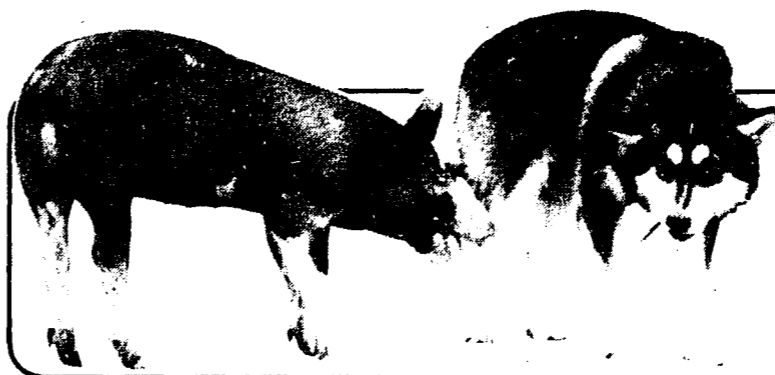




3 happy Bears
Big game for Payton
(NFL roundup, pages 1B,4B)
Plank, Phipps, Payton



Best pals
Piggy and 'mom'
(Marion, page 7A)

Weather

Partly cloudy with a chance of thundershowers tonight and Tuesday. Lows tonight around 60. Highs Tuesday from the mid- to upper 70s. Light southwesterly winds. Weather details on page 2A.

The Gazette

VOLUME 98, NUMBER 250 EASTERN IOWA'S LEADING DAILY

Monday

SEPTEMBER 15, 1986

CITY FINAL

25 CENTS

CEDAR RAPIDS CITY OF FIVE SEASONS

Secret hostage negotiations reported

MONTREAL (AP) — Secret negotiations have been under way for three months to gain the release of the 52 American hostages in Iran before the Nov. 4 American presidential election, the Canadian newspaper La Presse said today.

Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini favors the plan, it said.

Meanwhile, the speaker of Iran's Parliament said debate on the U.S. hostages will begin in the next few days, but he and two influential Iranian religious leaders said today the regime has not dropped its demand for a U.S. apology as a condition for the Americans' release.

The newspaper report said negotiations between the State Department and former Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh were conducted on the basis of a document prepared by European intermediaries, said the report by Robert Pouliot, Middle East correspondent for the paper, a major left-of-center, French-language daily.

La Presse was first to report Canada's rescue of six

Americans from Tehran. Embassy officials had hidden the Americans in their mission for months after the U.S. Embassy seizure, then got them false papers and spirited them out of the country in January.

The document, which has never been published and which Ghotbzadeh never has officially accepted as a message from the United States, explains why the public trial of the hostages might cause Iran further harm, La Presse said.

The document suggests economic pressure on Iran might be reduced if the hostages were freed and it also outlines what President Carter would accept in a deal, the paper said.

Ghotbzadeh also feels personally that the election of Ronald Reagan as president would be much more dangerous for Iran than the re-election of Carter, the newspaper said.

La Presse said the former foreign minister has proposed the hostages be released within a month and a half and that the proposal has the support of

Khomeini, who hopes to forge a consensus among rival factions in Tehran.

At a news conference today, Iranian speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said that the demand for an apology — already rejected by Carter — had not been dropped. In a statement Friday, Khomeini omitted the demand from a list of conditions. Some observers interpreted the omission as a sign of hope for a solution to the crisis.

At the news conference, Rafsanjani said: "The conditions for the release of the hostages are surely more than those terms put forward by Iman Khomeini in his Friday message. He did not mention all the conditions, because he has charged the Majlis (parliament) with the issue."

"Something is indispensable: The United States must condemn its past policy in Iran. Iman did not say all the conditions, he pointed out simply what came to his mind at the moment and I remind you that he said immediately it is the Majlis that should decide the fate of the hostages."

Khomeini's four conditions were release of Iranian assets frozen by Carter after the hostages were seized Nov. 4, guarantees by the United States that it will not interfere in Iran's internal affairs, suspension of all U.S. claims against Iran and return of the ousted shah's wealth.

