

inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

U.S. rushes Sudanese aid

WASHINGTON

The United States plans to send Sudan about 20 tanks, a dozen howitzers and two jet fighters before the end of this year to strengthen that country's defenses against threats from Libya, a senior defense official said Thursday.

This official, who asked that his name not be used, said "we wish we could do a lot more than that" in the short term, but those weapons, plus some lesser equipment, would just about eat up the \$100 million the Reagan administration has asked of Congress for military aid to Sudan.

"There is some symbolism" in these hurry-up deliveries, even in the relatively small numbers, the official said. He stressed that Sudan's leaders believe they must show that they are acting to defend the country from Libyan incursions.

He said there is fighting along the Sudanese border with Chad, where he estimated Libya has some 4,000 troops, and "absolute evidence" of Libyan air attacks on Sudanese villages.

Noting that there are some 13,000 Cubans and 1,400 Russians in Ethiopia along Sudan's eastern flank, as well as Libyans in Chad on the western side of the country, this official said "the most clear and present military danger at the moment lies in Sudan."

Employment rate drops again

SALEM

Employment in Oregon's already depressed woods products industry dropped still lower last month as the state's jobless rate reached 10.1 percent, the Employment Division announced Thursday.

The announcement added that 119,300 Oregon residents were without jobs in September as double-digit unemployment continued. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose .1 percent over August. He said the nation's unemployment also increased in September, from 7.2 percent to 7.5 percent.

Reagan assails Soviet intentions

PHILADELPHIA

Pres. Reagan assailed the Soviet Union on Thursday as having nothing to offer the global poor, while he rejected the claims of "some shrill voices" that he is tightfisted with America's helping hand.

Setting the stage for his journey to Mexico next week for a conference between 22 indus-

trial and developing nations, Reagan offered no promise of boosted foreign aid in the years to come — though he noted the United States already gives more than any other nation.

Instead, he said a greater contribution "is to follow through with our own economic recovery" coupled with greater private investment in foreign trade.

"By getting our own economic house in order, we win, they win, we all win," the president said, referring to the industrial democracies on one hand and the poorest nations on the other.

The speech, before the World Affairs Council, broke no new ground. But it affirmed Reagan's thoughts on international economics one week before he meets with 21 other heads of government in Cancun, Mexico, to review relations between the world's rich and poor.

Indonesia sacks public officials

JAKARTA, Indonesia

Of 8,860 Indonesian government officials investigated for corruption in the last four years, 7,513 were given "administrative sanction," sacked, declared non-active or made to retire, the government announced Thursday.

It said 847 other officials were brought to court and 240 others given "lighter punishment." The nationwide campaign also recovered \$177 million in state money that was illegally diverted from state coffers.

Senate restores Social Security

WASHINGTON

The Senate, reversing itself on one of the year's most controversial budget cuts, voted 95-0 Thursday to restore the minimum Social Security benefit of \$122 a month for more than 2.5 million recipients.

The bill also is designed to shore up the sagging fund that pays for Social Security survivor and retirement benefits, in part by making sick pay subject to payroll taxes, in many cases, for the first six months a worker is off the job.

The measure cleared unanimously only after Republicans crushed a Democratic-led attempt to increase taxes on the oil industry by more than \$14 billion and use the money for the giant federal pension system.

Congress, acting on Reagan's request, voted earlier this year to abolish the minimum Social Security benefit beginning next March. Democrats fought bitterly against the move at the time, but Senate Republicans used their new majority strength to force the change.

The House later voted to restore the benefit for all three million current recipients. And last month, Reagan asked Congress to restore the benefit for most.

Committee rejects AWACS sale

WASHINGTON

A Senate committee recommended Thursday that the proposed sale of AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia be vetoed, but Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker said he is more confident than ever the sale will go through.

"We have a certain momentum," Baker told reporters. "It's now winnable. Several weeks ago it wasn't."

Baker offered his assessment prior to the Foreign Relations Committee's 9-8 vote against the sale, a lineup that the GOP leader had anticipated.

The committee vote came despite Baker's plea that "not a single issue has more far-reaching consequences for the ultimate security of this country."

In Philadelphia, Pres. Reagan

reacted by saying, "Frankly, I'm gratified that it was that close. Of course, I wish they'd gone the other way."

The president said that with the committee vote that close, he's still confident the sale will be approved on the Senate floor.

The Foreign Relations panel action came a few hours after the Armed Service Committee endorsed the sale 10-5, concluding in a report that it "will enhance the potential of U.S. military forces to protect U.S. interests in the Persian Gulf region."

Greenpeace pair scale smokestack

TACOMA, Wash.

Carrying food, water and an 80-foot-long protest banner, two Greenpeace volunteers scaled the 563-foot Asarco smelter smokestack Thursday to protest the firm's arsenic and sulfur dioxide emissions.

Thick fog obscured both the climbers and their banner for most of the morning, but Asarco officials eventually were able to

see the two, perched on a two-foot-wide ledge about 30 feet from the top of the smokestack.

Richard Shaver, police chief of Ruston, the south Tacoma suburb in which the smelter is located, talked with protesters Jon Hinck and Jeff Petterson by walkie-talkie, informed them they were trespassing and asked them to come down, said Norma Doucette, a Ruston deputy clerk.

Hinck, 27, and Petterson, 28, declined to climb down. Hinck is a board member of the environmental group's Seattle office and Petterson is a volunteer, said Julie McCullough, a Seattle Greenpeace spokeswoman. Both men are from Seattle.

"We've asked the Ruston police to inform the people on the stack that they're trespassing, that it's dangerous for them to be up there if they're unfamiliar with high places, that they ought to come down forthwith," Lindquist said.

"We don't propose to have anybody try to go up and remove them. It's too dangerous," he said.



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