

World news

Libya plans possible defense against U.S. military retaliation

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Col. Moammar Khadafy's government claimed Sunday it had moved foreign workers, including U.S. citizens, to oil fields in the desert and army bases purportedly targeted for attack by American forces.

But a Western diplomat told The Associated Press he had spoken to several representatives of his country in Libya, and "none of them reported any such incident." He spoke on condition he not be identified further.

Tripoli has remained quiet for days, and there were no signs Sunday of any military preparations.

The U.S. 6th Fleet, meanwhile, was poised in the Mediterranean off Libya, awaiting President Reagan's decision on a possible strike in retaliation for Khadafy's reputed support of international terrorism.

Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany have said Libya is a prime suspect in the April 5 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that was a gathering place for U.S. troops stationed in West Germany.

A U.S. Army sergeant and a Turkish woman died in the blast, and 230 people were in-

jured, including 63 Americans. Reagan said he would consider a retaliatory strike if evidence proved Khadafy was behind the bombing.

A statement released by a Libyan Information Department official, who refused to be identified, said, "Foreign workers have been forced to live in (oil fields), taking into account that the majority are Americans."

Diplomats and business people estimate 800 Americans still live in Libya, including executives, oil field workers and about 100 American women married to Libyans.

Reagan ordered all Americans out under risk of a 10-year prison sentence and cut all U.S. economic ties with Libya after terrorists attacked the Rome and Vienna airports Dec. 27, killing 20 people, including five Americans.

The United States blamed Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabry al-Banna, of carrying out the attacks and accused Khadafy of harboring him.

Other Westerners in Libya include Europeans with an estimated British community of 5,000.

Hundreds of foreign workers already live in the desert oil fields, often on rotating one-

month shifts.

Oil is Libya's largest single source of income, although Western analysts say revenues plunged from \$22 billion in 1984 to about \$8 billion in 1985.

The Western diplomat told the AP only five major docks are used to load oil on tankers, so there would be no need for U.S. warplanes to hit the widely scattered oil fields.

Khadafy told a news conference Wednesday that he and his top commanders had made military plans in the event of an American strike against this country.

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Book Views

You're Only Old Once! (A Book For Obsolete Children) by Dr. Seuss

"Is this a children's book?
Well, not immediately.
You buy a copy for your child now
and you give it to him on his 70th birthday."

Well, gee whiz, he's done it again. Having grown up with such books as "The Cat In The Hat" and "Green Eggs And Ham" and a yearly dose of "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" (such perseverance, such resilience of the little dog with the antlers!), as well as millions of others, have developed quite an appeal for Dr. Seuss. Mention Dr. Seuss at any gathering and one receives a barrage of titles, memories and favorites. Thus Dr. Seuss is and remains the dearest of educators — to teach, inform and entertain.

But his newest book, "You're Only Old Once," is something a bit different. As the above quote states — "Is this a children's book?" I can say, No and Yes. The message is surely of an adult theme (an elderly man entering a hospital for a check-up and then getting a total run-around by administrative policy and specialists) and yet the familiar, off-center, wacky scenes are enjoyable for both big and little kid alike.

Memorable characters abound! Dr.'s Von Eiffel, Van Ness, Pollen, Von Crandall, the mysterious Miss Becker (receptionist) and Norval, the resident lobby fish-tank fish. But wait, there's more. Given the accepted health habits of our society (judgement, be individual), sly Dr. Seuss reminds us of our obsessions with his wonderful "Pill Drill."

"You're Only Old Once" is a questioning book filled with truth, reflection and fun reading. Read this one out loud to your child, your sister and your parents. Gee whiz, he's done it again.

— Reviewed by Kerry Paul May

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Mental patient escapes state hospital Sunday

SALEM (AP) — A 23-year-old man described as dangerous escaped from the Oregon State Hospital early Sunday morning by unbolting a screen and sawing through a bar in the window of his room, the hospital superintendent said.

Shawn McGinnis apparently lowered himself to the ground using knotted sheets, crawled over barbed wire and jumped a fence after he escaped from his room, according to Superintendent Bob Denning.

McGinnis was being held for observation in the hospital's forensic program. His room was checked every half-hour, Denning said.

His escape was discovered during the 7 a.m. check, the superintendent said.

McGinnis had been ordered to the hospital to determine if he was mentally competent to assist in his own defense on several Multnomah County charges, Denning said.

McGinnis had been charged with being an ex-convict in possession of a firearm, first-degree theft and two counts of possession of a controlled substance, Denning said.

He apparently smuggled a wrench and a hacksaw blade into his room to remove the tightly bolted window screen and saw through one of the steel window bars, Denning said.

McGinnis was described as 6 feet, 160 pounds, with blue eyes, shoulder-length brown hair and a fuzzy beard. He was wearing blue or brown pants, a black T-shirt, a brown sweater, white socks and white tennis shoes.

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