World

Terrorists attack American ambassador — Adolph Dubbs, the American envoy to Afghanistan, was abducted by a group of right-wing fanatic terrorists and later killed when government forces stormed the Kabul hotel where he was being held last Wednesday. It is uncertain whether Dubbs was shot to death by his abductors or by the government agents during the storming.

US Embassy in Teheran attacked by guerrillas — An unidentified group of urban guerrillas trapped Ambassador William H. Sullivan and his staff for over two hours on Wednesday until Khomeini peace-keeping forces arrived in answer to Sullivan’s telephone plea for help. There were no American fatalities, but two Iranians were reportedly killed. In reaction, the Carter Administration is planning to evacuate most Americans remaining in Iran when the Teheran airport reopens.

Nation

Florida lake found rich in fossils of ancient life — A 240-foot deep cavity behind Little Salt Lake in southwest Florida has been found to contain dozens of 12,000-year-old fossils of human, animal, and plant life, as well as artifacts. Scientists have found what appears to be the oldest known hunting boomerang, of a type never before found in the Western Hemisphere. Also found were the remains of an extinct four-foot tortoise which had been killed by human hunters, as well as what was either a mammoth or a mastodon.

Government reports mild flu season — A government disease surveillance specialist reported early this week that influenza is widespread but relatively mild this year. He said most flu cases so far are similar to the type of Russian flu which was prevalent last year. However, this type of flu has not yet been detected this season in thirteen states, including Massachusetts.

Social Security Administration acknowledges inequities — For the first time, the federal government formally recognizes that the present social security system is unfair to women in some ways. Joseph Califano, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, said the social security structure needs to be changed to guarantee fair and adequate benefits for both women and men. Such basic changes, he said, will require either increased funding or reduction of other benefits. “The nation must begin to make this difficult choice,” he remarked.

Massachusetts House passes drinking age raise — A bill to raise the legal drinking age from 18 to 19 and eventually to 21 was passed on the first vote in the Massachusetts House of Representatives last Monday. The legislation would raise the age from 18 to 19 in bars, restaurants, and package stores. It would go up to 20 one year after the bill’s passing, and to 21 a year after that, so that people who are now 19 years old or more will eventually have to be 21. The original bill called for would have raised the age to 19 for six months, and then immediately to 21. The State Senate has passed (31-3) a bill raising the drinking age to 19 as of March 1.

—Richard Daffy

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