

News Digest

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Acceptance of warrant by Britain called illegal

■ General Pinochet's lawyers contest the legality of his extradition, while Margaret Thatcher asks for his release.

LONDON (AP) — Lawyers for Gen. Augusto Pinochet filed a court motion Thursday contending British police acted illegally in accepting a Spanish warrant seeking the extradition of the former Chilean dictator.

Lord Justice Konrad Schiemann set a Monday hearing on the High Court motion and refused to let lawyers make any arguments during a brief hearing.

A Spanish magistrate is seeking to extradite Pinochet to face charges of

murder, torture and genocide.

Earlier, an appeal by Margaret Thatcher for the release of Pinochet angered left-wing lawmakers and underlined a political dilemma for the Labor Party government.

Baroness Thatcher, Conservative prime minister from 1979-1990, said Pinochet should be returned home, both because he supported Britain during the 1982 war against Argentina and because his arrest endangers Chile's new democracy.

"There were indeed abuses of human rights in Chile and acts of violence on both sides of the political divide," Thatcher wrote in a letter to The Times of London. "However, the people of Chile, through successively elected democratic governments, have

determined how they should come to terms with their past."

Pinochet, 82, remains under police guard at the London clinic where he was arrested Oct. 16 at the instigation of a Spanish magistrate.

The judge is seeking to extradite him on charges of murder, genocide and torture.

The evidence in Judge Baltasar Garzon's order was based on the report produced by the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission, appointed by former Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

The report was published in 1991 and identified 3,197 victims of state-sanctioned killings committed under the Pinochet regime — including 1,102 who are still unaccounted for and presumed dead.

Mayor makes waves, gets raves in Taipei

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Thanks to Taipei Mayor Chen Shui-bian's four-year crusade to clean up a capital widely known as "the ugly duckling of Asia," it is illegal to leave trash at any curbside in Taipei.

Instead, many people wait until they hear a garbage truck passing their homes playing Beethoven's "Für Elise." Then, out they come with their trash.

Chen also has enforced laws to fight the city's monstrous traffic jams, to reduce the number of fires that once damaged many karaoke bars and restaurants and to crack down on illegal gambling dens and a once-notorious sex industry.

He has razed a shantytown and dilapidated military barracks and replaced them with parks. A large wild bird sanctuary, built on a wetland long used as a garbage dump, was opened to the public this month. And public buses now display poems for commuters to read.

Before Chen, leader of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, won ground-breaking elections in 1994, Taipei had been ruled for 27 years by appointees of the ruling Nationalist Party.

Although the appointees had managed to build two lines of a new subway system, the city couldn't get them running smoothly until Chen took over.

And even though garbage trucks had long whimsically announced their arrival to strains of Beethoven, their haphazard schedule meant residents did not know when to have their trash ready and often left it rotting on the sidewalks.

Chen's solution: The trucks now are required to arrive at a fixed time every day.

Chen, 47, is expected to face a serious challenge in the Dec. 5 mayoral election as the governing Nationalist Party, which has ruled Taiwan since 1945, tries to recover Taipei.

But for now, the man who first gained notoriety years ago as a leading dissident is a widely popular do-something mayor of the capital of 2.6 million people that he is remaking.

Besides the Nationalist Party, his only prominent opponents are prostitutes, put out of business when he shut down licensed brothels in

"(Mayor Chen) is ... the only Taipei mayor who has done his job."

LEE WEN
convenience store owner

Taipei's red-light district, and the organized crime groups who ran the illegal sex outlets Chen shut down.

Chen's cracking down on prostitution, shutting down the city's 4,000 unlicensed video game arcades to combat illegal gambling and imposition of a midnight curfew for everyone 18 or younger have won widespread support.

When police records showed the capital's juvenile crime rate had fallen by 28 percent last year, many credited Chen.

Such moves have been so wildly popular that all the Nationalists have been able to do so far is accuse Chen of being unpatriotic — he removed portraits of the late strongman Chiang Kai-shek from City Hall and opened the gardens of Chiang's former residence to the public.

As the election campaign nears, the mayor is busy doing everything he can to praise his own achievements.

"Whether we are building a city or a nation, we must be bold to make changes and never stop making progress," he declared at a recent gathering of artists.

Still, Chen has his critics, who say he pushes his policies too fast rather than waiting to win public consent and places urban development above environmental concerns, cutting down old trees to make way for highways, despite protests.

But that doesn't appear to have gotten very far with the general public.

"Mayor Chen is indeed very much a showman," said convenience store owner Lee Wen. "But he is also the only Taipei mayor who has done his job. Everyone can see the big difference."

