

Guerrillas In Colombia Free 5 More Hostages

BOGOTA, Colombia (UPI) — Leftist guerrillas freed their last five women hostages today opening the way for negotiations on ransom demands for the release of 40 diplomats seized two days ago in an attack on the Dominican Embassy residence.

The five women walked out shortly after 9 a.m., entered four automobiles and left the area. Their release was about an hour later than the time originally announced.

The guerrillas, who are demanding \$50 million ransom and freedom for more than 300 of their jailed comrades, had released 10 other women, a 16-year-old boy and two wounded men Thursday night. They still are holding an estimated 40 diplomats, including the U. S. Ambassador and the papal nuncio.

The fate of U.S. Ambassador Diego Asencio and the heads of diplomatic missions from a dozen other countries and the Vatican hinged on the outcome of talks between the government and the leftist group.

More than 20 heavily armed guerrillas of the April 19th Movement, including eight women, carried out Wednesday's takeover of the embassy residence, where they rounded up most of Bogota's diplomatic corps attending an independence day reception.

The guerrillas demanded the release of 311 jailed leftist comrades as well as the \$50 million ransom in exchange for the freedom of the remaining hostages.

The government of President Julio Cesar Turbat announced it would be ready to "establish a dialogue" with the guerrillas as soon as the remaining woman hostages joined the 13 who have already been freed.

In a telephone interview with the Los Angeles Times, Asencio said the spirit of the hostages was "very high at this point."

"They are treating us with a lot of consideration and courtesy," he said. "It is a little crowded but comfortable ... Really,

we are sort of camping here, but spirits are very high at this point.

"We feel we have seen a good response from the government to the guerrilla demands and there are good prospects for a satisfactory solution."

In a statement distributed in Beirut, the guerrilla group said the embassy seizure was intended to dramatize their opposition to Turbat, who is of Lebanese extraction.

"Military dictatorship is ruling under the guise of democracy. The defense law is the most reactionary in the history of Colombia," the statement said.

It also outlined the various facets of Colombian political and economic life and voiced its support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

In the first break in the crisis, the government Thursday granted the Red Cross permission to deliver food and blankets to the besieged residence in exchange for the release of 10 women, a 16-year-old boy and two wounded men.

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Napa County Auto Thefts Soar 24.5% During 1979

By STAN VAUGHN
Register Staff Writer

While vehicle thefts in California increased nearly 10 percent in 1979 — double the historical rate of 5 percent, Napa County showed a whopping 24.5 percent jump over figures reported for 1978.

Countywide, there were 351 vehicles reported stolen last year — the vast majority taken in the city of Napa. Napa Police Department records listed 245 thefts in 1979, which was 60 above 1978's figure and matched the county's jump of 24.5 percent.

Thefts reported outside city police jurisdictions are handled by the California Highway Patrol, and it, too, showed a marked increase last year. Eighty-three vehicles were stolen in 1979, compared to 60 in 1978 and nearly a 28 percent increase.

Calistoga had by far the highest percentage jump with thefts more than doubling from seven to 15 — a 53.3 percent climb.

The only exception in the county was St. Helena, which actually showed a 38 percent decrease in thefts, falling from 13 in 1978 to eight last year.

"The average thefts here are still because people leave their keys in the car ignition," CHP officer Hank Durbin said earlier this week. "We don't have a professional ring here, it's mostly local people who want to go for a joy ride, or transients coming through."

Even with the modern locking systems on recently-built autos, Durbin says they can be broken in a matter of minutes and the car stolen.

"We have to have an on-going program to publicize vehicle thefts," Durbin continued, speaking of the CHP efforts to make people aware they should lock up their vehicles as effectively as possible.

St. Helena Police Chief Andy Angel said most of the vehicles stolen there were used for a joy ride, and he was proud of the fact that all eight were recovered, as well as some vehicles stolen from other cities.

Statewide reports indicate that small cars are being taken at a higher rate. Thefts of Toyota, Datsun, Honda, Subaru, Mazda and Volkswagen showed an overall jump of 25 percent, while thefts of automobiles generally moved up only 5 percent.

"But the most popular passenger vehicle target remained the 1963-64 Chevrolet," CHP Commissioner Glen Craig noted recently. He speculated that it was because those model years require no ignition key to start the car when the ignition is unlocked.

"Perhaps more alarming is that the recovery rate dropped 2.5 percent last year, a possible indication that more vehicles are being taken by professional thieves," Craig said. Vehicles stolen by professionals are less likely to be recovered.

Vehicle thefts statewide totaled 170,326 last year, compared to 154,541 the prior year.

Iran Militants Refuse To Allow Commission To See Hostages

By United Press International

The Islamic militants at the occupied U.S. Embassy in Tehran dismissed the U.N. factfinding commission as a "show" and said they would not let the five-member panel meet with the 50 American hostages.

"The students don't allow the commission to come here," a spokesman for the militants said in an interview by telephone from London. "It's only for show. That's what (Ayatollah) Khomeini says."

The spokesman denied an earlier report by Tehran Radio that the commission had gone to the embassy to meet the hostages.

The broadcast, monitored by the BBC in London, quoted a member of the ruling Revolutionary Council, Hojjat Ollsam Hashemi Rafsanjani, as saying the U.N. panel of five international jurists arrived at the embassy to see the hostages.

The commission could not immediately be reached and there was no explanation for the conflicting reports.

The spokesman repeated the militants' demand that the hostages would not be freed until deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was returned to face trial. He said the captives were in "good" condition.

U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, the principal architect of the package deal to free the hostages now in their 118th day of captivity, had expressed confidence the investigative group would meet with the hostages.

But in Washington, the White House declined formal comment Thursday on the report of the impending visit.

