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Texas A&M

The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 78 No. 123 USPS 0453110 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, April 2, 1984

Mondale, Hart battle for New York primary

United Press International

NEW YORK — Walter Mondale and Gary Hart slugged it out for another hour in a televised debate Sunday as the Democratic front-runners battled for votes in the closing hours before Tuesday's key New York primary.

Mondale took the offensive in the debate, while Hart contended that New Yorkers are fed up with his constant attacks. Jesse Jackson, still trying to play peacemaker in the Democratic contest, at one point accused his rivals of ignoring him.

The ABC-Washington Post poll, which has a good track record so far in the campaign, said Sunday the former vice president has a lead in New York, where 252 national convention delegates are at stake.

The poll tracks the ups and downs of popularity over the final days before the primary.

It gave Mondale 41 percent, Hart 28 percent and Jackson 21 percent, with a margin of error of 6 percent. That would mean Mondale is moving

up, while Hart is slipping at the expense of Jackson who continues to attract a massive black vote.

But even more important than a popular vote victory in New York is the battle for delegates. The latest United Press International delegate count gives Mondale 728 of the 1,967 needed for nomination while Hart has 440 and Jackson 101. There are 325 uncommitted.

Following the debate, Mondale headed for Buffalo, the second largest pocket of Democratic votes in the state and a steel town where he is expected to do well among the heavy union and ethnic vote.

Hart went running in Central Park with supporters and scheduled a fund-raising dinner with John Denver, Hal Linden, Marlo Thomas and author Stephen King.

For the first 20 minutes of the debate on WNBC, Hart and Mondale tried to get along, but they soon started fighting again on Central America and other key issues that have made their campaign a bitter

feud in recent weeks.

Mondale complained about a Hart television advertisement "accusing me of wanting to kill people in Central America."

"When you go beyond the facts to say things of that kind, I think it is negative, it is personal, it is inaccurate, and it raises concerns that are totally unjustified," Mondale said.

Hart replied that Mondale is lashing out now that he no longer has a clear shot at the Democratic nomination.

"The fact of the matter, and Fritz knows it, is within hours if not days of our upset victory in New Hampshire ... (the Mondale campaign) went totally negative."

Mondale accused Hart of switching to favor moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem only to cater to the heavy Jewish vote in New York.

"He transferred that embassy to Jerusalem the same time he transferred his headquarters from Chicago to New York," Mondale said.



Tearful Experience

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M student Kim Manganaro is escorted to an awaiting car by Huntsville Prison personnel after the execution of her pen pal Ronald "Candyman" O'Bryan early Saturday morning. Manganaro witnessed the execution of O'Bryan at his request.

Clashes shake Mideast

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israeli gunners shelled positions in Syrian-held eastern Lebanon Sunday, ending months of quiet along the tense Israeli-Syrian confrontation lines in the Bekaa valley, rightwing Christian radio and Israeli authorities said.

Fresh fighting also shook the Shuf mountains overlooking Beirut, with at least one government soldier killed in daylong mortar and rocket fire exchanges between Christian-led army units and Druze rebels.

Christian Voice of Lebanon radio reported Israeli tanks were "violently shelling Syrian positions" in the Bekaa valley about 25 miles southeast of the Lebanese capital.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli military spokesman confirmed the reports of shelling, and said that in a separate

incident, guerrillas sent two Katyusha rockets crashing into the village of Aadyse, some 2 miles north of the Israeli border settlement of Misgav Am.

The Israeli spokesman identified the Bekaa targets only as "terrorist command posts that serve as staging areas and departure points" for attacks on Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon.

Syrian officials had no immediate comment on the reports, but Voice of the Mountain, the Druze Moslem rebel radio, also reported new clashes along Syrian and Israeli lines in the Bekaa.

Christian radio said the Israelis were firing from Joub Jannine, Kamed el Laouz and Mdhouka at

targets just south of the village of Bar Elias.

There was no immediate report on casualties in the Bekaa, where Syria's air force lost nearly 100 planes in dogfights with Israeli jet fighters during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Besides the daylong artillery exchanges in the Shuf, the Christian Phalange party radio also reported shelling of the Christian residential areas of Mansouriyeh and Broumana in the Metn mountains east of Beirut.

The Green Line separating Christian east Beirut and the mostly Moslem western half was open to traffic, with 40 French military observers helping 300 hand-picked Moslem and Christian police to patrol the only open road.

U.S. ambassador blasts killing

United Press International

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador — U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering Sunday condemned the assassination of rightist candidate Roberto d'Aubuisson's chief campaign adviser, who was shot to death by leftists outside his office.

Rafael Hasbun, 58, was killed by automatic gunfire sprayed from a speeding car as he stepped out of his office in northern San Salvador late Saturday.

"It's another act of the extreme left operating in the manner of a death squad to disrupt the political

process in El Salvador," Pickering told reporters.

The Central American Revolutionary Workers' Party, one of five leftist guerrilla groups operating in El Salvador, claimed responsibility for the assassination in telephone calls to San Salvador radio stations.

"We have executed him for being a member of the ARENA party," one caller said referring to the Nationalist Republican Alliance of d'Aubuisson, who has been accused of leading right-wing death squads.

