

Pentagon readies for evacuations in Zaire

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon alerted Army paratroopers and Air Force transport units Tuesday in the event they are needed to evacuate American civilians from embattled Zaire.

The Defense Department stressed that "no department of personnel or aircraft has been ordered."

The alert affects units of the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and Military Airlift Command planes which will move to Pope Air Force Base near Ft. Bragg, the Pentagon said.

The Defense Department declined to provide details on the number of troops and planes affected by the alert.

For the second time in 14 months, rebel insurgents are attempting to take over Shaba Province in Zaire, a Central African nation that was a former Belgian colony.

State Department spokesperson Hodding Carter said the first concern of the United States is the welfare of 73 American citizens residing in the Kolwezi area of southern Zaire, which has been the focal point of the new fighting.

Sixty-two of the Americans living in Zaire are employees of the Morrison-Knudsen firm, based in Idaho, which has been constructing a power project in Kolwezi. The other Americans include nine missionaries, one employee of a copper firm and one

tourist.

Earlier Tuesday, at a breakfast meeting with congressional leaders, Pres. Carter suggested he would like Congress to ease its restrictions on his power to send U.S. military aid abroad.

Carter, who is concerned about renewed fighting in Zaire, indicated such legislation "would be very welcome," House Minority Leader John Rhodes said after the meeting.

Rhodes added, however, that Carter did not specifically request a relaxation of the controls, which were enacted in the wake of the Vietnam war.

"But he certainly indicated it would be

very welcome and I got the impression that there would be a legislative proposal to accomplish that," the Arizona Republican said of Carter.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance met with House and Senate leaders later to discuss the possibility of taking what he called a "dispassionate look at existing laws to see if changes can be made."

Vance called the Zairean military situation "somewhat confused" and said the evacuation of American nationals from Kolwezi "may be necessary."

He said the United States did not plan any military action anywhere in Africa.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Jet sale reaction mixed

Israel saw the U.S. Senate's approval of a three-nation Mideast plane sale as a diplomatic slap in the face. Egypt praised it as an expression of the American people's will, and Saudi Arabia said it showed Jewish influence waning in Washington.

The conflicting views came Tuesday from the three recipients of the \$4.8 billion arms sales package approved Monday in a 54-44 Senate vote.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin expressed "deep regret" at the approval while Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat said the U.S. decision "is proof of the American people's support for Pres. Carter's peace efforts in the Middle East."

Pat Nixon hospitalized

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Former first lady Pat Nixon has been admitted to Long Beach Memorial Hospital for treatment of a lung infection, a hospital spokesman said.

Susan Pescar said Monday that Mrs. Nixon's condition was good and that she was "resting comfortably."

'Stone people' discovered

MANILA, Philippines — A tribe of primitive cave-dwellers subsisting on a rough form of agriculture has been discovered living in the crater of an extinct volcano on the island of Palawan, 430 miles southwest of Manila, the government says.

The announcement from the presidential palace called the 30-family tribe "Taotbato," or stone people, and said they were living in caves clustered at different levels along the wall of the crater.

They wear loincloths made of hammered bark and live on casava, sweet potatoes and other roots which they grow in the fertile valley more than 1,000 feet below the mile-wide rim of the crater.

Officials ask for Trojan storage space expansion

PENDLETON (AP) — The Oregon Department of Energy will recommend expanding storage of spent nuclear fuel at the Trojan nuclear power plant, the agency's director said Tuesday.

Fred Miller said in an interview with radio station KTIK the department will recommend the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council approve Portland General Electric's (PGE) request to in-

crease storage at the plant because there is no place to process spent fuel.

In Salem, energy department spokesman Bill Sanderson confirmed Miller's statement and said the recommendation would be made at the siting council's meeting in Salem May 22.

"Trojan was built with the federal assurance that there would be reprocessing facilities available by 1975," Sanderson said. "Now they say it will be at least the 1980s."

Sanderson noted the siting council now is considering a motion made by one of its members to deny the PGE request for increased storage space.

Under current federal and state regulation, PGE is allowed to store four years' worth of spent fuel at Trojan. Miller said his department will recommend the utility be allowed to increase the storage to 10 years' worth.

Sanderson said department officials believe the increased storage would pose no increased threat to the environment. If the increased storage is not allowed, he said, the plant simply would have to shut down in a few years.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission held lengthy hearings on the PGE request in February and April.

