

world beat

Kennedy halts Soweto visit

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Black hecklers Sunday forced Sen. Edward Kennedy to cancel his final appearance and keynote address of a nine-day tour of this white-ruled nation.

"I'm disappointed because the message I had was a message about the future of South Africa, and a message that deplored apartheid (racial segregation)," said Kennedy.

He said his remarks would have reflected the thinking of the "overwhelming majority of American people that hold this system repugnant."

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner

and Kennedy's host, told the senator: "Don't go away from here thinking you have been rejected. You have been warmly welcomed. Our people warmly welcome you."

The Massachusetts Democrat canceled his speech at Regina Mundi Roman Catholic Church in the black ghetto of Soweto, outside Johannesburg, after an aide reported that members of a black-consciousness group, the Azanian People's Organization, were at the church chanting, "Kennedy, go home!"

The group, known as Azapo, picketed Kennedy at several stops on his tour. It believes that neither whites nor foreigners can help South Africa's 22 million blacks gain citizenship rights alongside the 5 million whites. The group is not con-

sidered in the mainstream of black liberation politics here.

At the church, thousands of blacks waited to hear the senator but the group's members filled the front pews and held aloft banners, one of which said, "Azapo doesn't want capitalist Kennedy."

The hecklers increased their protests even after Tutu asked for order. A contest of chants erupted for about 30 minutes between the 150 to 200 Azapo members and the much larger audience, who shouted, "Yes, yes, we want Kennedy!"

Tutu finally announced Kennedy would not speak and told the crowd, "The system knows how to use us against ourselves."

There was no violence, but Kennedy said later he was ad-

vised by his staff, Tutu and South African security police that clashes between the groups might break out if he went to the church. He and Tutu said they feared this would give police an opportunity to move in.

"The system was waiting eagerly to step in and make it seem that they were restoring law and order," Tutu said at the Jan Smuts Airport where he bid farewell to Kennedy, who left for Lusaka, Zambia. He then was to go on to London and then home.

In the text of the undelivered speech, Kennedy acknowledged South Africa's future is complicated, but he attacked injustices and economic inequities between the races.

"The degrees of opinion, the genuine difficulties and com-

plications of South Africa's situation, cannot excuse the iron reign of injustice that shackles the land," he said.

"Only one government on earth is now founded, in both law and life, on the unsupportable principle of racism," he said.

The senator was on what he called a fact-finding tour before Congress debates whether to impose sanctions on South Africa to try to force the nation to reform its system of white-minority rule.

Soviet envoy faces TV panel

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's televised interview Sunday night with four Soviet journalists was a first for Soviet viewers, who are accustomed to hearing their top leaders' messages in formal speeches.

Gromyko answered questions about his meetings last week in Geneva, Switzerland, with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz from a panel of journalists in a forum similar to American news interview programs such as "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation."

The official Soviet view of world events usually is conveyed to the public in speeches by Kremlin leaders that are carried in the official press, in excerpts on the evening news programs on radio and television or in full during specially scheduled addresses.

The televised interview also was Gromyko's first public statements, since his return to Moscow Wednesday, on the Geneva talks that brought an agreement to renew U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations.

It followed a recent trend in the Foreign Ministry of creating a more visible profile internationally.

Gromyko's last news conference in Moscow to which Western journalists were invited was in April 1983.

Questioning Gromyko on his Jan. 7-8 talks with Shultz were news analysts Yuri Zhukov of the Communist Party newspaper Pravda, Vikenty Matveyev of the government newspaper Izvestia, Vladimir Bogachev of the official news agency Tass, and Valentin Zorin of the Central Television and Radio Network.

The program lasted nearly two hours, and was given much attention by the Soviet media, both domestically and in broadcasts intended for abroad.

Radio Moscow's English-language service carried the program with simultaneous translation, and Tass issued a full transcript.

The Foreign Ministry informed Western reporters Friday of the planned broadcast, but requests to participate in the interview or observe it were denied.

America's Cable News Network transmitted the interview to the United States at the same time it was broadcast in the Soviet Union.

Radio Moscow and Soviet television referred to the program as "live coverage." But the CNN crew said it was told the question-answer session actually began at 11 a.m. Moscow time, and the tape was broadcast seven hours later.

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