World and Nation

U.S. may train Colombian troops

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is willing to send military advisers to Peru and Bolivia to help in the war against narcotics, drug czar William Bennett said Sunday.

Bennett, however, denied published reports that the administration has a secret plan to send U.S. Special Forces on drug-fighting missions in combat zones in the two Andean Mountain neighbors of Colombia.

"There is no plan for any Special Forces to accompany troops in Peru or Bolivia into combat missions," Bennett said in the ABC-TV program "This Week with David Brinkley."

"We see now in Colombia the presence of American trainers working with the Colombians, giving them advice, training them on equipment. This is the kind of thing we would anticipate if Peru and Bolivia take the steps," Bennett said.

Bennett was responding to a report in Sunday editions of the Washington Post that President Bush had signed a secret National Security Decision Directive including new "rules of engagement" for U.S. Special Forces in the three Andean countries.

He would not specifically deny that Bush had signed the directive, but insisted the administration does not intend to send troops into combat in Latin America.

About two dozen members of the U.S. Special Forces based in Panama have been rotating into Colombia, training military forces there, for about two years.

The directive that the Post said Bush signed apparently would expand that role. Details of the plan would be worked out in greater detail over the next two weeks, the newspaper reported.

The report quoted a senior administration official as saying that "several hundred" U.S. military advisers could be sent to the three nations under the "Andean initiative" announced by Bush in his nationally televised address last Tuesday night.

A secret section of the plan would authorize the U.S. Special Forces to accompany military patrols into so-called "safe areas" in the three nations, including Peru's Upper Huallaga Valley, the report said. The region is a coca-growing jungle that U.S. officials say is dominated by leftist "Shining Path" guerrillas.

"As we have said about the troops on the ground in Colombia, it is a dangerous environment," Bennett said Sunday. "They are not going to seek out combat or conflict. And we just all hope that nothing befalls them."

The proposed step drew mixed reviews from Democrats in Congress.

"It could be a good idea," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., who has emerged as Democratic spokesman on Bush's plan for a war on drugs.

"I can say that I do not dismiss the notion of using U.S. troops in certain circumstances in the Andean effort," said Biden.

Biden said the administration has not yet given him a report on the role of the military in the drug war, and that as recently as Friday, Bennett told him the National Security Council staff had not sent Bennett a report on the classified section of the plan.

The notion of involving U.S. ground troops in the war on drugs drew immediate fire from another Democrat, Rep. Charles Rangel, who represents Harlem, a section of New York City that has been hit hard by drug-related violence.

"It outrages me to think that every time there is an international problem, we have to talk about the introduction of American troops. And anyone who knows anything about Latin American politics would know that the worst thing to do to embarrass any Latin American leader is to say that American soldiers are going to resolve the problem," said Rangel. Biden and Rangel appeared on the ABC-TV program.

Hong Kong shifts boat people following cholera outbreak

From Associated Press reports

HONG KONG — The government removed 2,500 Vietnamese boat people from an outlying island Sunday after a riot and an outbreak of cholera and moved them to an island that once served as a leper colony, officials reported.

Five boats were used to move the boat people from Tai A Chau island to nearby Heiling Chau island. Another 2,000 Vietnamese living in tents on Tai A Chau will be evacuated to Heiling Chau on Monday, the officials said.

Late last month, a dispute over the distribution of rice touched off a riot on Tai A Chau during which 1,000 Vietnamese hurled stones at police, who fired tear gas to quell the disturbance.

Shortly after the violence, police detected the first case of cholera on the island. The disease has so far stricken 21 Vietnamese, officials said.

Officials said Tai A Chau will be used as a detention center again once it has been cleaned up and huts are built there.

News in Brief

Iranians censure congressmen

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The parliament of Iran on Sunday condemned nearly 190 U.S. congressmen for endorsing Iranian resistance groups and declared their moves would unleash unspecified "consequences."

Official Tehran radio quoted Parliament Speaker Mahdi Karrubi as saying that "U.S. leaders will take the wish of overthrowing the Islamic Republic to their graves."

The U.S. lawmakers requested that the United States support Iranian resistance groups.

