

inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

Reagan weapons decisions due Friday

WASHINGTON

Pres. Reagan will conduct a news conference Thursday and probably will announce Friday his decisions on deployment of the MX missile and the design of America's next long-range bomber, a White House spokesman said Tuesday.

The news conference — at 2 p.m. EDT in the White House East Room — will be Reagan's fourth in eight months and his first since June 16. All three networks said Tuesday they would carry the news conference live.

Spokesman David Gergen said he anticipated Reagan would make an announcement Friday about modernizing strategic weapon systems, but that the decision might be delayed until next week.

Postal rates may rise two cents

WASHINGTON

The Postal Service board discussed raising postal rates Tuesday, but delayed announcing a decision until today.

Some postal observers expect the board to increase the first-class rate from 18 to 20 cents per letter.

However, it also is possible the board could choose a different legal procedure that likely would result in rates remaining stable until next summer. In that event, the price might jump to more than 20 cents for a first-class letter.

Oregonian sues Portland police

PORTLAND

The Oregonian Publishing Co. and reporter Alan Ota of The Oregonian newspaper filed a lawsuit Tuesday to force the Portland Police Bureau to provide reports and a personnel roster.

The suit was filed in Multnomah County Circuit Court under Oregon's public records law.

The suit says the police bureau denied Ota's request made in June for a copy of the bureau personnel roster and four police reports on incidents involving 28-year-old officer Richard Barton.

The suit says District Attorney Michael Schunk, at Ota's request, ordered the bureau Aug. 13 to provide the information, but it had not been provided by Monday. State law says an agency with records being sought must within seven days of receiving such an order either turn over the records or file a notice of appeal.

Sikh extremists hijack airplane

LAHORE, Pakistan

Five Sikh extremists armed with daggers and a hand grenade hijacked an Indian jetliner with 117 people aboard and forced it to land in Lahore on Tuesday where they freed 67 of the hostages, diplomatic sources reported.

They said the hijackers were demanding the release of a Sikh leader jailed in India, freedom for other imprisoned Sikhs and a ransom payment of \$500,000.

An Indian official, who requested anonymity, said the hijackers set a deadline of 10 a.m. Wednesday — 1 a.m. today EDT — for India to meet their demands.

Negotiations with the hijackers broke up at 1 a.m. Wednesday local time, but were to resume at 8 a.m.

Indian and Western diplomatic sources said the 67 people allowed to leave the airplane included all the non-Indian passengers. Among those freed was one American, William Seco of Seattle, Wash. The release left 45 hostages aboard the plane with the five hijackers.

The hijack began shortly after takeoff from New Delhi's Palam Airport when the Sikhs suddenly sprinted from the rear of the plane and overpowered the cabin crew, Seco told reporters.

After a 15-minute struggle, the hijackers had control of the plane, Seco said.

Weinberger unveils new military booklet

WASHINGTON

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger unveiled a slick government booklet on Soviet military might Tuesday, saying he hopes it will convince Europeans and Americans of a "real and growing" Soviet threat.

Despite its profusion of facts, charts and pictures, however, the 99-page booklet titled "Soviet Military Power" provides little in terms of numbers that was not already available in previous assessments.

Weinberger said the new booklet's value is in presenting "more information on the USSR's armed forces than had been previously available under one cover."

Clergyman killed in northern Iran

BEIRUT, Lebanon

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned the murder of another ranking clergyman Tuesday as a futile act by American "lackeys" to scare Iranians away from the polls in Friday's presidential elections.

Revolutionary firing squads, meanwhile, executed 43 more Mujahedeen Khalq leftists accused of participating in Sunday's violent anti-Khomeini demonstrations in Tehran, Iran's state radio said.

The 81-year-old patriarch of Iran's Islamic revolution spoke a few hours after learning of the assassination of Hojatolislam Abdolkarim Hashemi-Nejad, secretary-general of the ruling Islamic Republican Party at the northeastern city of Mashhad.

Hashemi-Nejad had just concluded a lecture outside the local IRP headquarters when a "Mujahedeen Khalq assassin" approached him and detonated a hand grenade, the official Iranian news agency Pars reported. It said the blast killed the clergyman, blew off a hand of the attacker and injured two others.

The executions Tuesday brought the officially announced total to 1,071 since Pres. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was ousted on June 22.

Robber found dead in drainage ditch

SEATTLE

A man arrested for allegedly pistol-whipping a Seattle pharmacist during a February hold-up, then released accidentally, has been found murdered in northern California, authorities say.

James Underwood, 34, who was booked in Seattle under the name James Swenden 3rd, was also wanted for armed robbery, kidnapping and other serious crimes committed in California since his release in Seattle, said the Stanislaus County sheriff's office.

He was found at 10 a.m. Sunday in a drainage ditch near Modesto, about 30 miles south of Sacramento, which police think was Underwood's home base.

Underwood, dead less than 24 hours, had been shot several times in the chest, said Capt. Rodney Wells, who commands the Stanislaus County sheriff's investigative division.

No motive for the slaying is known.

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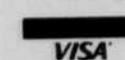
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