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Troops clean out Tiananmen Square

by Jervana Lao

BEIJING (UPI) -- Beijing residents shook with horror, grief, rage and cries of revenge Sunday at the city-wide military onslaught ordered by the government against the students and their civilian allies of the pro-democracy movement.

Hundreds of stunned citizens milled about a half-deserted highway leading to Tiananmen Square, still blocked Sunday afternoon by troops who violently cleared out thousands of students occupying the plaza since May 13 to demand freedom.

"What can I say? Who is happy today?" said a middle-aged woman, who refused to be identified.

The woman stood by the sidewalk with her husband and toddler as two young men, their faces lined with grief, sat silently beside a nearby tree.

"We would all go to support the students. The workers would all go out and support the students, but the soldiers are beating everyone, killing everybody. Who would dare to go out now? We are all scared," she said.

Her husband said, "We heard about the shootings from other people. We are all angry. We are all disgusted. The people are angry."

A crowd gathered around one Beijing resident who sat on his bicycle relating his account of the mayhem near Tiananmen Square,

the focus of seven weeks of pro-democracy unrest that struck a violent nerve in the communist government.



Prior to the use of force by Chinese troops, a Beijing University student, striking for democracy sits bound in a cardboard box. (AP Laserphoto)

"I was biking on the road when I saw soldiers aim their rifles and open fire at the crowd. In five minutes, people littered the ground. I ran, then I crouched on the ground and crawled away," said the man in his twenties, who also refused to be named.

"I am angry," he shouted. "My heart is bleeding. They have killed my people. Everyone else who saw it wept."

A man in the crowd bowed his head and turned away, his eyes red and wet with brimming tears. "We all feel the same way," he said.

The scene was mirrored throughout the city where in the northwest side, grief turned to rage as people wailed and wept openly upon hearing reports of the bloodshed at Tiananmen Square.

Zhang Hua, 23, a Beijing University student who sat with his friend on the sidewalk said many of his classmates were injured in the clash.

"The struggle will continue," Zhang said. "This is not a question of our friends or your friends or their friends. All the people who sacrificed for freedom and democracy are our friends."

"Our hearts are one."

Iranian ruler Ayatollah Khomeini dies

by Ralph Joseph

ATHENS, Greece (UPI) -- Iranian ruler Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who led the overthrow of the Shah and turned his nation into an anti-Western Islamic republic 10 years ago, died Saturday night, the official Tehran radio announced Sunday. He was 87.

His death came 11 days after surgery to stop internal bleeding, but no exact cause was given.

A radio announcer, reading a statement attributed to Khomeini's son, Hojatolislam Ahmed Khomeini, said the Iranian leader

died Saturday night in a Tehran hospital.

The state-owned Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Athens, said Khomeini's body was "transferred to a mortuary Saturday night after being washed and shrouded according to Islamic laws." Khomeini was a leader of the Shiite branch of Islam.

The news agency also said the funeral for their spiritual leader would be held on Monday and urged "mourning people not to rush" toward a mosque in Jamaran, a suburb north of Tehran where the Ayatollah lived for nine years.

Programming on Tehran radio went silent about two hours before the announcement at 7 a.m. Tehran time (11:30 p.m. EDT Saturday).

The statement was followed by a broadcast of verses from the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

Direct telephone links between Tehran to the outside world were cut early Sunday.

Diplomats believe Khomeini's only surviving son, Hojatolislam Ahmed Khomeini, is expected to assume the mantle of leadership because he is most likely to be accepted by all factions in an internal power struggle. The Ayatollah's eldest son died in a traffic accident in 1977.

As a mark of respect, Iran's government ordered all schools closed Sunday and declared 40 days of mourning and said schools would be closed for five days. Friday is the Moslem holy day and Sunday is

usually a normal working day in Iran.

The radio announcer wept while reading his report.

President Bush, while on an early morning jog at his family retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine, Sunday was asked by reporters if he knew what happened to Khomeini, and the president replied, "No."

"Dead," was one reporter's shouted reply.

The White House issued a statement later Sunday, saying, "The official Iranian news agency has confirmed the death of the Ayatollah Khomeini. With his passing we hope Iran will now move toward assuming

(Continued on page 8)

Pipeline explosion rocks USSR railway

MOSCOW (UPI) -- A gas pipeline running parallel to the Trans-Siberian railway exploded late Saturday while two trains passed, causing many casualties, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev flew to the disaster site near Chelyabinsk, Tass said Sunday.

"The two trains' carriages were either damaged or destroyed entirely," the official Tass news agency reported. "The railway track was destroyed and casualties are being reported. All traffic on this major section of the Trans-Siberian has been suspended."

It said the pipeline carrying petroleum products exploded at 11:14 p.m. Moscow time Saturday night while two trains were in the area - one going from Novosibirsk to Adler and the other from Adler to Novosibirsk.

Toll increase approved for Panama Canal

WASHINGTON (Reuter) -- The U.S. agency that operates the Panama Canal said Friday it had approved its first toll increase in six years and selected a senior U.S. Army official to be canal commissioner.

The Panama Canal Commission also said it had appointed a special committee to handle emergency matters.

Commission spokesmen were not immediately available to comment on whether the moves were related to the political turmoil in Panama, where Washington has sought to force military ruler Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega from power.

The commission said its board, in a meeting Thursday in Miami, voted for a 9.8 percent increase in canal tolls.

The board elected Robert Page,

assistant secretary of the Army for civil works, as chairman. Page was appointed to the board on May 1 following the resignation of former chairman William Gianelli.

Gianelli resigned after warning that actions taken by the Noriega-backed Panamanian government had left the canal in grave danger of being closed.

The board appointed a five-member executive committee to exercise "the powers of the full board when acting on urgent matters that cannot await the next board meeting," the commission statement said.

It said the committee would consist of two U.S. and two Panamanian representatives, as well as the chairman.

The commission said the rate increase, which has been steadfastly opposed by Latin American nations, was subject to approval by President Bush.

"This increase, the first in over six years, is needed to offset the effects of inflation on Canal operating costs," the commission said. "The amount of the toll increase is well below the cumulative inflation rise over that period."

In a report, canal administrator D.P. McAuliffe said the commission would have an operating deficit for fiscal year 1989 due to downturns in canal transits and revenues.

Transits by oceangoing vessels averaged 33.7 daily, compared with 34.4 during the same period in fiscal year 1988, McAuliffe said.

U.S. news

Chinese in U.S. weep after 'bloodbath' in Beijing

Associated Press Writer

Chinese students and Chinese-Americans around the United States reacted with anguish and anger Saturday to bloodshed in their homeland and called on President Bush to condemn the military assault on protesters in Beijing.

"Oh my God! Oh my God!" cried Choi Soon, 32, breaking into sobs as she listened to radio reports in a park across from San Francisco City Hall. "How can the government kill? Those are my brothers and sisters in the square and they are being murdered."

About 300 protesters gathered at the Chinese consulate in San Francisco.

Chinese and Chinese-Americans also took their fear and anger to the streets in Los Angeles, New York, New Orleans, Houston, St. Paul, Minn.; and Buffalo, N.Y. In Connecticut, the state House held a silent tribute.

"It's so horrible," Lea Liang said during a rally at the Chinese consulate in New York by more than 300 chanting, screaming and weeping protesters.

"I can't believe they used the army - the People's Army - on the people," said Ms. Liang, a Chinese-American. "This hurts very much."

A smaller demonstration, attended by Mayor Edward I. Koch and U.S. Rep. Bill Green, R-N.Y., was held in lower Manhattan within sight of the Statue of Liberty.

"All of us here must say no to the government of China and to the military suppression in China," organizer Alfred Lui told the crowd.

"Down with a government that kills students," said a sign carried by accountant Ivy Ng.

In Los Angeles, about 50 people staged a sit-in on the steps of Chinese consulate, weeping as the protesters played a recording of what they said were telephone conversations with relatives and friends in Beijing as they witnessed the Army sweep of Tiananmen Square.