In a vitriolic speech to the parliament, or Majlis, Karrubi described the statement as "stupid." He said it demonstrated the "failure to realize the depth and dignity of the Islamic revolution," the radio reported.

The U.S. congressmen's proposal was also condemned by the entire 270-member Majlis, which released a statement telling the U.S. leadership that "the responsibility for the consequences of such acts lies with the signatories to this letter," the report said.

Valdez overhaul scheduled

SAN DIEGO — Repair work begins Monday on the tanker Exxon Valdez, which caused the nation's worst oil spill when its hull was ripped open on a reef, and one of the first objectives is removing big chunks of the reef.

One rock "about the size of a Volkswagen Bug" and another rock estimated to weigh about 6,000 pounds are still wedged in torn sections of the tanker's hull, said Dick Vortmann, president of National Steel & Shipbuilding Co.

Both rocks are from Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound, where the ruptured tanker spilled nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil in March.

NASSCO Vice President Fred Hallet said more than 300 workers were expected to cut away and replace about 3,200 tons of steel. The damaged area represents more than 75 percent of the tanker's bottom.

Twelve of the ship's 25 compartments need repairs.

Ailing Mother Teresa receives pacemaker

From Associated Press reports

CALCUTTA, India — Doctors implanted a pacemaker in Mother Teresa to steady her heartbeat, but they feared she might be developing pneumonia, a hospital source said Sunday.

Doctors at Woodlands Nursing Home gave the 79-year-old Roman Catholic nun a temporary pacemaker Saturday night after her heartbeat became irregular, said the hospital source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

While the pacemaker corrected her heart problem, Mother Teresa had a high fever and was not responding to antibiotics, he said.

"The fever is causing the doctors more concern right now than her heart. Her fever is very high and she has not been responding adequately to antibiotics. They think she might have pneumonia," the source said.

He said the frail, soft-spoken nun was conscious but heavily sedated.

Meanwhile, Dr. Vincenzo Bilotta, Mother Teresa's longtime cardiologist in Rome, said he was preparing to travel to Calcutta.

"I'm going to comfort her and also, if I can, to do something, though I am sure that my colleagues in Calcutta are doing everything they possibly can," Bilotta said in a telephone interview.

He said he had asked the Italian Foreign Ministry for help in expediting preparations for the trip but was unsure exactly when he would leave for India.

Mother Teresa, whose devotion to the destitute and dying earned her the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, became ill Sept. 3. She was admitted to the hospital's intensive care unit Tuesday with a high fever and irregular heartbeat. She suffered a heart attack Friday.

Born in Yugoslavia, Mother Teresa received several honors for her work with the poor in this Eastern Indian city, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest U.S. Civilian award, which was bestowed on her in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan.

Bilotti said Mother Teresa has had similar ailments in the past, due in part to her refusal to rest.

Mother Teresa, who gave up a comfortable life as a convent teacher to live and work among Calcutta's poor, founded the Missionaries of Charity in an abandoned run-down hostel donated by city officials. The order, recognized by the Vatican in 1965, now has 3,000 nuns working in 87 countries.

Despite heart problems and failing eyesight in recent years, she has traveled widely and has vigorously spoken out against abortion.

"Mother being the person she is has never wanted to stop and now, unfortunately, she is ill," Bilotti said.

Chinese government marks 40th anniversary with new slogans

From Associated Press reports

BEIJING — China has issued 40 slogans to mark the 40th anniversary of its Communist revolution, including one celebrating the recent suppression of the student pro-democracy movement.

The slogans, compiled by the Communist Party and published Sunday by the official Xinhua News Agency, are a mixture of self-praise for the nation's accomplishments and admonishments to do better in such areas as corruption and education.

Since the revolution 40 years ago, China has made heavy use of slogans in newspapers, on billboards and signs to express policy and exhort people to follow it.

One slogan, opening with declarations hailing the 40th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and its "great achievements" in modernization, calls on people to "warmly hail the successful quelling of the turmoil and the counterrevolutionary rebellion."

China claims the bloody June 3-4 military crackdown on students and their supporters in Beijing was necessary because demands for democratic reform had become a counterrevolutionary rebellion attempting to overthrow the government.

