Envoy Escapes Shootout in San Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (UPI) — Five men firing submachine guns attempted to assassinate the Guatemalan ambassador in downtown San Salvador Tuesday, butthe ambassador and his bodyguard repelled them in a 15-minute shootout, the Guatemalan Embassy said.

Ambassador Carlos Lemus Gallardo, 51, said he was driving toward the Guatemalan Embassy with his bodyguard in a blue Ford Granada when a brown pickup truck blocked the path of his car and five men wielding submachine guns jumped out of the truck and started shooting.

Return Fire

Lemus, who been Buatemala's ambassador to El Savador for 3½ years, said he and his bodyguard returned the fire with .45 caliber submachine guns in a shootout that went on for 15 minutes before the gunmen fled.

Lemus, who was wearing a bullet-proof jacket, said he counted at least 30 bullet holes in the late model sedan. He was taken to a military hospital for treatment of shock and a superficial cut on his right arm from flying glass. The bodyguard was not hurt.

Earlier Tuesday 16 bomb explosions and sporadic gunfire ripped through San Salvador and the government sent troop reinforcements into the streets in anticipation of new violence on the 10th anniversary of the nation's leading leftist guerrilla group. No injuries were reported.

Named for Leader

The group, whose full title is the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces, was fou...ded April 1, 1970 by the outlawed Communist Party. It takes its name from the leftist leader who in 1932 led a failed revolt by the poor that left some 30,000 people dead.

An anonymous telephone caller claiming to be a member of the Peoples' Revolutionary Army said his guerrilla "comrades" planted the bombs to protest violence that exploded at the funeral Sunday for assassinated Archbishop Oscar A. Romero.

Drifter Admits Killing 55 Girls

QUITO, Ecuador (UPI) — A 31-year-old Colombian drifter has confessed he sexually attacked and then killed at least 55 girls between the ages of 9 and 14 during the past seven years, Ecuadorian police said Tuesday.

Police said the accused killer, Alonso Lopez, took them on a tour of cities and towns across a wide area of Ecuador where he had killed the girls while working at odd jobs.

If convicted, Lopez would rank as one of the biggest mass murderers in Latin American history, but under Ecuadorean law he is expected to be prosecuted only for the first crime discovered.

Lopez was arrested Feb. 9 in Ambato, a city in Ecuador's central highlands, when two people saw him trying to lure a small girl away from an outdoor market.

Lures Girls

After being jailed, police said the mild-mannered drifter confessed that he had lured scores of girls to lonely areas with promises of money or candy, had sexually abused them, and then killed them by strangling.

Lopez, who arrived in Ecuador from neighboring Colombia seven years ago, told police he had committed similar crimes in his native country and in Peru, which also borders Ecuador.

Police said that during the first five days following his arrest, Lopez had led them to the bodies of four girls in the Ambato area. All were buried in shallow graves or simply dragged out of sight and covered with rubbish.

The search for bodies ended Tuesday, but police said there were apparently more victims. In several cases, Lopez was not able to remember where the bodies were and apologized to police for being unable to locate them.

Discover Bodies

Bodies were discovered all the way from the city of Cuenca in the south to Imbabura near the Colombian border in the north. The greatest number, 16, were found around Quito, with others in Riobamba in central Ecuador and in the coastal provinces of Manabi and Esmeraldas.



—Associated Press Laserphoto

Pigeons eat food in London's Trafalgar Square. Litter like cotton or string can trap and cut pigeon's toes, feet and is endangering future of birds in the square.

No More Pigeons? It's Horrifying

By Nikki Finke
Associated Press Writer

LONDON -- Could the day be coming when Trafalgar Square has no pigeons? Could be, bird experts say, and the reason is that a "horrifying" proportion of London's pigeon population is now waddling around toeless.

Pigeons are the latest victims of man's nasty habit of littering. Discarded cotton or nylon string can trap and cut a pigeon's tender toes and feet.

"Everywhere that pigeons feed in inner London, one sees some nursing swollen and suppurating feet," wrote pigeon expert Derek Goodwin in the spring issue of "Birds," a quarterly magazine published by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

"Others have lost several toes, or even one or both feet," said Goodwin, an ornithologist at the British National History Museum.