"We are very disappointed and angry with the Chinese government," said Richard Leung, a protest organizer and student at the University of California-Los Angeles. "We urge the U.S. authorities to make every effort to

support human rights and stop the bloodshed."

President Bush said in a statement from Kennebunkport, Maine, Saturday, "I deeply deplore the decision to use force against peaceful demonstrators and the consequent loss of life." He called for "nonviolence, restraint and dialogue."

It was early Sunday in Beijing, 13 hours ahead of the eastern United States, when Chinese troops stormed through masses of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square,

shooting and beating hundreds of people. At least 500 were reported killed.

In St. Paul, about 250 Chinese students marched around the Minnesota Capitol. Wearing black armbands and green and white ribbons, a Chinese symbol of mourning, they bowed their heads in memory of the slain.

At a rally at Louisiana State University Medical Center, Gan Xia Ge, a 31-year-old graduate student, said, "I'm worried about my brother. The army is just shooting people."

Press disappear at Tiananmen stand-off

NEW YORK (AP) -- A CBS News correspondent and cameraman were detained by the Chinese army Saturday and efforts were being made to locate a NBC News crew missing in the bloody suppression of the protest in Beijing.

It was not immediately clear whether any of the journalists were formally arrested or were being detained to prevent coverage of Chinese troops that stormed Tiananmen Square Saturday, killing and wounding scores of people.

"It's been very intense and tragic. They're seeing acts of heroism that I don't think anyone expects to see in a lifetime," Joseph Angotti, senior vice president of news for NBC, said of journalists at the scene.

"I've never heard the kind of strain in people's voices I've heard today. A lot of fear is coming through on the phone lines," he said.

Angotti said shortly before 6 p.m. that it had been four hours since NBC had heard from a cameraman and a sound man located on the southern end of the square.

"We're very concerned about them," he said. "I'm worried to death."

CBS News Correspondent Richard Roth and cameraman Derek Williams were apparently taken away by the Chinese Army shortly after 4 p.m. as they described the assault on the square, said CBS News spokesman Tom Goodman.

"We're making every effort to locate them but it's very difficult," he said.

"A lot of fear is coming through on the lines."

When CBS last heard from Roth, he was describing the scene at the square. "OK, we've got to get out of here," Roth said in an increasingly shaky voice.

"They (the army) are going after Derek. They're ripping away his camera. They are coming for us. We are trying to get away."

Goodman said the sound of gunfire was then heard in the background and Roth could be heard over his cellular telephone, which was left on, saying either "Oh no, oh no" or "I'll go, I'll go."

Two Chinese-Americans in Roth's crew - Dexter Leong, a soundman, and Robert Lum, an assistant - were able to blend in with the crowd and returned to CBS headquarters in Beijing, Goodman said.

Leong reported that none of the four were injured and another CBS correspondent later said he believed Roth and Williams were taken into the Great Hall by members of the Chinese Army.

Leong later said: "We were filming the event. Suddenly, army soldiers appeared five feet behind us."

"They just grabbed the camera, yanked it down. About five seconds after they grabbed the camera, they began to shoot into the crowd."

Laura Wessner, an ABC spokeswoman, said all their broadcast crew members were safe.

"Everything is fine. All our crews are fine," she said.

She said Chinese authorities have not taken action to prevent the crew from doing their jobs.

Thief 'socks it' to edgy cashier

SMYRNA, Ga. (AP) -- A bandit made off with \$400 from a restaurant after brandishing a plastic cup and an ice scraper wrapped inside a white sock, police said.

The man walked into the Waffle House restaurant in this Atlanta suburb Friday and demanded money at, well, sockpoint, Lt. Ed Clack said.

The cashier became nervous and jammed the cash register as she tried to open it.

The robber then stepped behind the counter, snatched the register and bolted out the back door, "carrying it under his arm like a football," Clark said.

"It's not the first robbery we've had with a fake gun," he said.

"It is the first one though, with an ice scraper, a plastic cup and a sock."



STORM'S DEVASTATION -- Residents of Jarrell, Texas pick up the pieces recently after a tornado swept through their town, north of Austin. The twisted remains of a mobile home, where Sharon Thomas was killed, rest near the woman's friends, who comfort each other at the scene. (AP Laserphoto)

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U.S. news

Cash-cow lotteries hook states, milk poor

by Leon Daniel
UPI senior editor

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Lotteries are cash cows for the states, but it is the poor who get milked.

The lottery loot the pols love to spend is a tax on a service citizens clearly want but can buy legally only from government.

Americans bet \$16 billion last year on lotteries, which are hooking states as well as the people who play them.

Of each of those dollars, 48 cents went for prizes, 15 cents for promotion and the states got the remaining 37 cents.

That means the state governments got \$5.7 billion in taxes from lotteries.

The pols love lottery loot because acquiring it is much less dangerous

NASA engineer says end is near

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A retired NASA engineer who says he miscalculated in predicting the rapture would occur in 1988 now says the end is near — again.

Edgar Whisenant, 56, created a stir last year with the publication of "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988." He estimated that he and the World Bible Society in Nashville gave away or sold about 4.5 million copies of the booklet.

Whisenant, who says he is not a regular churchgoer, now says born-again Christians will be taken up into heaven on Sept. 1.

"The Final Shout-Rapture '89 Report" is to be released this week, says Whisenant, who co-wrote the booklet with Greg Brewer.

A miscomputation led Whisenant to predict the rapture would occur last year, he said in a telephone interview last week.

"I made a mistake last year — my calculations were off by one year," said Whisenant, who has studied biblical prophecy intensively for 16 years.

"But I believe my mistake was God's will — a shout, a preparation period for the church. And there has been a revival. I believe this year it's the rapture. The evidence is there."

Whisenant said present-day Gregorian calendars count only 99 years for the first century because calculations begin at 1 A.D., not zero.

The Little Rock, Ark., retiree, who lives on his pension from the National Aeronautics Space Administration, says he has dedicated his life to trying to unlock the Bible's riddles about the rapture.

"I've spent \$50,000 of my own money to get the word out about this," Whisenant said.

"I've never made a cent on it. I've put 152,000 miles on my VW and all I own is a bed. When you fear God enough, you don't lie, cheat or steal."

Whisenant says in the new booklet he "is not a prophet, and such studies are subject to error."

World Bible Society, which had revenues of \$3.1 million in 1987, made an estimated \$200,000 on the controversial booklet, but it was given to Christian charities, according to Norvell Olive, who heads the society.

politically than raising revenue the old fashioned way — by taxing such things as property and gasoline.

Since the poor spend proportionately more of their income on lotteries than the rich, the lottery tax is regressive.

Neal Peirce, writing in National Journal, reported, "lotteries have become a massive, regressive, debilitating tax — especially on lower-income people."

"Statewide sales of more than \$100 per adult per year are commonplace, and certainly hundreds of thousands of people are spending more than \$1,000 on the tickets."

A New Jersey study disclosed that nearly one-third of families living in poverty on annual incomes under \$10,000 spend about 20 percent of their money on lotteries.

Virginia last fall became the 28th state to sponsor a lottery, a form of gambling increasingly popular in the bible belt.

In Louisiana, squeezed economically by dwindling oil royalties, voters last month chose a lottery.

Duke University economists Charles Clotfelter and Philip Cook, in a book to be published this fall, write about some of the troubling social questions raised by lotteries.

They contend lotteries are "a risky experiment to determine whether a system that allocates rewards on the basis of luck will undermine a parallel system" that pays off on "effort and skill."

"This could be your ticket out," reads a billboard in a Chicago ghetto. Proponents argue that lottery

financing is needed to finance education, economic development and programs for the elderly. But usually lottery revenues aren't even earmarked so the pols end up fighting over the loot.

Lotteries promise more than they deliver. They need tighter regulation.

For a start, lottery advertising should be curbed sharply to conform to reasonable standards of truth.

