

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The investigator who brought to light the multimillion-dollar scandal at the General Services Administration says he believes "a small handful of controlling political figures" shared in the corruption.

Vincent Alto, who voluntarily left his post as GSA's special counsel Wednesday, refused to name individuals, but said that over the past 20 years, top officials at the agency, the White House and on Capitol Hill have been involved in the scandal.

Alto also predicted that unless "some of the higher-ups are nailed," the GSA will revert to its corrupt way of life.

CONNELL, Wash. — An eastern Washington farmer says Police Chief Andy Sawyer can't tell watermelon seedlings from incipient marijuana plants.

The farmer, Tex German, is suing the town of Connell for \$7,500 because Sawyer destroyed the plants, saying that what he saw was marijuana, not melons.

The chief may be hard pressed to defend his position when the case goes to Franklin County Superior Court this week. He discarded the plants after seizing them last May.

Sawyer says he received a tip last May that marijuana was growing in three junked cars. But German says he used the abandoned cars as hothouses for his melon seedlings, closing the doors at night to keep out the frost.

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union yielded to American pressure and gave permission Wednesday for Jessica Katz and her Jewish activist parents to emigrate, ending their year-long battle to obtain American medical treatment for the baby's rare digestive illness.

The Katz family received a card in the morning mail informing them their exit visas were ready at the passport office. The family has until Dec. 4 to leave for Israel, but probably will proceed directly to the United States.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A chartered jetliner carrying 246 Moslem pilgrims home from Mecca crashed, broke up and burned Wednesday a mile from Colombo's airport while being guided down in a severe thunderstorm, airport authorities said.

Bill Connor, a spokesman for Icelandic Airlines in New York, said all but 47 of those aboard were killed. The Federal Aviation Administration in Washington put the number of survivors at from 47 to 100.

"The plane broke into several pieces. I walked away and some others did too, but I don't know about my friends," said an Indonesian newspaper editor who was aboard the aircraft.

Mideast peace stalled

By The Associated Press

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat described the Mideast peace talks Wednesday as being in a state of "serious crisis" and raised the possibility of a suspension to allow Egypt and Israel time to consider their positions.

Informed Egyptian sources said their government has formulated new proposals designed to avoid a total deadlock in the Washington peace treaty talks that still hold to Egypt's primary demands.

In Jerusalem, the Israeli Cabinet cut short its review of the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations to await clarification of the new proposals.

The White House said President Carter met with Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman on Tuesday to ask Israel to wait until Egypt's new position is clear before making any decisions.

Sadat, speaking to university professors and students in Ismailia, a Suez Canal town, said "We have gone a long way at" the Washington talks and have achieved 90 percent of the road.

"Now we are at a serious crisis and if we can avoid it in order to achieve the remaining 10 percent by suspending the talks for a while to allow the parties to think again and then resume, so be it."

The Egyptian leader did not elaborate on the nature of the crisis, nor did he refer to the re-

ported fresh formulation of Egypt's demands. Informed sources in Cairo, however, said "the word crisis can be underlined. It is very real."

U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis said, however, after calling on Begin, that the Washington talks were continuing and "there is no crisis."

President Carter will be briefed on the Egyptian suggestions by Vice President Hosni Mubarak, whom Sadat dispatched to Washington on Wednesday, the Egyptian sources said.

In Damascus, President Hafez Assad of Syria vowed that "Syria and the Arab nations will save the Egyptian people from the shameful position to which it has been dragged by its rulers."

In a speech before the annual Syrian trade union congress, Assad said Israel and Egypt "can sign any agreements they want, bilateral or otherwise, but such agreements will not bring peace to the Middle East because peace cannot be established without us."

There was no indication in Jerusalem when the Cabinet would resume its discussions. The Cabinet had met to take up a new U.S. proposal designed to break the snags in the Washington talks.

The Israeli press reported the Americans have suggested that one link would be to call for elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip not later than December 1979.

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Anthropologist Mead dies

NEW YORK (AP) — Margaret Mead, one of the world's foremost anthropologists and idol of several generations of American students, died Wednesday after a year-long battle with cancer. She was 76.

She died at New York Hospital, where she had been admitted Oct. 2, no longer able to work at her permanent headquarters in the American Museum of Natural History.

She was the retired curator of ethnology there and also had occupied chairs of anthropology at Columbia and Fordham universities.

Mead, whose early fame and professional reputation were based on exhaustive field studies of primitive Pacific island cultures, always stayed in tune and in touch with the young of her land.

She angered some political conservatives, who objected to her views on marijuana and generational conflict. She favored legalization of marijuana be-

cause, she said, banning it bred conflict between children and their parents, and that was worse than any harm it did.

She also thought adults had to heed the opinions of their children. One reason for this, she said, was television, which produced a generation that saw "history being made before it is censored by their elders."

A writer once dubbed her "grandmother of us all," and that description was endorsed by Edward Lehman, executive director

of the American Anthropological Association, which was meeting in Los Angeles when she died.

"Margaret's death is a loss not only to anthropology, but to science in general; not only to U.S. society, but to the world. She's irreplaceable," said Lehman.

Popularizing anthropology was among her major achievements — "mass education of the very best kind," said Robert Murphy, a Columbia University anthropologist and former department chairman.

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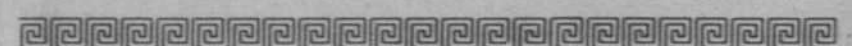
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