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Leave ... uit Ogaden

and the Golan Heights would be a very serious blow to prospects for peace in the Middle East," Carter said.

In addition, he said, "abandonment of U.N. 242 as it applies to the West Bank would be . . . a complete reversal of the policy of previous Israeli governments."

Begin reportedly has taken the very stand that Carter condemned, insisting Israel need not and will not withdraw from the West Bank biblical lands it took from Jordan during the 1967 war.

Carter denied, however, he intends to try to change Begin's stand through personal pressure at their Washington summit, and added: "I couldn't if I wanted to. He is a strong and independent man."

U.S.-Bonn Meet

WASHINGTON (Kyodo-Reuter) — The U.S. and West German officials will discuss the dollar this weekend — on the telephone.

President Jimmy Carter told a press econference that a meeting would deal with ways of combatting the dollar's recent weakness on world currency markets.

But later, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said there would be no actual meeting and that discussion would be on the telephone, as they had been on occasions in the past.

Discussing the dollar, the President said there were *factors pointing to its strength* and, on a long-term basis, to a fair price compared with foreign currencies.

Carter's Call

WASHINGTON (Kyodo-Reuter) — President Jimmy Carter has called for a meeting of black Rhodesian moderates and guerrilla leaders to work out a settlement of the 13-year-old independence dispute on the basis of Anglo-American proposals.

The President told a press conference here that an internal settlement negotiated between Premier Ian Smith and black moderates was not adequate and the Anglo-American proposals still formed the best basis on which to proceed.

Meeting With Owen

LONDON (AP) — The British Government announced Friday that the co-leaders of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe, will meet Foreign Secretary David Owen in London Monday for talks on the tangled future of Rhodesia.

The statement by the Foreign Office said Nkomo and Mugabe had expressed their willingness to stop over in London on their way back to Africa from United Nations headquarters in New York for the session with Owen.

Ogaden Solution

the Ogaden, ethnic Somalis, are

— *'State, Kitakyushu City Not Legally Liable'* —

2 Firms Ordered to Pay ¥6 Bil. In PCB Food Poisoning Case

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KITAKYUSHU (Kyodo) — The Fukuoka District Court ordered a chemical firm and a cooking oil manufacturing company Friday to pay ¥6,080 million in compensation to 729 victims of food poisoning by polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

The court's Kokura branch, however, found the state and Kitakyushu City not legally liable for the mass outbreaks of the PCB food poisoning despite the fact that they are the supervisory authorities on the safety of food.

In his ruling, presiding judge Tatsuhiko Mori said that the poisoning was caused by the PCB-contaminated rice bran oil, manufactured and distributed by Kanemi Warehouse Co. of Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka Prefecture.

According to the ruling of the 7-year-old trial, the harmful substance had been used as a heat transfer medium in the rice bran oil manufacturing process at Kanemi's factory.

The substance, however, eroded through steel pipes of a deodorizer and leaked into the the cooking oil stored at the factory, it said.

The outbreaks of the PCB-poisoning was first reported among people mostly in western Japan who ate food cooked with the PCB-contaminated rice bran oil in the summer of 1968. So far, more than 10,000 people have claimed to be victims of the poisoning, the symptoms of which include skin disorders and falling eyesight.

Some 40 persons have died of acute poisoning. But no effective cure for the poisoning has been found yet.

The ruling also said that Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry Co., the producer and supplier of PCB, was negligent in not properly informing Kanemi of the toxicity of PCB. The chemical firm was supplying PCB to the cooking oil manufacturer.

The plaintiffs are victims of PCB-poisoning or their bereaved families from 25 prefectures, including Nagasaki, Hiroshima and Kochi.

They named the state and Kitakyushu City, along with the two companies, as defendants in seeking ¥11,570 million in compensation.

As for the alleged negligence on the part of the state and the city, the ruling said that it was solely up to the discretion of the administrative authorities whether or not they would conduct safety checks on food products under the Food Sanitation Law.

"Therefore, the state and the city can be basically free from legal obligations to the damage of individual consumers by poisonous foods unless their inaction is found to be extraordinarily unreasonable," the ruling declared.

The judge thus ordered the two companies to pay a total of ¥6,080 million in compensation, or 52 per cent of the amount demanded, to the plaintiffs.