Bond opener top movie quote

From Garbo to Bogart, best lines appear in 'Guinness Book of Film'

LONDON (AP) — "Bond. James Bond."

As introductions go, that one by Sean Connery in the 1962 film "Dr. No" went down as smoothly as a vodka martini — shaken, not stirred, of course — and now tops a list of the most famous movie quotes ever.

Agent 007's signature line beat out memorable deliveries by Humphrey Bogart, Clark Gable, Groucho Marx and Greta Garbo to top a list drawn up by 10 film critics and experts to mark the publication of "The Guinness Book of Film."

Al Jolson's opening line — "Wait a minute! Wait a minute! You ain't heard nothin' yet!" — in the first talkie, 1927's "The Jazz Singer," set the stage for the greatest movie quotes. Compilers had 71 years and thousands of movies from which to glean the top 10.

"We were looking for quotations that were accessible and that had popular appeal on a global scale," said Karen O'Brien, the book's editor. "We were also looking for wit and delivery. Delivery is important."

Picking No. 1 was easy, she said, not only because Bond's introduction was the first utterance by Connery as 007, but also because it is repeated in the 17 subsequent Bond films.

The Top 10 Movie Quotes

1. "Bond. James Bond." — Sean Connery, "Dr. No," 1962.
2. "Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world, she walks into mine." — Humphrey Bogart, "Casablanca," 1942.
3. "It's not the men in your life that counts, it's the life in your men." — Mae West, "I'm No Angel," 1933.
4. "I'll be back." — Arnold Schwarzenegger, "The Terminator," 1984.
5. "Would you be shocked if I changed into something more comfortable?" — Jean Harlow, "Hell's Angels," 1930.
6. "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get." — Tom Hanks, "Forrest Gump," 1994.
7. "I could dance with you 'til the cows come home. On second thought, I'd rather dance with the cows until you came home." — Groucho Marx, "Duck Soup," 1933.
8. "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn." — Clark Gable, "Gone With The Wind," 1939.
9. "You talkin' to me?" — Robert De Niro, "Taxi Driver," 1976.
10. "Gimme a visky with a ginger ale on the side — and don't be stinchy, beby." — Greta Garbo, "Anna Christie," 1930.

The compilers reached back to Hollywood's early history for most of the screen gems — six of the 10 are from the 1930s and '40s — and flipped ahead to 1994 for the most recent, Tom Hanks' "Forrest Gump" noting how "Life is like a box of chocolates."

The earliest is Greta Garbo in 1930's "Anna Christie": "Gimme a

visky with a ginger ale on the side — and don't be stinchy, beby" — her first words in her first talkie.

"The Guinness Book of Film" summarizes 1,000 movies by decades and is available now in Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore and India. It may be published in other countries, including the United States, later.

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Study: Valium means more wrecks

LONDON (AP) — Drivers taking commonly prescribed anti-anxiety drugs such as Valium are more than twice as likely to be involved in traffic accidents as those not taking the drugs, a new study says.

The risk of accidents for people under the age of 45 is more than three times greater for those who take the drugs, according to the research, published in Thursday's edition of the British medical journal The Lancet.

"The current warnings are that if you feel drowsy, don't drive. That needs to be changed," said Dr. Tom MacDonald, a clinical pharmacologist from the University of Dundee in Scotland who led the study. "I would say: If you use these drugs, don't drive."

Thousands of lives could be saved worldwide every year, and hundreds of thousands of traffic accidents

avoided, if people who used such drugs did not drive while on medication, the researchers said.

Tranquilizers such as Valium, generically known as diazepam, are commonly used to treat anxiety, other stress-related disorders and muscle spasms.

They are the most commonly prescribed tranquilizers, with 18 million prescriptions in Britain alone in 1997. Worldwide figures were not available.

Patients usually feel drowsy on these drugs in the first few days of taking them, but accidents occur at the same rate regardless of whether drowsiness occurs, MacDonald said.

A spokesman for Hoffman LaRoche, the Swiss maker of Valium, said his company's warning labels are very clear.

Dr. Desmond O'Neill, a geriatrician

"I would say: If you use these drugs, don't drive."

DR. TOM MACDONALD
clinical pharmacologist

at the Center for Mobility Enhancement at Adelaide and Meath Hospital in Dublin, Ireland, viewed the study's conclusions with caution.

"They've made us think hard, but it still isn't enough evidence to tell people not to drive," he said.

"Is it the illness or the medication? If you're that agitated that you need the drug, maybe that's the problem."