To promote the notion that lottery ticket is a viable way out of a ghetto is criminal.

If lotteries are to continue as legal alternatives to illegal numbers games, then states have a moral obligation to cap jackpots.

Higher and higher jackpots attract more and more players who bet cash needed less by state governments than in family budgets.

Thalidome victim never says can't

SWIFT CURRENT, Saskatchewan (AP) — Kelvin Mickelson has parachuted onto a Fiji beach, won medals at the Olympics for the disabled, visited Australia and built his own funny car — all without the use of his legs.

The 26-year-old computer programmer was born without legs because his mother took the drug thalidomide when she was pregnant. Marketed in Canada under the brand names Kevadon and Talimol. Thalidomide was prescribed to pregnant women in the 1950s and early 1960s, as a sleeping pill and remedy for morning sickness.

"There's no such thing as can't," Mickelson said. "All the years I've spent in the hospital made me realize how lucky I am compared to others."

The estimated 125 Canadian thalidomide babies weren't expected to survive their severe deformities, but a recent task force found there are still 109 young adults in Canada who suffered thalidomide-related birth defects.

The same task force report, handed in to federal Health Minister Perrin Beatty last week, presented chilling evidence the thalidomide tragedy might have been prevented in Canada.

Federal officials responsible for ensuring the safety of prescription drugs in the 1950s were negligent in allowing the drug in the Canadian market, the report says.

Mickelson's mother, Ruth, was one of thousands of pregnant women prescribed the drug. When her son was born, her nurses and doctors were shocked and Ruth got very little support from hospital staff.

Ruth and her husband, Elvy, brought their baby boy home to their farm. Elvy built a tricycle with a bucket seat for his son, and Mickelson laughs when he recalls how he tore around the house in it. "I wiggled my bottom to make it go," he said.

But he says he adjusted to the prosthetic limbs in time.

After a long day at the computers in the provincial Agricultural Credit Corp., Mickelson likes to go home, relax, and take his legs off.

Every spring and fall he still helps his parents with the seeding and harvesting on their farm.



BACK TO ARMENIA—Marat Arakelian, 12, gives a goodbye hug to Anahid Ohanian at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as Marat prepared to return to his native Armenia. Marat was one of four children injured in the December Armenian earthquake being treated at Children's Hospital. He arrived in Philadelphia in February on a stretcher with spinal injuries and partial paralysis and he leaves with spring in his step and high hopes for the future. (AP Laserphoto)

Doctors agree to Medicare

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Nearly 300,000 doctors have agreed to treat Medicare patients for a fixed fee, a large increase over the 1988 rate, the Health and Human Services Department said Thursday.

Louis Hays, acting administrator of the department's Health Care Financing Administration, said 283,475 physicians have signed an agreement to accept the government's fee for health care services to the nation's 33 million elderly and disabled Medicare patients.

The participating doctors represent 40.7 percent of the 696,848 doctors who bill Medicare, an increase from the 37.3 percent physician rate for 1988.

Hays said the most recent data show that assignment was accepted for services accounting for 80.1 percent of Medicare physician spending, the highest in the history of the program.

Medicare patients are free to visit the physician of their choice. But by

visiting participating physicians, beneficiaries are not held liable for the difference between Medicare's approved amount and the physician's actual charge, which may be higher.

Congress created the participating physician program in 1984. Medicare determines the payment rates for physician services by a method that considers the lowest of the doctor's actual charge, his customary charge for that service and the prevailing fee for that service in the community.

Physicians who agree to participate are allowed certain incentives, such as pay differentials, faster payments and having their names, address and specialties published in directories that are made available to Medicare.

The percentage of participating physicians range from a high of 76 percent in Alabama to a low of 16 percent in Idaho.

Forty-four states experienced increases in their participating physician rates, and seven states had increases of 20 percent or more.

world roundup

Uno pledges to reform Japanese politics

By David Butts

Tokyo (UPI) --Foreign Minister Sousuke Uno was elected prime minister Friday by parliament and handed the tasks of cleaning up Japan's sullied political world and averting a trade war with the United States.

Uno, 66, of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, collected 285 of the 477 votes in special session of the lower house of the Japanese parliament in which the opposition parties failed to unite behind one candidate.

The upper house then cast 124 of its 220 votes for Uno, officially making him the prime minister, succeeding Noboru Takeshita, who was forced from office in Japan's worst political scandal in post-war Japan.

Takeshita announced his intention April 25 to step down over the so-called Recruit insider stock trading scandal, ending 19 months of stormy rule.

Takeshita and former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone have acknowledged responsibility for the scandal in which the Recruit Co., an information services conglomerate, allegedly tried to bribe 160 politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen with millions of dollars worth of stock, political donations and gifts.

The second-place candidate, Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi, took 139 votes in the lower house and 65 in the upper house.

At a news conference before the vote, Uno promised to reform Japanese politics and fight President Bush's allegations that Japan, the world's second largest economic power, is an unfair trading partner.

The Bush administration has

taken a tough stance on trade, accusing Japan last week of blocking imports of several American-made goods and threatening to impose sanctions if Japan does not change.

"Japan has no unfair trading practices," Uno said. "(The Bush administration) should refrain from a policy of hitting us over the head with a board."

Uno's critics, including two former prime ministers, said he does not have the power to carry out the promised political reforms.

Uno is expected to serve only as a caretaker prime minister until public anger over the scandal subsides and the more powerful politicians can return after being forced out by the scandal.

"Clearly ... these Liberal Democratic leaders consider the next party leadership simply as a temporary shield against public criticism of their involvement in the scandal," said the Japan Times in an editorial.

Uno owes his meteoric rise in

power to Takeshita, who personally selected him as prime minister last week.

Many experts believe Takeshita and Nakasone, Uno's mentor, will hold the real power in the Uno administration.

Takeshita was scathingly criticized at a party caucus earlier Friday for selecting the new prime minister in private.

"Please give us the freedom to choose our own leader," said Kuro Matsuda, a younger generation LDP member of parliament.

Two former prime ministers, Zenko Suzuki and Takeo Fukuda, boycotted the party caucus, saying Uno lacks the power to reform politics and win public support for the party.

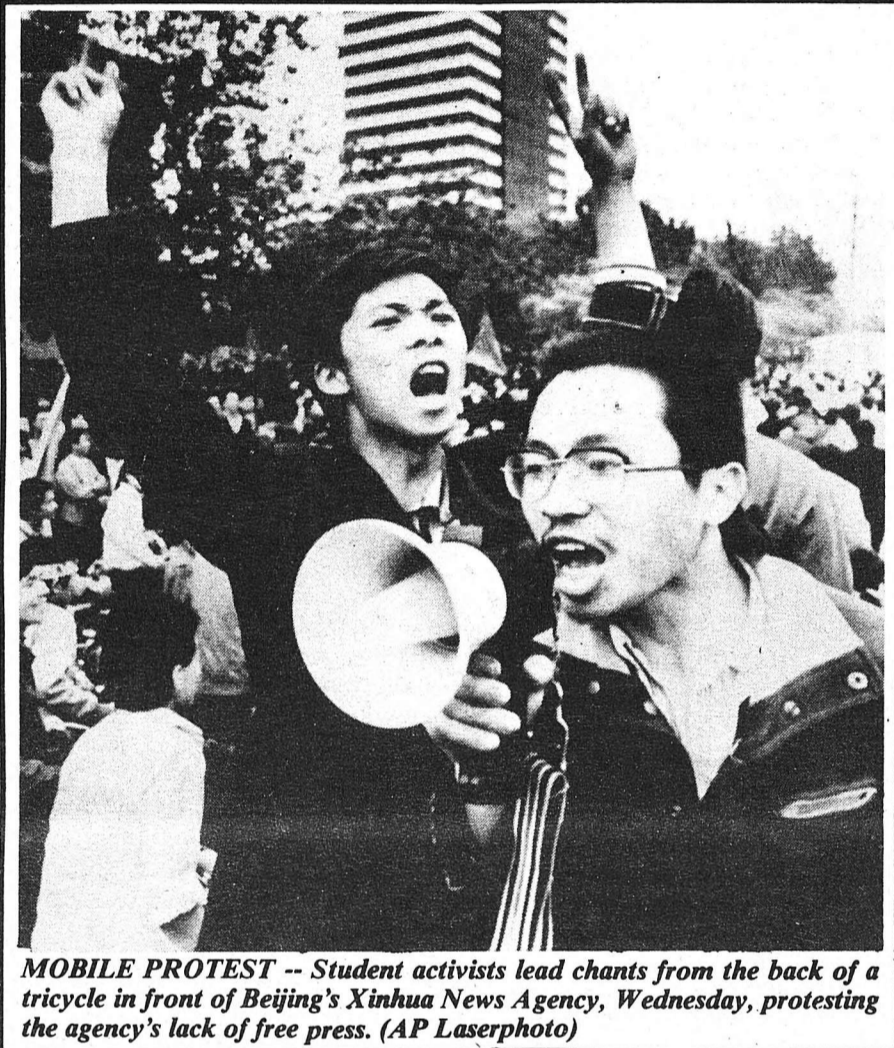
"I do not agree (with Uno's selection)," Suzuki said. "It is insensible. I cannot agree, looking at the public opinion." Uno accepted the post and promised to reform Japanese politics.