According to Tehran radio, the speaker said Sunday that parliamentary debate on the hostages would begin Tuesday, the 318th day in captivity for the 52 Americans. But the official Pars news agency today said he had announced the debate for Wednesday. It was not immediately clear which was correct.

Pars said Rafsanjani also received a letter from the hostages' families saying they are "ready to do what you and your colleagues order."

It said the families said they wanted to meet with him "to solve our problem in a human atmosphere. We wish to be a bridge that the hostages cross to reach their homes . . . we hope to find a solution to put an

• Please turn to page 2A: Iran

TODAY

State news

Iowa taxpayers will benefit by income tax breaks this year estimated at \$32 million to \$36 million. Page 5B.

Federal money is available for housing projects for the elderly in Central City and Monticello. Page 8A.

Cedar Rapids

A cold floor is freezing the Five Seasons Center and Stouffer's Hotel out of some business. Page 4A.

Sports



The Yankees widen their American League lead to five games. Page 1B.

A West Virginian is \$5,000 richer after capturing the third annual Yankee Dirt Track Classic at Hawkeye Downs. Pages 1B and 3B.

Financial

One of the nation's retailing catalog giants plans to shrink its staff by 15,000. Page 7B.

People

Nancy Reagan didn't have any trouble selecting five people she admires most, but Rosalynn Carter did. In People, page 3A.

Mini Page

Surprise your classmates and speak Spanish. Here's a mini course.

Opinion

Individual communities are going to have to assume more responsibility for the care of their poor, elderly and handicapped. Gazette editorial, page 6A.

Index

Abby	11A	Marion	7A
Bridge	8A	Mini	9-10A
Comics	7B	Movies	5B
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Court	A	Record	2A
Crossword	6B	Scrabble	6A
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Editorial	6A	Sports	1-4B
Family	A	State	A-B
Finance	8A	TV	11A
Firm	7B	U.S.	A
Horoscope	10B	Wants	8-13B
Legals	8B	Weather	2A
Local	A-B	World	A

Today's Chuckle

Customer in a supermarket: "I don't need a cart. I only brought \$20 with me."

President optimistic about Iran

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (AP) — President Carter said today that recent statements by government officials of Iran "might very well lead to resolution" of the 10-month-old hostage crisis in the near future.

Carter, speaking in shirt sleeves at a town hall meeting before 1,300 persons who packed a public high school auditorium here, told a questioner he would not engage in a public negotiation for the release of 52 Americans held hostage since last Nov. 4.

But he said, "Now finally there is an elected Congress called the Majlis, a prime minister, a speaker of the house and a president. They are making statements that might very well lead to resolution of this problem in the near future."

It was Carter's first public comment on the hostages since a statement by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini last week omitted previous demands that the United States apologize for its role in Iran during the reign of the late Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlevi.

However, the speaker of the Iranian Parliament said today the regime has not dropped its demand for a U.S. apology.

The Majlis, which Khomeini has said should decide the future of the hostages, is scheduled to begin debating this week.

"The last thing we ought to do is get into negotiations through public statements or the news media," Carter said. "It would be a serious mistake for me to say what I accept or do not accept."

Carter gave no indication whether his apparent optimism is based on secret negotiations which the administration has sought repeatedly with Iranian leaders and through a variety of intermediaries during most of the last year.

The Ayatollah Khomeini said last week that there are four conditions for release of the hostages, including release of Iranian assets frozen by Carter, cancellation of all claims against Iran and a U.S. promise of non-interference in Iranian affairs and return of the Shah's wealth.

Carter's Republican opponent, Ronald Reagan, has said the first three of those demands could be met and that the fourth would be for the courts to decide.

As he wound up the hour-long question-and-answer session with a pre-selected group of local citizens asking the questions, Carter accused Reagan of hiding from the press and public for fear of saying something embarrassing.

The president announced that he will hold a press conference on Thursday and said, "It's important for a president, it's important for anyone trying to be president, to have these kinds of cross-examination in public so their views can be known."

"You've probably noticed that the campaign staff of my Republican opponent has put him under wraps. He's not having meetings like this."

• Please turn to page 2A: Politics



Wailin' with Willie

President Carter and country singer Willie Nelson sing together Saturday night at a concert Nelson gave at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Md. Carter attended the concert and joined Nelson on stage at the end to sing "Amazing Grace."