In another development, Iran's public prosecutor disclosed a coup attempt against Islamic religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was recently foiled, the state-run Iraqi news agency said in a dispatch from Tehran.

Earlier Tehran Radio had reported militants agreed to the commission visit and that Bani-Sadr would accompany the panel charged with investigating the alleged crimes of the ousted shah. The later report said the president's emissary accompanied the group.

The day before, the militants had rejected a commission visit, maintaining the

hard line Iranian officials had adopted, by saying the commission had nothing to do with the release of the captives.

Waldheim has insisted all along that the work of the commission is "on track."

U.N. spokesmen also have maintained throughout the panel's task is part of a deal arranged by Waldheim between Iran and the United States as a step toward gaining the release of the hostages.

Iran's Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, in a report monitored in London, also said the meeting between the 50 hostages and the panel members was on the commission's agenda, an important admission by an Iranian official that agreed with what U.N. spokesmen have been insisting in New York.

U.N. headquarters in New York said the five-member panel of international jurists spent a third day interviewing alleged victims of the deposed shah's torture.

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St. Helena Getting Boat People

By RICK WALLERSTEIN
Register Staff Writer

ST. HELENA — Boat people are coming to St. Helena.

Phan Hong Sang, 22, his wife, Tau A Mui, 20, and their seven-month-old son, Phan Am Do are coming to St. Helena from Hong Kong in early May.

Phan was a fisherman in Haiphong, Viet Nam, before fleeing with his family to Hong Kong. He speaks Cantonese only and no English.

The family is coming to St. Helena under the auspices of the Tri-Church Refugee Task Force, a group made up of representatives of Grace Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church and United Methodist Church, all of St. Helena.

The Rev. Denise Leslie of United Methodist said

she did not know Phan's religion and the family was not being brought here to be converted to Christianity, but the sponsors will provide a "moral, loving and supportive environment."

She said the task force needs community support to help teach the Phans English, to provide them with housing and to find Mr. Phan a job.

The first task, she said, was to provide temporary shelter when the Phans first arrive. After a couple weeks, the Phans will look for rental housing, which, Leslie said, is extremely scarce in St. Helena.

Leslie also said volunteers are needed to help teach the Phans English and to help them acculturate.

Leslie said she did not know what skills Mr. Phan had and which kinds of jobs would be appropriate,



A SOLO ACCIDENT involving this car and tree proved fatal for Mrs. Florence Hesemeyer of St. Helena shortly after 2 p.m. Thursday. The accident occurred on Spring Mountain Road just south of Dean York Lane when Mrs. Hesemeyer's auto left the roadway and slammed into the tree. (Register photo by Dick Hildebrand)

St. Helena Woman Killed

County Seeks Time In Aetna Situation

ST. HELENA — A long-time resident died at St. Helena Hospital Thursday afternoon shortly after the car she was driving slammed into a tree on Spring Mountain Road, making her the eighth traffic-related fatality in Napa County this year.

Mrs. Florence Hesemeyer, a 17-year resident of St. Helena, apparently died from injuries suffered when her car hit the tree. The accident occurred on a stretch of Spring Mountain Road just south of Dean York Lane. The roadway has a gentle curve and the speed limit is 25 mph. St. Helena police report there were no skid marks to indicate she made an attempt to stop.

Police Chief Andy Angel would not rule out the possibility Mrs. Hesemeyer suffered a heart attack, but said he would await a coroner's report before making official findings. Mrs. Hesemeyer was 86.

She was a native of San Francisco, born Sept. 22, 1893, and had lived in Walnut Creek before moving to St. Helena. She was a member of the St. Helena Garden Club.

Mrs. Hesemeyer is survived by a son, Jack Hesemeyer of San Rafael, and a grandson, Jeff Hesemeyer of Calistoga.

At her request no funeral services will be held. Local arrangements are under the direction of Chapel of the Valley Funeral Home.

SAN FRANCISCO — Attorneys for Napa County are expected to seek additional time to work out a compromise allowing the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church to hold weekend religious seminars at the historic 672-acre Aetna Springs resort when they appear in federal court today.

U.S. District Court Judge Stanley J. Weigel ordered Napa County's attorneys to return this afternoon after he learned an interim agreement had not been worked out as yet between county officials and representatives of New Educational Development Systems Inc., owners of the old spa.

Weigel held a hearing Thursday at which

time attorneys for Napa County and NEDS, an affiliate of the controversial church headed by Rev. Moon, were supposed to discuss efforts to reach a negotiated settlement in the land use dispute which has dragged on for nearly four years.

Supervisors denied the church a permit to operate weekend retreats on grounds that the 108-year-old Pope Valley resort was not zoned for educational purposes.

NEDS spokesmen contend they are being persecuted because of their religious beliefs and have filed a federal suit seeking court order allowing them to operate an educational

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Federal Suit Now Possible Against State Hospitals

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate passed a bill Thursday allowing the federal government to bring suit against state and local institutions, such as Napa State Hospital, if it believes the civil rights of the institution's residents have been violated.

The bill, which has already passed the House in similar form, allows the Department of Justice to file suit to stop the mistreatment of residents of a prison, jail, foster care home, mental hospital or similar type of facility.

Sharon Hosler, public information officer at NSH, said the hospital had no response to the bill's passage because the state department of mental health would be sued in such a case.

California's state hospitals have been sued in the past by groups and former residents critical of hospital conditions, but court decisions have prevented the Department of Justice from intervening. If the bill becomes law, as expected, federal lawyers will be able to file suit if state officials fail to improve conditions.

The three-day debate over the bill centered around whether it would usurp state rights for the federal government to get involved in lawsuits over the level of care in state and local institutions.

Proponents of the bill, including Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., cited a long list of horror stories they said proved the need for the legislation.

To appease state's - rights advocates, sponsors of the bill

(Continued on Page 2)

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