

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Drug agent wounded

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) - A U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency agent was wounded when anti-drug policemen and DEA agents were ambushed by drug traffickers in the heart of Bolivia's cocaine-producing region, U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard said Tuesday.

Police and agents were on a routine patrol in the Chapare coca-producing region when at least 20 heavily armed traffickers fired on them, the ambassador told The Associated Press. The Chapare is in the center of Bolivia, about 250 miles east of La Paz.

Policemen returned fire and at least one trafficker was killed, the U.S. official said. The ambush occurred Monday afternoon but poor communications from the remote region prevented the news from reaching official circles until Tuesday.

The ambush was the most serious confrontation between traffickers and Bolivian police and DEA agents in recent years.

Traffickers also fired on U.S.-donated helicopters that were sent in to rescue the wounded agent, who was shot in the arm and leg but was not seriously hurt.

The traffickers utilized sub-machine guns in the ambush. At least two Bolivian policemen also are missing.

Bolivian police units have been mobilized in the area in the effort to capture the traffickers.

Chinese execute nine

BEIJING (AP) - Nine people were executed in the south Chinese city of Canton and four others were sentenced to life for robbing passengers on long-distance buses, an official newspaper reported.

The executions were the latest of a yearlong anti-crime campaign that Amnesty International says has seen at least 500 people executed.

Two county courts on Monday sentenced the 13-member gang for 37 robberies in a 10-month period, the Canton-based Yangcheng Daily reported.

The highway bandits robbed 98 passengers of \$36,544. Thirteen people were stabbed during the robberies, said the paper, seen Tuesday in Beijing.

Ringleader Gao Shiming was responsible for 26 robberies, during which he injured three people, the paper said.

Gao, Lin Jinqun, Lin Guanghong, Fan Tiansheng and five others were sentenced to death and executed. Four other gang members were given life sentences, the paper said.

Executions in China are usually carried out with a bullet to the head.

Haitian elections slated

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - After scrapping together funds and convincing politicians it is safe to campaign, Haiti's Electoral Council set Dec. 16 as the date for presidential and municipal elections, an official

said Tuesday.

The elections have been postponed several times. They were last set for Nov. 4, but the Electoral Council had to drop that date because the impoverished government couldn't provide the money to organize the voting.

Last week, the Haitian government came up with \$4 million. The government will get an additional \$1.5 million through the U.N. Development Program and the U.S. government. West Germany and France have made pledges as well.

Jean Casimir, who heads the Electoral Council, said the Canadian government confirmed paper to be used for ballots would arrive in Haiti the first week of November. Without Canada's contribution of the costly, imported paper, the election date could not be set, he said.

Many leading politicians had refused until recent days to participate in any elections organized by interim President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot, who was appointed in March. They claimed she was unable to control the corrupt and violence-prone military.

Alleged assassin charged

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) - A judge operating in secrecy has charged Pablo Escobar, leader of the Medellin drug cartel, with last year's assassination of a presidential candidate during

a campaign rally, the court said Tuesday.

Colombia's new president, Cesar Gaviria, has said Escobar would be extradited to the United States if captured.

Escobar was charged with planning and ordering the murder of Luis Carlos Galan, cut down by automatic weapons fire as he prepared to deliver a speech in a poor Bogota neighborhood on Aug. 18, 1989.

The killing provoked then-President Virgilio Barco to begin a crackdown on drug traffickers that developed into a bloody war with the cartel.

The name of the judge ordering Escobar's arrest was kept secret lest he be murdered, according to a communique from Colombia's federal court system.

In the last nine years, 228 judges and other court employees have been slain, mostly by drug traffickers who could not bribe or threaten them into silence.

Escobar also has been charged in the March 1989 killing of leftist presidential candidate Bernardo Jaramillo and in the December 1987 slaying of Guillermo Cano, owner of the Bogota daily El Espectador.

He also is wanted for planning a car bomb explosion which killed 63 people last December in front of the secret police headquarters of Gen. Miguel Maza Marquez.



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