

# May set as possible hostage release date

The Associated Press

Iran's president said the American hostages cannot be freed before mid-May because the yet-to-be-elected parliament must have time to consider their fate, a French newspaper reported Tuesday. It quoted him as saying the militants holding the U.S. Embassy are influenced by pro-Soviet groups.

"Unfortunately, they (the militants) sometimes let themselves be influenced by certain political groups favorable to the U.S. S.R., such as the Communist Tudeh Party, which wants to isolate Iran on the international scene," Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was quoted as saying in an interview with the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

Bani-Sadr also accused Iran's Revolutionary Council of "weakness and indecision" in dealing with the militants' refusal to let members of the U.N. investigating commission see the hostages, the newspaper said.

The newspaper quoted him as saying: "If the council had shown itself firm, if it hadn't changed its mind every day under

pressure from this or that group, we wouldn't be where we are."

The U.N. commission left Tehran early Tuesday, after 17 days in Tehran without seeing any of the approximately 50 hostages and without 438 pages of copied documents. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had instructed the militants to turn over. The militants said the documents would "prove U.S. criminal activities" under the deposed shah.

In New York, the personal physician of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi said he is suffering from an inflamed spleen and requires a "hazardous" operation to remove it. The shah has lived in Panama since treatment for cancer and gall bladder problems in the United States last year.

State Department officials declined comment on published reports that the Carter administration was resisting the shah's attempts to use a U.S. military hospital in Panama.

Meanwhile, Khomeini issued a statement Monday saying: "If the panel issues its report on the crimes of the deposed shah and on interventions of the

invading United States in Teheran, it will be allowed to see all the hostages."

Waldheim predicted the standoff, in its 12th day Tuesday, would be "solved in a satisfactory way," but added: "I cannot give you a deadline. I cannot tell you when that will happen. But I think that the next few weeks will give us a clearer picture."

Bani-Sadr's comments about the timing of the hostages' release were consistent with those made last month by Khomeini, the Iranian religious leader who said any decision about releasing them will be made by the parliament.

The parliamentary elections begin Friday and are expected to last a few weeks. It is not known when the legislature will convene, or how long it will take to consider the hostage question.

Waldheim said he thought the parliamentary elections "may be helpful in this matter."

"I'm sure with the perseverance and the patience of the United States government and the American people as well as our government and our people, we can

resolve the problem altogether—and don't worry about it," said Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh.

He also said "sooner or later" the student militants will "have to abide with our decisions."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said the administration wants to consult with the five U.N. commission members before taking new action.

"The situation requires watchful waiting," he said. "We intend to discuss with the commission what it found in Iran. What we do or don't do will rest partly on that assessment."

The embassy captors, after setting conditions last week for a meeting between the hostages and the U.N. group that the commission rejected, announced Thursday they would give Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council custody of the captives and let it proceed with the meeting. But during the weekend they set new conditions and demanded Ghotbzadeh's replacement as the council's representative in the transfer.

## Israel seizes Arab land in reaction to resolution

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel has expropriated a large tract of private land in the predominantly Arab sector of Jerusalem for a Jewish housing development, in an apparent slap at the United Nations Security Council.

The seizure of 1,100 acres on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem came nine days after the council unanimously passed a resolution condemning Israeli settlements in occupied Arab land, including the West Bank of the Jordan River, Egypt's Gaza Strip and the annexed sector of Jerusalem. The United States supported that resolution, and President Carter later said the U.S. vote was a mistake.

Israel rejected the resolution and reaffirmed its policy that the city, divided for 19 years by barbed wire and

### gas

averages were 112.5 for regular, 115.8 for unleaded and 118.9 for premium.

Since the DTH began conducting gas price surveys in August, prices have risen by more than 25 cents per gallon.

The increase of gas prices has sparked the introduction of new digital pumps in Chapel Hill. The new pumps can register prices of up to 19.9 cents per gallon. Some of these new pumps can be found at Eastgate Exxon, where only one old-style pump remains. While the method of "half-pricing" at other stations caused confusion among consumers when it was first introduced, most gas station attendants said there are few problems now.

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But the quickly rising cost of gasoline may be slowing this year. Dan Lundberg, a Los Angeles-based oil analyst, said recently. Supply has overtaken demand for the first time since gasoline shortages began last spring, Lundberg said, as consumption of gasoline has continued to decline.

Lundberg said American motorists bought 11 percent less gas in the last three months than they did during the same time last year. At the same time, world crude oil supplies are rising, he said.

"It's doubtful that (the prices) would actually fall in March, but the past accelerating rate of price increases may be slowed or even stopped," he said.

### STOW

minefields, would remain united under Jewish sovereignty.

Finance Minister Yigal Hurvitz signed an expropriation order Monday for a wide swath of land linking the Jewish neighborhoods of Neve Yaakov and French Hill. A spokesman said 30 percent of the land belonged to Jews and the rest to Arabs or the government.

