

inter/national

Cyprus split by partition

NICOSIA, Cyprus – Turkishheld northern Cyprus declared independence Tuesday and sealed off the only crossing point to the Greek Cypriot south, escalating tension between Greece and Turkey over the Mediterranean island.

The Cypriot government in the south appealed for British and Greek help and sought an emergency U.N. session to condemn and reverse the decision, which appeared to formalize the unofficial partition of Cyprus that resulted from the Turkish invasion of 1974.

Turkey formally recognized the new northern regime, but Greece demanded that the Common Market and North Atlantic Treaty Organization denounce the independence declaration, which the Greek government called "unacceptable."

Britain, the former colonial authority on Cyprus, also denounced the declaration, and the United States expressed dismay.

"We have consistently opposed a unilateral declaration of independence by the Turkish Cypriot community, believing it would not be helpful to the process of finding a final negotiated settlement to the Cyprus problem," the State Department in Washington said.

Cyprus Pres. Spyros Kyprianou blamed the Turkish government for the development, declaring it showed "that the intention of the Turkish side was always to create faits accompli and conditions for the secession of the occupied area from the republic of Cyprus."

"The action taken by the illegal regime in the occupied area should be condemned by everybody throughout the world. Every effort should be made to neutralize and reverse it," he said.

ERA revival rejected

WASHINGTON — The House, on a 278-147 vote that fell six short of the required two-thirds majority, rejected on Tuesday a proposed revival of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

The tally overrode impassioned pleas of the Democratic leadership and followed last-minute threats by special interest groups on both sides to judge lawmakers at the ballot box next year solely by their votes on the issue.

Voting for the ERA were 225 Democrats and 53 Republicans, while 109 Republicans and 38 Democrats opposed it.

The amendment, which reads simply that "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," has twice cleared Congress but fell three states short of ratification — with 38 needed by last year's deadline.

The ERA went down this time after Republicans assailed the Democratic leadership for trying to shortcut the legislation without giving members a chance to amend it and with only 40 minutes of debate.

The lawmakers rejected a final appeal by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D-Mass., who urged support for the ERA without an antiabortion rider "in fairness to the women of America."

Until O'Neill approved the shortcut, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., stood ready to introduce an amendment that would have ensured continuation of laws restricting government financing of abortions to cases where a woman's life is endangered.

Sensenbrenner also planned to offer an amendment that would have prevented use of the ERA to draft women and send them into combat.

O'Neill said without the noamendment rule, the antiabortion forces likely would have won.

Mushroom hunt begins

ALBANY — The hunting season is on, but animals aren't the prey. Instead, the quarry is mushrooms containing the hallucinogen psilocybin.

The chemical is said to produce sensations similar to those from LSD.

Each year, when fall rains soak fields in the mid-Willamette Valley, law enforcement agencies report numerous calls of complaints from farmers who say fences have been broken down and livestock let loose by the mushroom hunters.

Bill Denison of the Oregon State University Botany Department said Western Oregon is probably home to a dozen species of mushrooms containing some sort of hallucinogen, but those nicknamed "liberty caps" are the most popular variety for mushroom hunters.

