

International

Peace talks to begin

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — At the Soviet Union's request, China has agreed to meet with Vietnam next month for their first direct talks on the Cambodian conflict, a top Cambodian resistance official said.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the son of guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, made the disclosure in a broadcast over the resistance radio Wednesday. A text was obtained today.

At a regular Chinese Foreign Ministry briefing in Beijing today, spokesman Li Zhaoxing would say only that China will consider direct talks with Vietnam "at an appropriate time." He refused to elaborate.

China arms the forces of Sihanouk and two other guerrilla groups in the war against Soviet-supplied Vietnamese forces that invaded Cambodia in late 1978.

Both the Soviet Union and China have indicated they want to resolve the Cambodian conflict and thus clear a major barrier to Sino-Soviet rapprochement, and Vietnam has said it intends to withdraw by the end of the year the roughly 50,000 troops it says it still has in Cambodia.

FRG seizes proof

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Thursday said authorities seized new documents that may show West German companies helped Libya build what

Washington says is a chemical weapons plant.

Kohl gave no details about the documents while answering questions from reporters in a studio appearance late Thursday night on West Germany's ZDF television network.

The government previously maintained it had no evidence of a West German link to the plant at Rabta, south of the Libyan capital of Tripoli. The stunning reversal embarrassed West German authorities.

NBC News reported Thursday that Libyan officials contacted West German companies for clean-up help after a dangerous chemical spill in August at the facility.

West Germany's Imhausen-Chemie was one of those the Libyans called for help, the network reported.

A group of West Germans was in the United States this week to examine evidence that Washington says indicates the Libyan plant is a chemical weapons factory. Libya says the facility is a pharmaceutical plant.

"There are new indications that will be further checked," Kohl said when asked if the government had new evidence of West German involvement in building the plant.

"More documents have been seized and they could give evidence, I don't know."

Kohl said the documents involved chemical equipment that could be used in many ways, but he did not elaborate. He did not say where the papers were seized.

He said the federal intelligence service also was involved in investigations.

ing the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

King rose to prominence after Mrs. Parks' action in December 1955 in Montgomery, Ala., set the stage for a boycott and subsequent demonstrations that caught the nation by surprise.

King was killed April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn., and what would be his 60th birthday Sunday is celebrated as a national holiday Monday; the celebration began with several events on Thursday.

Mrs. Parks, 75, praised King as she answered questions on radio station WLJB. She said the struggle to attain rights is not over.

"I feel a kindred to the people of South Africa as well as any other people who are being denied freedom, and as we try to free ourselves we must help those who are not free and are suffering all kinds of physical reprisals or denial," she told listeners.

At a breakfast at the Waldorf-Astoria sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Anheuser-Busch Co., several people were honored who exemplified King's meaning of taking "the measure of a man" at times "of challenge and controversy."

Those honored were Jean Griffith, mother of a man killed on a Howard Beach, N.Y., parkway after being chased by a gang of whites in December 1986; Jean Chappell, president of an advocacy and service group helping welfare hotel residents; and Diane and Ernest McCaine, who adopted a child with AIDS.

Shelter opens

HOUSTON (AP) — Public school officials, concerned that students may be living on the streets, opened homeless shelters in two Houston schools Thursday so needy pupils can get beds, showers and a meal.

A 12-year-old girl who had been sleeping under an abandoned house was the first of six children to enter the shelters, officials said.

"We didn't discuss anything with the child when she came in," said school board President Melody Ellis. "Right now she's playing checkers with one of the administrators. We just tried to give her encouragement and let her play."

The shelters will remain open nightly until at least Jan. 20, when the superintendent the Houston Independent School District will recommend to the school board that the program be continued or modified.

Within an hour of opening, six children arrived at the shelters, and Ellis said another young boy who showed up at one of the campuses left before entering, apparently because of television cameras nearby.

"It is drizzling outside and it is extremely cold, and I would really like for these children to come in," Ellis said when ask-

ing reporters to leave the area. Temperatures were in the low 40s Thursday night.

Houston is estimated to have 20,000 to 25,000 people who live on the streets or in shelters, but it's uncertain how many of those are children.

The school shelters are not intended for children whose families are staying in city shelters, but rather for those pupils who seem to live alone on the streets.

Regional

Bells of peace

PORTLAND (AP) — The people of Ulsan, South Korea, have given residents of Portland, their sister city, a replica of an ancient Asian temple bell for the new Oregon Convention Center.

The bell, 6-feet tall and weighing 2 tons, is one of three Asian bells to be included in an elaborate system of bells and wind pipes outside the convention center. The center will open on the east bank of the Willamette River in September 1990.

A second temple bell from Sapporo, Portland's sister city in Japan, is due to arrive this summer, and the third bell may be donated by Hsinchu, Beaverton's sister city in Taiwan, said Eloise MacMurray, coordinator of the convention center's art advisory committee.

Mayor Bud Clark accepted the Korean bell on Wednesday and thanked Ulsan representatives B.Y. Yoon and S.H. Hwang for the gift. Portland established a sister-city relationship with Ulsan in November 1987.

Highway nightmare

MEDFORD (AP) — Northbound lanes of Interstate 5 were closed after a truck driver drove his flaming car-hauler up the freeway in hopes the wind would extinguish the blaze.

James Richard Shaw, 39, of Sacramento, Calif., told Oregon State Police his brakes began smoking, then caught fire, as he came down from the Siskiyou Pass in southern Oregon Wednesday night.

Shaw said he stopped at a rest area about 10 miles from the California border and tried to put the fire out with a fire extinguisher. When that failed, he got back into the truck and started driving again, police said.

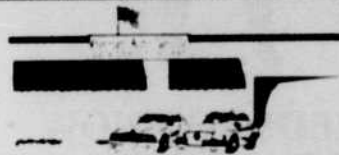
He finally stopped nine miles later, after the truck had become fully engulfed. Police said pieces of burning debris were scattered over a wide stretch of the freeway, and the northbound lanes were closed for about three hours after the 10:30 p.m. incident.

The truck and its load of used cars were destroyed. Shaw was cited for reckless driving.

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National

King's life honored

NEW YORK (AP) — Rosa Parks, whose refusal to sit at the back of the bus sparked the modern civil rights movement, said the fight continues as she joined others Thursday honor-

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