"No pigeon ever appears able to cope with the hazards presented by tangles of thread, cotton, wool and nylon fishing line freely thrown down on stations, in gutters and in parks," Goodwin said.

Ten percent of London's pigeons have deformed feet, said Eric Simms, author of the book, "The Public Life of the Street Pigeon." The vast majority have missing toes, but some are lame and a few are even legless, he said.

"One bird I saw had thread around both legs so that the unfortunate bird was forced to hop," Simms said.

But does man really care about the pigeon?

"Pigeons really do have a public relations problem. People put them in the same category as stray dogs — they're a pest."

No one knows how many street pigeons there are in the world, but Simms puts the figure at close to 500 million.

Technically, there is no difference between a pigeon and a dove. The word pigeon is of French origin, while dove comes from the old English "Duve."

Bogota Guerrillas Vow Hold Out

Reuter News Agency

BOGOTA — Guerrillas who have kept 27 diplomatic hostages prisoner in the Dominican Republic Embassy for the past five weeks said Tuesday that they were prepared to hold out for another two or three months to win their demands.

"I don't believe the government can hold out this long," the leader of the leftwing guerrilla group M-19 was quoted by the daily newspaper El Espectador as saying.

The guerrilla leader, known as Comandante Uno, said because of government intransigence, the guerrillas were reverting to their original demand for release of 311 leftist prisoners and a $50 million ransom.

The guerrillas stormed the embassy during a Feb. 27 diplomatic reception taking 56 hostages. They have freed 28 of their prisoners and one escaped. Those still held include 11 ambassadors, including Diego Asencio of the United States.

Colombian government officials held an eighth private negotiating session with the guerrillas Tuesday and government sources said later that the two sides would hold a ninth round of talks Wednesday afternoon.

It was announced officially Tuesday night that at Tuesday's meeting the Colombian government gave a woman representative of the guerrillas a written statement on its position.

The guerrillas under their leader, Comandante Uno, had dropped their demands to $10 million and the release of the 70 left-wing prisoners.

Iraq Official Escapes Death Try

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Vice Premier Tareq Aziz escaped an attempt on his life Tuesday by a man of Iranian origin, the Iraqi news agency reported. The assailant was killed, it said.

The agency said the attacker, identified as Samir Noor Ali, tossed a hand grenade at a student rally at Baghdad's Mustanseriah University.

Aziz was slightly injured in the leg. He was taked to a hospital for treatment and discharged later, the agency said.

Liquor Output

PEKING (AP) — China's production of wine, spirits and beer topped three million tons in 1979, up 23.3 percent from the previous year, the official Xinhua news agency reported Tuesday.

Cult Member Pleads Guilty to Slaying Try

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A former Peoples Temple member pleaded guilty Tuesday to attempted murder and a second cult member won a trial delay in connection with the 1978 mass suicide-murder at Jonestown.

Charles Beikman, 44, who entered the guilty plea, and Larry Layton, 33, who won the postponement, were the only two people charged in the bizarre tragedy that claimed the lives of more than 900 people at the cult's Jonestown community Nov. 18, 1978.

Beikman, a cook and shoemaker for the Jonestown community, said he was guilty of the attempted murder of Stephanie Jones, 9, not related to cult leader Jim Jones. She survived although her throat was cut at the scene of the murder of Linda Sharon Amos, 42, a Peoples Temple spokeswoman, and her three children at the cult's Georgetown headquarters on the night of the mass suicide-murder.

Kuwait Reduces Its Sales of Oil

Reuter News Agency

KUWAIT — Kuwait announced Tuesday an immediate 75 percent cut in the volume of oil it sells on contract to three major Western buyers, British Petroleum (BP), Gulf Oil of the United States and Royal Dutch Shell.

Oil industry analysts in London said the cut to 1.5 million barrels from two million which Kuwait put into effect was part of a policy by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to favor smaller independent companies over the near-monopolistic major oil firms.

The Kuwaiti cut was the biggest made by an OPEC member. Venezuela was cutting Tuesday to two million barrels a day from 2.17 and Libya to about 1.7 million from two million. With the Kuwaiti cut, therefore, and smaller reductions by other members, OPEC's daily output fell from Tuesday by about one million barrels.

The Kuwait reduction means that at present it is pumping out slightly less oil than Britain gets from the North Sea.