"I feel deeply honored to have been chosen to take the position and I accept," Uno said.

"The scandal has caused great turmoil and I fully understand the implications," he said.

The scandal was described as the worst in Japan since World War II and more pervasive than the Lockheed bribery affair a dozen years ago, which resulted in the arrest of former Prime Minister Kakeui Tanaka.

Uno, untainted by the scandal, was a compromise choice of the party after LDP elder Masayoshi Ito turned down the job when party leaders refused his suggestion that all scandal-tainted politicians should resign.



MOBILE PROTEST -- Student activists lead chants from the back of a tricycle in front of Beijing's Xinhua News Agency, Wednesday, protesting the agency's lack of free press. (AP Laserphoto)

Japan's prime minister has little time to adjust

By United Press International

Japan's new prime minister, Sousuke Uno, spirited into office by the majority party as a last resort to rid itself of an influence-buying scandal, is a hardened negotiator who writes haiku poems and was a prisoner of war in a Soviet labor camp.

The 66-year-old cherub-faced son of a sake brewer, noted for his intellect and toothy grin, seemingly came out of the blue this week as the choice of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to replace scandal-tainted Noboru Takeshita as prime minister.

Uno held back little immediately after winning his party's nomination Friday, blasting the United States for its decision to list Japan as an unfair trading nation.

"We were surprised to be accused of unfair trading practices. Japan has no unfair trading practices," said Uno, who served 19 months as Takeshita's foreign minister.

The comments signaled that Uno, noted as a stubborn and dogged negotiator while foreign minister, may take a harder line on international issues than his predecessor.

Takeshita was hailed for boosting Japan's global stature and winning a string of trade agreements with the

United States, which often involved Japanese concessions.

But Uno is perhaps most knowledgeable about the Soviet Union.

During often heated talks with Kremlin officials in the past year, he bluntly told Moscow that Japan would not increase economic contacts unless the Soviet Union returned four disputed islands off Japan's northern coast, which it has held since the end of World War II.

Uno, who served in the Japanese army in China during the war, was taken prisoner and held for two years at a Soviet labor camp in Siberia. He wrote a book about his experiences urging repatriation of remaining internees, which was made into a movie and had an impact on Japan.

"It was this experience of the power of public opinion that led me to enter politics," Uno once said.

Uno is a man of culture, an accomplished painter, pianist and writer of haiku poems and a fifth-level master of kendo, a form of martial arts.

Uno also is fond of the harmonica and reportedly likes to surprise guests by playing the instrument during social gatherings.

Last year, he became the first Japanese minister to visit Israel and Mongolia, and in February took a high profile during meetings with

leaders and representatives of 164 nations attending the funeral of the late Emperor Hirohito.

He also is credited with quiet negotiations last year that led to a cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq Gulf War.

But despite his 28 years in the Japanese parliament and service in five Cabinet posts, including defense and trade, many analysts view him as politically weak and doomed to govern as a caretaker for only several months.

They say more powerful party leaders, currently tainted by the

Jet nosedive 'like a roller coaster'

SYDNEY, Australia (UPI) -- A Qantas 747 jetliner shot up and nosedived en route from Sydney to Singapore, injuring 46 passengers, before reaching its destination Friday, airline officials said.

The jet, carrying 300 passengers, went out of control while 450 nautical miles southeast of Derby, in West Australia, while flying Thursday night at 30,000 feet.

The jet shot up 1,500 feet before nose-diving, throwing unbuckled passengers about the cabin.

Capt. Les Hayward, manager of Qantas's 747 fleet, said it was like "a roller coaster ride as passengers floated from their seats."

Passengers were crashed against cabin walls as the pilot, Lyn

scandal, are waiting for public anger over the scandal to subside before resuming their quest for the premiership.

Uno is the first leader in the 34-year history of his party who has not commanded his own political faction and is viewed as an outsider to the game of "money-power politics," which has traditionally guided the Japanese government.

The Japan Times Friday blasted Uno's selection in a pair of editorials, describing him as a "poor choice" and a "mediocrity."

Williams, fought to regain control of the aircraft after an apparent failure of the craft's auto-pilot system.

A Qantas spokesman said Friday the pilot regained control after he disconnected the auto-pilot and headed for Darwin while the cabin crew treated injured passengers.

The 46 passengers were treated at Darwin Hospital for cuts and bruises.

All were discharged Friday except for one man who has suffered fractured ribs and cuts.

The flight, which was to continue on to Frankfurt, West Germany, was resumed Friday after a detailed inspection of the aircraft.

Qantas is the only major airline to never have had a crash.

hemisphere

Argentina's economy remains 'out of control'by Daniel Drosdoff
UPI Senior Editor

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (UPI) — An accountant for a multinational corporation saw his salary shrink from \$600 a month to \$200 a month in 12 weeks.

A secretary who put her life savings into accounts with interest rates of 60 percent a month saw her hopes to stay ahead financially evaporate when in just one week the austral, Argentina's money, lost its value faster than the interest gained.

Credit cards have been suspended. Supermarkets have reinforced their guards.

Salespeople routinely price cars and apartments in U.S. dollars.

Banks — including multinationals — often refuse to pay large amounts of cash to investors and depositors, with tellers saying with a shrug, "There are no australes."

On San Martin Street, in the heart of the Buenos Aires financial district, fist fights break out when money traders, angered at losses and wide fluctuations, get carried away in

political discussions.

Hyperinflation has come to Argentina, turning the country into a South American equivalent of the German Weimar Republic, where the chain reaction of war debts, and financial collapse resulted in the despair and desperation that was the breeding ground for the rise of Nazism.

"There is going to be a civil war," said an Argentine executive who had seen his salary shrink in a few weeks by 60 percent because of the rapidly deteriorating currency.

"Democracy won't last until January. A little sergeant, or a little corporal, will come along and take over, like Hitler did," he said in all seriousness.

Argentina's economy minister, Juan Carlos Pugliese, admitted a possible economic collapse when he said publicly on May 22 that the economy is "out of control" and that "we can't last until Dec. 10," the date President Raul Alfonsin is supposed to step down and hand over power to the Peronist president-elect Carlos Menem.

A retired naval officer in a key national security position told United Press International that active duty officers have begun to carry side arms while traveling to and from work for fear of a social uprising, a terrorist attack, civil war, or a combination of the three.

"I think personally it will end in civil war," he said.

The symptoms of anarchy reach the highest level.

In what perhaps was a slip of the tongue, Alfonsin in a rambling, improvised television speech on May 23 described his desire to finish out his full six years of office an "illusion."

In just a few short days he has offered to resign, then withdrew the offer.

