

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

TEL AVIV — Israel's discreet but important ties with Iran ended Monday with the return of Israeli officials from its capital and the small, hand-written sign "The Office is Closed," posted at its Tehran mission.

"Thank heaven we are here," one Israeli official told his family as he arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport. "Now we can start breathing. We have been waiting for an aircraft to bring us safely home."

Some 33 persons, including Israeli diplomats, staff members of El Al airline and Jewish Agency representatives, left Tehran Sunday on a U.S. evacuation flight to Frankfurt, West Germany, and then flew on to Israel after Iran's new government ordered them expelled.

TORONTO — A Pablo Picasso painting stolen over the weekend will be virtually impossible to sell because it is too widely known, a gallery spokeswoman said.

Elizabeth Levitt, administrator of the Mira Godard Gallery, said the 1939 oil painting known as "Woman in a Hat Holding Sheep" was valued at \$425,000 and was fully insured.

The painting was taken just before midnight Saturday by a thief who smashed the plate-glass door of the gallery and fled before police arrived.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Authorities are seeking the persons who set crosses ablaze at the office door of the NAACP and at a television station carrying the sequel to "Roots."

The flaming crosses, ignited Sunday night after "Roots: The Next Generation" began on television, caused little damage.

Meanwhile, in Huntsville, Ala., some 20 robed members of the Ku Klux Klan picketed station WAAY-TV Sunday to protest the showing of the "Roots" series.

Nashville authorities also were seeking whoever stole a city library engraving portraying Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, a founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

NAIROBI, Kenya — About 300 Maldivian pirates attacked a U.S.-owned oceanographic survey ship in the Indian Ocean, looting the vessel and kidnapping at least one crew member, radio reports from the ship said Monday.

The vessel, a sister ship of oceanographer Jacques Cousteau's Calypso, was headed for the U.S. Navy facility on the island of Diego Garcia on Monday. Seven of the ship's 10-man crew were aboard, but there was no word on the fate of three others, including the captain, who were left behind.

China stops just over border

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — China's attack on Vietnam was reported stopped about six miles inside the border Monday and Western intelligence sources said some Chinese units may be pulling back.

Unconfirmed reports from Moscow said all Soviet military leaves had been canceled and troops put on alert. The Soviets warned China on Sunday to pull out of Vietnam immediately.

Vietnam said it inflicted heavy casualties on the Chinese, killing 3,500 troops and destroying more than 100 tanks since the invasion started Saturday.

The Voice of Vietnam, monitored in Bangkok, said the Vietnamese killed 1,000 Chinese troops and destroyed 30 tanks in the rugged mountain province of Hoang Lien Son and reported similar figures in Cao Bang province.

In Long Son province, Vietnam claimed 600 Chinese killed and 20 tanks destroyed and said the strategic "Friendship Gate" border area was littered with some 60 destroyed Chinese tanks. Fighting was reported in other northern provinces as well. The reports could not be independently verified.

The Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok said the

Chinese advanced no more than six miles into Vietnam.

A quick strike followed by withdrawal would be similar to China's 1962 action in northeast India, when China invaded to make its point in a border dispute, then pulled back.

The official Chinese news agency Hsinhua has carried little about the invasion and no detailed reports of the fighting. Japanese news reports from Peking said China banned all demonstrations concerning the war.

Bangkok sources discounted reports of continued Chinese air strikes deep into Vietnam. Thai intelligence said the only Chinese planes still involved were spotter planes directing Chinese artillery fire.

The dispute between China and Vietnam has simmered since the communists took over Vietnam in 1975. It has increased over the past year with China accusing Vietnam of mistreating ethnic Chinese, and with Vietnam's backing of the overthrow of the China-backed Cambodian government of Pol Pot.



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Khomeini tries to quell counter-revolutionaries

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Uniden-tified "counter-revolutionary elements" set fire to the U.S. consulate Monday in the northwestern Iranian city of Tabriz, the city's state-run radio reported. The one American assigned to the post had left Tabriz on Sunday, U.S. officials said.

Amid other reports of disorder, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini warned he would crush any "bandits" causing trouble and view their activities as an uprising against his new Islamic republic.

Tabriz Radio, now in the hands of supporters of the ayatollah, appealed to local citizens to put out the fire at the consulate.

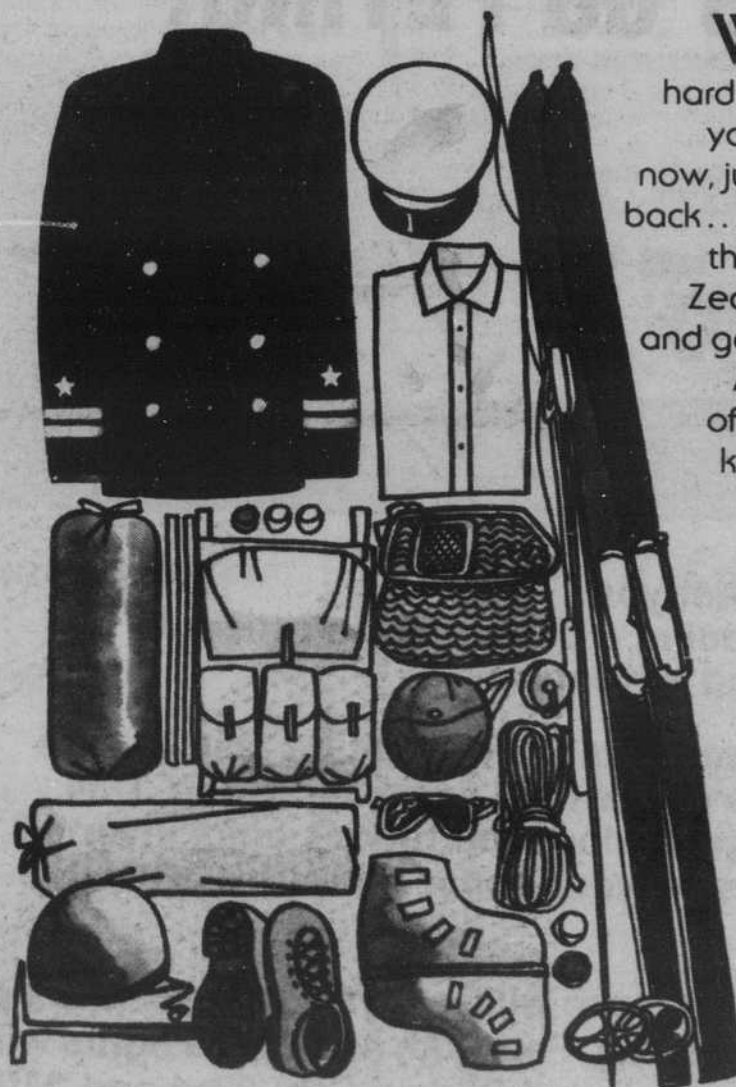
U.S. officials were unable to

confirm the report of the fire, but said that Michael Metrinko, the only American assigned to the consulate, had returned to Tehran on Sunday.

Armed robbers were reported stopping motorists on highways near the southwestern oil cities of Abadan and Ahwaz and in parts of Tehran.

In a statement broadcast over Tehran Radio, Khomeini ordered his irregulars to aid police and the army in "maintaining law and order... a group of bandits and unlawful elements are taking advantage of the situation and are making efforts to pursue their evil objectives."

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