In assessing of the amount to be paid, the ruling turned down the plaintiffs' request for the payment of ¥20 million to each dead victim and ¥15 million to each surviving victim.

"The amount of compensation to each plaintiff should be decided on in accordance to the degree of his or her symptoms," the ruling said.

The ruling thus said that the plaintiffs would be given the differentiated amount ranging from a maximum of ¥17 million to a minimum of ¥968,888.

It was the second ruling on the so-called Kanemi bran oil case, following the one handed down last October for another group of 44 victims.

Additional 155 PCB-poisoning victims are now waiting for their cases to be heard at the same court.

Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry, which has contended all along that it was not negligent, promptly appealed to a higher court against Friday's ruling.

Meanwhile, the Fukuoka District Court decided Friday to issue its judgment on a criminal case involving the 1968 Kanemi rice oil poisoning of March 24.

Forty-seven alleged sufferers from the contaminated cooking oil produced by Kanemi Warehouse Co. lodged the complaint with the prefectural police headquarters in late 1968.

They complained then that Mitsunosuke Kato, the company's president, and Yosnito Morimoto, former chief of the company's rice oil factory, caused them involuntary damage by neglecting to make proper checks on the production processes.

The prosecution demanded two years imprisonment each for Kato and Morimoto in its final speech at a hearing in January last year.

The public hearing was closed two months later.

Cabinet Official May Visit D.C. To Urge Strengthening of Dollar

Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda said Friday that the Government is considering sending a Cabinet minister to Washington to request prompt White House action to strengthen the ailing dollar.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Shintaro Abe indicated that Nobuhiko Ushiba, External Economic Affairs Minister, who negotiated a Japan-U.S. trade settlement in January, would be the most likely candidate.

Foreign Minister Sonoda said in a news conference that Japan could not afford to see the yen continue to appreciate sharply against the dollar. He said that the Carter Administration should make further efforts to reduce the huge U.S. trade deficit.

Ushiba, emerging from a Cabinet meeting on Friday morning, told reporters that a trip to Washington at this time might increase speculation on foreign exchange markets and could drive up the yen's value still further.

Commenting on Government plans to expand imports as an emergency measure, Ushiba said a $1 billion purchase plan would be worked out at the ministerial meeting scheduled for today.

Referring to the reported plan to buy European airbuses, he suggested there was a possibility that Japan would import about 10 such aircraft.

But he expressed doubt over the wisdom of a plan to set up a semigovernmental agency to lease imported aircraft to airlines in developing countries.

Meanwhile, seven Cabinet members are scheduled to meet this evening to discuss ways to help stabilize the dollar and increase imports in order to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus.

They are Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama, International Trade and Industry Minister Toshio Komoto, Sonoda, Ushiba, Transport Minister Kenji Fukunaga, Abe and Kiichi Miyazawa, Economic Planning Agency director general who will act as chairman.

The subjects for discussion will include increased import financing, imports for stockpiling of crude oil, enriched uranium, pellet and other raw materials, purchases of commercial aircraft and helicopters for Government use, according to informed sources.

Some of the items, notably crude oil and enriched uranium, are already included in the emergency shopping list announced by the Government last December in a bid to reduce Japan's trade surplus with the United States.

The commercial aircraft under consideration reportedly include five to eight airbuses and an additional 10 or so aircraft for lease to foreign airlines.

Brezhnev Promises To Back PLO

MOSCOW (Kyodo-Reuter) — Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev Thursday assured Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of continued backing for his people's efforts to secure national rights and set up their own independent state.

Tass News Agency said Brezhnev's restatement of Moscow's support for the Palestinians was made during talks in the Kremlin which confirmed that he and Arafat shared the same views on a wide range of Middle East issues.

Apparently setting out their common attitude, Tass said Egypt's capitulationist course in seeking direct talks with Israel served the goals of those who wanted to strengthen

Tajima Will Visit Peking Regarding Treaty Talks

The Government Friday decided to send Takashi Tajima, director of the Foreign Ministry's China Division, to Peking on Sunday for consultation with the Japanese ambassador in Peking on the question of resuming negotiations for a Japan-China treaty of peace and amity.

Tajima will explain to the ambassador, Shoji Sato, what Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda has in mind on the treaty issue. He will also brief Sato on recent moves by pro-Taiwan and pro-Moscow Diet members who are opposed to concluding the pact, according to a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official.