He also offered the opposition Peronists a chance to chart economic policy jointly, but neither could agree on a plan, forcing Alfonsin to govern in a national emergency with a lame duck administration.

The Central Bank closed banking operations May 22 and 23, then ordered them to reopen on May 24,

allowing depositors to withdraw up to 20,000 australes (\$111).

But a 53-year-old woman who tried to withdraw the maximum from a branch bank in the Buenos Aires suburb of Quilmes on May 24 was told she could only withdraw 5,000 australes (\$28) because "20,000 australes is too much money."

A Western diplomat said that the root cause of the Argentine crisis was the failure of the country to face up to deficit spending for many years.

"The country is bankrupt," he said. "It won't be able to recover without a lot of pain."

He said that in spite of the signs of crisis he didn't think Argentines were yet aware of the magnitude of the sacrifices necessary for recovery.

"We still have the best steaks in the world," said a congressman cheerfully over lunch.

He seemed little concerned that the time when Argentines will be able to afford to eat them was quickly running out.

Two French companies investing millions in ski resort

SANTIAGO, Chile (UPI) — High in the Andes Mountains two French companies are aggressively investing millions of dollars to create a ski resort they trumpet as having no rival in the southern hemisphere and few in the world.

Spie Batignolles and Compagnie International d'Equipeiment have so far poured \$35 million in the ski area

called Valle Nevado, or Snow Valley.

By the time they have finished sometime after the year 2000, they project an investment of \$300 million, offering skiers 10,000 beds, 50 lifts and 60 miles of runs.

"That will make it the most important winter tourist center of the southern hemisphere," said Jean Ramos of Spie Batignolles, president of Valle Nevado, S.A.

Said Margarita Ducci, director of the Chilean National Tourism Service: "Valle Nevado is the most important investment in tourism that has ever been made in Chile."

Spie Batignolles, an engineering company, owns 90 percent of Valle Nevado, while C.I.E. owns the remaining 10 percent. C.I.E. is developer and operator of the Les Arcs ski resort in France.

Financing for the project was provided by Lazard Freres and Credit Lyonnais, along with Asset-Chile. The project also has taken advantage of Chile's debt-equity swap program that allows companies to convert Chile's foreign debt into investment in a Chilean enterprise.

When its bed capacity rises, the resort's market will be destination skiers, those who fly in and spend money at the ski area on housing, food, entertainment and skiing. Santiago has 4.5 million residents

but only a small fraction ski and they divide up their business among other local resorts.

Eduardo Stern, a Chilean engineer associated with C.I.E. and vice president of Valle Nevado, said this season the peak booking months of July and August are largely filled, mostly by Brazilians. He said besides Chileans and Brazilians, the resort has so far concentrated on attracting Argentines and other Latin Americans.

Valle Nevadom, to be successful, must compete with other luxury resorts in South America for the destination skier, including Portillo near Santiago and Las Lenas and Bariloche in Argentina.

Stern said no promotion has been conducted in the huge ski markets of North America and Europe because the resort, with only 400 beds, is not yet able to supply a large demand.

When bed capacity rises, he said the resort will be "a very international product," taking advantage of the reversed seasons to attract skiers from the northern hemisphere.

The resort debuted last winter with two chair lifts and three T-bars, two restaurants and 200 available beds. But a drought left the Andes near Santiago with little snow and resort operators suffered.

This season, beginning June 16, the operators hope for better snow, allowing them to open two new T-Bars and providing access to 10 other runs. There will be 400 beds available this winter, along with three new restaurants completed during the summer construction season.

A French chef will preside over the restaurant La Fourchette D'Or that the owners are promoting as one of the best in Chile.

Most of the tortured road to Valle Nevado, with nearly 50 switchbacks, also has been paved. The area is 36 miles or about a 90-minute ride from the center of Santiago.

The 8 1/2 mile road that connects Valle Nevado with the resorts of La Parva, Colorado and Farellones cost the company \$5.5 million, with the Chilean government kicking in another \$2.7 million.

The resort facilities are located about 9,800 feet high in the Andes. The planned lifts will reach several thousand feet more.

"The site is the heart of the Andes," said Stern.

Construction of the resort presented special problems. It has to generate its own electricity and provide its own water. The company also had to build a microwave center to connect the resort to the Chilean telephone system.

**ARENA supporters believe Cristiani can stop war**

by United Press International

Alfredo Cristiani is relatively new to politics in El Salvador, but the 40-year-old son of a wealthy land-owning family now finds himself riding the crest of a growing surge of support for El Salvador's most right-wing party.

As winning candidate of the far-right Nationalist Republican Alliance, known by its Spanish acronym ARENA, Cristiani defeated Fidel Chavez Mena of the ruling Christian Democratic Party for the right to succeed President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

ARENA supporters said they voted for Cristiani believing he is best able to halt the 9-year-old civil war against leftist rebels belonging to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN. A poll published by the University of Central America showed that 59.2 percent of those surveyed thought Cristiani could end the war, while only 27.7 percent said the same about Chavez Mena.

Cristiani also vowed to revamp the nation's war-shattered economy, a difficult task but one that 65.5 percent of those polled thought he could carry out. Only 27.1 percent said that of Chavez Mena.

"Basically, the ARENA is trying to hide the fact that it is a reactionary party founded by right-wing zealots. Cristiani fills the role of deceiver very well," said one Western diplomat who asked not to be identified.

Cristiani, speaking to reporters in March, denied that there was a far-right element within ARENA, saying the party was "unified behind a platform of civil liberties and economic reform." He said the party had no ties to any death squads, and added he is willing to negotiate with the FMLN to end the war that has killed more than 70,000 people.

ARENA leaders charged that the U.S. government covertly aided the

Christian Democrats in the race to succeed Duarte. But Cristiani pledged to seek good relations with the United States, insisting that "I have more friends there than enemies."

Cristiani was not a founding member of ARENA, but his conservative credentials were nevertheless intact. His family owns huge tracts of rich coffee-producing land and his wife is the sister of Defense Minister Eugenio Videns Casanova. Her family is one of the wealthiest in El Salvador.

military news

Top NCOs testify on troops' concerns

by Sgt. Maj. Rudi Williams

WASHINGTON (AFIS) -- Benefits and quality of life—pay and allowances, housing, medical and dental care, retirement and other issues—were the topics of testimony given by the top non-commissioned officers of the four services before the Senate Appropriations Committee recently.

They spoke in unison about the concerns of enlisted service members. The top noncommissioned officers asked Congress not to allow benefits and quality of life programs to erode, which could result in declines in enlistment, retention and readiness.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James C. Binnicker asked the committee not to allow economic factors, successive military pay caps and expanded private-sector job opportunities drive talented, experienced non-commissioned officers out of the services as happened in the late 1970s. Binnicker said enlisted men and women are starting to think the people who control their lives do not feel committed to maintaining a decent living standard.

Today, he noted, retention is good, except in high-tech and sortie-

Cutting defense budget would hurt quality of life, they suggest

generating skills. "Members in these skills are being offered lucrative opportunities with commercial companies," he said. "We must remember that low retention results in lower experience and increased training and replacement costs."

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Duane R. Bushey told the committee: "There are a lot of 'fence walkers' when it comes to an individual's decision to re-enlist...Gone are the days of 'drunk as a sailor' or 'spend money like a sailor.' Today's sailor shows a positive involvement in the community and sets the pace for society."

Bushey asked the congressional committee for its support for improved housing opportunities, education, child care, medical and dental care, pay compensation and morale, welfare and recreation programs. "These quality-of-life concerns are imperative if our personnel are to keep pace with the civilian economy and remain proud, dedicated, professional members of our Navy," he added.

Sergeant Major of the Army Julius W. Gates said the major issues of concern for enlisted soldiers are medical care, pay and allowances, housing and "a predictable future."

