

UPI Roundup

Libya nationalizes three U.S. oil firms

BEIRUT — Libya announced Monday it is completely nationalizing three American oil companies in "a severe blow to American interests in the Arab world," Tripoli Radio said. Tripoli Radio said the three companies involved were Texaco, Asian of California and Libyan-American. The government of Col. Moammar Khadafy last September nationalized 51 per cent of all three companies, along with several others, and warned that it would take over 100 per cent if the companies did not agree to the nationalization terms. The Tripoli Radio news broadcast that announced the new takeovers Monday pointed out they coincided with the Washington conference of major oil importing nations. The three companies involved have only about five per cent of Libya's daily oil production of approximately two million barrels.

Public servants strike in Germany

BONN — Tens of thousands of public services employees went on strike Monday, shutting down most municipal public transportation and garbage collection in West Germany. The workers are demanding a 15 per cent pay increase. Government and union representatives scheduled another round of talks at which the government planned to increase its previous offer of a 9.5 per cent raise.

Iran, Iraq continue border skirmish

BEIRUT — New border clashes between Iraq and Iran were reported Monday in the wake of fighting involving planes, tanks, artillery and infantry that left scores dead and wounded according to official communiques from Baghdad and Tehran. Iraqi military sources were quoted in the state-controlled press as saying that Iranian forces were waging unpremeditated attacks and that supporting Iranian planes were "repeatedly violating Iraqi air space." Iran was continuing to mass troops on the border, the sources in Baghdad said.

Washington conference opens

Oil-consuming nations disagree on best solution to fuel crunch

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, opening a conference of 13 big oil-consuming countries, said Monday the world must cooperate in meeting the energy shortage or suffer economic collapse.

But French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert said his country could not follow the U.S. formula presented by Kissinger, which called for the consumer nations to present a united front against the Arab oil boycott in broadened conferences to come.

Jobert and other foreign ministers attending the two-day conference urged that the oil-producing nations be promptly included in the global energy talks, and several suggested the proper forum would be the United Nations.

Kissinger, convening the meeting at the State Department, said "these global dilemmas cannot be avoided through exclusive bilateral arrangements" such as France and Japan are making and seeking.

Jobert, speaking later, said Kissinger's proposal for still another session of consumer nations-along with underdeveloped countries-before calling in the producer countries, would increase Arab suspicions that the western industrialists were ganging up on them.

"We must not appear before the entire world as seeking to define alone a 'new course' which would inevitably lead to a confrontation or a conflict with the producing countries and maybe all the developing countries," Jobert said. "Let us not seek to establish or to impose a new world energy order."

Kissinger had cautioned the Arab states they might lose their global market by forcing user nations into energy independence, although "It seems clear the enlightened self-interest of con-

sumers and producers need not and should not be in conflict."

Jobert suggested a softer approach, saying France was "quite prepared to participate in an exchange of views on several aspects of the energy problem, but we must not speak for others, that is to say, to deal with matters that do not depend on our own will, the will of highly industrialized consuming countries.

"Judging from the apprehensions that the meeting in which we are taking part today has raised in various developing countries," Jobert said, "I would think that the reasons that have led France to stress the competence of the United Nations to deal with the energy crisis have lost neither their weight nor their timeliness."

Several other foreign ministers took issue with the initial all-consumer approach after Kissinger, as chairman of the conference, said in opening remarks:

"The United States has called this conference for one central purpose—to move urgently to resolve the energy problem on the basis of cooperation among all nations. Failure to do so would threaten the world with a vicious cycle of competition, autarky (going it alone), rivalry and depression such as led to the collapse of world order in the '30s.

"The United States declares its willingness to share available energy in times of emergency or prolonged shortages," he said. "We would be prepared to allocate an agreed portion of our total petroleum supply provided other consuming countries with indigenous production do likewise."

Foreign Minister Max Van Der Stoep of the Netherlands, speaking for the European economic community, suggested the conference be followed up quickly with talks before the United Nations with the producing nations taking part.

