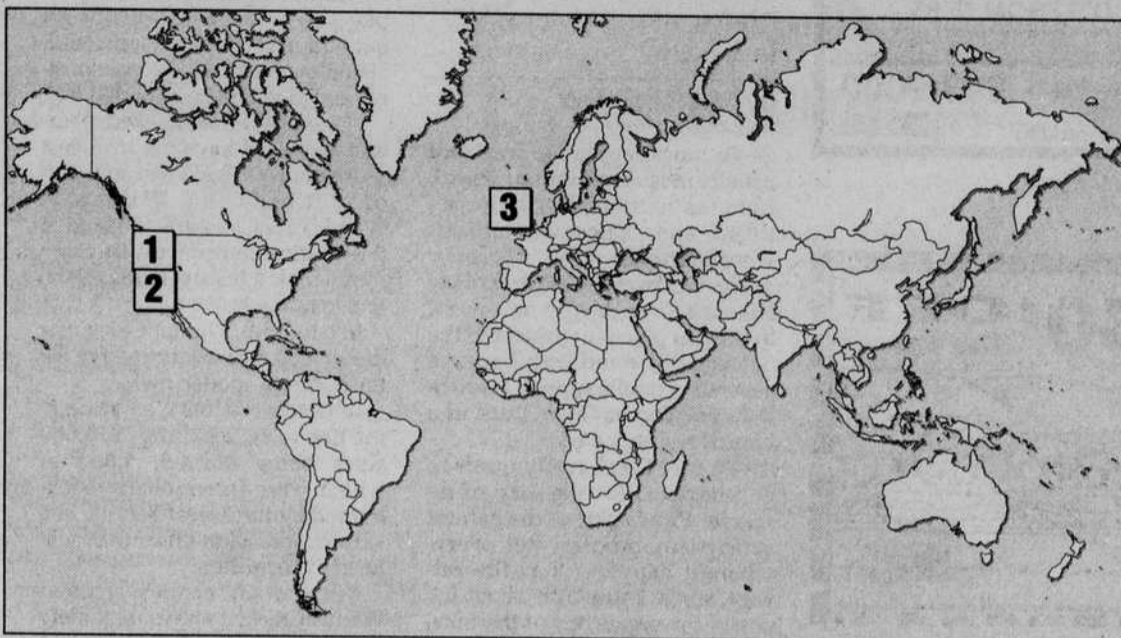


NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world



Contradictions force Cooley out of running

1 WASHINGTON — Rep. Wes Cooley, an outspoken conservative dogged by allegations that he lied about his military record and personal background, said Tuesday he was ending his bid for a second term in Congress.

Under pressure from fellow Republicans to step aside, Cooley said he was bowing out of his race for re-election in the 2nd District because of his family's suffering and fear that he would lose the seat to a liberal.

Cooley's departure clears the way for former Republican U.S. Rep. Bob Smith's expected return to politics. Smith has said he might run for his old seat as a way to keep it from falling into Democratic hands this fall.

State officials are investigating whether Cooley falsely claimed to be a Korean War veteran. In addition, the federal Veterans Affairs Department is looking into whether Cooley's wife, Rosemary, improperly received veterans' survivor benefits.

Last week, House Speaker Newt Gingrich joined fellow Republicans pressuring Cooley to end his re-election bid.

Pilot killed when U-2 plane goes down

2 OROVILLE, Calif. — A U-2 spy plane exploded and crashed into a newspaper building's parking lot Wednesday, killing the pilot and at least one person on the ground. Two others on the ground were slightly injured.

"The wing just blew off and the plane spiraled right down," said Robert Frutos, a technician working on a nearby radio tower. He said the plane burst into flames while still in flight.

Capt. Randy Roby, an experienced instructor assigned to Beale Air Force Base, radioed the Beale tower and declared an in-flight emergency a few minutes before the crash.

Roby was found dead in his ejection seat, said Lt. Col. Dennis Linn Beale, a spokesman at the base about 25 miles southeast of Oroville. A civilian also was killed at the plane's point of impact, police said.

Two others were treated at Oroville Hospital for injuries related to the crash: a police officer who suffered from smoke inhalation and a 34-year-old woman who was knocked down by the blast.

Twin abortion debate leaves courtroom

3 LONDON — A debate on the abortion of a healthy twin by a financially-strapped mother moved out of the courtroom Wednesday but continued to rage among doctors, legislators, the clergy and ordinary Britons.

An anti-abortion group withdrew an injunction against the abortion after learning that it had already taken place.

But the repercussions were far from over: The obstetrician who misled the media by indicating the woman had not yet undergone the procedure faced an inquiry into his actions.

A front-page Sunday Express story about the 28-year-old single mother's plight brought in \$77,000 in cash offers for the woman to change her mind.

In it, her obstetrician, Phillip Bennett, was quoted as saying the woman already had one child and was seeking to abort one of her twins because she could not afford two more children.

But within hours of a court hearing to prevent the abortion, Hammersmith Hospitals Trust revealed it had already been performed.

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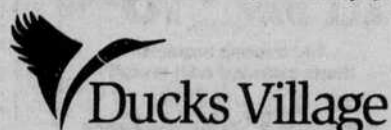
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