Asking Congress to approve the 3.6 percent proposed military pay raise for fiscal 1990, Gates pointed out that "this year about \$4.5 million worth of food stamps and about \$2 million worth of (the) Women, Infant and Children (Program) coupons were redeemed by soldiers at Army commissaries. We have soldiers whose standard of living is below the national poverty level." The dollar value of such coupons used in civilian food stores is unknown.

On the subject of medical care, Gates noted; "Many soldiers are required to pay out-of-pocket expenses for medical care under the Champus program...We continue to have problems with staffing our existing medical facilities and providing adequate facilities to meet patient demand.

"The proposed user fee for dependents at military facilities is considered as another lost benefit

and adds to soldier frustrations in their ability to provide adequate medical care for their families," he said.

As for a "predictable future," Gates said: "Shortages in funds for the military personnel account forced us to reduce the NCO inventory resulting in anticipated shortages of about 14,000 NCOs in fiscal 1990...The retirement system has been repeatedly modified over the past 10 years - always downward. Soldiers want a system upon which they can plan their futures.

Noting that dependents outnumber Marines, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps David W. Sommers said family support can't be overlooked because "two out of three families have children under the age of 11, and more than half of the spouses work outside the home."

And "quality of life issues directly impact on our warfighting capability.

"Despite last year's pay increases, almost \$400,000 was received in food stamps at Marine Corps commissaries," said Sommers. "We can only speculate on how much Marines spent off base in food stamps or even more importantly, how many were eligible for the assistance, but were too proud to ask for it."

Bonuses sought to keep aviators flying in military

by Jim Garamone

WASHINGTON (AFIS) -- The Department of Defense is asking Congress to raise the bonuses paid to keep aviators in service.

David J. Armor, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for force management and personnel, told the House Armed Services Committee that a raise in the retention bonus paid to aviators is necessary.

Under the proposal, the bonus paid to aviators would go from \$12,000 a year to \$20,000. In addition, Armor requested authority for DoD to pay bonuses for longer periods of time. Currently, they stop at 14 years. The Aviation Career Incentive Pay program would remain the same.

Not all services are experiencing shortages in pilots. The Army and Marine Corps have enough. The Navy and Air Force are short 1,500 and 1,300 pilots, respectively.

DoD officials said bonuses to aviators will become more important as commercial airlines hire more pilots in the future. "The current

retention challenge has its roots in the hiring patterns of the airline industry," Armor said. "In the 1960s, public air travel and hiring surged. Those pilots are now retiring—these losses, coupled with 6 percent annual industry growth, are combining to produce an extraordinary demand for experienced pilots."

He said the airlines will probably hire about 6,000 pilots a year through the 1990s.

The attraction is pay. "There is more money to be made with the airlines—up to \$1 million more in lifetime earnings—than would be possible through a career in the armed forces," Armor said.

He said that the \$20,000 bonus ceiling is not needed now, but that as the value of the current \$12,000 bonus erodes, DoD will need to meet the challenge.

However, pay is not the only facet DoD is looking at. Officials said other programs are showing promise in making sure aviators are being employed usefully. Armor said that 80 percent of all aviators are in flying billets, joint positions and other billets at or below wing level.

Another 10 percent are in schools, in transit or non-flying aviator billets above wing level. The last 10 percent are in professional development non-aviator billets.

Both the Air Force and Navy have implemented new specialties that allow non-flying personnel to specialize in air operations. Previously, only rated (flying) officers could hold these jobs.

Other areas influencing retention—such as more support in relocations, including spouse employment, longer tours and greater assignment flexibility—are being dealt with. Pay

will continue to be the most important factor in retaining mid-level aviators.

"Given the extraordinary cost of training pilots and the performance consequences of any reduction in the experience level in the cockpit, the department believes that the proposed increase in bonus authority is a cost-effective solution to the challenges that lie ahead," Armor said. "If this particular retention problem is not checked, the safety, the performance and, in turn, the operational readiness of the squadrons will deteriorate."

Agent Orange

\$50,000 grant awarded to Viet vets

NEW YORK (AP) -- A \$50,000 grant from the Agent Orange settlement fund was awarded last week to a legal services group to assist Vietnam veterans seeking Agent Orange health benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A federal judge in San Francisco last week ordered the government to reconsider claims by more than 34,000 veterans and the VA decided against appealing his ruling.

The grant comes from the settlement fund of a separate suit in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn brought by veterans against the companies that manufactured Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the United States in Vietnam.

The money was awarded to the National Veterans Legal Services Project in Washington, which will represent veterans' interests in the reformulating of VA rules on disability compensation for illnesses associated with Agent Orange.

The grant was approved by U.S. District Judge Jack B. Weinstein, who presided over the Brooklyn case.

"I think I am echoing the sentiments of the judge when I say the recent court ruling has required a response by the Class Assistance

Program in investing settlement funds to insure that Vietnam Veterans and their families are well served by the government," said Dennis Rhoades, the executive director of the Agent Orange Class Assistance Program.

The grant also will provide for an outreach program to veterans claims representatives across the country about the new Agent Orange rules and advice as to how to redevelop claims in light of the changes.

The chemical company suit was settled in 1984 for \$180 million. The fund has grown to \$240 million through interest. A large portion of the settlement has been designated for direct payments to totally disabled veterans and families of veterans who have died.

In the San Francisco suit, which was brought on behalf of Agent Orange claimants, U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson said the VA wrongly required proof that Agent Orange caused various diseases in denying most claims for benefits related to the herbicide.

Veterans claim that exposure to Agent Orange has caused cancer and other illnesses.

Pentagon procurement proposal seen as 'last chance opportunity'

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Bush faces a "last chance opportunity" to reform Pentagon procurement, according to two congressmen who recommend reinforcing the authority of an acquisition czar and simplification of current regulations.

Reps. Les Aspin, D-Wis., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, and Nicholas Mavroules, D-Mass., chairman of the panel's subcommittee on investigations, also suggested a system of rational tradeoffs between military requirements, cost and performance, and training for procurement personnel without

reliance on outside consultants.

"If reform is to occur, the implementation must be specific and measured, and not simply the expression of a philosophical statement," the congressmen said in a four-page letter to Bush.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney will be submitting to the president sometime soon a defense management review, which will include proposals based on the 1986 Packard Commission report, the lawmakers said.

Last summer, allegations of fraud and corruption in the procurement process rocked the Pentagon.

sports

Pistons win Eastern Conference

CHICAGO (AP) -- Isiah Thomas scored 17 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and Detroit's depth and defense again proved too much for the Chicago Bulls as the Pistons won the Eastern Conference finals, 4-2 with a 103-94 victory Friday night.

The Pistons, who haven't allowed 100 points in 15 games, including 13 straight in the playoffs, won the final three games of the best-of-7 series. They fell behind 2-1 when Michael Jordan scored 46 points and led a fourth-quarter Bulls comeback in Game 3.

Jordan scored 32 in the finale after being held to 23 and 18 in the fourth and fifth games. But the Bulls had to play all but the first minute without starting forward Scottie Pippen, who was hospitalized after being knocked out when he was hit in the eye by Bill Laimbeer's elbow.

Detroit reached the NBA Finals

for the second straight season after failing to make it for 30 years. The championship series starts Tuesday night at the Palace at Auburn Hills, Mich.

The Pistons once again will face the Los Angeles Lakers, who came back from a 3-2 deficit last year to win their fifth championship in the 1980s.

Chicago trailed 79-69 in the first minute of the fourth quarter before rallying with a 10-2 spurt.

Jordan started the run with two baskets in five seconds. After a jumper by Thomas, John Paxson hit a 3-pointer, a free throw and a long jumper, cutting the deficit to 81-79.

Thomas then scored 10 points in a span of four minutes as the Pistons rebuilt their margin to 94-84 with 4:40 remaining.

The Pistons took the lead for good in the third quarter as centers Laimbeer and James Edwards

combined for 15 points in the period.

