Waite extends stay in Beirut

Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite has extended his stay in Beirut after meeting with the Shiite Muslim leaders who are holding two American hostages, according to sources in Beirut. The kidnappers have assured him that the two captives — Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland — are in generally good condition, Waite said yesterday. (AP)

Iran-Iraq war rages

Iraqi radio confirmed yesterday that an Iranian missile slammed into a residential Baghdad neighborhood yesterday, causing an unknown nonnegative number of casualties. Iraq said the irredescent at the headquarters of Iraq's ruling political party. It also claimed to have stepped up its assault against the city of Basra, setting a biochemical plant on fire. (AP)

News roundup

from the associated press wire

World

Concern mounts over dollar's exchange rates

The dollar climbed strongly yesterday in Japan and Europe yesterday on moves to stabilize the volatile dollar-yen exchange rate. European traders attribute the rebound to speculation that West Germany and Japan will undertake concerted action to stop the dollar's fall. That speculation was prompted by the announcement that Japan's Finance Minister will leave today for a meeting in Washington with US Treasury Secretary James Baker. The rising yen is drawing Japanese exports and forcing manufacturers to cut production. (AP)

Europe takes steps to ameliorate plight of deep freeze victims

The Common Market is planning to distribute free food to millions of poor people who have been hard hit by the deep freeze gripping the continent. The food comes from massive surpluses that are stockpiled under the community's farm income support program. More than 300 deaths have been blamed on the weather — Europe's worst winter in decades. (AP)

Kennedy calls for higher minimum wage

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) said yesterday that he will press for a substantial increase in the minimum wage. Kennedy, the new chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, said he would like to see a boost of at least $2.50 per hour from its present level of $3.35. Kennedy also pledged support to proposals for a higher minimum wage. (AP)

Reagan administration to step up immigration law enforcement

The Reagan administration proposed new rules yesterday for enforcing new immigration laws. The rules will, for the first time, apply to all US citizens. Job applicants would have to show a passport, naturalization certificate, or other documents to prove their legal status. (AP)

Amtrak hearings open

The first of many congressional hearings on the Amtrak train accident opened yesterday in the Senate. The head of the panel holding the hearing said yesterday that he wants to determine whether the government is doing enough to ensure rail safety. The collision near Baltimore, MD earlier this month killed 16 people and injured 176 others. (AP)

IBM's profits crash

The International Business Machines Corporation announced yesterday that its profit fell 48 percent in the fourth quarter — a decrease that led to an avalanche of poor news for IBM. IBM reported that its profit fell 48 percent in the fourth quarter, the first time in company history that its profit fell 48 percent in a single quarter. (AP)

S. Brown surfaces in Japan

Former California Governor Jerry Brown is alive and well and living in Japan, where he's writing a book. Brown has been attending a Zen Buddhist study sessions and meditations in a town south of Tokyo, the Times reported. (AP)

Washington with US Treasury Secretary James Baker. The rising yen is drawing Japanese exports and forcing manufacturers to cut production. (AP)

Congress ponders more tax revisions

Members of Congress returned to work Monday after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to find a major package of tax cuts. Among them is a transportation bill some lawmakers hope to use to increase the highway speed limit to 65 mph in some rural areas. Lawmakers also are considering possibly a 10-cent increase in gasoline taxes. (AP)

Florida jailbreak goes askew

Charles Hayden, a convicted bank robber, died in prison yesterday after a jailbreak. Hayden hanged himself in his cell and died. Hayden was serving a 25-year sentence for the robbery. (AP)

Boris Becker was bounced by unranked Australian Wally Masur. Becker went down by the score of 6-4,6-7,4-6,7-6,6. (AP)

Becker loses to unknown

The Australian Open witnessed a major upset yesterday as two-time Wimbledon defending champion Boris Becker was bounced by unranked Australian Wally Masur. Becker went down by the score of 6-4,6-7,6-3,6-2,6-4. (AP)

Weather

Here we go again

The atmosphere will have had two and half days to rest by the time yet another in a series of storms heads for New England. On Thursday afternoon the ingredients for a Thursday night to Friday storm were getting into position. The subtropical jet was racing across Mexico into the Southeast, while a storm in the Southwest moved toward Texas. These two systems will combine into a storm moving northeast Thursday morning. Bitter cold air is expected to move east from the Great Lakes. Early indications suggest that the Cape Cod area may receive a very significant snowfall. (AP)

Compiled by Robert Adams

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