

World and Nation

Terrorist activities up, official says

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — Abu Nidal, after lying low in 1987, appears to be resuming his terrorist campaign with support from Libya, the top U.S. counterterrorism official said Tuesday.
 L. Paul Bremer, ambassador-at-large for counterterrorism, also told reporters that the number of terrorist incidents appears to be headed for a record level of 1,000 this year, although the number of Americans killed in such attacks has fallen.
 "Any effort to make an assessment of where we are in terrorism leads you to the inevitable good news and bad news," he said.
 "The bad news is that terrorism is

certainly continuing. According to the figures that we keep . . . 1987 was the worst year in history; we had 832 recorded incidents in international terrorism," up from 774 in 1986, he said.
 For the first six months of 1988, "terrorism is up substantially over last year, perhaps by as much as a third. So it is possible that we will end this year with as many as 1,000 incidents, maybe more, which would make 1988 the worst year," he said.
 The number of Americans killed in terrorist incidents has fallen from 38 in 1986 to 12 in 1987 and three in the first half of 1988, he said.
 Most of the increase in terrorism

consists of attacks in Pakistan by agents of the Kremlin-backed regime in Afghanistan, he said. He said he had no evidence that the Afghan government was responsible for an airplane disaster that claimed the life of Pakistani president Mohammad Zia ul-Haq and the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan on Aug. 17.
 The good news in the battle against terrorism is increased cooperation among the United States and its allies, said Bremer.
 "We estimate at least several hundred incidents have been stopped by steps that we and our allies have taken over the last three years . . . maybe as many as 300 . . . some major and some not," he said. He

declined to give specifics.
 About half the terrorist incidents last year took place in the Middle East, and there has been an upsurge in attacks in Peru and Colombia, he said.
 Abu Nidal, a Palestine-born terrorist whose real name is Saori Bannah, spent a quiet year in 1987 after sponsoring machine-gun attacks which killed 22 people at the Rome and Vienna airports in December 1985, said Bremer.
 And in April 1986, the United States bombed Libya, an act that U.S. officials say caused Col. Moammar Gadhafi to suspend his support of terrorism temporarily.

Pilot inexperience a factor in crash, federal report says

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — Federal investigators said Tuesday that the pilot of the Continental Airlines jet that crashed last November in a snowstorm in Denver had a history of training problems and little experience flying jet aircraft.
 The experience of the cockpit crew of Continental Flight 1713 was a key focus of the National Transportation Safety Board's nearly year-long investigation of the crash last Nov. 15 in which 28 of the 82 people aboard were killed.
 As the safety board prepared its final report of the accident, its staff of investigators made clear at a hearing that pilot experience and questions about whether the aircraft took off with ice on the wings were central factors in the accident.
 Investigators said co-pilot Lee Bruecher, 26, who was at the controls of the McDonnell Douglas DC-9 as it took off, had numerous training problems dating back to 1983.
 He had failed initial tests for his multi-engine license and was fired by a small air taxi operation in 1985 because of "handling problems" in flight tests.
 After being hired by Continental in the summer of 1987, the young pilot went through a series of simulator training tests in which instructors found him to have problems controlling his flights.
 Continental spokesman Bruce Hicks said the airline was not aware of the pilot's previous training problems. He said when inquiries were made about his previous employment, "everything we got was terrific."

News in Brief

one person with substantial Indian background from the pool of potential jurors.
 Assistant U.S. Attorney John Bruce, meanwhile, accused defense attorneys of practicing discrimination by cutting 10 whites from the pool as it was narrowed to 12.
 U.S. District Court Judge Terrence Boyle, after hearing arguments out of the jury's presence, ruled the jury was not discriminatory. He said the prosecutor had shown sufficient reason to cut the minorities from the pool.

Shroud of Turin counterfeit

ROME — Laboratory tests show the Shroud of Turin was made in the 14th century and could not be the burial cloth of Christ, the scientific adviser to the archbishop of Turin said he learned on Tuesday.
 Professor Luigi Gonella said he has not yet seen the official report from the three laboratories that conducted the carbon-14 dating tests, but that all the tests to the press dated it to the 14th century and "somebody let me understand that the rumors were right."
 "It is quite evident somebody sold out to the press," said Gonella in an interview from his home in Turin.
 He refused to identify who had told him about the results of the tests at Oxford University, the University of Arizona and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at the University of Zurich.

Stock trading remains low

NEW YORK — Stock prices remained stuck in a narrow trading range Tuesday in the lightest trading since the end of August.
 The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 2.84 to 2,082.33. That marked the average's 11th straight finish inside the range of 2,080 to 2,101 points.
 Trading volume on the New York Stock Exchange was 113.01 million shares, down from 116.42 million in the previous session and the lowest since Aug. 30, when 108.72 million shares changed hands.