Straub's spray request goes to forestry board

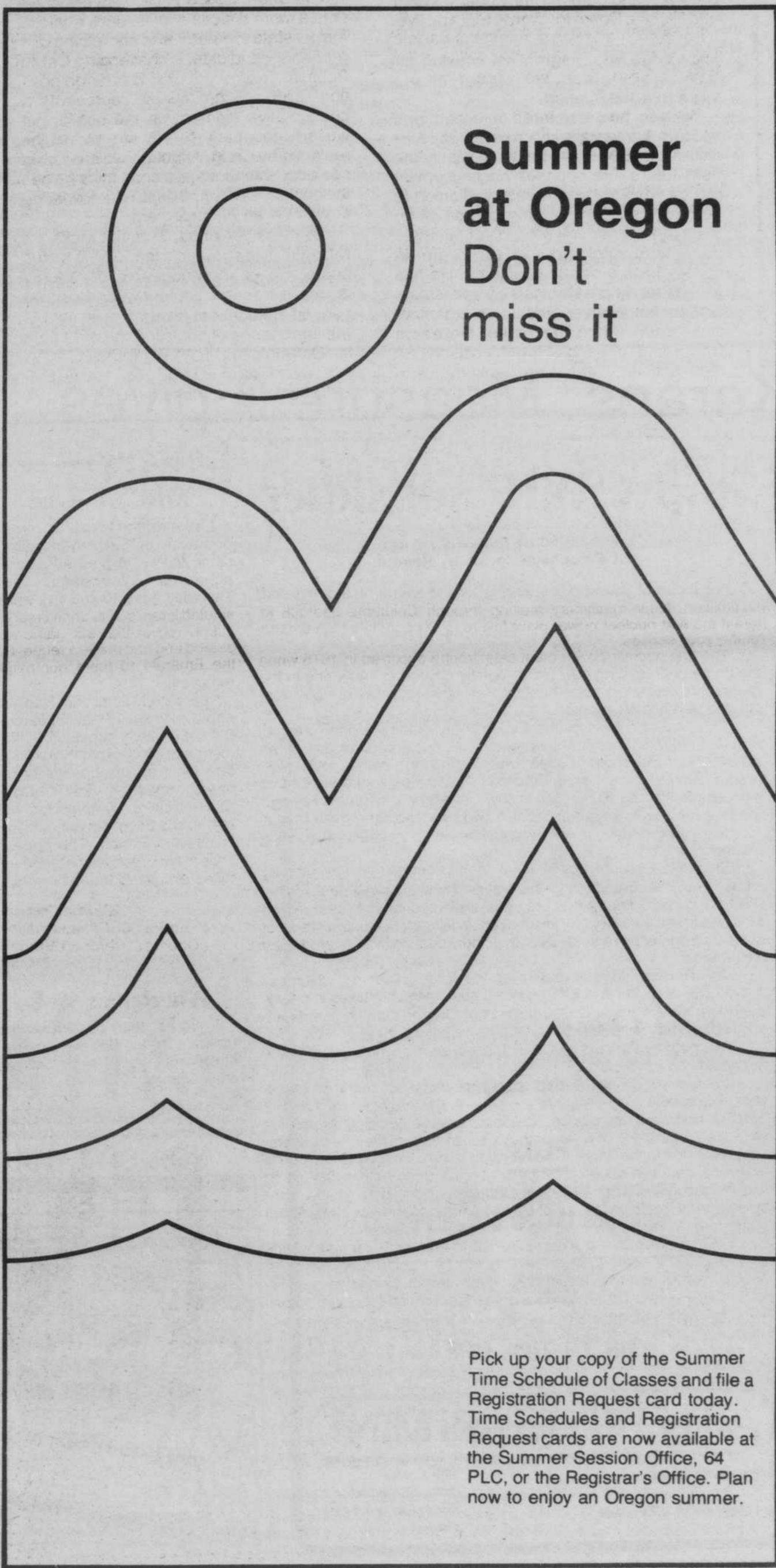
MEDFORD (AP) — The Environmental Protection Committee of the Oregon Board of Forestry has forwarded to the full board a request from Gov. Bob Straub for more stringent restrictions on the use of herbicides in the state's forests.

Straub has recommended increasing the buffer zone between sprayed land and streams be doubled from the present 100 feet to 200 feet.

The committee, meeting here Tuesday, forwarded the recommendation over the strong objection of committee member Ron Nutting of Portland.

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