

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Moluccans ask for mediators

ASSEN, The Netherlands — South Moluccan terrorists holding at least 55 hostages on a hijacked train for the past nine days asked for outside mediators Tuesday, a request that some here saw as a first step toward possible resolution of the long standoff.

Prime Minister Joop den Uyl met through the afternoon with key ministers in the Dutch capital of The Hague to consider the request.

A highly placed government source cautioned against too much optimism over the gunmen's call for mediators.

Soviet satellite killer fails

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon confirmed Tuesday that the Soviets failed in a new flight test of their satellite-destroying system.

It said information on the orbits of a Soviet target satellite and a hunter satellite launched from Russia "would indicate a failure to accomplish a close approach and, therefore, failure to intercept."

The Pentagon statement was issued in response to an Associated Press report of failure of the first such Soviet test since Pres. Carter was inaugurated.

Job market up for June grads

EVANSTON, Ill. — June college graduates can expect a 23 per cent increase in jobs over those available for the Class of 1976, a national job market survey showed Tuesday.

The 31st annual Endicott Report also predicts hiring will be up 17 per cent for graduates with master's degrees.

Figures for both master's and bachelor degree students represented increases over projections made from a November 1976 poll.

Energy plan falls short

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter's energy plan would work but not as fast or as well as he has been telling the public, according to an independent congressional analysis released Tuesday.

And even the most controversial parts of the plan would not make a big difference in the way Americans live, the report concluded.

The Congressional Budget Office, in the first comprehensive look at the President's energy package now before Congress, generally found Carter's plan would force Americans to use less energy and would lower American dependence on foreign oil.

But it said that the President's energy advisers have been overly optimistic in predicting how quickly their goals could be reached.

For example, Carter's energy package sets a goal of reducing

gasoline consumption by 10 per cent by 1985, but the report said that a five per cent cutback from the current consumption of seven million barrels daily was the best his package could accomplish.

Among other findings:

- Instead of a projected saving of 4.5 million barrels daily in oil imports, the energy plan would bring a reduction of 3.6 million barrels.

- Industrial coal conversion, a major element of the plan, would go more slowly than predicted. Coal use would rise by 360 million tons annually by 1985 instead of the 410 million tons projected by the administration.

- The need to achieve both energy conservation and environmental controls may force even tougher conservation goals than set out under the plan, especially in industrial use of coal.

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Hanafi terrorists trial opens

WASHINGTON (AP) — The murder-kidnaping trial of Hamaas Abdul Khaalis and 11 of his Hanafi Moslem followers began Tuesday as a judge denied a motion to dismiss all charges and fenced repeatedly with defense attorneys.

Though jury selection had not yet begun, sparks flew from the outset of the proceeding, poten-

tially the longest in the history of the city's local courts.

Superior Court Judge Nicholas Nunzio rejected a host of defense motions and complaints, with more pre-trial arguments certain to come before the screening of 500 prospective jurors begins. Opening trial arguments aren't expected for a week or more.

The most important ruling came when the defense attempted to have the case thrown out on the ground that the government may have discouraged prosecution witnesses from talking with defense lawyers and investigators. The government denied the charge, and Nunzio denied the motion.

The 12 were charged in a 32-count indictment after they allegedly seized 149 hostages and three buildings March 9-11. Several persons were severely wounded and broadcast reporter Maurice Williams was killed during the siege.

The takeover, tied to a blood feud between the small Hanafi sect and the Black Muslims, ended peacefully when three diplomats from Moslem countries talked the gunmen into surrendering.

Security was the tightest ever for a Washington trial, with an electronic search made of everyone entering the building and a second search of those who actually went into the courtroom.

Negotiation 'wish' sent

PLAINS, Ga. (AP) — Pres. Carter said Tuesday that he sent a personal message to Cuban Pres. Fidel Castro expressing best wishes for successful negotiations to restore diplomatic relations and Castro responded in kind.

"I think we moved some first, faltering steps," Carter told reporters before setting out on a sentimental stroll through his home town. "But it eventually depends on them. We'll move as fast as they will."

