

World View

International Kidnapping probable

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Former Prime Minister Paul Vanden Boeynants was reported missing and believed kidnapped, a prosecutor said Sunday. An anonymous caller told a radio station the ex-leader was abducted by a leftist group.

The caller told the French-language RTBF network that 69-year-old Vanden Boeynants, whose family reported him missing Saturday night, was kidnapped by a group called the Revolutionary Socialist Brigade.

Andre Vandoren, the deputy Brussels prosecutor, said officials have never heard of the group. He quoted the caller as saying: "We have kidnapped Mr. Vanden Boeynants, the former prime minister. If you do not believe us, contact his wife."

The caller led police to believe that kidnapping was the "most plausible" explanation for Vanden Boeynants' disappearance, Vandoren said.

Officials said Vanden Boeynants arrived home by car at about 6 p.m. Saturday but never entered his residence. They said police found a hearing aid, a pipe and a shoe belonging to him in his garage.

Train crash kills 110

MAIZDI KHAN, Bangladesh (AP) — A fast-moving train carrying pilgrims to a religious festival crashed head-on into a mail train on Sunday, killing at least 110 people in Bangladesh's worst railroad accident, officials said.

As many as 1,000 people were injured, including 100 hospitalized in critical condition, said the officials, who added that many more bodies likely were buried under the wreckage.

No definite cause was deter-

mined, but some officials said workers may not have been familiar with a new train signaling system.

Late Sunday, workers suspended operations to clear the wreckage from the tracks. Railway officials said the search for bodies was to resume at day-break Monday.

It was the third major disaster in Bangladesh in six months. Floods during the summer monsoon rains inundated three-fourths of the country, killing 1,500 people and leaving 30 million of the country's 110 million people homeless. Last month a cyclone in southern Bangladesh killed 2,200.

Communications Secretary Manzurul Karim estimated at least 2,000 people were traveling on the trains.

The 10-car express train was traveling about 50 mph, while the seven-car mail train was coming to a halt, other officials said. The impact knocked both diesel locomotives off the track and derailed the two front coaches from each train.

Police crush rally

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Riot police used batons, dogs and water cannons Sunday to crush a rally commemorating the death 20 years ago of a student who set himself afire to protest the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

At least one person was badly injured and several others were beaten by police. Plainclothes officers and riot police made at least a dozen arrests.

Some witnesses said tear gas also was used to break up the crowds of about 2,000, who gathered in defiance of a ban on the independent rally. Other witnesses said it appeared canisters launched from police vans were smoke bombs, not tear gas.

The action came just an hour

after Czechoslovakia became one of 35 nations agreeing to a landmark human rights accord at the Helsinki review conference in Vienna.

Police had been guarding Wenceslas Square since early Saturday in an attempt to prevent people from attending the rally for Jan Palach, who set himself afire on the square Jan. 16, 1969 and died at the age of 20.

A crowd of 800 to 1,000 moved toward the center of the square at about 1:45 p.m., shouting "Freedom! Freedom!" They sang the Czechoslovak national anthem.

Riot police carrying batons immediately moved in from side streets and started pushing the crowd back, beating several people. Two people trying to help an elderly woman who fell in the melee were beaten by police.

At the bottom of the square, a half-mile-long boulevard in central Prague, about 1,000 other people were kept behind metal barricades guarded by police.

About 10 minutes later, three water cannons started spraying that crowd, pushing the people down side streets.

Police with dogs and batons had the top of the square cleared within about 20 minutes. A police van circled the area, advising people to clear it and announcing, "This is an unlawful gathering."

Communist authorities on Jan. 6 said the rally, intended by dissidents to be a simple and brief commemorative act, could not be held.

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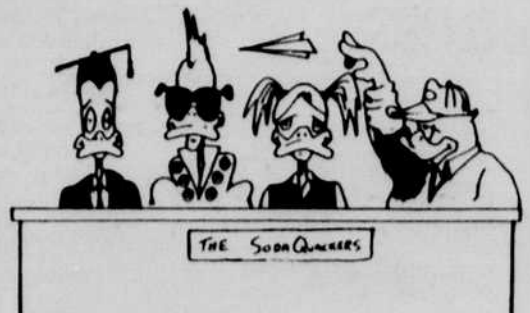
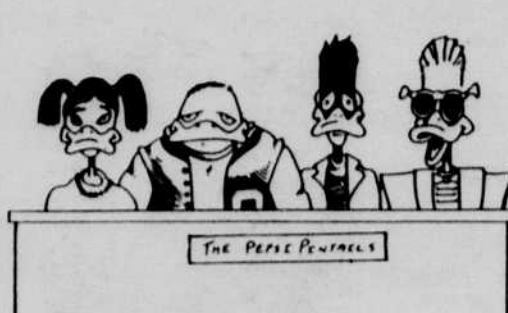
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