

Free at last! Free at last!

Christopher signs agreement; 52 to fly to Germany

From wire service reports

"We have now reached an agreement with Iran which will, I believe, result in the freeing of our American hostages."

With these words, spoken on the dawn of his last full day in the White House, Pres. Jimmy Carter marked the end of the Iranian hostage crisis after more than 14 months.

At about 4 a.m. EST today, the 443rd day of captivity for 52 American hostages, Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the chief American negotiator in the hostage crisis, signed the agreement in the Algerian Foreign Ministry.

Iran had signed the agreement earlier Sunday.

Approximately an hour later, Carter announced the signing of the pact at the White House. He said the hostages would not gain their freedom until other documents relating to the transfer of billions of dollars of frozen Iranian assets had been signed.

The Bank of England will act as "backer" for \$8 billion in frozen funds. Sources said the United States could also release spare military parts, badly needed by Iran in its war with Iraq.

The signing of the agreement was delayed Sunday evening because of the necessity of translating it into English, French and Farsi.

Two Air Algeria Boeing 727 jetliners took off early this morning headed for Tehran, officials at Ankara, Turkey's Esenboga Airport, reported, and arrived in Tehran at about 4:45 a.m. EST. The hostages were to be picked up, flown to Algeria and later Wiesbaden, West Germany.

A Boeing 727 can carry 161 passengers and seven crew members.

The planes are to pick up the American hostages and take them, ultimately to Weisbaden. Pres. Carter will greet the hostages there in person, if the schedule of his last hours as president permits. Sources have said Carter could leave as early as this morning.

However, White House officials said the president would not leave Washington until the hostages are out of Iranian air space. Other sources said Carter would not go to West Germany if it would interfere with inauguration ceremonies Tuesday.

At Wiesbaden, the hostages are expected to

undergo medical examination and reorientation at a U.S. military hospital.

Six Algerian physicians were already in the Iranian capital to examine the hostages and certify their condition before their release. But there was no word on whether the doctors had seen the hostages or even on the whereabouts of the 52.

In the announcing the Algerian pact, the Iranian new agency Pars said "the U.S. government has finally accepted all the terms set by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the release of the American hostages. The minister said that the details of the agreement will be disclosed in a press conference today."

Earlier, chief Iranian negotiator Behzad Nabavi, said on the government-run Tehran radio, "I think the adventure is reaching an end."

The 52 Americans, whose 443rd day in captivity is also their first of the new-found freedom, are being freed in exchange for billions of dollars in Iranian cash and gold frozen by the U.S. in November 1979 in response to the takeover of the American embassy in Tehran Nov. 4, 1979.

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Photo by Martha Stanton

Hundreds of protesters marched six abreast through the streets of Eugene Saturday to protest the inauguration of Ronald Reagan.

People's Inaugural blasts people's choice

By MIKE RUST
Of the Emerald

Can forty million Americans be wrong? Yes, said participants in Saturday's People's Inauguration Day.

Last November, more than 40,000,000 Americans cast their ballots for Ronald Reagan, who carried 44 of 50 states in the presidential election. But for a number of local people, the electoral decision has become a rallying point for opposition.

Hundreds marched through downtown Eugene and rallied at the Lane County Fairgrounds Saturday to protest the inauguration of Pres.-elect Ronald Reagan and celebrate what they termed "a new era of liberation."

March organizers estimated the crowd numbered as much as 1000 people at times. Press figures placed the number

between 300 and 500.

The event was coordinated by the People's Inauguration Committee and endorsed by more than 50 local individuals and organizations.

Sponsors and endorsers ranged from Zoo Zoos and Prout Universalist to the Lane County Citizens Party and the New American Movement. The Women's Resource and Referral Center and the Iranian Students Association were among campus groups endorsing the event.

In addition to the march and rally, the People's Inauguration Day Committee sponsored a Saturday evening concert that featured Grupo Raiz, a Latin American recording group and the Wallflower Order, a Eugene-based dance collective.

Inauguration Day Organizers said they were pleased with the rally and the other inaugural-related events.

"The rally had some really powerful

speakers," says Gemma Grott of the People's Inauguration Day Committee. "Politically it moved us all forward."

Grott says some who attended the evening concert described it as "one of the most exciting things ever to happen in Eugene." Some proceeds from the concert will go to what was described as "humanitarian aid" in El Salvador.

The funds will go to the Democratic Revolutionary Front, which is currently engaged in a civil war with the military government in El Salvador.

One familiar Eugene political character wasn't as enthusiastic about the march.

Stupid, a familiar figure at the Saturday Market who claims to have become involved with the labor movement through the Industrial Workers of the World in 1916, said that "these people don't know how to organize," and that they may unwittingly be aiding "the enemy."

"They're making a farce out of so many fine statements," he said. "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!" It's a farce when you have most of the people on the other side, compared to the 350 or 400 people you see here."

People who participated in the march "don't know the difference between social and anti-social behavior," he said.

"You'll never build socialism with anti-social behavior."

Speakers at the rally included Juan Renya of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, Felice Nirenstein of the Client's Council, Alan Siporin of the Coalition opposed to Registration and the Draft and representatives of the Women's Coalition.

The rally also included a musical presentation by Grupo Raiz and a martial arts presentation by Amazon Kung Fu, a feminist martial arts collective.