

## World and Nation

# Israeli convicted of treason, espionage

From Associated Press reports

JERUSALEM — Mordechai Vanunu, the former nuclear technician who said he acted as a spy for the common man when he gave Israeli atomic secrets to a newspaper, was sentenced Sunday to 18 years in prison for treason and espionage. The sentencing climaxed a seven-month, closed-door trial that focused worldwide attention on Israel's nuclear capability. The 34-year-old Israeli, who told a British newspaper his country possessed nuclear weapons, was convicted Thursday. The charges can carry a death penalty, but the prosecution requested a life term, which Israeli law limits to 20 years. The court then reduced the term by two years, citing Vanunu's cooperation with investigators, apparent signs of regret and the difficult conditions of his 18-month

solitary confinement. Under Israeli law, Vanunu could be released on good behavior after 12 years. But legal commentators said his early release was unlikely given the severity of the crimes. Defense attorney Avigdor Feldman has said he will appeal his client's case to Israel's Supreme Court. The sentencing climaxed an affair shrouded in secrecy that began when Vanunu, a 10-year employee of Israel's Dimona nuclear facility, gave photographs and details of the facility to The Sunday Times of London. Based on that information, the paper reported Israel had stockpiled the world's sixth largest nuclear arsenal. Israel has never confirmed or denied that it has nuclear weapons. It has said only it will not be the first country to introduce such weapons

into the Middle East. Vanunu, a Jewish-born convert to Christianity, testified during his trial that he made his revelations to warn the world of the dangers of nuclear weapons, not for personal gain or out of a desire to harm his country. In a poem quoted by his attorney on Israeli television after the verdict, Vanunu called himself a "spy for the common man." He had negotiated a lucrative contract with The Sunday Times pending publication of a never-completed book and earlier approached several news organizations offering to sell his story for large sums. Vanunu made a last-ditch appeal at Sunday's court session, but his remarks were not made public and his attorney refused to talk to waiting reporters.

Vanunu's family, however, expressed bitterness. "The trial was not conducted as it should have been," said Vanunu's brother, Asher Vanunu. He said he would try to galvanize international support to press authorities for his brother's release. Meir Vanunu, another brother who lives in London, said in an interview with British Broadcasting Co. television, "Israel wasn't able to give justice to Mordechai." He said Israel was trying to shield its nuclear capability "in all the kinds of games that they played about it for the last 25 years." Meir Vanunu faces arrest in Israel for leaking details of his brother's journey home from London in October 1986, several days after The Sunday Times published Vanunu's revelations.

# House speaker's adviser tried to sell weapons to contras

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — An "eyes-and-ears" adviser to House Speaker Jim Wright tried to sell weapons to the contras through Lt. Col. Oliver North's private network three months before the Iran-contra disclosures ended the North operation. Richard Pena, a former House Foreign Affairs Committee staff member, contacted North's associate Richard Miller in 1986 offering material from two South American companies. One would sell grenades, bombs and mines, and the other had boots at \$33 a pair, according to a letter proposing the sale. Such activity would appear at odds with the objectives of Wright, who has opposed military aid to the contras and has taken an active role in efforts to get a negotiated peace agreement between Nicaragua's warring factions.

## News in Brief

overlook a key hydroelectric dam. Both countries reported extensive civilian casualties in the missile war. Shipping officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the 24,529-ton Jainarayan Vyas, owned by the Shipping Corp. of India, was en route to the Saudi Arabian port of Jubail to load petrochemicals when it was hit. The tanker was attacked just before noon about 40 miles from the Iranian-held Abu Musa Island. The island serves as a base for Revolutionary Guards who attack neutral ships in armed speedboats in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iranian tankers. The Jainarayan Vyas was hit in apparent retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iranian tankers overnight Friday.

### Death toll rises in West Bank

MEITHALUN, Occupied West Bank — Israel said its troops shot three Arabs in the West Bank Sunday after Palestinians attacked them with iron bars and a car, but villagers accused the soldiers of firing at cars carrying the wounded. Israeli soldiers killed a fourth Palestinian in another West Bank town while trying to rescue an Israeli tour bus that blundered into the Arab community. Left-leaning Labor Party ministers, meanwhile, accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the rightist Likud block at Sunday's Cabinet session of exaggerating the success of his U.S. tour that ended Tuesday. Israel radio reported.

