

# U.S. agrees 'in principle' to hostage terms

The Associated Press

The Carter administration has agreed in principle to Iranian terms for freeing the 52 Americans held hostage in Iran for more than a year, Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie said Thursday.

But other U.S. officials indicated there was still disagreement over the details of the Iranian demands, and they cautioned against expectations of imminent release. State Department spokesman John H. Trattner warned against overexcitement.

"We've said publicly we accepted the four points in principle," Muskie said, referring to the terms set down Nov. 4 by the Iranian Parliament. However, he added, "that doesn't tell you much about the details, does it?"

Muskie's remark apparently was the first by a senior Carter administration official that the Iranian terms for release of the hostages were acceptable even in principle.

The Iranians have demanded a U.S. promise of non-intervention in Iranian affairs, the freeing of more than \$8 billion in assets frozen by the Carter administration in retaliation for the seizure of the hostages,

cancellation of all American claims against Iran and return of the wealth of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Meanwhile Thursday Iran claimed successes on three key battlefronts in its war with Iraq and rejected a U.N. peace bid, saying Iranians would fight until the Iraqis are driven out of Iran.

Iran said its forces continued counterattacking Iraqi positions near Mehran, a border town in the central section of the 300-mile-long warfront; near Susangerd, 150 miles to the south; and Abadan, 85 miles south of Susangerd.

Tehran Radio quoted President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr as saying: "As long as Iraqi armed forces are present in Iran, we cannot consider any peace proposal."

Bani-Sadr met with U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim's personal envoy, Olof Palme, a former prime minister of Sweden, who expressed U.N. concern over the consequences of continued warfare, the Iranian news agency Pars reported.

Palme also met with Iran's prime minister, Mohammad Ali Rajai, and will visit the war zone in oil-

rich Khuzistan Province Friday, Pars said.

The state-run radio quoted Rajai as saying: "I told him the question was one of aggression against Iran, which should be taken seriously. I told him the world should put Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on trial."

The news agency quoted Rajai as saying: "The U.N. envoy's mission will change nothing in the course of the war. There will be no talk of any cease-fire."

The agency said Palme described his meetings as informative, constructive and useful. It said he would visit Baghdad Saturday.

The Iraqi president has said his troops would not withdraw from more than 8,000 square miles of war-conquered Iranian territory unless Iran recognized Iraq's right to disputed border lands and to full sovereignty over the 120-mile-long Shatt al-Arab estuary that separates the two countries and is Iraq's only sea outlet. The 1975 border treaty scrapped by Iraq placed the border in the middle of the waterway.

Separate peace missions by Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, the 94-nation non-aligned bloc and the 40-nation Islamic Conference organization so far have made little progress toward ending the 60-day-old war.

## Reagan meets Carter in first visit since election

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Ronald Reagan and President Jimmy Carter, the man he is replacing, met Thursday for the first time since the election.

Reagan, accompanied by his wife, Nancy, arrived at the White House at 1:59 p.m., one minute ahead of schedule, and began walking toward the diplomatic entrance with neither his host or hostess, President and Mrs. Carter, in sight.

Just as the Reagans reached the open doorway, the president and his wife Rosalynn rushed out to greet them. Carter had a big grin on his face.

Reagan acknowledged after looking at his watch that he was "a little bit early."

Carter said, "We're very glad to have you here."

After posing briefly for photographers, the two men walked to the Oval Office to begin a private conversation.

Mrs. Carter was giving Mrs. Reagan a tour of the White House at the same time.

Meanwhile, sources close to the presidential transition operation said Reagan will begin filling his administration's top jobs this weekend, and his friend and campaign manager, William Casey, is likely to be picked to head the CIA.

The sources, who declined to be named, said the 67-year-old Casey, who had some World War II experience in intelligence, faced virtually no opposition as CIA director, although stiff competition continued for many other Cabinet-level jobs.

Reagan plans to return Friday to California, where he is expected to begin making final choices for his Cabinet. The selections, however, are not expected to be announced for several days.

## acid

State University. Cowling is also director of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program which awards grants for acid rain research.

"Acid rain is a popular phrase for a very complex subject," Cowling said. The rain becomes acidic because of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide which are emitted into the air by power plants, automobiles and industry and transferred back to the land through rain.

The pollutants may travel long distances before they return to the earth through precipitation. Industry in Tennessee and Kentucky could cause acid rain in North Carolina, Cowling said.

