

Board confirmed that Thomas' wife, see MEESE, A11, Col. 1

WASHINGTON POST 17 MAR 84

Disappearances Plague Probe of Aquino Murder

By William Branigan
Washington Post Foreign Service

MANILA, March 16—A fact-finding board investigating the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. is debating whether to travel to the United States to interview prospective witnesses as fears mount that a suspected military cover-up of the murder has taken a violent turn, according to people working on the investigation.

The board also expects to place more witnesses under protective custody in light of a trail of deaths or disappearances that followed the murder of Aquino at Manila International Airport Aug. 21 while he was in the custody of military guards. So far at least six other persons have died or disappeared as a result of that assassination, lawyers said.

Testimony about the disappearances has shifted attention away from questions about the actual assassination to suspicions about a subsequent cover-up, and the need to protect witnesses who can further the investigation.

The trail begins with Rolando Galman, a purported professional gunman who the government claims shot Aquino on the airport tarmac on behalf of communist rebels before being gunned down himself by security guards.

Two weeks later, according to test-
See MANILA, A21, Col. 1

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west, and Missouri.

rates may inch higher in the next
See ECONOMY, A12, Col. 1

See BUDGET, A9, Col. 1

Gunmen Seize U.S. Political Officer on Street in West Beirut

By Herbert H. Denton
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIRUT, March 16—A U.S. diplomat was kidnapped by unknown gunmen in front of his west Beirut apartment building as he set out for work at the embassy this morning.

According to witnesses, William Buckley, first secretary of the political section, tried to escape his abductors but two carloads of gunmen blocked his auto. An armed man leaped from a car, put a pistol to

Buckley's head, forced him into one of the cars and sped off.

Robert Pugh, first deputy at the U.S. Embassy, said late today there had been reports that the car was seen south of the capital but there were no hard leads nor indication of why Buckley was kidnaped.

"We are handicapped," Pugh said, "because as is the case with any embassy, we would deal with the legally constituted authorities, of which there are none in west Beirut."

"What we have is what I would call a precariously balanced anarchy," he said.

For help in finding Buckley, the embassy turned to the two dominant militia in west Beirut, the Shiites' Amal and the Druze of the Progressive Socialist Party. Pugh said the militia had also asked the embassy to provide protection for American diplomats at their homes.

Buckley was the third American to disappear under mysterious cir-

cumstances since the Feb. 6 militia takeover that aggravated lawlessness in west Beirut. Shoot-outs on the streets, daylight holdups, break-ins and car and boat thefts are recurrent.

Unlike the random shelling of residential neighborhoods by warring sectarian factions, these crimes are often without any political dimension but appear to be the work of young toughs taking advantage of the chaos.

[In the civil war Friday, the Associated Press reported, Christian and Moslem militiamen traded mortar and rocket-propelled grenade fire from midnight until midmorning. The firing resumed at nightfall.]

As of this evening, no group had claimed responsibility for Buckley's kidnaping. There was speculation that it might have been carried out by a shadowy group calling itself Islamic Jihad that has claimed re-

See BEIRUT, A22, Col. 1

Mozambique, S. Africa Sign Detente Accord

By Glenn Frankel
Washington Post Foreign Service

ON THE MOZAMBIQUE-SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER, March 16—The leaders of South Africa and Mozambique signed an accord today pledging "nonaggression and good neighborliness" in the first such pact ever signed between one of Africa's independent black nations and its sole remaining white-ruled one.

The Komati Accord, signed by South African Prime Minister Pieter W. Botha and Mozambican President Samora Machel in a colorful ceremony in a no-man's land on the bank of the Komati River between the two countries' borders, commits each to respect the sovereignty of the other and to refrain from supporting insurgents seeking to overthrow the other government.

For both nations, the treaty marks a dramatic reversal of policy following nearly a decade of hostile relations that in recent years led to cross-border raids into Mozambique by South African commandos and warplanes.

It is also the first formal step toward what American diplomats, who helped orchestrate the negotiations that led to the pact, hope will be a region-wide detente that will result in independence for the South African controlled territory of Namibia and end a series of bush wars



Bonnie and Bruce Glover.

Popular Couple Died At Edge of 2 Cultures

By Ken Ringle
Washington Post Staff Writer

In many respects, Bruce and Bonnie Glover were a couple right out of their time: young and possibilities of Washington and the personal

Hughes Gets Bill Md. Votes to Limit Pensions

By Sandra Saperstein
and Michel McQueen
Washington Post Staff Writers

ANNAPOLIS, March 16—The Maryland House of Delegates reversed its vote of two days ago and passed legislation today that will restrict pension benefits of 80,000 state employees and teachers. Then, with extraordinary speed, the State Senate approved the bill, sending it to Gov. Harry Hughes, who is expected to sign it.

Reversing its dramatic 70-to-70 tie of Wednesday which had defeated the measure, the House approved the bill on a 71-to-68 vote after House Speaker Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Baltimore) secured the victory margin with a deal for increased state aid to schools.

Then, amid cries of foul play from the pension bill's stumped opponents, the measure was rushed

across the marble hallway to the Senate chamber and introduced there. Employing a series of procedural maneuvers, the Senate cut short a process that usually takes days or even weeks and in less than seven hours approved the bill, 29 to 18.