A Kuwait Oil Ministry spokesman, confirming the cut, said BP, Gulf and Shell would be able to buy a total of only 325,000 barrels of oil a day under new contracts, compared with 1.31 million barrels under previous agreements.

The Kuwaiti spokesman said under the new contracts, BP would take 75,000 barrels of oil a day, plus an extra 75,000 barrels during the first year.

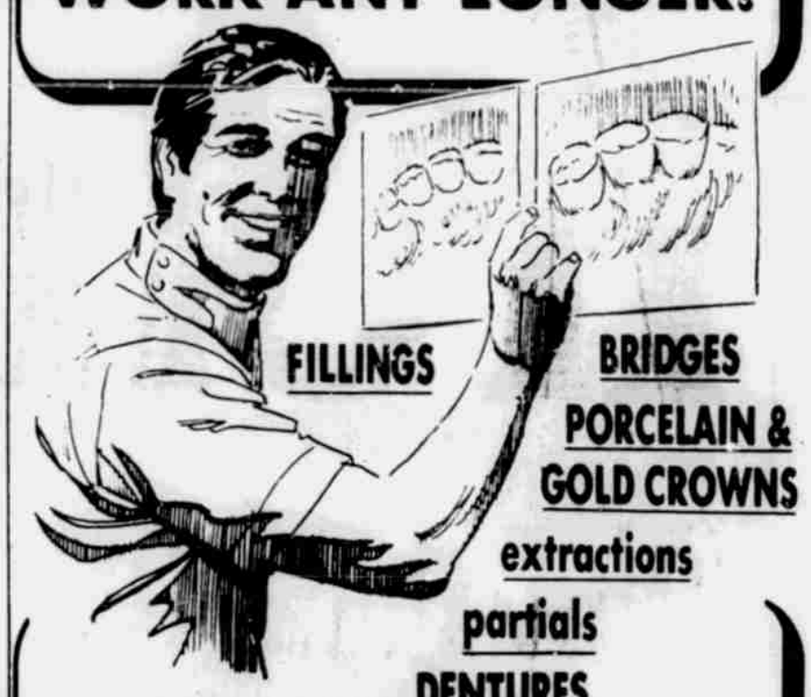
Soviets Peril To Detente Korean Says

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Tong Jin Park said Tuesday the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan could damage detente in Europe.

"A small country like Afghanistan bordering agreat power has been placed under very strong pressure from its great neighbor. This development has created an atmosphere where even detente in Europe might get reversed," Park told reporters.

Park, here on a two-day visit, said he agreed with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that "all efforts should be made to find a solution to the Afghanistan question by all concerned parties by applying their sense of realism." The Kremlin poured tens of thousans of troops into Afghanistan in Late December.

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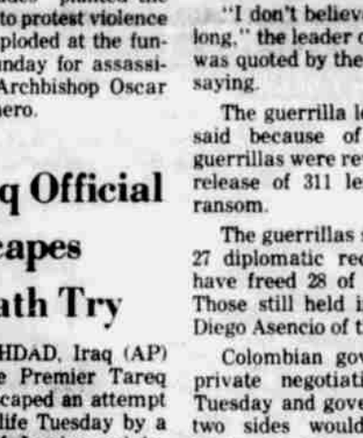
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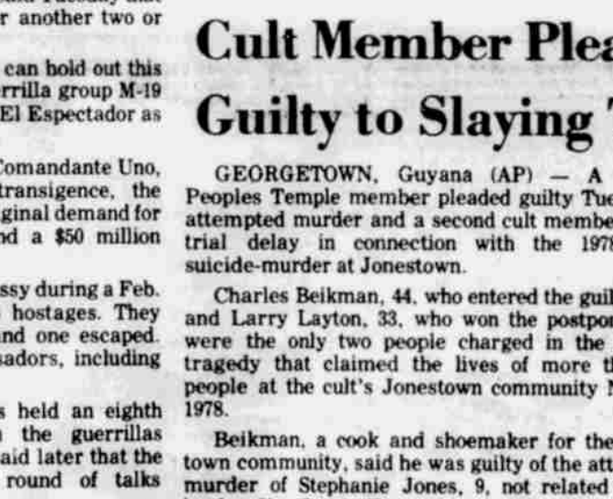


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