Laimbeer, averaging 7.0 in the series, scored nine points in the first 5:43 of the period as the Pistons opened a 66-59 advantage. Six points in less than a minute by Edwards helped the Pistons extend the margin to 74-65 before they settled for a 77-69 lead going into the final 12 minutes.

The Lakers are 11-0 in the playoffs this season, but the Pistons' 63-19 regular-season record gives them four scheduled home games in the Finals. Los Angeles was 57-24.

Chicago found inspiration after Pippen was knocked out as his replacement, Brad Sellers, scored eight points and Jordan 12 during a 26-12 spurt that gave the Bulls a 26-14 lead with 2:36 left in the first period. Sellers went into the game averaging only 3.2 points during the playoffs.

Standings & Stats

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	29	22	.569	-
Cleveland	26	27	.491	3
Boston	24	26	.480	4 1/2
Milwaukee	24	29	.453	6
New York	24	29	.453	6
Detroit	22	31	.415	8
Toronto	22	31	.415	8
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	34	18	.654	-
Oakland	35	19	.648	-
Kansas City	31	22	.585	3 1/2
Texas	29	23	.558	5
Minnesota	25	28	.472	9 1/2
Seattle	26	30	.464	10
Chicago	19	35	.352	16
BATTING				
	AVG.			
Lansford, Oak	.356			
Palmeiro, Tex	.347			
Steinbach, Oak	.342			
Baines, Chi	.330			
Puckett, Minn	.325			
HOME RUNS				
Tettleton, Balt	13			
Whitaker, Det	13			
Deer, Mil	12			
Jackson, KC	12			
McGriff, Tor	12			
Leonard, Sea	11			
RUNS BATTED IN				
Franco, Tex	46			
Leonard, Sea	42			
Sierra, Tex	39			
Carter, Clev	35			
Jackson, KC	35			

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	29	23	.558	-
Montreal	29	25	.537	1
New York	27	24	.529	1 1/2
St. Louis	24	26	.480	4
Pittsburgh	21	30	.412	7 1/2
Philadelphia	18	33	.353	10 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	31	22	.585	-
Cincinnati	29	22	.569	1
Houston	30	24	.556	1 1/2
San Diego	29	27	.518	3 1/2
Los Angeles	25	27	.481	5 1/2
Atlanta	22	31	.415	9
BATTING				
	AVG.			
Clark, SF	.358			
Larkin, Cin	.343			
Gwynn, SD	.326			
L. Smith, Atl	.324			
Hayes, Phil	.317			
Grace, Chi	.314			
HOME RUNS				
Mitchell, SF	18			
Davis, Hou	13			
Strawberry, NY	12			
Johnson, NY	11			
Clark, SF	10			
Davis, Cin	9			
RUNS BATTED IN				
Mitchell, SF	53			
Clark, SF	43			
Davis, Cin	37			
Guerrero, StL	37			
Davis, Hou	35			
Galarraga, Mtl	35			
Hayes, Phil	33			
Murray, LA	33			
O'Neill, Cin	33			

Duran wants bout with Sugar Ray

by Sarlos Nina Gomez

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (UPI) -- Panamanian middleweight champion Roberto Duran Friday said he will fight Sugar Ray Leonard this year to prove "that I am more man than he is."

First, Leonard must defeat Thomas Hearns June 12 in their World Boxing Council super middleweight title bout in Las Vegas, Nev. Leonard holds the WBC's super middleweight title and Duran is the WBC middleweight champion. The two split a pair of 1980 bouts for the WBC welterweight title.

Duran is supposed to meet the Leonard-Hearns winner, but said he prefers to fight Leonard.

"Although I will fight against anybody, the person I really want to fight is Leonard, because I want to prove that I am a better boxer ... that I am more man than he is," Duran said on the local television show "Rahintel."

Duran won his fourth title when he scored an upset 12-round decision over Iran Barkley Feb. 24. That put him in position to challenge Leonard again, to try and avenge his "No mas" loss of nearly nine years ago.

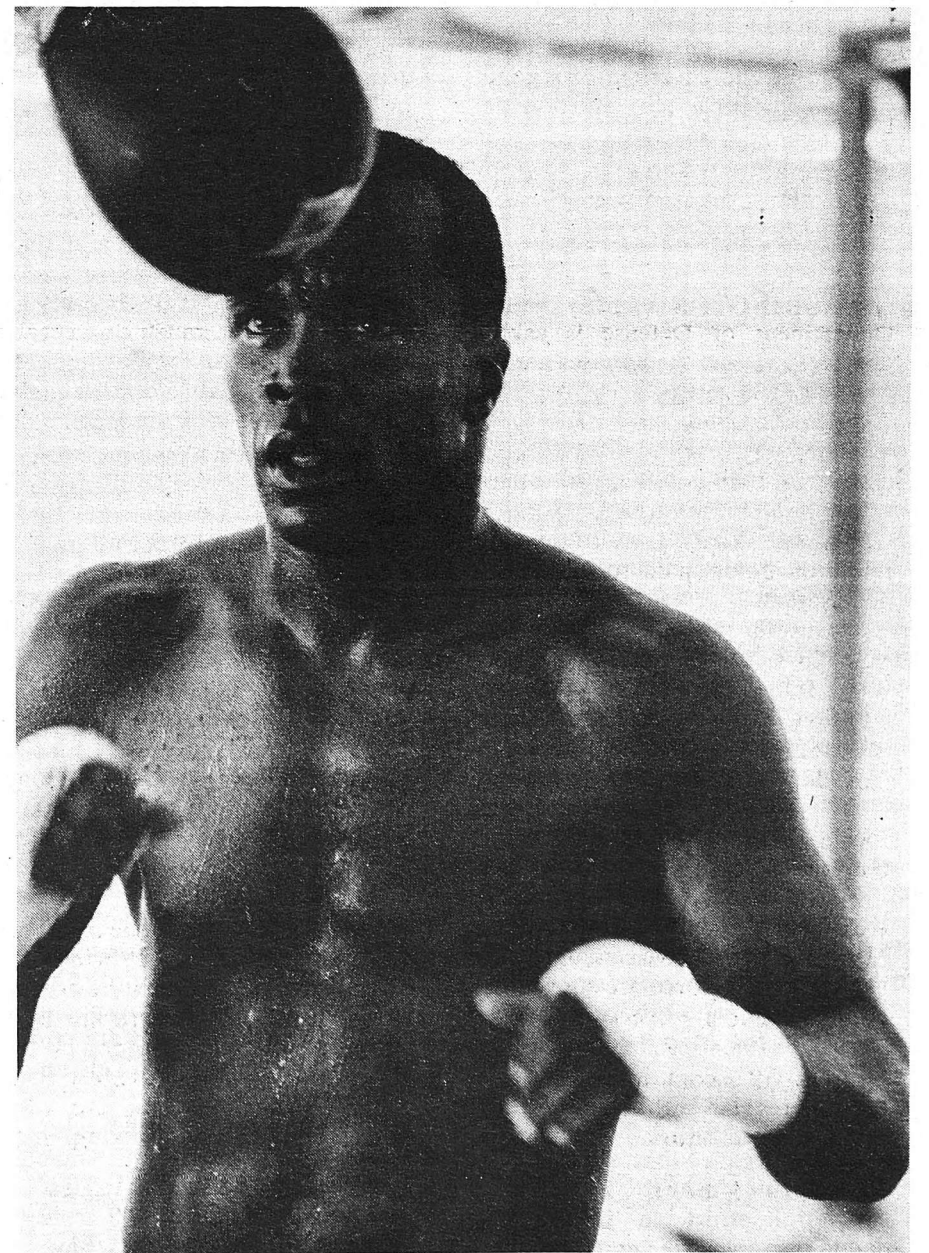
Duran, 37 said he will begin training after the Leonard-Hearns bout.

"When the results of that fight are known, we will prepare for the third Leonard-Duran fight," he said, adding that "I am not going back to boxing for the money."

"If I decided to return to boxing, it was in order to demonstrate that I am still in optimum condition and, therefore, I want to keep racking up victories," he said. "I am prepared to face Leonard again."