Spokesman David Bar-Haim said the whole area was included in the Jerusalem city limits when Israel annexed the eastern sector captured from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Property owners will be compensated according to the value set by the government assessor, Bar-Haim said. Owners can appeal the assessment to the courts. He did not say when or how the compensation would be paid.

### for the record

In the March calendar, the DTH incorrectly listed the date of the forum with Chancellor Fordham. The forum is scheduled March 18 and is to be held in Paul Green Theatre. The DTH regrets the error.

that letter was approved, the dorm could be dropped from the process. Kenan dorm went before the council Feb. 28, with a request to be taken out, but their request was rejected. The second way would have been through the dorm executive representatives' voting down the proposal, but it was approved Monday. The only way the dorms can avoid becoming a residence college now is by voting the upcoming referendum down.

"I'm worried that if we don't get publicity out that this thing is going to pass by a very small majority of the people. If Old East and Kenan vote totally against it, then it could still pass," Ives said.

Jeremy Farber, vice president of Old West, said he was unable to attend the Monday meeting, but had he been there he would have voted against it and tried to convince everyone else to do so.

He said he believed the residence hall officers have done a good job of passing along information to the residents.

"I think it's foolish to conjecture whether the residents have enough information to make the decision, particularly when the process has been this long," he said.

"The officers are elected to a decision-making body to a decision-making position. I think that if anyone was unbiased on the issue, I probably would be concerned because, to be unbiased would mean they haven't been given enough information to make a decision," he said.

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constitution and they like it.

"None of the guys in the dorm have come up to me and said, 'Hey, I really like STOW.' I haven't heard any enthusiasm. It's just been pushed from the outside," Farber said.

RHA president William Porterfield said in response to the residents' accusations that he believed the students involved have been made aware of the issue.

"I think that the process that has been going on now for several months has been fair, has been equitable, and has had the support of a good number of interested students there," he said.

"The role of the RHA is to make the information available to the residents and it's up to the residents to take advantage of the information available to them," he said.

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## News In Brief

### Reagan expected to get added support

RALEIGH (AP)—Leaders of John Connally's North Carolina campaign said Tuesday they saw a majority of Connally supporters shifting to Ronald Reagan, solidifying Reagan's apparent lead for the state's 40 GOP delegate votes.

Some leading Connally supporters said they were withholding their support from any candidate until a few more primaries are held.

But most said Connally's withdrawal, combined with an endorsement of Reagan by Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., has virtually locked up the state's primary for the former California governor unless he falters before the North Carolina primary May 6.

### Carter rules out military action in Iran

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Carter administration clung Tuesday to a United Nations commission as the best avenue for winning the release of the American hostages in Iran. Military action against Iran still appeared to be ruled out.

But with the U.N. panel's mission in Tehran aborted, President Carter and his principal policy-makers were casting about for a new strategy that could lead to freedom for the approximately 50 Americans held hostage for more than four months.

### Civiletti: no special prosecutor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said Tuesday he cannot appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Treasury Secretary G. William Miller in connection with improper payments made by Textron Inc.

"None of the assertions that Secretary Miller has committed a criminal violation has been substantiated by the Justice Department investigation conducted since early 1978," Civiletti said.

The appointment of a special prosecutor had been requested by several members of Congress to investigate Miller's connection with improper payments to foreign officials by Textron, a firm he headed before joining the Carter administration.

### Soviet newspaper offers different view

MOSCOW (AP)—The Soviet army newspaper, striking out at "mountains of lies" in the West about Soviet troops in Afghanistan, gave a glowing account Tuesday of the Red army soldiers giving presents to Afghan children and sprucing up villages in the countryside.

The lengthy report in the newspaper *Red Star* excluded any mention of Soviet troops in combat, suffering casualties or encountering hostility from Afghans. It said all "honest Afghans" greeted the Red army with joy and gratitude.

### energy

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"Due to effective conservation measures, most state universities have been successful in keeping energy costs down over the last year," Swecker said. "We have also been lucky with a very mild winter."

Besides following energy guidelines issued by the N.C. Division of Instruction, physical plant directors from state universities have formed an energy task force to communicate new ideas on conservation, Swecker said.

Because of UNC's energy program, Swecker said the University has cut consumption by implementing the following steps:

- The formation of an energy conservation committee composed of members of the faculty, students, and utilities.

• Time clocks on many buildings to switch heating and cooling systems on and off.

• Replacing incandescent with fluorescent lights.

• Setting thermostats in accordance with President Carter's 65 degree maximum temperature in the winter and 78 degree minimum in the summer.

• A computerized monitoring system to regulate energy use in all university buildings.

Largely due to these conservative measures, the University's 1980 energy budget will only face slight increases over last year, said UNC Budget Officer Victor Bowles. "Overall, we have reduced (consumption) considerably, and we are going to be in pretty good shape for the near future," he said.

