

World at a glance

From Associated Press Reports

Zaire army commander fired

KINSHASA, Zaire — Pres. Mobutu Sese Seko has fired his army commander in rebel-invaded Shaba Province and for the first time in more than 15 years imposed censorship of news dispatches on the growing conflict in the province.

The developments came as the government admitted the fall of a key town and the rebels pressed closer to another important center in the copper belt.

The former commander announced Thursday he had been recalled to his previous post as Mobutu's chief of staff.

Nuclear liability struck down

WASHINGTON — A federal district judge declared the law that limits the financial liability of power companies for nuclear accidents unconstitutional Thursday.

If allowed to stand, the ruling would leave nuclear-power companies open to unlimited liability claims and raise major doubts about the future of atomic energy in the United States.

Judge James McMillan of the western district of North Carolina struck down the Price-Anderson Act as an unconstitutional deprivation of property without due process of law.

Fire, protest close college

HOLLY SPRINGS, Miss. — In a throwback to the turbulence of the 1960s, a fire during a student protest caused a small liberal arts college here to shutdown Thursday.

Rust College officials ordered all 842 students to leave the campus by nightfall, following the fire which caused \$500,000 damage to the administration building.

A steady stream of cars left the rural campus of the predominantly black college throughout the day, as students complied with the order for what officials said would be a two week "cooling-off period."

Carcinogenic spray approved

WASHINGTON — An experimental pesticide suspected of containing a cancer-causing agent has been approved for use on pear trees in Oregon and Washington.

The pesticide BAAM, produced by the Upjohn Co., will be sprayed on trees in the Willamette, Hood River and Rogue River valleys to kill an aphid-like pest known as the pear psylla. Farmers say the pest cannot be controlled by conventional pesticides.

Controlled use of BAAM for one summer was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Wash. marijuana bill defeated

OLYMPIA — A bill to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana was narrowly defeated on the House floor Thursday.

Following the 46 to 47 vote, Rep. Alan Thompson, D-Kelso, a major backer of the bill, kept it alive by giving a notice of reconsideration. Passage requires at least 50 votes.

Judge jails Hanafi chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hamaas Abdul Khaalis, leader of the Hanafi Moslem band that held 134 people hostage, was ordered jailed on Thursday after a judge was told Khaalis had been overheard making "blood-curdling threats" in a wire-tapped telephone conversation.

The judge said he does not regard the threats "as idle words" and agreed with prosecutors that Khaalis posed a danger to the community.

Immediately, U.S. marshals surrounded Khaalis, who had walked into the courtroom a free man. He was taken to jail under heavy guard.

Prosecutors said police wire-taps had recorded Khaalis' conversations.

Khaalis had been out on personal recognizance and it was that no-money bond that was revoked on grounds he had violated conditions of his release.

Nine of the men who participated in the hostage incident three weeks ago are in jail in lieu of \$50,000 bond each. The other two are being held in lieu of \$75,000.

The same judge who agreed to let Khaalis remain free on personal recognizance, ordered him jailed on Thursday.

Shortly after the three-hour court hearing, treasury agents arrested Khaalis' son-in-law, Abdul Aziz, on charges that he had violated gun laws. Warren McConnell, spokesman for the treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said he did not know what prompted the arrest.

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