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Calls dismissed, then it sets conditions

VIETNAM SAYS 'NO' BUT...

Setback for bid to lift DC-10 ban

WASHINGTON, Wednesday

EFFORTS to lift the ban on DC-10 flights in the United States were undermined today by an announcement that flaws had turned up in the engine mountings of nine more aircraft.

Inspectors discovered the faults during checks ordered by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after the Chicago DC-10 disaster last month in which 275 people died, the FAA announced.

Earlier, the DC-10's builders, McDonnell Douglas, called on the House of Representatives to end the ban on US DC-10 flights.

McDonnell Douglas official John Britzentine told a house committee that structural faults had not caused the Chicago disaster, the worst in US aviation history.

He dismissed recent criticism of the aircraft as absurd and irresponsible.

No precedent
Another McDonnell Douglas appeal against the FAA grounding will be heard on Monday by the National Transport Security Council in Los Angeles.

The decision by most European airlines to resume DC-10 flights was dismissed today as "an irresponsible act without precedent in aviation history" by the US Airline Passengers Association.

An FAA spokesman said any airline resuming DC-10 operations could, under international aviation agreements, overfly the United States, but not land there.

Hundreds of travellers flew to Israel and Spanish Mediterranean resorts yesterday aboard European-based DC-10s.

No decision
Others are to take European DC-10s to Asia, Africa and South America over the next few days.

In TOKYO, the Transport Ministry said Japan would not permit DC-10 flights to resume until the FAA rescinded its grounding order. — AFP, AP, Reuters.

In SINGAPORE, an SIA spokesman said no decision as yet has been made by Singapore authorities to resume DC-10 flights.

A Department of Civil Aviation spokesman said that no application has been received by airline operating here to allow their DC-10s to land at Paya Lebar airport.

Swissair said on Tuesday that it had made such an application.
SEE PAGE 1

Return to the fold?

LONDON, Wed. — Pakistan is prepared to rejoin the Commonwealth, its head of state, Gen Zia Ul Haq, has affirmed in an interview broadcast today by the BBC.

Pakistan left the Commonwealth in 1972 on the decision of former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, to protest Britain's support for India in the Bangladesh independence war. — AFP.

Surgery for parted twins

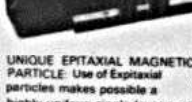
SALT LAKE CITY, Wed. — Siamese twins Eliza and Lisa Hansen, separated in a pioneering operation here last month, underwent plastic surgery at the University of Utah Medical Center.

Hospital spokesman John Dwan said yesterday's operation would help to cover the girls' skulls where they were joined for the first 19 months of their lives. — Reuters.

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1.5 MILLION to stage walkout in Australia

POLICIES that don't and won't work

IRAN hints it may end pact with US and Russia

CHINESE and Thibetans in flare-up

PUB tells commercial sector: Think again

LOH tried to scrape blood off knife but changed his mind, said tells inquiry

NEW lifestyles blamed for wayward kids

Causeway

CROSSWORD

COMICS

EDITORIAL PAGE

CITY DESK

CLASSIFIEDS FOR TOURISTS

CLASSIFIEDS

SPORTS

UNITED NATIONS, Wednesday

VIETNAM TODAY rejected calls to take part in a proposed international conference on Indochinese refugees, dismissing it as "useless and unnecessary," but later issued conditions for its representation at such talks.

United Nations Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim was seeking Hanoi's views on a refugee conference proposed by British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher and backed by a growing number of countries including the United States.

Problem identified

Under the proposal, the focus of the conference will be identifying Vietnam as the cause of the refugee problem and stopping the flow of refugees as a first step towards solving the overall refugee problem.

Vietnamese sources here quoted Hanoi's UN representative as telling Dr Waldheim that such a conference was "useless and unnecessary."

This rejection was reinforced by Radio Hanoi later today when it said such a conference "could only hamper efforts by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)."

It said Hanoi will attend a conference only if it was held under UNCHR auspices and attended by countries directly concerned.

'WEAPON THEY USED TO OVERWHELM THE CITIES'

LONDON, Wed. — Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew has said that the present outflow of refugees from Vietnam was "the method, the technique, the political weapon which the guerrillas used to overwhelm the cities of South Vietnam and Kampuchea a few years ago," according to the Guardian today.

The paper published excerpts from what it said was a memorandum by Mr Lee summarising his views on the refugee crisis.

The memorandum, believed to have been given to British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher, added: "Now, in a different way but, I suspect with no different intentions, these present refugees are being pushed out into the neighbouring countries of South-east Asia, putting pressure on the social infrastructure and the political fabric of these societies." — UPI.

Latest call

This, observers said, would not include the Western countries but meant South-east Asian nations now bearing the brunt of the refugee problem.

Radio Hanoi added that the government will only attend a conference which discusses the implementation of a seven-point refugee programme reached between the UNHCR and Vietnam on June 2.

Significantly, this programme does not touch at all on stopping the flow of Indochinese refugees but merely on regulating the exodus and does not even identify Vietnam as the source of the problem.

It is precisely because the volume of human traffic coming out of Vietnam has surpassed the capacity of resettlement countries to absorb them that the latest call for a conference to plug the flow was made.

A UN source said that Dr Waldheim, who will most probably convene the conference, could make an announcement
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8 MPs break off from Muzorewa's party

SALISBURY, Wed. — Eight Members of Parliament from Prime Minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) have broken with their leader and formed a rival party under the leadership of UANC first vice president James Chikerema.

