

Carter looks to Saudi compromise

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Pres. Carter came to this oil-rich desert kingdom Tuesday hopeful that Saudi Arabia's conservative leaders may be edging toward a

compromise on the thorny issue of Palestinian statehood, a major block to Middle East peace.

Carter met for more than an hour with King Khaled at a guest

palace soon after he arrived from New Delhi on the fourth stop of his marathon international tour.

White House press secretary Jody Powell said the talks dealt primarily with the Middle East.

"It could be termed a very good meeting," he said.

A senior U.S. official aboard Air Force One en route here from New Delhi said, "It would appear they the Saudis may be in the process of moving toward our approach on the Palestinian issue."

On the eve of his international tour, Carter told network correspondents he favors creation of a Palestinian homeland on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip linked to one of the neighboring nations, rather than a new inde-

pendent "radical" state.

Israel has offered self-rule with a continued Israeli military presence — for the 1.1 million Palestinian Arabs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat, with whom Carter meets Wednesday in the Upper Nile city of Aswan, said he was "disappointed" by Carter's rejection of his call for an independent Palestinian state and his description of the Israeli negotiating position as "a step forward."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel Tuesday appealed to the United States to supply fresh momentum to the stalemated Egyptian-Israeli dialogue. But Kamel declined to say what he specifically would like Carter to do.

The Egyptian initiative toward Israel has been sharply criticized in some Arab states including Egypt's former ally, Syria, but Saudi Arabia — a key Mideast power broker which supplies oil dollars to both Egypt and Syria — has remained publicly neutral in the dispute.

The U.S. official, who asked not to be identified, said that "despite his optimism, no major announcements" were expected as a result of Carter's talks here.

The official explained that because of the nature of Mideast politics any role played by the Riyadh government must remain low-key.

"If they are going to play a role, they cannot play a role by coming out and committing themselves ..." the official said.

World at a glance

Dollar drops, market falls

NEW YORK — The stock market suffered a sharp setback in the opening session of 1978 Tuesday as the dollar took a pounding in foreign exchange markets.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials fell 13.43 to \$17.74, posting its biggest loss since it dropped 14.12 points on Dec. 6. Declines outnumbered advances by a 5-2 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with more than 1,000 issues losing ground, and the NYSE's composite index dropped .68 to 51.82.

Chilean youths battle

SANTIAGO, Chile — Crowds of youths clashed Tuesday as tempers flared between supporters and opponents of President Augusto Pinochet on the eve of a national plebiscite on his conduct of the government.

Groups shouting "si" or "no" to a vote of support for Pinochet marched through the streets until they came up against each other in the Plaza de Armas in front of the Roman Catholic cathedral.

People don't dig grave offer

TUSCON, Ariz. — Fortunately, not one of the 150 persons who signed up with a funeral planning business for a free grave was able to take advantage of the firm's offer.

"I feel really great," said Robert H. Motzkin, sales manager for Memorial Consultants of Tucson Inc. "We haven't killed anybody on a holiday, and that is what we set out to do."

Editor Woods flies to Gaborne in 'nerve-wracking experience'

GABORONE, Botswana — Donald Woods, the white liberal editor who escaped from South Africa to Lesotho over the weekend, flew here with his family Tuesday, crossing a wide stretch of the country he had just fled.

The flight of 2 hours and 20 minutes, most of it across South African territory, was without incident. Still his wife called it "a nerve-wracking experience."

"I am relieved and I feel safe for the first time," Woods told reporters in the capital of this former British protectorate. In South Africa he was under a five-year ban that had effectively silenced him since last October.

An official from Lesotho, an independent black kingdom surrounded by South Africa, flew with the

Woods family to try to ensure their safety under an agreement with South Africa guaranteeing overflight rights.

Observers feared that if the 10-passenger Lesotho Airways plane were forced by weather or other circumstances to land in South Africa, authorities there would try to arrest Woods.

The editor, who was under a five-year banning order when he escaped, has almost completed the manuscript of a book on his friend Steve Biko, the black leader who died in police detention last September. The wave of racial protest over Biko's death prompted the crackdown under which Woods was banned.

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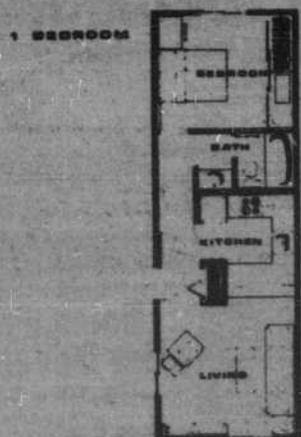
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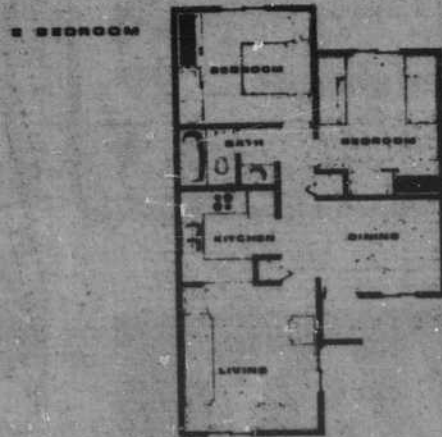
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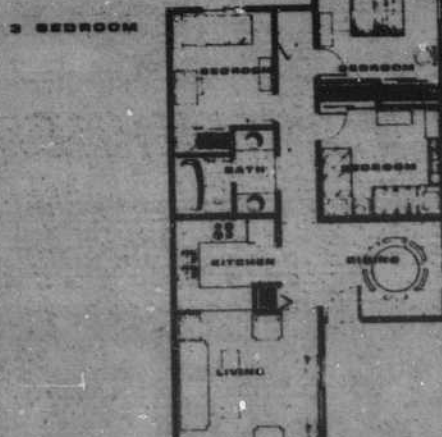
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