Hasbun, who served as d'Aubuisson's chief campaign adviser, was the

second ARENA member to be killed in a week and the fifth right-wing political activists to be assassinated by leftists since January.

The director of Arena's youth faction, Manuel Joaquin Escoto, was shot to death last weekend.

The Hasbun assassination followed charges earlier in the week by President Alvaro Magana that a Cuban-organized death squad had been dispatched to kill candidates in El Salvador's presidential elections March 24.

Honduran coup helping strengthen civilian rule

United Press International

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — The sudden military shake-up in Honduras has strengthened the civilian government's authority to pursue peace negotiations with Nicaragua, which welcomed the opportunity, officials and observers said Sunday.

Gen. Gustavo Adolfo Alvarez Martinez, chief of the Honduran armed forces, and three other top military commanders were forced to resign Saturday because of what President Roberto Suazo Cordova said was their involvement in politics.

Alvarez, a hardline supporter of U.S. policy in Central America, was forced to leave Honduras in a move that some said gave the 2-year-old civilian government greater freedom to conduct peace negotiations with its leftist neighbor, Nicaragua.

"The removal of Gen. Alvarez

Martinez has given the Suazo Cordova government more space to maneuver," one observer said. "The government now has more capacity to negotiate."

In Managua, the head of the leftist Nicaraguan government's ruling three-man junta, Daniel Ortega, also said Sunday that the shakeup offered hope for dialogue between the two governments.

"Gen. Alvarez was the principal agent that the United States had in Honduras. Now there is hope for the Nicaraguan government's policy of dialogue," Ortega said.

It was not immediately clear what effect the changes in the military might have on the large U.S. military presence in Honduras or on U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels fighting the leftist regime in Managua from base camps in Honduras.

In one sign that the government intended to maintain close relations with Washington, new U.S. maneuvers called Grenadier I began as scheduled Sunday.

The exercises will include the participation of some 1,000 U.S. servicemen in the construction of two airstrips and counter-insurgency practice.

With Alvarez at the helm of the armed forces, Honduras allowed a large U.S. military presence in the country, including the installation of a regional training base manned by 120 Green Berets on the Caribbean coast.

Some 10,000 American troops participated in the largest military maneuvers held in Central America, a 7-month exercise called Big Pine II that ended Feb. 8.

Expert explains Soviet policy

By CASEY RAMSEY Reporter

Dr. Lynn Hansen, deputy head of the United States negotiation team in Stockholm, said here Friday the Soviet Union did not go to Stockholm to reduce the threat of nuclear war in Europe.

Instead, he said, the Soviets want to use propaganda to drive a wedge between the United States and its European allies.

Beyond that, no one knows exactly what they want to do because they have not come forward with concrete proposals in the area of confidence-building measures," Hansen told an audience of about 40 people in Rudersdal.

The United States, Soviet Union and 35 European countries are meeting in Stockholm, Sweden to discuss security-building measures and disarmament in Europe.

The negotiations are a result of a 1975 conference at Madrid in which the United States and the Soviet

Union agreed to try and regulate what was happening in Europe in the interest of peace, security and cooperation. The United States and its allies agreed to participate only if the conference included human rights interests as well, Hansen said.

"The United States has always insisted on balanced progress, not only in military security, but in humanitarian affairs as well," he said.

The current negotiations in Stockholm deal with the confidence-building measures discussed in Madrid, Hansen said. At Madrid, the United States won a concession from the Soviets when they, and the other 35 other countries attending the conference, reaffirmed their intention "to recognize, respect and furthermore take all actions necessary to insure the freedom of the individual to profess and practice, alone or in community with others, religion or beliefs acting in accord with the dictates of his own conscience."

"For my own sake, I think that is a

rather amazing achievement," Hansen said.

Hansen said the Stockholm conference is part of a larger process which began in Helsinki to ultimately demand improvement in humanitarian affairs and other aspects of Soviet behavior.

"We have opened up a new channel of communications between the United States and the Soviet Union," Hansen said.

At Helsinki, Hansen said it was agreed that countries should notify each other prior to military maneuvers involving more than 25,000 troops.

"In eight years, there have been over 100 of these notifications," Hansen said. "At about 50 of these, observers have been invited from the other side to watch the activity."

The Soviets have allowed the United States to observe on only two occasions while the United States has

invited the Soviets to observe about eleven times, Hansen said. It turned out to be a very valuable experience.

"We learned that we weren't going to actually see the maneuvers, but we were going to be treated to Russian delicacies and vodka," Hansen said. "We were, however, issued binoculars that were out of focus"

The Stockholm conference was designed to negotiate a new set of measures to reduce the threat of war in Europe, Hansen said.

Hansen said any war in Europe will begin as a conventional war and then escalate into a nuclear war. Despite suspicions on both sides, Hansen remains optimistic about an agreement.

"The Soviets don't want an agreement along the lines the West is proposing but the Europeans do and they strongly influence and pressure them," Hansen said.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- TAMU System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen has been appointed to serve on the Energy Research Advisory Board. See story page 3.

State

- A Houston apartment will soon be open only to those who are willing to "bare all." See story page 5.

National

- The father of a young boy who was killed in Louisiana wants to witness the execution of his son's killer Thursday. See story page 8.