

Carter commutes sentence, Patty grateful to be free

By The Associated Press

Patricia Hearst said Monday that she was both surprised and pleased by President Carter's

decision to commute her prison sentence on bank robbery charges.

In an interview with Barbara Walters of ABC News, Miss

Hearst said of the president's action, "I'm really grateful that he was so courageous. It would have been so simple for him to just leave everything the way it was."

Miss Hearst said in the telephone interview, "I was really happy. I was so surprised it happened today. I just didn't expect it... I thought I'd be spending another Feb. 4 in prison."

February 4 would have been the fifth anniversary of her kidnapping.

Her father, Randolph Hearst, thanked Carter for an act he said had "given Patty back her life and made her family very happy."

Hearst, president of the San Francisco Examiner, called Carter's decision to cut short Miss Hearst's time in prison "a politically courageous move because there are people in this country who continue to believe the only reason she is being set free is because of her name."

"The truth of the matter, of course, is that she was kidnapped because of her name and her name was responsible for her severe sentence," he said.

Miss Hearst, who will be 25 on Feb. 20, has served 22 months of her sentence.

The president commuted Miss Hearst's sentence effective Feb. 1. She would have been eligible for parole in July.

James Browning, the federal attorney who prosecuted Miss Hearst, said he wasn't surprised by President Carter's decision.

"My general feeling is that justice has been done," said Browning, who is now a Superior Court commissioner of domestic relations in San Mateo County. "I do hope they're not commuting her sentence just because she's Patricia Hearst."

Al Johnson, one of Miss Hearst's attorneys during her 1976 trial on bank robbery charges, said that he hopes "the notoriety that accompanied her captivity and trial will subside," with the newspaper heiress' release from prison.

"I think these things will be forgotten in time and that she will live again as a useful citizen," Johnson said.

making the news

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Two Maoists disrupted White House welcoming ceremonies for Teng Hsiao-ping on Monday, screaming "murderer" and "traitor" at China's vice premier before they were dragged away by the Secret Service.

The two, who used press credentials to gain admission to the White House grounds, were charged with disorderly conduct.

The National Park Service, meanwhile, estimated that nearly 3,500 demonstrators of divergent political beliefs crisscrossed the city in a day of noisy but peaceful protests aimed at Teng's visit.

Officials said 2,500 anti-communists backing the current government in Taiwan made up the largest single group of demonstrators. They held an early-afternoon rally at a park across the street from the White House before beginning a march up Pennsylvania Avenue to the Capitol.

BANGKOK, Thailand — The forces of fallen Premier Pol Pot claimed on Monday to be closing in on the Vietnamese and rebel-held Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh and listed other gains, some of which were confirmed by Indochina analysis here.

"The country is settling in for a long, hard fight," said one diplomat in Bangkok.

TEHRAN, Iran — Moslem rioters furious over the government's refusal to bow to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's leadership went on a vengeful rampage of arson in Tehran Monday. Later it was announced Iran's airports would reopen, allowing Khomeini to return from his long exile.

As fires raged in southern Tehran, troops opened fire to scatter the angry mobs of protesters, and at least three were reported killed.

The rioters, bent on ridding their country of "sinful" Western influences, set fire to a nightclub, a brewery, liquor stores and a pork-processing plant and attacked brothels. A police general was badly beaten.

SALEM — Proposed rules for shipping hazardous gas and explosives through Oregon by rail were submitted to a hearings officer Monday after winning the approval of the railroads and the state.

The rules are designed to help the state keep closer track of dangerous shipments and to educate local emergency personnel how to handle mishaps. The rules don't cover the shipment of radioactive materials which are subject to separate federal regulations.

"The rules, in our opinion, provide a maximum amount of protection to Oregon citizens with a minimum amount of additional paper work and red tape," Assistant Public Utility Commissioner David Astle said in a statement to Administrative Law Judge Leon Hagen.

Carter, Teng confer at capitol

WASHINGTON— Pres. Carter and China's Teng Hsiao-ping conferred for three hours and 40 minutes Monday, beginning what the president called a "common journey" toward peace and stability in Asia and the world.

Carter accepted an invitation from Teng to visit China, although no date was set.

After a welcoming ceremony marred by shouting protesters, Carter and Teng held two sessions in the Oval Office. Shortly after the second session, police and protesters clashed in front of the White House in the early evening darkness.

Several persons were injured, more than three dozen arrested.

Teng said of his morning meeting with the president: "There were no boundaries to the number of questions we discussed, from the earth to the heavens."

White House press secretary Jody Powell said Carter had accepted Teng's invitation to China

and had extended his own invitation to Chairman Hua Kuo-feng to visit the United States.

As Carter and Teng ended the day's talks, a number of Maoists protesting Teng's visit clashed with a police line on the sidewalk in front of the White House.

About 350 of the protesters approached Lafayette Park, across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, in a line two blocks long. As the head of the column neared the park, those in front "began throwing things," said Assistant Police Chief Bernard Crooke.

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