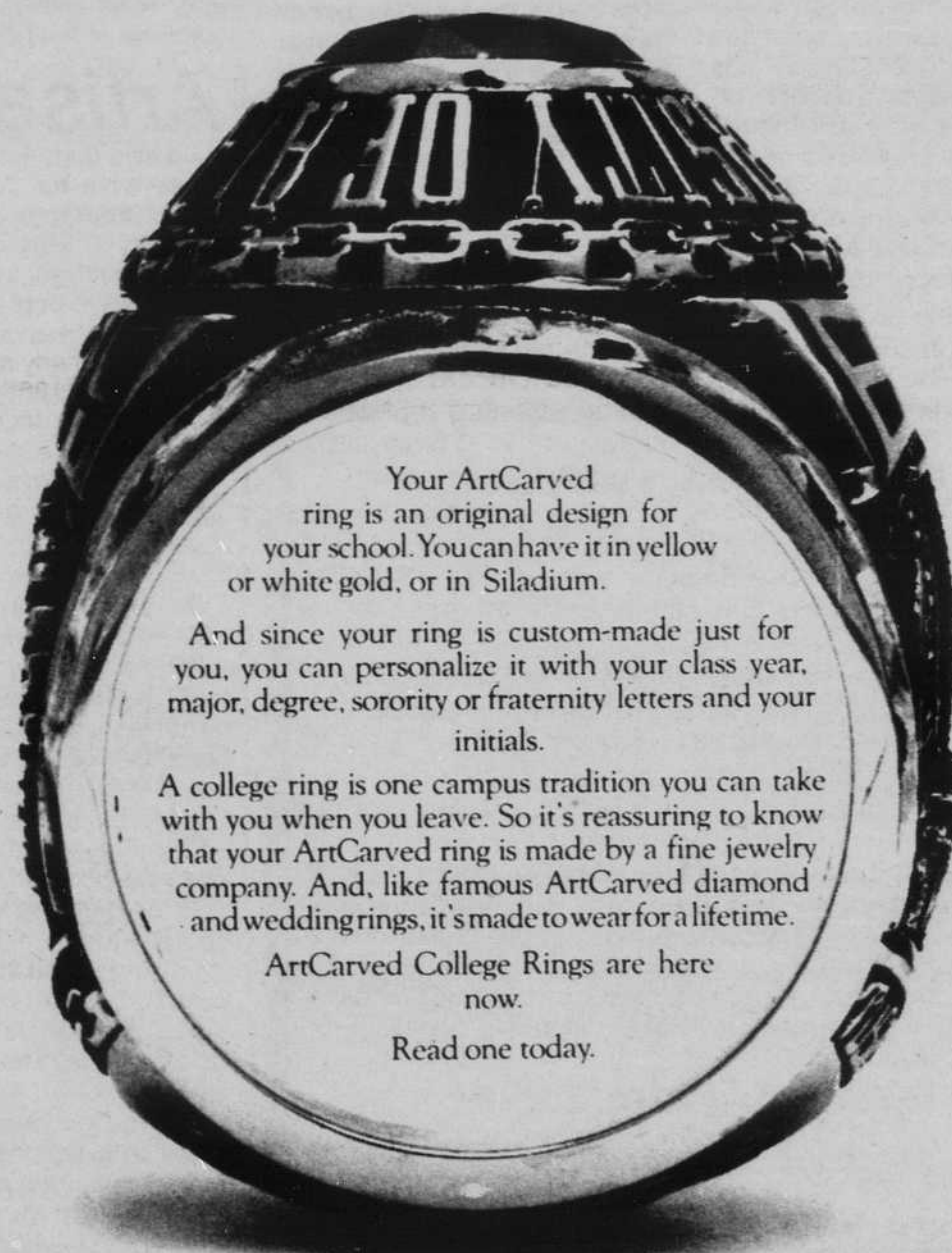
Later, as he sat on the old Plains railroad depot platform, Carter added, "I'm encouraged. We still have a lot of differences between us..." But "full friendship with Cuba" is "an ultimate goal," the President said.

He said he did not communicate directly with Castro.

"But through intermediaries we have communicated," Carter said. "I sent him best wishes for a successful conclusion of our negotiations and he responded accordingly."

The State Department has confirmed that the United States has proposed a limited exchange of diplomats with Cuba.

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