They said the proof came in U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's meeting Saturday in Washington with two university professors linked to the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Sunday's deaths raised to 118 the number of Palestinians killed in 15 weeks of violent protests against Israel's 20-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to U.N. figures. One Israeli soldier has been killed.

### Iran attacks Indian tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iranian gunboats rocketed an Indian tanker in the Persian Gulf Sunday, setting its engine room ablaze and wounding a crewman, gulf-based shipping executives reported. Iran and Iraq fired missiles into each other's capitals in a brutal long-range duel. In northeast Iraq, Iran said its troops punched deeper into enemy territory, occupying strategic heights that

A Danish supertanker, the 337,700-ton Karama Maersk, was initially believed to have also been attacked near Abu Musa.

But shipping sources said the vessel had only relayed a distress call from the stricken Indian vessel.

### Heavy rains in Argentina kill 18

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Four consecutive days of torrential rain left at least 18 people dead and forced the evacuation of 55,000 residents of the Buenos Aires-La Plata area, officials said Sunday.

Weather forecasters said the heavy rains that have pounded Buenos Aires and central Argentina since Thursday would continue Monday.

The dead included seven children who drowned and two women who were electrocuted while crossing flooded streets where live cables had fallen.

### Skater announces marriage

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Debi Thomas, the U.S. figure skating champion and Olympic bronze medalist, announced Sunday that she had married a University of Colorado student on March 15.

"I did not want this news to detract from my focus on the world championships (last week)," Thomas said. "Now that the world championships are over, I want to let all my friends and supporters know how happy I am."

Thomas' husband is Brian Vanden Hogen. The two met at the University of Colorado when Thomas moved there last year to train with her coach, Alex McGowan, and they were married in Boulder.

# Ethnic turmoil stops business in Soviet city

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — The official Soviet press said Sunday most business halted in a city claimed by Armenians, and dissidents described the stoppage as a general strike. The government newspaper Izvestia said that authorities had blocked the central streets of Stepanakert in the republic of Azerbaijan and that militiamen were patrolling Saturday. Armenians began strikes and street rallies Feb. 13 in Stepanakert, the main city in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. They have demanded annexation of the region, about the size of Delaware, to the neighboring republic of Armenia. Armenians make up more than three-quarters of Nagorno-Karabakh's population, but they say they suffer racial, cultural and economic discrimination in Azerbaijan.

Most Armenians are Christians, while Azerbaijanis are mostly Shiite Moslems. At least 32 people have been killed in ethnic violence in the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait since the protests began. Despite official claims that tensions had eased, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda reported Sunday that 1,500 civilian auxiliary police had been deployed in Sumgait and that similar forces were in place in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. "Only reinforced voluntary public order squads, made up of workers with red armbands who assist militia in the streets, indicate that some tension still persists in Baku," Pravda said. The protests have spread to Armenia itself, and troops with attack dogs were deployed Saturday in the

Armenian capital of Yerevan to crack down on street rallies, the official press and activists have reported. A Moscow dissident, Alexander Ogorodnikov, on Saturday described Yerevan as a "dead city" with most people staying inside in silent protest. The Armenian nationalist protests subsided after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev appealed Feb. 26 for restraint, promising social and economic improvements. But the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the country's highest executive body, brushed aside the annexation demand on Wednesday. In reaction, Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh called for a general strike, which began Wednesday, Moscow dissident Sergei Grigoryants said Sunday. Izvestia said Sunday in a report from Stepanakert: "Enterprises in the

city today (Saturday) aren't working, except for essential services such as bread and milk factories, transport, water supply." Pravda said: "There is a relative lull in Nagorno-Karabakh... but the majority of enterprises of the regional center, Stepanakert, are idle." None of the articles, however, attributed the disruptions to a strike. Andrei Bavitsky of the dissident journal Glasnost had said in Moscow that 15,000 local policemen were patrolling Stepanakert Saturday. But he described the situation as a silent show of force rather than a general strike. Grigoryants, a former political prisoner who is half ethnic Russian and half Armenian, said the Stepanakert strike was scheduled to last through Friday.

