University of California Rescinds Ban on South Africa

University of California regents on Thursday voted to rescind their once controversial policy banning investments in companies that do business in South Africa, freeing university officials to invest in many of the nation's leading multinationals.

The unanimous vote by the Board of Regents' Committee on Investments ended a prolonged struggle over the issue for the University of California system in 1989, when regents lowered to student and community pressure for economic sanctions to protect apartheid and slammed the door on the release of political rights leader Nelson Mandela.

Nearly seven years later, Mandela is free and, in September, he appeared before the Foreign Affairs Committee for renewed investment in South Africa. And on Thursday, black and white political leaders ratified the permanent commercial closure that paves the way for free elections in April.

"For all that have happened in the last 10 years it is major progress for the regents," William T. Bagley told his colleagues before they voted to lift the ban.

Virginia loses out on Lego Park

LEGO, the Danish toymaking giant, told Prince William County, Va. officials that Thursday that the company will build a $100 million theme park in Southern California instead of Northern Virginia, dash- ing local hopes of having a second major theme park join Walt Dis- ney Co.'s proposed development there.

"The number one criteria was the population in terms of families with young children," said Latreche. He added that climate would enable a California park to stay open year-round, which would not be possible in Virginia.

Lego's theme park will be the company's third, modeled after facilities built in Denmark and planned for Windsor, England.

Los Angeles Woman Charged With Castrating Her Husband

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A Los Angeles woman who cut her husband's penis off, a Los Angeles woman Thursday was accused of castrat- ing her mate with a 5-inch pair of shears as he slept.

Amauri Macias, 35, initially was charged with corporal injury to a spouse, a felony that carries a 4-year prison term. But at a court hear- ing on Thursday, Deputy District Attorney Larry Longo added the more serious charge of mayhem, after learning from medical records the extent of injuries to her husband, Jaime. In an interview Monday, Jaime Macias said he had spent several hours at a baptismal celebration at an apartment next to a U.S. theme park.

"They didn't even have the courage to make an announcement," said Larry Resnikoff of Los Angeles, after reading the complaint. "They took it off from Los Angeles International Air- port with only the flight crew and cargo."

At least 90 percent of the 21,000 flights on which those tickets were refused to cross the picket lines Thursday, according to union offi- cials.

American Eagle commuter flights will be grounded by the strike, which the union said it expected to last almost two weeks.

Delays and cancellations plagued American's worldwide operations, which functioned with an aver- age of 250,000 people a day to more than 200 cities. At its hub in Dallas, Jackie Mueller had been trying to get to Long Beach, Calif., all day, but two flights were can- celled and she wasn't sure whether she would ever make it.

American's passenger traffic was halted for several hours to and from Japan, Puerto Rico. And industry sources said Americans had to cancel or reschedule about 12 flights to carry any passengers out of Europe, in the strike's opening stages.

Many competing carriers added routes to accommodate stranded American passengers. Most other major carri- ers, especially Delta and United, have nothing to offer, for example, have been among those airlines that will not honor tickets or refund frequent flyer miles.

The delays and disruptions stemming from the strike have forced many American's passengers to cancel their reservations. In some cases, American Airlines has agreed to reschedule passenger's travel for free, the company said.

American's operations face an even bigger problem. The pilots' union releases the results of a vote by members whether to strike on Monday. American's pilots are now on the brink of labor negotiations next year.

"If the pilots' union it will they strike," said American's C. Carl Bode- portation consultant Harold Sirkin. "We won't have labor replacements for them quickly."

It appeared that most of Ameri- can's pilots will strike, freeing the company to go to some space on other carriers Thursday, when a number of events are expected to grow extremely right next week, warn travel agents and airline offi- cials.

"You have to wonder what's happening at the company because there is not a whole lot of room available," said Tom Nundy, president of Santa Ana, Calif.-based Travel Management. The Associated Press

- Major American Airlines unions agreed to the strike early Thursday morning after the pilots agreed to terms in final negotiations with American Airlines that failed to result in an agree- ment. Both sides have deplorably long history of working to resolve issues that Americans say are needed to ensure pilots' carry to long-term profitability.

The labor concessions American seek would include seeking efforts being pursued by most other major airlines seeking to restore profits after an "unprecedented increase" in the past three years. "We have some good news on the horizon, and we think the pilots' union may be eliminated by the time they return because the carriers are reducing the number of members on cer- tain flights."

But the threat did not face the union members. "They made this decision to cross the picket lines Thursday, according to union officials.

American, which has trained other employees to assist qualified flyers in through the picket lines, said, 'It anticipates larger numbers of flight attendants will report to work Friday.'

Clinton to urge liberalized trade at APEC ministerial

By Karl Schornberger and Leslie Helm PHOENIX

President Clinton, his prestige enhanced in the eyes of Asian lead- ing partners after his triumph on the North American Free Trade Agree- ment, arrived at the Pacific Rim summit Thursday determined to press for wider liberalization of global trade and investment.

But the president's crusade for opening up commerce will face heavy lobbying from the bloc of regional rivals, economic nationalists and arcane disputes that occu- py other members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group that is now meeting here.

Asian delegates to the APEC forum had already applauded Clinton's NAFTA victory in Congress on Wednesday as a fight against protectionism.

Yet indications are that they have little enthusiasm for U.S. efforts to pursue any further trade on a fast track toward a Pan-Pacific free trade bloc.

Moreover, unresolved bilateral disputes over rising trade surpluses and strategic arms sales between some Asian countries appeared like- ly to limit the results gained from the summit talks Clinton will hold with Asian leaders today and Sat- urday.

Still, Clinton was upbeat at his airport arrival remarks.

"Ultimately this meal is about the jobs, the income, the opportuni- ties that we have," he said. "The only way we can turn this around is to have more growth, not less, in the United States."

"We have to bring down barriers." Before leaving Washington, Clinton said. "By the end of the en- gineous step of opening trade in our region, we have the eco- nomic, the political and the moral standing to make the case that ought to be done throughout the world, that America is serious about the free market system and we are in a position to make growth in our own country and throughout the globe."

Asian-Americans to government- group aimed at promoting trade, investment and economic integration in the Pacific Rim have expanded its membership Wednesday in Washington, according to sources familiar with the annual ministerial meeting also agreed to advance the APEC to next year's conference.

Mexico's secretary of foreign relations, Luis Mariano Solis, said Mexican officials would "actively pursue" expanding economic ties with the United States. "We have been very vocal about what even before NAFTA negotiations got off the ground with its northern neighbor. Solis noted with irony that the NAFTA initiative passed through Congress after Mexico became an APEC member.

He added that Mexico supports the U.S. agenda to push APEC in the direction of a "new model, a policy- making body, but expects results to take several years."

C. Fred Bergstrom, an American economist who helped create "New Persons Group" unveiled the panel's recommendations that the group decided by 1996 on a contem- porary plan to create a free-trade area among members.

APEC members are polarized on the proposal, with the United States and Australia most likely to oppose it, and less developed Southeast Asian nations most negative.

Even Japan expressed reserva- tions on the idea, indicating it will side with the United States in a slow approach changing the group's mandate.

"It is possible that proposal should be promot- ed incrementally, and in principle, on a consensus basis," Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi said at the meeting Thursday, the official addition.

U.S.-Japan relations have mended. No longer does the Japane- se prime minister have to bring an "emissary" (pilot) with him every time he visits the United States, as if he were a feudal subor- dinate, the official said.