



world beat

CIA denies training car-bomb unit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Central Intelligence Agency denied Monday that it had trained any Lebanese forces involved in a March 8 car-bombing in Beirut that killed 80 persons and injured 200.

However, the denial did not rule out the possibility of some other connection between the CIA and the group that carried out the operation.

According to an account in

Sunday's editions of The Washington Post, a CIA-trained and -supported counterterrorist unit in Lebanon acted without CIA authorization in carrying out the bombing, which took place outside the residence of a militant Shiite Moslem leader who was believed responsible for terrorist attacks on U.S. installations.

Breaking a 24-hour silence on the report, CIA spokesperson Patti Volz said, "The CIA never conducted any training of Lebanese security forces related to the events described" in the Post article.

The Post story said the CIA

and the Reagan administration quickly canceled the counterterrorism operation after the bombing for fear that the alleged U.S. ties to the group might be disclosed.

A New York Times account on Monday of the same incident said the Lebanese unit had been "working with" the CIA.

Volz' statement said the CIA had no prior knowledge of the "counterterrorism action" and added that the agency also "scrupulously observes" its obligation to keep congressional intelligence oversight committees informed of its activities.

House Democrats get set to vote on benefits freeze

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democratic leaders, vowing to leave "hands off Social Security," maneuvered Monday for an early test vote on a resolution designed to demonstrate strong party opposition to the one-year benefits freeze approved by the Senate and endorsed by President Ronald Reagan.

A special meeting of the 253-member House Democratic Caucus was called for today to vote on a resolution condemning the Senate-passed 1986 budget — a vote leaders said would undermine Reagan's claim of wide bipartisan support for restraining Social Security cost-of-living increases.

A lopsided vote by the caucus also could head off a possible move by the House Budget Committee to incorporate curbs

on Social Security benefits in its version of the 1986 budget, some key Democrats suggested.

Democrats on the panel, meanwhile, met behind closed doors late Monday to try to complete outlines of a budget plan in advance of the start of formal committee sessions expected later this week.

Budget Committee sources, who spoke only on the condition that they not be identified, said so far the Democrats have agreed on a plan that would reduce the deficit by about \$46 billion in 1986 — about \$10 billion short of the reduction in the Senate-passed budget.

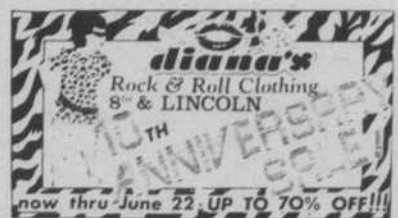
The tentative plan calls for an across-the-board freeze on most federal programs — including holding Pentagon spending at the 1985 spending level — and, like the Senate proposal, does not call for new taxes, the sources said.

'Born to run' from the mob

LAKE OSWEGO (AP) — Bruce Springsteen may be rock's working-class hero, but the clientele at a blue-collar tavern didn't bat an eye when "The Boss" played pool and sang to his own records on the jukebox there.

Springsteen, who was married to Julianne Phillips in her hometown early Monday, had been hiding in her parents' home in this well-to-do Portland suburb since Thursday, relatives revealed.

It was on Friday that Springsteen, Phillips' brothers and father sneaked out a back door at the residence, eluding nearby reporters, photographers and fans, and drove to the Firestone Inn, a beer bar and pool hall on Portland's Southwest Pacific Highway.



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