Jury chosen for Hatcher trial

RALEIGH — Deflecting arguments that racial discrimination had tinged the jury selection process, a federal judge Tuesday empaneled nine blacks and three whites in the hostage-taking trial of two American Indians.
 Attorneys for Timothy Jacobs, who with Eddie Hatcher is charged in the Feb. 1 takeover of The Robesonian newspaper in Lumberton, said prosecutors had shown "a pattern of discrimination." They said prosecutors had cut four blacks, one Indian and

Group meets to OK space shuttle launch

From Associated Press reports
 CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A new NASA launch directorate met Tuesday to clear the shuttle Discovery for its Thursday liftoff, hearing an optimistic assessment of the \$1.5 billion spacecraft's readiness — while discussing a possible problem with a sister satellite system.
 The data-relay satellite sitting in Discovery's cargo bay had already been checked out and approved for flight, but a source said NASA was checking "an igniter problem" in similar hardware being prepared in California for flight next February.
 Several sources, who asked not to be identified by name, said the

problem involves the inertial upper stage (IUS) rocket that boosts the satellite to its final orbit, and that NASA needed to be certain the flaw was not replicated aboard Discovery. Delivery of the \$100 million satellite in Discovery's main mission is NASA's long-awaited return to space, and the space agency would not likely launch without being sure there was no problem.
 A 21-person launch directorate, formed to overcome the communications breakdowns that contributed to the Challenger disaster, met for the first time Tuesday to discuss point by point whether the Discovery is ready for flight. A source said the

group heard of no problems that would scrub the Thursday morning launch, with the possible exception of the igniter flaw.
 "As far as we're concerned," said NASA test conductor Chuck Henschel, "we've got a good chance at a launch on Thursday." He spoke before top NASA officials began their launch assessment.
 The shuttle fleet has been grounded since Jan. 28, 1986, when a booster rocket failure destroyed Challenger and took the lives of seven astronauts. Many NASA workers were wearing green ribbons on their workclothes this week to signify their hopes for

a safe liftoff and successful mission.
 Cloud-covered skies loomed, as always, as a possible threat. Air Force spokesman Mike Beeman forecast "a 20 percent probability of bad weather at launch time," but added, "That's pretty low." Historically, launches have been delayed 40 percent of the time because of weather conditions.
 A "lightning alert" delayed the final preparation of Discovery's power-producing fuel cells Tuesday morning, but the countdown was not affected. Overall, NASA officials said there was little trouble to troubleshoot and the countdown was to enter a 19-hour hold at midnight as a cushion.

Bush, Dukakis exchange campaign barbs

From Associated Press reports
 George Bush courted the middle class on Tuesday with a modest plan to allow small savers to "put something away for a rainy day" and defer taxes on the interest. Michael Dukakis criticized another Bush tax cut proposal as a "\$40 billion giveaway" for the rich.
 The vice president got in the snappiest one-liner of the campaign day when he told an audience at Miami University in Ohio that a current television show "reminds me of what interest rates might be if the Democrats get back in again. It's called 'thirtysomething.'"

The Democrats ridiculed right back.
 Asked what a (Republican vice presidential candidate) Dan Quayle administration might look like, Democratic vice presidential candidate Lloyd Bentsen laughed and said, "very exciting." Asked later what he meant, Bentsen laughed again and said, "I'll leave it at that."
 Quayle campaigned in Bentsen's home state of Texas, where he challenged Dukakis to resign his membership in the American Civil Liberties Union.
 The two vice presidential candidates are scheduled to debate on Oct.

5 in Omaha, Neb.
 Bush outlined his plan for a tax break for low- and middle-income people in a speech in Columbus, Ohio. He called the program an individual savings account and said it would help the nation "gain better control over the future" as well as help savers "put something away for a rainy day."
 One adviser said the tax deferred on interest the first year on \$1,000 a year would save roughly \$12 for a taxpayer in the 15 percent income tax bracket and slightly more in later years.
 Bush said the plan would allow

many Americans to lock up as much as \$1,000 a year — in accounts of five years or more — with federal income tax deferred. When withdrawn, the accumulated interest would be taxed at the saver's income tax rate then in effect.
 Bush proposed his savings plan after weeks of being criticized by Dukakis for an earlier proposal to cut the maximum tax rate on capital gains.
 Dukakis renewed his attack in an appearance in Peoria, Ill., calling the capital gains cut a "five-year, \$40 billion giveaway to the wealthiest Americans, people making more than \$200,000 a year."

The Democratic candidate also depicted Bush as no friend of Social Security and Medicare who cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate several years ago in favor of a plan to cut cost-of-living increases in federal benefits for retirees.

For the Record

Tuesday's story, "Student charged with crimes," incorrectly identified Jody Ross. She is president of Alpha Chi Omega sorority. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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