Oil-producing states warn against possible 'confrontation' over oil

VIENNA (UPI)—A spokesman for the world's major oil exporting nations said Monday that the Washington meeting of 13 leading oil consuming nations was called "in a context of threats" and could lead to a confrontation between producers and consumers of oil.

"It is clear that this conference has been convoked in such a context of threats that it could result in a confrontation," Ab-

derrahmane Khene, secretary general of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said.

Khene said his statement, made at a lunch with newsmen, reflected the official stand of OPEC's 12 members, which together produce 85 per cent of world oil imports.

He declined to speculate on what form the oil producer-

consumer confrontation might take.

"It will be decided only as a reaction to what the group meeting in Washington agrees on," Khene said.

In Tunis, Tunisia, the Libyan Press Agency reported that the question of secret deliveries of Arab oil to the United States will be examined by Arab oil ministers at their scheduled meeting in Tripoli, Libya, on Thursday.

The agency said there were reports that clandestine deliveries to the United States totalled 700,000 barrels a day.

The Washington conference clearly was a source of concern to the Persian Gulf oil producers.

The Shah of Iran, the second biggest oil producer on the Persian Gulf, said in a recent interview if the conference gave "the slightest evidence of warring confrontation with the oil producers they will regret it very dearly."

The Libyan state radio described it as an "aggressive act against the oil producing states, particularly the Arab states. It is an American trap to sanction American tutelage in Europe, on the one hand, and to internationalize oil resources by means of force on the other."

OPEC's Khene said Washington "was the wrong place" to discuss the energy crisis. He said the United Nations, where China and the Soviet Union could take part, would be a better forum.

OPEC's members are: Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.



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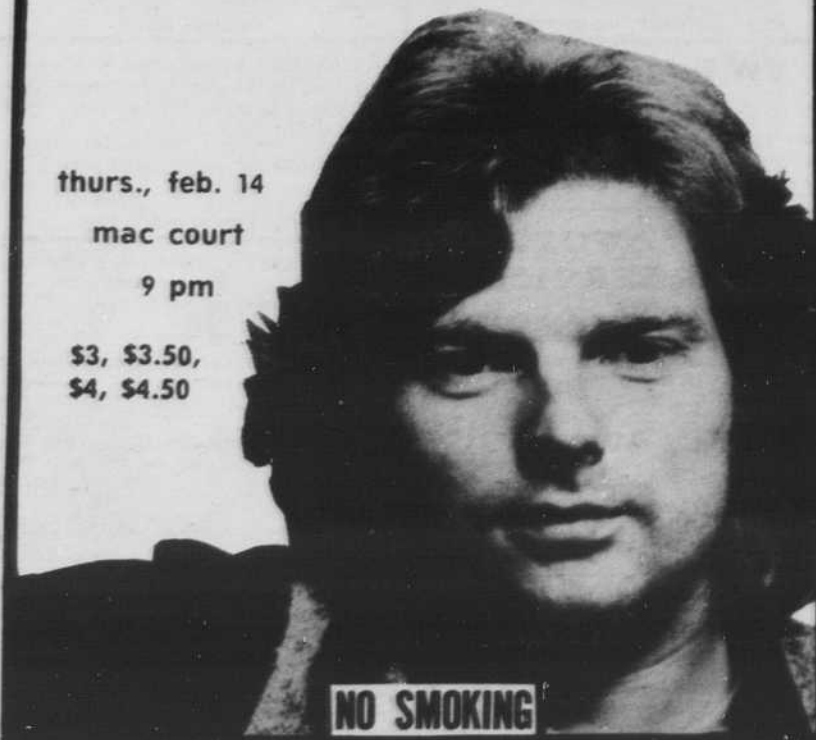
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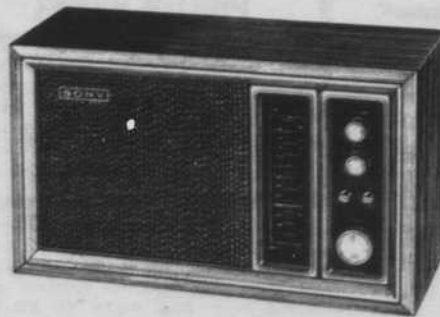
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