The new group is called the Zimbabwe Democratic Party and was launched at a news conference here today. Mr Chikerema sat silent throughout the conference, leaving the inaugural statement and questions to another Member of Parliament, Mr Isaac Zuhwara.

Mr Zuhwara attacked the UANC leadership and accused it of being autocratic. He said the eight MPs forming the nucleus of the ZDP had resigned from the UANC and had asked Mr Chikerema to be the interim leader until a party congress could be held.

Mr Zuhwara said the eight MPs would keep their Parliamentary seats and form an opposition group to Bishop Muzorewa's government. — AFP.

ATTACK BID ON SUMMIT VENUE

A STOLEN truck (arrowed) driven by Japanese radicals rammed a police cordon and burst into flames in Tokyo on Tuesday just below the summit on June 25.

Japanese leftists view the summit as a gathering of imperialists while rightwingers see it as a plot by victorious World War II nations to re-dominate Japan.

Because of possible attacks, Tokyo police have been placed on its tightest peace-time security to thwart possible attempts to sabotage the summit. About 25,000 police have been deployed at various strategic points in Tokyo where leaders of the seven nations will visit. — UPI picture.

August talks

BEIJING (PEKING), Wed. — China and the Soviet Union are expected to start negotiations in Moscow in August at vice-foreign minister level with the aim of normalising their long-strained relations, diplomatic sources said yesterday. — Reuters.

Cut in Aussie, Asean and HK air fares

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Air fares between Australia, Hongkong and the Asean countries are to be cut following an agreement reached between the airlines at a two-day meeting here, airline officials said.

The meeting ended at about midnight last night. The officials said Asean airlines, Australia's Qantas and Hongkong's Cathay Pacific agreed on low fares for special advance purchase excursion and group inclusive tours.

The advance purchase excursion is for individual travellers and the group inclusive tour is for groups travelling between the Asean countries, Australia and Hongkong, they said.

VIET FORCE MOVING TOWARDS BORDER

Thailand orders military alert

BANGKOK, Wednesday

MORE than 10,000 Vietnamese troops backed by tanks and artillery were reported today advancing towards the Thai border where Khmer Rouge soldiers and civilians have fled the war in Kampuchea, Thai military sources said.

Thai commanders immediately ordered troops on alert and sent armoured reinforcements to two threatened areas, the sources said.

It is feared the Vietnamese are planning an incursion to clean out more than 40,000 Khmer Rouge soldiers and civilians camped in the border area, they said.

One high-ranking source said any incursion by the Vietnamese, even if only aimed at the Khmer Rouge, would be resisted by Thai Force.

"We will fight to protect our territorial integrity," he said.

Mr Lee gets briefing from Mrs T

By SEAH CHIANG NEE
—Straits Times Foreign Editor
LONDON, Wed.

BRITISH Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher today explained to Mr Lee Kuan Yew about her government's new policies to navigate the country to a new economic direction and play a more active role in international affairs.

The two leaders met for an hour at No. 10 Downing Street at noon today before Mrs Thatcher hosted a lunch for Mr Lee and senior Singapore officials who were on the last day of their visit here.

The talks, the first Mr Lee had with Mrs Thatcher since she became Prime Minister last month, gave Mr Lee an insight into how the Tory Government is planning to go to erase some of the major policies of the former Labour Government.

New policy

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr Lim Chee Onn, NTUC's new secretary-general and political secretary for science and technology.

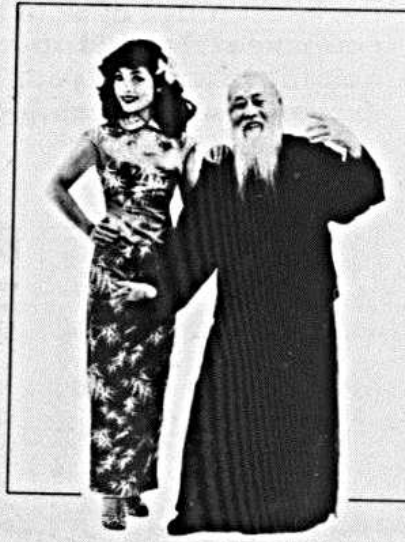
Hours before they met, some evidence of Mrs Thatcher's new economic thrust at home became known.

Her government was reported to have refused to intervene in a tender lost by British shipyards to a foreign concern to build a North Sea emergency support vessel worth about £40 million (\$184 million).

The British bid of £70 million was £30 million higher than a Finnish bid which won the contract, and the British delivery date was 13 months later than the stipulated two years scheduled for completion.

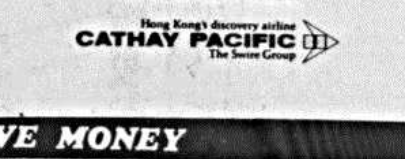
Mrs Thatcher's government refused to intervene as its Labour predecessor would have been expected to do, to prevent the order going to the Finns.

The reason given by the
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LATEST

MASS HYSTERIA AT FACTORY

AT least 20 women workers were overcome by mass hysteria last night at the Electronic Components of General Electric (USA) factory in Soon Kong Road.

Some of them were sent to hospital while others were calmed down by colleagues. A company spokesman, while confirming the mass hysterical episode, declined to give further details.

SWITCH OFF...SAVE WATTS...SAVE MONEY

SEE PAGES 2 AND 6