Kidnappers seek release of suspect in TWA hijacking

Two West Germans hostages in Lebanon send letters to their families and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in which they write that their captors want them to free Mohammad Ali Hamadi, according to a report in the German magazine Der Spiegel. The United States is seeking to extradite Hamadi on murder and air piracy charges in connection with the hijacking of a Trans World Airlines plane. (AP)

South African firm seeks exemption from sanctions

The South African Coal, Oil, and Gas Company may have won an appeal to be removed from the list of firms barred from trading with the United States, according to unidentified sources quoted by the South African Broadcasting Corporation. Companies connected with the South African government may not trade with this country. The power company, which was once government-owned, sold 70 percent of its stock to the public in 1979. (AP)

World

Waite opposed to rescue

Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie announced Sunday that Anglican Church envoy Tony Waite gave him instructions that no one should try to rescue him if he should be taken hostage in Lebanon. Waite has not been seen since Jan. 20, when he left his hotel to begin negotiations with Shi'ite Muslim extremists. According to sources in Lebanon, Beirut terrorists are demanding $4 million ransom from the Church of England in exchange for Waite. (The New York Times)

Iran arrests alleged spy

Iran's official news agency reported the capture of what it calls a "spy of the Zionist regime." The person entered Iran with a false passport and masqueraded as a journalist. The Iran Daily said he is sought in connection with the alleged lurid plot to try to hijack an American plane. (The New York Times)

Space shuttle astronauts prepare for next mission

Astronauts began training yesterday for the first space shuttle flight since the Challenger explosion last year. Astronauts have also been given more authority in decisions on shuttle design and operation. The five astronauts who have been selected to be aboard the next shuttle mission are Capt. Frederick Hauck SM '86, Lt. Col. Richard Covey, Maj. Paul Lien, John M. Lounge, and George D. Nelson. All of them have flown on previous missions. (The New York Times)

Race clashes ebb in Forsyth

About 30 blacks attended a church service yesterday to protest the tragic weekendscatter of black youths throughout the county. About 50 blacks attended church services without incident on Sunday in Forsyth County, Georgia, an all-white county where turbulent civil rights confrontations occurred the past two weekends. The tranquility Sunday followed a period of clashes between Ku Klux Klan members and marchers protesting segregation in the county. (The New York Times)

United States knew of arms sales

High Pentagon officials knew more than a year ago of plans by private arms dealers to illegally ship 39 American fighter planes and large numbers of other weapons — more than $1 billion worth — to Iran, but did not stop the sales, according to confidential documents and participants who informed the government. Two congressional committees and a federal special prosecutor are currently investigating American arms sales to Iran. The efforts were allowed to continue because military officials hoped to gain intelligence information, including information on Iran as well as advanced Soviet tanks that the Iranians had captured from Iraq, the sources said. Although the Pentagon confirmed that it knew of the dealings by Dec. 1983, various arms dealers said in interviews that some high Government officials knew of the project by early 1984. (The New York Times)

A short spring

Some early clouds and a dousing of snow should give way to partly sunny skies and rather mild temperatures by afternoon. This is really the last day of our brief thaw. Although it will not turn bitterly cold after today, but temperatures will return to near or slightly below normal. The next threat of an important storm would be late Thursday and Thursday night. This one may be mostly snow, but it’s too early to say how much will fall.

Today: Partly sunny with highs near 40. Maybe some snow-showers late.

Tonight: Partly cloudy and colder, low in the mid-20s.

Tomorrow: Mostly sunny, highs in the low 50s.

Thursday: Increasing cloudiness, slight chance of snow by evening, highs in the low 30s.

Forecast by Chris Davis

Compiled by Robert Adams

Weather

Sports

Stars and Stripes beat Kokakurrara III in third race

Stars and Stripes defeated Australia's Kokakurrara III in the third race of the America's Cup final yesterday. This gives Dennis Conner, skipper of the American finalist, a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven final. (AP)

Welch, O'Mara set track records

Lesley Welch set an American record for the indoor 3000 meters in the Texter Classic at Boston University, and Frank O'Mara ran the fastest mile in New England history. Welch, the 23-year-old former BU star, broke Mary Decker Slaney's 3000-meter record of 8:56.1 in 1982 with an 8:44.05. Ireland's O'Mara passed America's Jim SPIEY (5:55.71) in the final 300 meters with a 3:53.42 mile. (The Boston Globe)

Nation

News roundup

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