Another slogan calls on people to "salute the People's Liberation Army men, police and armed police who have performed remarkable feats in the struggle to defend the People's Republic."

Chinese also are urged to retain loyalty to socialism and the Communist Party, and to "firmly fight against bourgeois liberalization," or attraction to Western ideas and political systems.

They are told to support economic reforms and an open-door policy while fulfilling the task of "straightening out the economic order" — a reference to the current policy of reasserting central controls and halting new reforms in the wake of inflation and other economic woes.

One new slogan calls for self-reliance, hard work and building up the country through thrift and hard work.

Another repeats Mao Tse-tung's 1956 promise of free expression, "Let a hundred flowers bloom, let a hundred schools of thought contend," that was followed in 1957 by a crackdown on those who spoke out against the party.

The phrase is again suspect because many intellectuals who spoke out for democratic reform earlier in the year have been arrested or publicly condemned since the June crackdown.

Chinese are urged to "build an honest and clean government (and) punish and eliminate corruption," a major issue during the spring demonstrations.

They are also told to "maintain the sovereignty of the country and national dignity and firmly oppose any foreign interference in China's internal affairs," an apparent reference to Western condemnation of the violence used to suppress the student protests.

On Oct. 1, China marks the 40th anniversary since Mao Tse-tung, standing on Beijing's Tiananmen Square, declared the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Guatemalan professor, 3 students found dead

From Associated Press reports

GUATEMALA CITY — The bodies of a university professor who led a teachers' strike and three kidnapped students were found Sunday in a canyon near San Carlos University, police reported.

They said an anonymous telephone caller told authorities where the bodies could be found. Notes attached to the bodies referred to the destruction of the leadership of the student organization to which the victims belonged.

The victims, all of whom had been kidnapped within the past three weeks, were identified as professor Carlos Humberto Cabrera Rivera, 48, who was abducted Saturday; Carlos Chuta Camey, a 35-year-old law student kidnapped Friday; and Victor Rodriguez Jaramilla, 38, a political science student, and his wife, 33-year-old psychology student Silvia Maria Azurdia de Rodriguez, abducted Aug. 23.

Police said all had been shot repeatedly.

No individual or group has asserted responsibility for the kidnappings and slayings, and police said they had no suspects. The government has accused right-wing extremists of carrying out a number of bombings in recent weeks.

Cabrera Rivera was the president of a teacher's union that went on strike for 81 days demanding more money. The government refused their demands, and the teachers returned to work Aug. 21 without winning a pay increase.

Unsigned notes found with each of the four bodies said: "Today with the decomposition of the AEU (a university student organization) leadership, we are obligated to take radical measures against all those leaders who have lined their pockets with our money and handed over our group to extreme sectors connected to repression ... We will search for others who have falsified and produced a roadblock in the rehabilitation of the student movement."

The three slain students, all from San Carlos University, were active in the student organization.

Five other San Carlos University students have disappeared in recent weeks, and it is believed they also were kidnapped.

Two bombs exploded Saturday night in Guatemala City but there were no casualties, according to police.

They said one bomb damaged 13 shops in the commercial Santa Calara II area in the southern part of the capital. The second bomb was thrown at the Hotel Camino Real and exploded harmlessly on the front lawn.

The explosions brought to 28 the number of bombings in Guatemala City since July 19. The bombs have killed two people and wounded 20. No organization has claimed responsibility for the attacks, and conservative political leaders have denied government claims that the bombings were carried out by right-wing militants.

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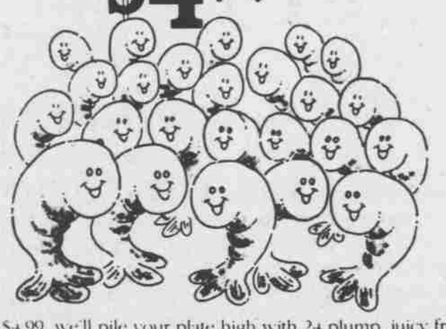

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Interested people should contact Ivey's, University Mall at 929-1191 to sign up.