

## World and Nation

# Officials debate hijacking deadlock

From Associated Press reports

ALGIERS, Algeria — An Algerian official said Wednesday that Kuwait's "intransigence" had created a deadlock in negotiations with Shiite Moslem hijackers for the release of 32 hostages on a Kuwaiti jumbo jet.

Food and water were taken in the afternoon to the blue-and-white Boeing 747, which the hijackers call the "plane of martyrdom." It baked under the North African sun on an isolated patch of tarmac at Houari Boumedienne airport.

A delegation from Kuwait arrived Wednesday afternoon to help in efforts to free the remaining hostages and the plane, which was hijacked April 5 on a flight from Bangkok to Kuwait with 112 people aboard.

It spent three days on the ground in Mashhad, Iran, flew to Cyprus on

Friday and arrived here early Wednesday.

The six to eight gunmen, who have killed two passengers, demand that Kuwait free 17 pro-Iranian extremists convicted in the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies there. The hostages included three members of the Kuwaiti royal family.

Sheik Nawaf al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Kuwait's defense minister, affirmed Wednesday his country's "unwavering and principled stance of rejecting blackmail," the Persian Gulf sheikdom's official news agency KUNA reported. "We would not change our attitude."

A ranking Algerian official told the Associated Press privately:

"If they merely wanted to restate their known position, there was no

need for them to send their high-level delegation to Algiers." He said "the intransigence" of Kuwait had stalled negotiations.

His remarks appeared to confirm unofficial reports that Algeria was pressing Kuwait for more flexibility.

The jet left Larnaca, Cyprus, early Wednesday after 12 more hostages were released. They arrived Wednesday night in Kuwait and were met by the interior minister, Sheik Salem Sabah al-Sabah.

On the same Boeing 727 to Kuwait were the bodies of the two slain passengers, their coffins draped in the red, black, green and white Kuwaiti flag.

Fifty-seven other hostages were freed at Mashhad, a city in northeastern Iran. Passengers released Tuesday said one gunman boarded the plane

at Mashhad and the hijackers got a new supply of weapons there.

Mohammed Saud al-Osaimi, a Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister, led the nine-member delegation to Algiers.

He told reporters, "I hope this will be the last stage of the voyage," but the Kuwait daily Al Watan quoted Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), as saying: "I don't think this operation will come to an end in Algiers."

The PLO has been involved in negotiations with the hijackers.

Kuwaiti officials met for several hours with Algerian negotiators, who made a half-hour trip to the plane Wednesday. No details of the discussion were revealed.

# Lease signed by government connected to Meese's wife

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The federal government signed a \$50 million lease to provide office space for the Justice Department after the landlord arranged to pay a \$40,000-a-year salary to Attorney General Edwin Meese's wife, Ursula.

The lease — a renewal at more than three times the previous rent — was signed even though the landlord had not cleaned up an air system that environmental inspectors said was a health hazard capable of explaining high sickness rates among workers in the building.

Less than two weeks after obtaining the new lease, the landlord, a prominent Washington real estate family, the Benders, sold the building for \$22.6 million more than it cost to purchase just two years earlier — a 60 percent profit.

Independent Council James McKay, who is investigating Meese on federal crimes, is interested in the lease deal. Federal law makes it a felony for a federal official to take any governmental action that would affect the financial status of his spouse.

An attorney for the Meeses denies any wrongdoing on their part in the transactions, but acknowledges that the Benders and Meeses know each other.

### Three Arab guerrillas killed

JERUSALEM — Troops killed three Arab guerrillas trying to enter Israel from Lebanon on Wednesday and a 70-year-old woman was suffocated by tear gas soldiers tossed into her home, according to army and other reports.

Two Palestinians were reported wounded by gunfire and 51 injured by rubber bullets, tear gas and beatings in a battle between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip.

At least 144 Palestinians have

## News in Brief

died in the rebellion that began Dec. 8 in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to United Nations figures. An Israeli soldier and a 15-year-old Jewish settler also have been killed.

Soldiers clashed for a second day in Gaza with Arabs protesting the deportation of eight Palestinians to Lebanon on Monday.

The first letter from an Israeli Jew known to have been published by an Arab nationalist newspaper urged Arabs to end the violence. The 13-year-old author said he wanted to start a dialogue with Palestinian children.

### Marine dies in Puerto Rico

A 23-year-old Camp Lejeune Marine was accidentally killed in Puerto Rico, marking the second death of a Marine from that base in two days, officials said.

Sgt. Ralph Gunnels Jr. suffered severe internal injuries when he was pinned between an off-loading M-60 tank and the well of the ship, the SS Sgt. Matej Koccek, said spokesman Maj. Stuart Wagner.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Gunnels was participating in Ocean Venture 88, which is held every two years. The exercises "are designed to demonstrate the joint forces capability of the U.S. Atlantic Command to rapidly project military power," a Pentagon spokesman said.

Another Marine from Camp Lejeune, Ricardo Villahermosa, died of a gunshot wound in Panama Monday night.

