

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has repeated the United States' support of the Shah of Iran while warning other countries to refrain from military intervention in that country.

Vance issued the statement Sunday in response to comments from Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Vance said that while the United States maintained a hands-off policy militarily in Iran, it expected "other countries to conduct themselves in similar fashion." He noted that Russia had made that pledge.

The secretary of state also said U.S. support for the shah's regime does not amount to an attempt to intervene militarily in Iranian politics.

"As President Carter has indicated, the United States does not intend to interfere in the internal affairs of any other country," Vance said. "Reports to the contrary are totally without foundation."

WASHINGTON — Rep. Charles Diggs was ordered Monday to serve three years in prison for mail fraud and making false statements after a judge brushed aside arguments that his re-election this month meant he should be in Congress, not jail.

Diggs, D-Mich., was found guilty Oct. 7 of inflating the salaries of staff members and then accepting kickbacks from them to pay business, personal and congressional expenses.

Diggs was re-elected Nov. 7 to a 13th term in the House of Representatives with an 80 percent vote margin in his Detroit district, despite his conviction.

TOKYO — With the appearance in Peking of a wall poster directly attacking the late Mao Tse-tung, Chinese leaders seem to have taken a crucial step in a campaign to debunk the myth of infallibility wrapped around the venerated leader. But the move could bode ill for Mao's successor, Chairman Hua Kuo-feng.

The poster, spotted by Japanese correspondents in Peking on Sunday, accused the father of China's communist revolution of backing the purged Gang of Four rebels during a 1976 power struggle within the Communist Party.

Posters are often used within Chinese society to presage official changes in party policy.

The poster was believed to be the first to directly name Mao, who died in September 1976 at the age of 82.

Israel wants rejected treaty

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin wants to turn back the clock in negotiations with Egypt and is ready to accept a U.S.-sponsored draft of the peace treaty that his government rejected four weeks ago, sources familiar with the talks said Monday.

Begin is prepared to accept a vaguely-worded clause linking the treaty to the development of Palestinian self-rule on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, the sources said.

The point of linkage in the treaty has been the obstacle that has threatened the progress of the talks in recent weeks.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said in a television interview aired on French television Monday night that he was willing to meet again in a summit with Begin "anywhere but" Jerusalem to try to resolve the remaining "10 percent" of problems over a peace treaty.

In the interview, filmed Saturday at Sadat's residence outside Cairo, Sadat said he would "insist" that the final treaty be signed with Begin "on the top of Mount Sinai, on my land" and that he would refuse to go to Jerusalem again.

"I have already gone there once and I'm not going to start again,

But I am ready to meet Mr. Begin anywhere else," the Egyptian leader said.

Sadat also insisted that no peace treaty would be signed that failed to deal with the Palestinian problem.

"If Gaza and the West Bank are not treated in an overall settlement, no one should count on us to conclude peace," he said. "It is serious, because it is a point of fundamental principle."

Sadat revealed that he received a personal message from President Carter dealing with the status of Jerusalem, which he said was "quite satisfactory."

"Although the issue of Jerusalem will be a point of controversy and difficulty, I believe we Egyptians have demonstrated good will and we declared that the city will not be divided again and that Jewish holy spots — the Wailing Wall — can be under their control," Sadat told his interviewers.

Replying to Sadat's television interview, Begin said in Jerusalem that he was "happy" Sadat wants

to conclude the peace treaty soon.

But he appeared to ignore Sadat's wish not to travel to Jerusalem, by repeating his offer: "Let us sign the peace treaty in both Jerusalem and Cairo."

The prime minister was seeking the help of U.S. negotiators in persuading Egypt to reverse the tougher positioning it adopted earlier this month, particularly the demand for a timetable establishing Palestinian self-rule in the occupied lands.

Begin is scheduled to convene his cabinet Tuesday to resume negotiations. The debate was adjourned Sunday.

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Zealots dead in mass poisoning

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Troops swept through a steaming jungle Monday in search of American religious zealots who fled their remote compound and left behind a scene of horror and death — the bodies of at least 383 fellow cultists, some shot, most apparently poisoned by their own hands in a mass suicide.

Among the bodies found at the camp were those of the sect's fanatical founder, the Rev. Jim Jones, his wife and one of their children, said Police Chief C. Augustus.

Soldiers counted 163 women, 138 men and 82

children among the dead. They all were believed to be Americans. Many reportedly had lined up to take doses of poison from a tub.

The mass deaths apparently occurred about an hour or more after members of the California sect, People's Temple, ambushed a visiting investigative group led by Congressman Leo J. Ryan, killing Ryan and four others.

Still unaccounted for were between 500 and 900 of Jones' followers, who fled into the jungle around the agricultural commune, 150 miles northwest of this South American capital.

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