89 killed in Saudi plane crash

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (UPI) — A Saudi military transport plane crashed, apparently because of a fire in the cockpit, killing all 89 military personnel and crewmen aboard, officials reported today.

There were no survivors in the crash of the U.S.-built C-130 Hercules shortly before midnight Sunday near the Islamic holy city of Medina, the third holiest city in Islam after Mecca and Jerusalem.

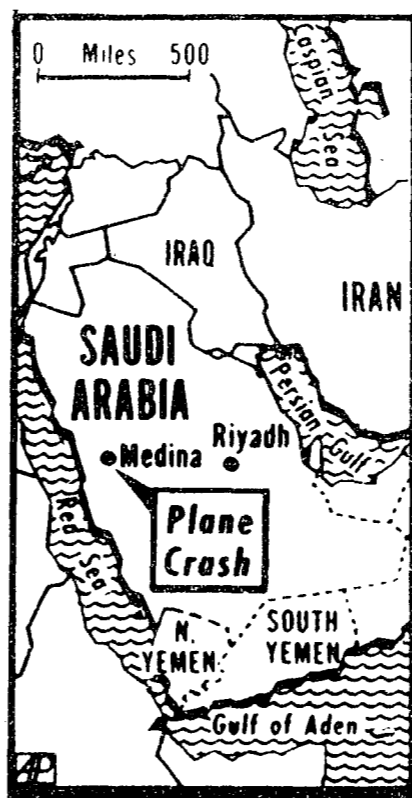
A statement by the Saudi defense ministry said, "Preliminary reports indicate at least 89 persons, including crew members, were killed in the catastrophic accident."

The state-run Riyadh radio quoted witnesses as saying "fire was coming out from the cockpit" seconds before the plane plummeted to earth.

Aviation officials said experts were still looking for the "black box" to determine the cause of the fire, which they said apparently caused the crash.

There were no indications as to whether the C-130 crashed on take-off or landing at Medina airport. Officials said there were no casualties on the ground.

Saudi Crown Prince Fahd Bin



Abdel Aziz, acting for King Khaled who is on a private visit to Switzerland, was reportedly following up "with concern" the course of investigation.

It was the second plane disaster in Saudi Arabia in less than a month. In August all 301 people aboard an L-1011 airliner died at Jeddah airport when fire broke out and rescue workers were unable to open the doors.

2 in motel killed by ax or hatchet

By Gary Peterson
Gazette staff writer

WILLIAMSBURG — The two persons found murdered in their room Saturday at the Amana Holiday Inn on I-80 near Williamsburg apparently were hacked to death with an ax-like instrument, The Gazette learned today.

Authorities identified the two as Rose Z. Burkert, 22, and Roger E. Atkison, 32, both of St. Joseph, Mo.

Iowa County Medical Examiner Stacey Howell said today the couple died a "violent death," but refused to confirm the reports that an ax or hatchet was the death instrument. He said he did not know if a weapon had been found.

State investigators had said Saturday neither guns nor drugs were involved in the deaths, but they also refused to comment today on reports the two were killed with an ax or hatchet.

"The cause of death has been established, but it would indicate some things we'd rather not have known," said Tim McDonald, an Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation supervisor.

However, a reporter for the St. Joseph News-Press said relatives of

the two had been informed by St. Joseph police that Burkert and Atkison were victims of a "hatchet murder."

And Iowa sources close to the investigation confirmed that, saying the injuries were mainly to the victims' heads, although there were some hand injuries, as if they had attempted to ward off the attack.

Autopsies were performed Sunday in Cedar Rapids.

The two checked into the Holiday Inn at about 7 p.m. Friday, authorities said, and apparently were attacked as they slept.

The bodies were discovered at about 1 p.m. Saturday by a motel manager when he checked to see why the two had missed the noon checkout deadline.

The victims' room was found "in some disarray," McDonald said. But he would not say if there was sign of a forced entry.

Burkert was a nurse trainee at a St. Joseph hospital, and Atkison was employed as a telephone installer-repairman for General Telephone Co. in Savannah, Mo.

McDonald declined to comment on a motive and said no suspects have been identified.