Duran does owe the IRS \$1.54 million, however, because he cashed checks the IRS mistakenly sent him.

Duran handed Leonard his only pro defeat June 20, 1980, taking the WBC welterweight title on a 15-round decision. But in the eighth round of a Nov. 25 rematch, Duran waived his hand and uttered "No mas," in frustration and quit - giving the title back to Leonard. The loss stunned Duran's fans, many of whom idolized the man called "Hands of Stone" in his native Panama.



At his training camp at the PGA Sheraton Resort in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Sugar Ray Leonard works out on the speed bag. Leonard is training for his WBC Super Middleweight fight with Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns. Billed as the "War," the two are scheduled to fight June 22, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nev. (Photo by Grover Matheny)

Soviets want '98 winter games

MOSCOW (AP) -- Two Caucasus Mountains ski resorts and a Central Asian city are vying for the opportunity to play host to the 1998 Winter Olympics, the newspaper Soviety Sport said.

Bakuriani, a ski resort in Soviet Georgia, is bidding as a team with Tbilisi, the Georgian capital 111 miles to the east. Krasnaya Polyana, a mountain town near the Black Sea resort of Sochi is the second

Caucasus ski area trying to become the first Soviet host of the Winter Games.

Alma-Ata, the capital of Kazakhstan, is also on the list, Soviety Sport said.

The article focused on Bakuriani, noting that it is located 17 miles from the spa town Borzhomi, which has sanatoriums that can house 30,000 to 35,000 Olympic fans.

Blood, martial law mark Beijing protest

by Mark S. Del Vecchio

BEIJING (UPI) — In its first statement on the bloody military crackdown across Beijing, the government early Sunday branded the student-led pro-democracy movement a "counter-revolutionary rebellion" trying to overthrow the government and the socialist system.

An official statement, issued by the Beijing Government Martial Law Headquarters, was broadcast over local television at the height of savage street clashes between tens of thousands of citizens and thousands of heavily armed troops supported by tanks and armored personnel carriers.

"Tonight a serious counter-revolutionary rebellion took place. Thugs frenziedly attacked People's Liberation Army troops, seizing weapons, erecting barricades, beating soldiers and officers in an attempt to overthrow the government of the People's Republic of China," said the statement read by a Beijing Television announcer.

The announcer said the troops of one of the world's largest armies had shown patience since they were halted outside Beijing by citizens who manned makeshift barricades since May 20, when Premier Li Peng declared martial law in parts of the city in a bid to end the occupation of Tiananmen Square by students

demanding more freedom.

"For many days, the People's Liberation Army has exercised restraint and now must resolutely counteract the rebellion. All those who refuse to listen to reason must take full responsibility for their actions and their consequences," the statement read.

After reading the statement, the announcer presented a news bulletin that said "thousands" of armed police and soldiers had been injured and an unspecified number killed.

It also said an unspecified number of people involved in the "confrontations" were killed and injured.

Elaborating on the decision to unleash troops and tanks against people armed only with whatever they could pick up, an editorial in the People's Liberation Army Daily newspaper said the military moved to crush "a handful of desperate ruffians" who "stopped military vehicles without paying attention to the law and damaged more than 100."

"They robbed arms and ammunition, jammed into the Ministry of radio and Television compound and smashed windows and doors of the Great Hall of the People," said the editorial, which was read on national television Sunday.

"More than 1,000 PLA men were injured," it continued.

"In order to protect people's interests, life and property and to enforce martial law, the PLA was forced to take stern measures and severely punish the small group of ruffians and clean up (Tiananmen) square," the editorial said. "All the measures the PLA took are legal."

Departing from normal practice, Beijing Television stayed on all night, repeatedly broadcasting the statement by the martial law headquarters.

In between, it aired soothing music videos featuring scenes of natural beauty and historic interest from around China, including central

Tiananmen Square during more peaceful times.

Central Chinese Television repeated the official version of the night-long mayhem in a Sunday morning broadcast.

It also revealed the deaths of three soldiers, saying one of the bodies was hung from a traffic overpass at the

western side of the capital.

But halfway through regular news items, the sound of the broadcaster's voice went silent and viewers saw only a Chinese-character headline on the screen.

"Martial law troops put down a counter-revolutionary rebellion and entered Tiananmen Square," it read.



ON STRIKE — Beijing university students relax in Tiananmen Square while on a hunger strike protesting government restrictions on freedoms. (AP Laserphoto)

Panama names new ambassador to the OAS

PANAMA CITY, Panama (UPI) — Panama appointed a new ambassador to the Organization of American States Thursday while accusing the United States of pressuring other OAS members into taking up its case against the nation's de facto leader, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

"It's no secret to anybody that U.S. aggression has now re-emerged through the OAS," Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter said. "What comes next will be the hardest fight, the longest battle."

Ritter named Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Cabrera to replace former OAS Ambassador Aquilino Boyd, who ran for vice-president in the May 7 national elections.

The OAS is scheduled to hear a report Tuesday from a four-man negotiating team that visited Panama this month in an unsuccessful effort to initiate dialogue among the country's leaders.

While pro-government political parties are still jockeying for control following the country's annulled May 7 election, a hard-line attitude seemed to be emerging among the military with regard to a negotiated settlement.

A close adviser to Noriega warned Wednesday that if Panamanian political parties cannot negotiate a settlement by Sept. 1, a "military board of resistance" could be named to lead Panama's government.

Government leaders have stepped up anti-U.S. rhetoric since President Bush sent 2,000 U.S. troops to Panama after the election and its violent aftermath.

Khomeini dies

Continued from Page 1

a responsible role in the international community."

In Baghdad, the Mojahedin Khalq organization, an Iranian political group in bitter opposition to Khomeini since 1981, called on the Iranian people to help the Iraq-based National Liberation Army of Iran to "move in" against the Tehran government.

The NLAI, an Iraq-based rebel army, is the Mojahedin Khalq's military wing and was estimated last year to number some 25,000 male and female troops. Its ranks have reportedly swollen since the Aug. 20 Iran-Iraq cease-fire.

Diplomats based in the Persian Gulf said machine-gun toting troops loyal to Khomeini and his son have been spotted on street corners in Tehran and in other major Iranian cities since the announcement of the Ayatollah's death.

The grand Ayatollah Shah-abuddin Marashi-Najafi, in a statement issued in the holy city of Qom, some 75 miles south of Tehran, urged the Iranian people to remain calm.

In Paris, former President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr said he expected civil war to break out in Iran and urged the Iranian armed forces not to stand against the people and protect the borders, broadcasts monitored in

Beirut said.

Diplomats said the Iranian government appeared to have cut the nation's telephone communications to keep opposition leaders in exile from their contacts in Iran.

Saturday, the state-run media had said Khomeini's health was deteriorating and urged Iranians to pray for his recovery. Since Khomeini's emergency surgery, Iran's official media had broadcast regular bulletins on the Iranian leader's health.

Tehran Radio previously said

Man, wheelchair fall from drawbridge

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A man in a wheelchair found himself caught in the middle of a drawbridge while it was raised, forcing him to hang by his fingertips as his chair plunged into the water, witnesses and authorities said.

Charles Hisoire, 38, grabbed the edge of the bridge and hung over the Intracoastal Waterway for about two minutes before he was rescued by a man riding his bicycle home.

"I went running like crazy," said the rescuer, Marek Dabrowski, 46, who added that at first he thought the man had fallen into the water.

Hisoire said he heard the drawbridge bell ring but was

distracted because he had been talking with a fisherman. He had almost made it to the center of the span when the tender began raising the middle bridge, a police report said.

The tender, Thomas Goss, said he checked the bridge before raising it and did not see anyone. An 8-foot sign may have partially blocked his view, police said.

"I never saw that man before in my life until that bridge was closed," Goss said.

Hisoire, who was paralyzed from the waist down in January after he fell from a wall onto a concrete walk.