Villahermosa was part of a 12-Marine security patrol at the base's tank farm. He was accidentally killed after the patrol split up and a trip flare ignited, causing a crack that sounded like gunfire. Another Marine apparently shot him in the resulting crossfire.

# Reagan comments on spokesman's book

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Wednesday that he did not learn until recently that his former spokesman, Larry Speakes, had put words in his mouth on at least two occasions while briefing reporters on presidential meetings.

Reagan did not directly answer, however, when asked whether he approved of the practice or would

allow it to continue. His current spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, has condemned any such procedure and said he never would do it.

Speakes says in his new book, "Speaking Out," that he once attributed remarks made by Secretary of State George Shultz to the president and once collaborated with an aide in making up quotes that he then credited to Reagan.

Reagan's first comment on the book came in a question-and-answer session after a speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Katherine Fanning, editor of the Christian Science Monitor and president of the editor's group, asked Reagan, "Did you approve of that process, and would you continue to allow that to happen in your White House?"

"I was not aware of that and just learned it recently," the president reported, "as all the rest of you did. And I can tell you right now that I have no affection for these kiss-and-tell books that are being written, and I find it entirely fiction."

Speakes, in an interview on Tuesday, said, "I generally told him what I had done and the reasons for doing it. He never objected to these cases where I said, 'I've gone ahead and done this.'"

Speakes, who left the White House 14 months ago to become vice

president for communications of the Wall Street firm of Merrill Lynch, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday.

George Reedy, who served as a press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson, said when asked about the faked quotes: "The thing that bothers me is not so much that Larry Speakes did it, but that a president would let him get away with it."

Reedy, now a Nieman professor of journalism at Marquette University, said in a telephone interview late Tuesday, "It bothers me very much that the president would allow somebody to come through and put words in his mouth."

Reagan's reference to "kiss-and-tell" books evidently referred not only to the Speakes book, but to the book, "Behind the Scenes," by his former deputy chief of staff, Michael Deaver, and a forthcoming volume by former chief of staff Donald Regan.

Psychiatry at UNC-Chapel Hill needs outpatients for a 10-week depression study. Participants will receive free medications and psychiatric care. Must be 18 years or older; currently not accepting women of child-bearing potential. Contact Robin Dean at (919) 966-4476.

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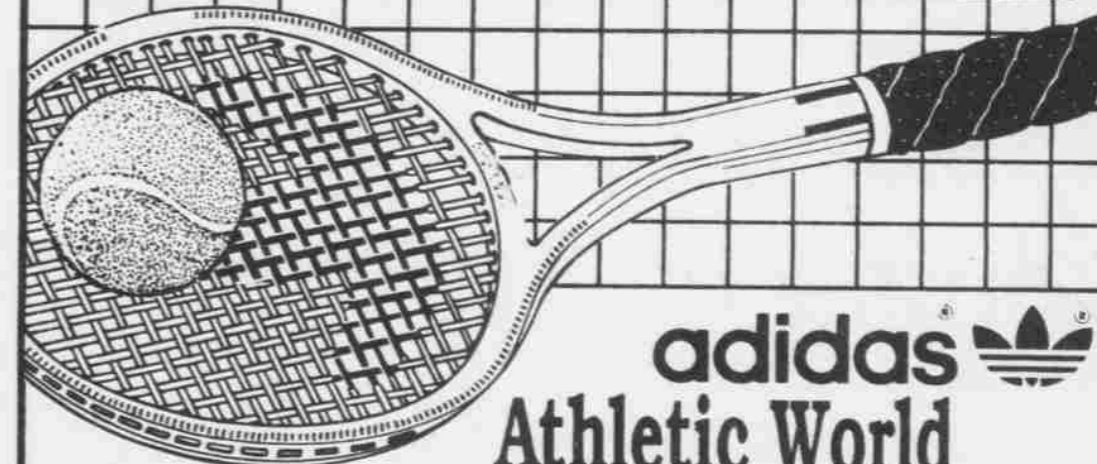
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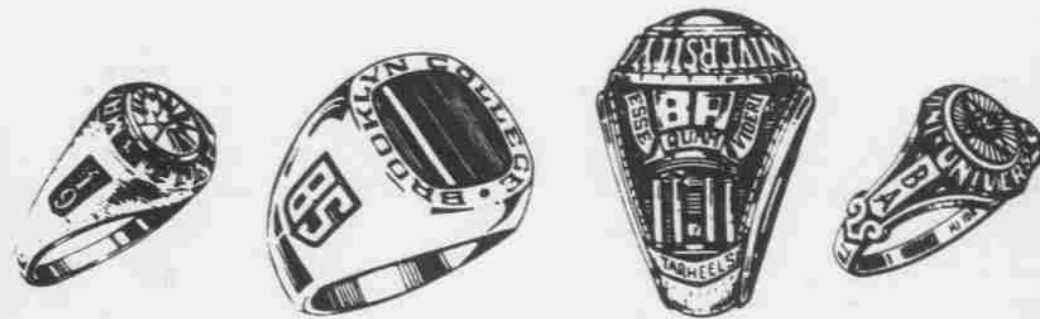


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