production or stockpiling of all chemical warfare agents and require the destruction of existing stockpiles over the next decade. It will take effect next week, whether or not the United States ratifies it.

### Ralph Reed resigns as Christian Coalition director

WASHINGTON — Ralph Reed announced Wednesday he is resigning as executive director of the Christian Coalition, an 8-year-old religious conservative organization he helped build into a major force in Republican politics.

Reed told a news conference he is leaving in September to form a political consulting firm to be named Century Strategies. It likely will have its headquarters in his native state of Georgia, with offices in Washington and elsewhere, he said.

## The Lighter Side...

of The Associated Press



MATT HANEY/DN

### Sex in the South: Make love, not elephants

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — It seemed like a good idea: Use hormones to keep elephants from getting pregnant.

South Africa's largest game park has dropped that experiment in jumbo-size birth control after a seven-month trial run, appalled to find the hormones put female elephants' sex drive in overdrive.

Instead of keeping the elephants from going into heat, the estrogen patches kept them in constant heat. The result: torrid scenes of wild sexual abandon on the grounds of Kruger National Park.

Traditionally, wildlife managers control the size of elephant herds by simply selecting some of the animals for killing. But that method invariably prompts protests.

The experiment at Kruger was part of a two-pronged effort to see if it was possible and practical to control the herds' size pharmaceutically.

In one of the two methods tried, park workers administered a vaccine that prevents sperm from penetrating the females' eggs. That program continues without problems on 22 elephants.

Then there was the effort to use estrogen. Park workers picked 10 elephants for the experiment — tranquilizing them via darts fired from helicopters, running ultrasounds to make sure they weren't already pregnant, and fitting slow-release patches behind their ears.

Questions arose about the results "as soon as the thing started," Park Veterinarian Douw Grobler said.

None of the elephants got pregnant, but "this was not the kind of behavior we were looking for," Grobler said.

## Fuzzy Zoeller withdraws from PGA tournament

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Choking back tears, Fuzzy Zoeller withdrew from this week's PGA tournament, saying he wanted to apologize personally to Tiger Woods for racially insensitive remarks he made about the Masters champion.

"I am the one who screwed up and I will pay the price," Zoeller said Wednesday, in pulling out of the Greater Greensboro Chrysler Classic.

The surprising move came one day after Kmart severed its promotional ties with Zoeller because of his remarks.

Zoeller, 45, said he couldn't continue playing competitive golf until talking with the 21-year-old Woods, who on April 13 became the first black to win a major.

For the third straight day, Zoeller read a statement apologizing for calling Woods "that little boy" and urging him not to request fried chicken and collard greens at the Champions Dinner when he returns to Augusta National next year.

"I also regret the distraction this has caused the world of golf," Zoeller said. "What I said is distracting people at this tournament. And that's not fair to the other people on this course trying to play this tournament."

## Daily Nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, 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 calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Subscription price is \$55 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, Neb.

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