# Sandinistas release 100 political prisoners

From Associated Press reports

MANAGUA — The leftist Sandinista government announced Sunday it was releasing about 100 political prisoners in preparation for further peace talks with U.S.-supported contra rebels. An Interior Ministry announcement said the prisoners were to be released Sunday afternoon, but officials refused to give immediate details for security reasons. In another development, President Daniel Ortega suggested that the United Nations send a multinational peacekeeping force to the Nicaraguan-Honduran border to stabilize the area. Ortega said Saturday night that he made the proposal to a U.N. technical commission visiting the border area. Most of the prisoners to be released

Sunday were workers arrested for joining illegal strikes or people who demonstrated against the Sandinista government. The release was ordered under an amnesty law the National Assembly approved by a margin of 82-2 Saturday night. The law could result in the release of about 3,300 political prisoners jailed since the Sandinistas seized power in a 1979 revolution that overthrew President Anastasio Somoza. There was little opposition to the amnesty bill. The Sandinistas hold 61 seats in the 96-member assembly. According to the legislation, another undisclosed number of contra rebels taken prisoner during the six-year civil war will be released at an unspecified later date. The government also plans a general review of

the cases of about 1,800 members of Somoza's now-disbanded National Guard, Ortega said. Speaking to reporters Saturday night, Ortega said the former guardsmen all have been accused of human rights violations or crimes against humanity — such as the indiscriminate shooting of civilians — during the one-year revolution that brought the Sandinistas to power. Many of them have been sentenced to the maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment, Ortega said. The downfall of Somoza, a rightist pro-American strongman, ended 42 years of iron-fisted rule by his family, usually enforced by the National Guard. Ortega said the case of each guardsman will be sent to the Organization of American States'

InterAmerican Human Rights Commission for review before a release is ordered to safeguard the Sandinista government from criticism that it acted unfairly. On Saturday, Ortega said he had told Gilberto Schilitler, head of the U.N. delegation, that "it is important to achieve the stabilization of the border zone with Honduras and this is only possible with a multilateral force." Ortega said that without a peace-keeping force, "the United States can continue heating up the border... provoking conflicts, increasing its presence to threaten Nicaragua." The U.N. team inspected the border Thursday and Friday, the scene of a reported incursion into Honduras by Sandinista army troops pursuing contra rebels.

# Church authorities to discipline Swaggart

From Associated Press reports

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — The Assemblies of God hope to lay the Jimmy Swaggart scandal to rest after the church's highest governing body meets Monday to discipline the television minister for an alleged relationship with a prostitute. The Pentecostal denomination's 250-member General Presbytery is charged with resolving conflict among the Executive Presbytery, the church's 13-member national board of directors and church officials in Louisiana who have proposed what some say is too lenient a punishment for Swaggart. Swaggart, the denomination's most prominent minister, confessed Feb. 21 from his Baton Rouge, La.,

pulpit to unspecified sins. Swaggart did not elaborate publicly, but reports have linked him to voyeurism involving a prostitute. Swaggart is not expected to appear at Monday's meeting, said church spokeswoman Juleen Turnage. The Assemblies' Louisiana presbytery recommended a two-year rehabilitation and a three-month suspension from the pulpit for Swaggart. Turnage has said that all other Assemblies' ministers who have confessed to moral failure were barred from preaching for at least a year. The Executive Presbytery discussed the matter for 11 hours Feb. 25 and 26 before asking Louisiana officials to reconsider. The Executive Presbytery, headed by General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson, apparently wanted tougher penalties for Swaggart. But after gathering again Feb. 29 for what was described as an emotional nine-hour session, the Louisi-

ana Presbytery stood by its original decision. The Louisiana Presbytery has close ties to Swaggart — for instance, state superintendent Cecil Janway also sits on the board of Jimmy Swaggart World Ministries. Reports were circulating that Swaggart would leave the denomination if church officials suspended him for longer than three months, but a spokesman for Swaggart's ministry said the preacher has made no decision on how he might react. Turnage said she did not believe the General Presbytery would be swayed by "rumors heard through the media." Turnage said the church's national officials have the final say and until now have always been able to work out an agreement with state leaders. The General Presbytery, whose members include representatives from each of the church's state councils, is a court of last resort on ministerial credentials. Generally, a

minister would appeal his case to the group after his course of rehabilitation had been decided by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery short-circuited that process when it decided March 3 to turn the Swaggart case over to the larger body. The two-day meeting at the denomination's headquarters is to open at 2 p.m. Monday. The group will debate according to parliamentary rules of order, and a majority vote will decide Swaggart's fate.

## For the Record

The March 24 story, "Voices of opposition to project grow louder in N.C. counties," incorrectly cited the Department of Transportation as the department to decide the location of the superconducting super collider. The Department of Energy will make that decision. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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