

...the...
...mind the...
...revenge, adding he has a
...personal enemy...
...Texas, whom he refused
...to name.—UPI

ship catches fire at sea

Reagan loses popularity

NEW YORK
US President Ronald Reagan's approval rating has slipped to 38 per cent, its lowest level since he took office, according to a poll released on Saturday by *Newsweek* magazine.

Just 38 per cent of those polled thought Reagan was doing a good job as president, compared with 48 per cent six months ago and 60 per cent in 1981.

Half said they disapproved of Reagan's handling of the job and the remaining 12 per cent said they didn't know.

On Reagan policies, 49 per cent said the president should reduce the government budget deficit by cutting defence spending and 27 per cent supported further cuts in non-defence spending. Twelve per cent favoured raising taxes, and the rest said they didn't know.—UPI

MESSINA, Sicily
A SOVIET tugboat and an Italian navy helicopter rescued 35 crew members of the Maldiva Grace on Saturday, leaving six men missing from the freighter that caught fire in the stormy Mediterranean, rescue officials reported.

A spokesman for the navy command at Messina said six out of nine crewmen who tried to escape the blazing 13,381-ton ship in a lifeboat were missing and navy helicopters searched for them up until nightfall.

The lifeboat capsized in the gale-lashed seas, some 128 kms southeast of Cape Passaro, at the southeastern tip of Sicily. Three of the nine aboard managed to cling to the upturned lifeboat and were saved by one of the helicopters, but the other six were swept away.

The other 32 crew

members, who included a woman, found it impossible to launch lifeboats because of the gale and huddled on the forward deck as the flames swept the ship. The captain reported the fire started in the crew's quarters.

The rescue spokesman said the Soviet tugboat Nikoladze, which answered the distress call, managed to take aboard the 32 crew members trapped on the freighter.

Rescue officials said they did not know immediately where the Russian ship was taking the survivors.

The three rescued by the navy helicopter were taken to a hospital in the Sicilian port of Catania where doctors said they were in "satisfactory" condition. Rescue officials said the Maldiva Grace was registered in the Maldive Islands, in the Indian Ocean.—UPI

Paper says Blunt spy case reopened

LONDON
THE British secret service has reopened inquiries into the case of spy Anthony Blunt and may be on the trail of another Soviet spy, the *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported on Saturday night.

The newspaper said a

former agent of MI-5, the British counter-intelligence agency, was under suspicion for his role in the Blunt affair.

A spokeswoman at the prime minister's office declined to comment on the report.

Blunt, an art historian who ran Queen Eliza-

beth's art collection, confessed in 1964 in return for immunity from prosecution that he had spied for the Soviet Union.

But his treason remained secret until 1979, when he was publicly named as the "fourth man" in a major Soviet network at the heart of the British intelligence services during World War Two and in the two succeeding decades.

The *Sunday Telegraph* said the secret service only recently became suspicious of the man now under investigation, who is in his sixties. His service record and the whole file on Anthony Blunt, including the way he was given immunity, were being closely examined, the paper said.

Blunt, who was stripped of a knighthood by the queen after his spy role became known, recruited spies Donald Maclean, Guy Burgess and Kim Philby.

Burgess, second secretary at the British Embassy in Washington, and Maclean, acting head of the Foreign Office's American department, defected to the Soviet Union in 1951.

Philby, a masterspy at MI-5, followed them in 1963.—Reuter

Soviet executive in UK found dead

LONDON
A 62-year-old Soviet businessman was found dead Saturday, apparently after committing suicide in his apartment near the offices of the Soviet Trade Delegation in north London, police said.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said the body of Ivan Melnikov was discovered by his wife when she returned to the couple's apartment from a shopping trip.

The spokesman said she found the body hanging in the bathroom. Foul play was not suspected, he said.

Melnikov, a director of a British-registered metals company, had been due to return to the Soviet Union next month after three years in Brit-

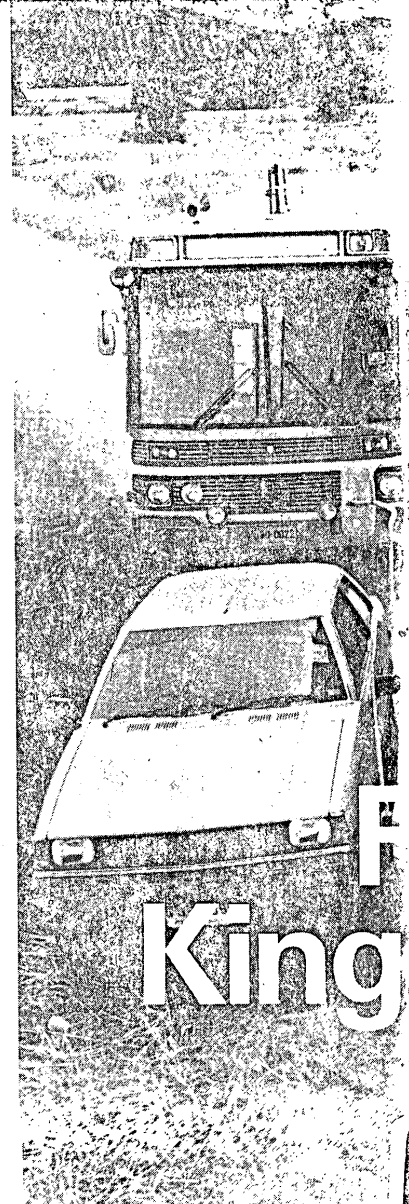
ain, the Scotland Yard spokesman said.

He said an autopsy would be conducted tomorrow, followed by an inquest.

Melnikov lived a few blocks from the apartment of Vladimir Chernov, a 31-year-old Russian language translator who was expelled from Britain earlier this month for spying.

He also lived close to the Soviet Trade Delegation office, which had employed Vadim Zadneprovsky, another Soviet official who was ordered out of the country in February, 1981.

There was no evidence, however, that Melnikov had been involved in espionage, the Scotland Yard spokesman said.—AP



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