

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

JERUSALEM — Israel announced Sunday it will insist that its plan for Palestinian autonomy be the basis for negotiations when talks resume with Egypt later this month, even though Egypt has rejected the proposal.

"There is no breakdown and no crisis" despite Egypt's rejection of the 26-page plan last week, Arieh Naor, cabinet secretary, told reporters. "Everything is going on." Naor refused to say if Israel would modify the proposal, but said it "is on the agenda. It must be discussed and negotiated."

The Israeli proposal calls for limited self-government by Palestinians in the West Bank of the Jordan River and Gaza Strip, with Palestinians in charge of health, transportation and local budgets. Israel, which captured the areas in the 1967 war, would keep full control over foreign affairs, security and natural resources. Other functions would be subject to Israeli supervision.

WASHINGTON — Following tradition, Warren Burger, chief justice, will pay tribute to the late Justice William Douglas as the first order of business when the Supreme Court meets Monday.

Douglas, 81, died at 10:09 a.m. EST Saturday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He had been suffering from progressive lung and kidney failure. His wife and members of his family and staff were with him, hospital officials said. No cause of death was given.

Pres. Carter ordered flags at federal institutions to fly at half-staff in honor of Douglas, who had sat on the nation's highest court a record 36 years.

BULAWAYO, Rhodesia — Four policemen were beaten Sunday by members of a huge crowd waiting to hear a campaign speech by Joshua Nkomo, former Rhodesian guerrilla leader. In his address, Nkomo deplored such violence.

The attacks occurred when 200,000 of Nkomo's supporters gathered to see him return to his hometown after three years in exile as co-leader of Patriotic Front guerrillas.

One of the policemen was pounded on the head with a soft drink bottle and thrown over a fence at the foot of the platform where Nkomo later spoke. The others were pushed around, but none was seriously injured. At one point, a police officer in charge of security threatened to disband the crowd.

When he arrived, Nkomo urged his followers to forget any hatred against the police that may have built up during the seven-year guerrilla war.

BOSTON — A letter from three hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, published Sunday in the Boston Herald American, pleads for Americans to "obtain our release."

"We believe that the students' demand for the ex-shah's extradition is justified and we urge all Americans to write to their senators and congressmen and ask them to do all that they can to bring about the return of the ex-shah," it said.

The letter was one of three known to have arrived in Massachusetts in the past five days.

Merton Bland, a State Department spokesman, immediately labeled the letter "so far, the only propagandistic piece that completely echoes the sentiments of the so-called students."

WINAMAC, Ind. — Doctors who examined the bodies of three teen-agers killed in a fiery Pinto car crash are expected to testify this week when the reckless murder trial of Ford Motor Co. resumes.

But a judge's ruling restricting testimony to events related to the crash itself may severely limit what the jury will hear.

Prosecutor Michael Cosentino said medical and auto safety experts will testify before the Pulaski Circuit Court jury.



glenn boettcher

fire and rain

The monumental and probably impossible task of analyzing Americans' attitudes toward wildlife was undertaken three years ago by Stephen Kellert of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and financed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Although a report of the study I received from the service says little that actually deals with Americans' attitudes toward wildlife, it provides a provocative look at how the inhabitants of this continent react to environmental and wildlife issues that often surface in the traditional media — daily newspapers, television and radio news and prominent magazines.

Kellert found that of eight selected wildlife issues, the public knew most about the killing of baby seals for fur and waterfowl hunters' use of steel versus lead shot.

Most of those questioned said they favored protecting wildlife even at the "expense of jobs, housing and development projects." Fifty-five percent opposed the principle of building an industrial plant on a marsh rare bird species need to survive, even if the project would create jobs.

Another 76 percent thought cutting trees for lumber and paper should be done in ways that "help" wildlife even if it results in higher-priced wood and paper products.

Seventy-seven percent said it would be all right to kill whales for a useful product if the hunted species were not endangered.

When public support for an endangered species would increase energy project costs, continuance of that support "depended on the animal involved and the nature of the project," Kellert found.

In other words, I suspect,

support decreases in a direct proportion to increased costs. And the smaller the animal's size, the less the support.

A good example is the snail darter vs. the Tellico Dam Project.

The naturalist Peter Matthiessen, in the New York Review of Books, says he has found that the Tennessee Valley Authority overcame logic, law and economics — in addition to a tiny fish that as a result is facing extinction — to drown the last free-flowing stretch of the Little Tennessee River and 16,000 acres of prime river-bottom farmland.

More accurately, Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., overcame. He was able to avoid the Endangered Species Act, and that's what the media publicized, but he also ignored drastic flaws in the project which we heard little about to push it through Congress.

For instance, the dam contains no electrical generator but instead diverts the water to another dam where 23 megawatts — out of TVA's 27,000 megawatt capacity — are produced.

And the TVA itself admits the

annual cost of maintaining the dam will be greater than its profits.

The Kellert Report also says 60 percent of the Americans questioned opposed hunting just for sport or recreation.

Kellert found 71 percent favored a sales tax on off-road vehicles.

And so on.

The questions asked, although not dealing with the attitudes of Americans toward wildlife, coupled with the nature of responses, traces the familiar thumbprint of the American view of wildlife and wilderness.

It is permissible to undertake wildlife preservation except when a financial burden interferes, or appears to interfere.

And an alternative is seldom sought: Matthiessen also found that the shoreline of the lake to be formed behind Tellico was supposed to attract industry and add jobs in the economically repressed region.

But shorelines around 24 other major dams and lakes within 60 miles of Tellico are for the most part undeveloped, and the TVA found the dam would cost jobs, not create them.

ASUO lags on budget deadline

Scott Bassett, ASUO president, has not submitted the ASUO Executive budget to the Incidental Fee Committee. The deadline for turning in budgets was Jan. 7.

Fee committee chairer Adam Cohen says many budgets

missed the Jan. 7 deadline, but the committee has been accepting late proposals because budget goal hearings don't begin until Tuesday.

Cohen says the IFC will not accept any proposals after Wednesday.

emu Cultural Forum



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