Today's action provided an unexpectedly swift climax for the issue that had turned the General Assembly into a battleground between the pension bill's teacher-opponents and legislative leaders, who made it the linchpin of the 1984 session. The bill became critical when the Senate threatened to kill a huge aid-to-education package, particularly prized by Baltimore, if the House failed to pass the pension bill.

Tonight, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee held up its end of the bargain by approving, 11 to 2, See PENSIONS, A10, Col. 3

BEIRUT, From Al

sponsibility for the suicide bomb explosion of the U.S. Embassy last April, the bombings of U.S. Marine and French military headquarters in October and the assassination in January of Malcolm Kerr, the president of the American University of Beirut.

Buckley, 55, a native of Medford, Mass., arrived in Beirut last July after joining the State Department only last year. The department said he worked previously as a civilian employe of the Army. He has no bodyguard, nor do others living outside the official compound. A bachelor, he lives six blocks from the embassy in a 10th-floor penthouse of a once fashionable neighborhood that is now bomb-scarred and slightly seedy.

The Druze militia operates in the neighborhood, as do two smaller Sunni Moelem militias, the Green Muscateers and the Mourabitoun (pronounced mow-ra-bee-toon).

According to Mohammed Moussa, concierge at Buckley's building, when the diplomat got into his car to go to work shortly before 8 a.m. a

Renault with three gunmen inside blocked him after he had driven a few yards.

A second car with two more gunmen blocked the street further down, other witnesses said. They said Buckley threw his car in reverse but was trapped in the dead-end street. He did not put up a struggle when a gunman jumped from the Renault and forced him inside, the witnesses said.

The two other missing Americans are Frank Regier, an American University of Beirut professor, who was abducted at gunpoint from his home on the school's campus on Feb. 10, and Jeremy Levin, bureau chief for Cable News Network, who has not been seen since his wife left home to go to work March 7.

French diplomats said a French engineer living in west Beirut disappeared two weeks ago, after telling a hotel clerk he was going out to take photographs.

The embassy's diplomatic staff now numbers about 50, half of its normal size. Many U.S. Embassy employes have moved into buildings used by the embassy on the seafont that are guarded by about 100 ma-

rines. But there is no guarantee of security even in that area. On March 5, Marine Col. Dale Dornan was shot in the chest and arm as he was walking along the seafont near the embassy.

Marine embassy guards who have ventured a few blocks out of the compound said they have been threatened by carloads of young men and warned that if they go into town wear civilian clothes.

One marine said one of the carloads threatening him appeared surprised that not all of the contingent from the former multinational peace-keeping force had withdrawn to ships at sea.

But Americans are not the only targets.

A Lebanese contractor, a Shiite related by marriage to Amal militia head Nabih Berri, was stunned when he and his wife were held up around noon Sunday by a gunman who took their identification papers and car.

Last Friday, two groups of militiamen fought for several hours with semi-automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades in a densely populated neighborhood two blocks east of the prime minister's office.

According to neighbors, the shoot-out stemmed from an eight-year-old dispute between the owner of a small shoe shop and a service-station car washer across the street. In the past, the two men had merely shouted at one another, but this time each got militia friends for backup.

Residents felt some relief when three armored trucks carrying Lebanese Army soldiers came, but the soldiers merely observed the fighting and continued on. Only when mili-



WILLIAM BUCKLEY
... forced from car on way to work

tiamen of Amal's "police unit" arrived did the fighting end.

"What we have is a state without instruments of power and militias without strategies," a university professor here lamented the other day. He and others worry that factional leaders meeting in Switzerland do not appear to be attempting to find any compromise for a security force. Without such agreement, these sources fear, political decisions will be rendered meaningless.

The Progressive Socialist Party and Amal "have tried very hard to be cooperative and supportive" of U.S. Embassy personnel, said Pugh. "But they are not equipped to govern or to carry out those functions of government that are important" in something like Buckley's kidnapping.

A European diplomat said he had been told that Amal and the Socialists had killed 10 petty criminals in a show of force against the lawlessness. "It wasn't enough," he added.

Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIRUT, March 16—A Soviet destroyer trailing the U.S. 6th Fleet off the Lebanese coast came close to colliding recently with five American ships conducting maneuvers.

According to Capt. Robert Cooper, commander of the amphibious landing ship USS Trenton, the incident occurred a few days after the Feb. 26 completion of the transfer of U.S. Marines from Beirut to the five ships.

Cooper said the Soviet Kasin type destroyer bore down on the Trenton and only turned away at the last minute under the bows of the lead American ship, the Fort Stevens, about 700 yards away.

"It looked awfully close," Cooper said.

Lebanese Hold Talks During Pause

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, March 15 (AP)—Specialists worked to draft final political proposals and mediators hope might win approval Saturday from the rival Muslim and Christian factions at the Lebanese peace talks.

Informal talks between factional leaders were reported making headway as Syria pressed both sides to reach a compromise on plans for post-civil structural reforms.

"Let's face it, it's Syria's show," said one West European diplomat who dropped in at the luxury hotel where the conference began Monday.

Two committees of experts set up by the National Reconciliation Council

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MARCH 17, 18, 19

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