

making the news

From Associated Press reports

HONG KONG — China has decided to return property, bank deposits and other valuables confiscated during the Cultural Revolution to "national capitalists," Hong Kong's two communist newspapers reported Thursday.

The Ta Kung Pao and Wen Wei Po newspapers said keeping property, money and valuables confiscated from capitalists is "not permitted by the constitution."

China's Communist government allowed industrialists and capitalists to continue doing business from the time they won control of the mainland in 1949 until 1956. But the enterprises were nationalized in 1956.

BOSTON — Floods forced hundreds of New Englanders from their homes Thursday while snowbound Midwesterners, digging out from under record accumulations, were worrying that more snow may be on the way.

The National Weather Service was predicting overnight snowfalls in the Rockies and from the lower Great Lakes to northern New England.

SAN FRANCISCO — Four men who failed to appear for trial earlier this month in Oregon's largest marijuana smuggling case were indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday.

Bail against each man was set at \$150,000 by Judge Samuel Conti in San Francisco. It was the same amount Conti set when he issued warrants for their arrest Jan. 3. None has been apprehended.

Charged with failing to appear for trial were Robert E. Belensz, 29, Boston; David Bourdeau, 32, New Salem, Mass.; Charles M. Minnig, 28, Longmont, Colo.; and Stephen P. Scarano, 29, Beverly Hills, Calif.

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Pope John Paul II knelt to kiss the Dominican soil Thursday as he started his "mission to spread the gospel" in a week-long Latin American visit.

During his flight here from Rome, the pope entered the cockpit of the Alitalia DC-10 to chat briefly with President Carter over a crackling radio circuit. The pontiff greeted Carter as the plane flew over Puerto Rico, but the conversation was cut off because of poor connections, Vatican officials accompanying the pope reported.

DAKAR, Senegal — The government of this West African nation issued an official decree prohibiting students from using chemical products to whiten their faces.

Attempts by authorities to discourage the use of "xeesal" — the local name for skin-whitening products — by adults have not been fully successful, officials said, and that is why the government aimed the decree at students.

Defense secretary suggests U.S. return to draft registration

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Harold Brown said Thursday there is an "uneasy balance" of military power with the Soviet Union, and he raised the possibility of again registering young people for the draft.

Brown told the Senate Armed Services Committee the Selective Service System is not capable of mobilizing enough manpower fast enough in a military crisis.

In addition to increased funding for Selective Service, the Pentagon is considering a return to registration or improving records on what youths would be eligible for military service.

Brown said he has not decided what option would be best, or if either should be pursued.

The joint chiefs have recommended registering youths, as well as a screening process for potential recruits. Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., chairer of the committee, endorsed setting up a registration program.

Supporters of setting up a registration system em-

phasize that it does not mean a return to the draft, but merely a means of compiling an inventory of eligible recruits in case conscription is needed.

Legislation for such a system was proposed Thursday by Sen. Robert Morgan, D-N.C. He said a similar bill sponsored during the last Congress received only 13 votes, but that "the climate has changed on this."

Brown appeared before the panel with Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to give an assessment of the nation's military strengths and weaknesses and the need for a \$122.7 billion defense budget.

In his prepared report, Brown declared that any Soviet military intervention in Iran "could require a U.S. response." He was not asked about Iran and did not discuss in any detail the form of such a response to what he stressed is a "hypothetical contingency."

The secretary said the Soviets have been "relatively restrained" during the Iranian turmoil.

Iran's government gains support

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The beleaguered Iranian government Thursday managed to keep its key foe, Ayatollah Khomeini, out of the country for at least three more days. But the angry Moslem holy man rejected an appeal to put off his homecoming for three weeks or more.

Prime Minister Shahpour Bakhtiar's government also was given its biggest show of public support yet. Tens of thousands of anti-Khomeini demonstrators marched in Tehran, and similar pro-government demonstrations were reported in several other cities.

The official Pars news agency said one soldier was killed and two civilians were wounded in violence surrounding a pro-government protest at Sanandaj in west Iran.

The 78-year-old Khomeini, leader of the movement that forced Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi into an indefinite "vacation" abroad, had planned to end almost 15 years of exile and fly back to Iran Friday. But the Iranian military shut down the country's airports, supposedly until midnight Saturday, in what appeared to be an effort to block his plans.

Khomeini, patriarch of Iran's 32 million Shiite Moslems, says he

intends to replace the Bakhtiar government, appointed by the shah, with an Islamic republic under his guidance.

It was announced at Khomeini's headquarters-in-exile in France he was postponing his return until at least Sunday. If the airport shut-downs extend beyond that, said Khomeini aide Ibrahim Yazdi, there are "alternative plans" for getting to Iran. He would not elaborate.

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