

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — By telephone and in meetings on two continents, President Carter and his diplomats sought Monday to head off a breakdown in the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. Egypt's Anwar Sadat reportedly considered but then dropped the idea of calling his negotiators home from Washington.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mustapha Khalil said, however, that the talks were going "not badly."

Prime Minister Menachem Begin, meanwhile, arrived back in Israel after a U.S.-Canadian tour and said his government would be reviewing American and Egyptian proposals for resolving the central dispute in the negotiations — whether and how to link an Egyptian-Israeli treaty to a solution of the Palestinian issue.

PORTLAND — The Trojan Decommissioning Alliance promised on Monday a new campaign of civil disobedience against resumption of operations at Portland General Electric's Trojan nuclear power plant.

The plant was shut down last spring for refueling. While closed, it was discovered the facility does not meet its design standards for earthquake resistance.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is to decide whether the plant may be reopened before modifications are completed.

"This year has shown we can do without Trojan," alliance members said in a news release. "We do not want Trojan's nuclear fission and we do not want Trojan's nuclear waste."

WASHINGTON — The Carter administration is braced for an increase in world oil prices of at least 5 percent, and maybe 10 percent, which would raise the price of gasoline and home heating oil.

Van Doorn Ooms, an assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget, said Monday the administration has assumed in its budget and economic forecasts for next year that there will be an increase of at least 5 percent.

But he told reporters that "people are now talking about 10 percent as being more likely."

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — An Atlas-Centaur rocket was launched Monday with a payload of nearly 7,000 pounds of equipment for gaining data about the sources of X-rays in deep space.

The satellite, due to go into operation in four days, will conduct detailed studies of some of the X-ray sources found by a satellite launched in August 1977, space agency officials said. Three such spacecraft will be put into orbit in a \$90 million mission aimed at learning more about pulsars, quasars and black holes, all sources of X-rays.

John the Baptist resurrected?

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Workers renovating an ancient Christian monastery in the desert north of Cairo discovered a coffin that church officials say may contain the remains of John the Baptist, the holy man who according to Christian belief baptized Jesus Christ.

"There are lots of bodies buried out there and we have to be sure," said Bishop Samuel, an official of the Coptic Christian Church who is organizing an investigation of the discovery. "What leads the priests to think it is John the Baptist is a reference in church manuscripts which says he was buried 18 feet from the altar."

The wooden coffin was found under the walls of St. Makarios monastery, 60 miles north of Cairo. Officials of the Coptic Church, the native Christian church of Egypt and Ethiopia, have set up a committee of archaeologists, architects and church scholars to examine the find and report to the church.

"The priests couldn't move the walls before for fear the building would collapse," Samuel said Monday.

The bishop is an assistant to Pope Shenuda II, spiritual leader of Egypt's six million Coptic Christians. The Copts are doctrinally related to the Eastern Orthodox Church.

A spokesman at the Vatican said he was unaware of the discovery. The Rev. Romeo Panciroli said the report would have to be studied before the church makes any comment.

The monastery was founded about the fourth century during a period of Christian expansion in Egypt. According to monastery's manuscripts, the remains of John the Baptist were spirited out of Palestine in the fourth century by Christians fleeing the oppression of Roman authorities. They brought the body to Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast. The remains were moved to the monastery in the early eleventh century.

Samuel said the manuscripts record church history and date back to the fifth century.

But most ignore threats

Americans flee Iran

AHWAZ, Iran (AP) — Scores of Americans working here in the southern oilfields of Iran have been the targets of anonymous threats that they will be killed unless they leave Iran before Dec. 1.

Since the threats began two weeks ago, about 250 U.S. nationals, mainly women and children, have fled this dusty desert town on the northern edge of the Persian Gulf. This vast oil belt is the key to the economy of Iran, the world's second largest oil exporting nation.

But most Americans randomly interviewed said they plan to ignore the threats, which have come on the coattails of the bloody anti-government rioting and political turmoil that has swept Iran for the last 10 months and taken an estimated 1,100 Iranian lives.

Some said they were nervous, and few of those interviewed would allow their names to be used.

This past weekend, the bloodiest demonstrations occurred since the shah appointed a military government last Monday. The Pars news agency reported that about 20 persons were killed and many injured.

No one has claimed responsibility for the death threats, distributed on photocopies of hand-printed leaflets that read, "Warning — don't get killed (sic). Leave this country before first of December."

Several Americans said the leaflets were handed out by Iranian children in the streets, stuck on their cars or stuffed into their shopping bags in stores.

December is a Moslem holy month when religious fervor runs

high. Some Americans here speculate the threats may have been made by Moslems who oppose Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi because he encouraged reforms that they believe are contrary to Islamic teachings.

"We're not taking them seriously," said a senior U.S. executive with the Oil Service Co. of Iran, which operates the oilfields and refineries for the state-run National Iranian Oil Co.

"Most of the folks I know plan to bring their kids over from the states for Christmas," said one Texan. "We've got plenty of protection from the military and we certainly don't feel threatened."

There are about 2,000 Americans in Ahwaz, and 45,000 throughout the country. There are about 50,000 Europeans in Iran, and overall, some 700,000 foreigners.

The threats were made after the 37,000 Iranian oil workers launched a nationwide anti-government strike on Oct. 31, an unprecedented walkout which slashed the country's daily oil production to one-sixth of its six million barrels and cost the country \$60 million a day in revenues.

The Americans and other foreigners prevented the collapse of the industry and boosted output to 2.1 million barrels a day over the weekend.

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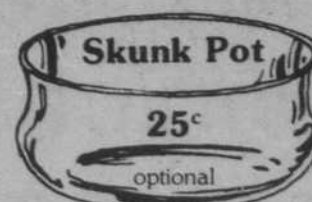
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