The lowest pH readings (low readings indicate high acidity) have been reported in Charlotte. The Raleigh-Durham area is the second worst area for acid rain in the state, according to Robert Bruck, assistant professor of plant pathology and forestry at NCSU.

The average pH at the Raleigh collecting station is about 4.2. Natural rain has a pH of 5.6, but the station has recorded a pH of 3.2 five times. This measurement is equal to the acidity of vinegar.

"It's only going to get worse," Bruck said. "Reagan and the rest of the boys are looking at coal." He said a depletion of oil and gas reserves would cause an increase in the reliance on coal. Coal plants create sulfur dioxide which becomes sulfuric acid when it returns to earth with precipitation, he said.

"The most pronounced effects (of acid rain) are on fish," Cowling said. More young fish die because of the increase of hydrogen ions in the water that accompanies high acidity. The older fish are more tolerant of this condition. With no competition, fish grow older, die, "and then finally there aren't any fish," he said.

Cowling said there were no known effects of acid rain on humans or plant life. "The potential health effects are being researched," he said.

"Not much research has been done in

North Carolina," Rick Linthurst, program coordinator of the Environmental Protection Agency-NCSU Acid Precipitation Program, said.

The number of metal ions may build up in drinking water over a number of years, Linthurst said. "There's good potential for it to happen here; over a long time." Scientists are unsure of the health effects of this build-up, which has already been reported in Norway for the past nine years, he said.

"With regulation, it (acid rain) can be eliminated, but it's likely to be expensive," Linthurst said.

Present environmental laws are not adequate to deal with sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollution, Cowling said. Each state regulates its own pollution levels.

"Power plants in one state can cause acid rain in another," said Bruce Jordan, chief of the ambient standards branch of the Environmental Protection Agency. "There is no legislation for dealing with that now."

The Clean Air Act, which regulates pollution, will be re-evaluated in Congress next year and could reduce that problem, Cowling said. "Certainly there will be reconsiderations of the Clean Air Act because there is sufficient concern within the country (about acid rain)," he said.

Cowling said he advocated a permanent measurement system of acid rain and a coordinated program of research. "The problem of acid rain is impossible to control in an industrial society," Cowling said. "It is impossible for any state to control the quality of its air."

There are 74 acid rain monitoring stations in the United States and six in North Carolina. They are in: Raleigh at Finley Farms, Lewiston, Coweeta, Piedmont Research Station (Rowan County), Clinton Crops Research at Clinton and Research Triangle.

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# News In Brief

## Klansman shot at; returns fire

LINCOLN (AP)—Shots were fired from a red pickup truck at Ku Klux Klansman Jerry Paul Smith, narrowly missing him and causing his car to wreck on a dirt road Wednesday night, law enforcement officials said Thursday.

Smith, a defendant in the recent Klan-Nazi murder trial, said he fired at the truck after his car came to rest against an embankment.

Smith said he crawled out of his car with a rifle and fired two shots at the truck as it sped away.

"The way I was shaking, I could have missed them by a mile," Smith said. "I have no idea who they were or why they were shooting."

## Gang of Four could get death sentence

PEKING (AP)—Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, the once-powerful leader of the radical Gang of Four, walked calmly into court Thursday and with nine other defendants heard charges that she persecuted nearly 35,000 people to death and brought untold disasters to China.

Composure deserted the bespectacled 67-year-old widow, Jiang Qing, during the reading of the charges and she broke into tears, Chinese reporters said.

The long-awaited trial of China's much publicized "Gang," as well as six members of the "Lin Piao clique," got under way before 35 judges and 880 invited observers in a courtroom not far from Peking's central square. The 10 could face death sentences if convicted.

## Committee warns of oil supply cutoff

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States should begin preparing immediately for a major disruption of imported oil supplies sometime in the next decade, the Senate Energy Committee said Thursday.

The country urgently needs to build up its oil reserves, and agreements for handling a cutoff should be worked out with other industrialized nations to prevent severe strain on "the free-world alliance," according to a new report from the committee.

## Activists have own budget commission

RALEIGH (AP)—As the major state budget-writing panel met behind closed doors Thursday, a public-interest group seeking tax breaks for the poor and elderly held its own "People's Advisory Budget Commission" hearing outside.

About 25 members of Carolina Action, many holding signs calling for increased taxation of big corporations and the oil industry, gathered outside the state Administration Building where the Advisory Budget Commission was holding its private deliberations.

"We originally tried to meet with the Advisory Budget Commission and were unsuccessful," said Tom Lominac, a Shaw University math professor and member of Carolina Action.

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