During his two-day stay in Peking, Tajima will get detailed information from Sato on the ambassador's two recent meetings with China's Vice Foreign Minister Han Nien-lung on the issue, the official explained.

Tajima will also get in touch with a Komeito mission led by Junya Yano now in Peking, which is expected to meet with top Chinese officials. He will have informal talks with his Chinese counterpart, Ting Min, who is in charge of Japanese affairs.

Government sources said Tajima's visit would probably complete arrangements for a visit to Peking by Foreign Minister Sunao Sonoda for formal resumption of the treaty talks suspended since 1975.

A leader of the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party suggested Friday night, however, that there had been no real progress in the treaty issue despite the two rounds of preliminary talks between Sato and Han on Feb. 14 and March 4.

He added that Chinese leaders remained adamant on their proposal that a clause against hegemonism, Peking's euphemism for opposition against the growth of Soviet influence in Asia, be included in the pact.

Tokyo's position is that the treaty should have an explicit description that the anti-hegemony clause is not directed against any third country.

Dollar Rebounds To ¥234.75 Here

Mirroring an overnight rally in London and New York, the U.S. dollar rebounded against the yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange market Friday. Trading was much quieter than Thursday, but still brisk.

The dollar ended the day at ¥234.75, compared with Thursday's finish of ¥233.69, or the lowest postwar close.

The bulk of dollars, however, sagged to ¥234.70 from ¥235 the previous day.

Komeito Mission Arrives in Peking

PEKING (Kyodo) — A five-member Komeito goodwill mission arrived here from Tokyo Friday evening for an eight-day visit. The group, headed by Secretary General Junya Yano, was greeted at the airport by Chang Hsiang-shan, vice president of the China-Japan Friendship Association, and other Chinese officials.

Taiwan Claims Spratlys Islands

TAIPEI (Kyodo-Reuter) — Taiwan has once more laid claim to the possibly oil-rich Spratlys Archipelago, also claimed by China, the Philippines and Vietnam.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the Central News Agency Friday, said "Nan sha Archipelago (the Spratlys group of Islands is an integral part of the Republic of China (Taiwan)."

DSW 306404

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In return, bicycle riders will be required to observe stricter rules of traffic.

In reference to hot-rodders, the revised law stipulates imprisonment of less than six months or a fine not exceeding ¥50,000 for those who create hazards on a road using more than two vehicles.

A company or office having a large number of vehicles will be required to assign a "safety driving controller" to every 20 automobiles.

narcotics and stimulant drugs is an offense punishable with imprisonment of less than two years or a fine not exceeding ¥50,000 — the same as for driving under the influence of alcohol.

Currently, driving under the influence of narcotics and stimulant drugs is dealt with as "driving under physically fatigued condition," an offense punishable with imprisonment of less than six months or a fine of less than ¥50,000.

JNR Experimental Car Hits 301 Kph in Test Run

MIMIZU, Miyazaki Pref. (Kyodo) — The "floating" linear motor car now under development by Japanese National Railways engineers broke the 300 kph speed barrier during tests Friday at the JNR experimental center in Hyuga, Miyazaki Prefecture.

The car, which rides suspended in a magnetic field, attained a top speed of 301 kph on the 3.1-kilometer practice track to surpassing both the 286 kph record set by Shinkansen superexpress trains and the 300 kph mark considered to be the absolute top speed attainable by ordinary rail trains.

The center plans to lengthen the practice track this summer in preparation for tests aimed at raising the speed of the linear car to 340 kph. They hope to reach their final goal of 500 kph by fiscal 1979.

The 2.7-meter-high, 13-meter-long car reached a speed of 295 kph on the fifth of eight practice runs held during the day to break the highest speed ever recorded by Shinkansen trains.

On the seventh run it shot up to 238 kph 30 seconds into the run to lift the auxiliary car 12 centimeters above the rail.

The top speed of 301 kph was attained at the 44-second mark, 1.9 kilometers from the starting point.

Revision of Extradition Law Expected by Gov't

The Government said Friday it will revise the Extradition Law so that Japan can detain foreign fugitives from countries with which it has no extradition agreement.

The revision bill was sent to the Diet later in the day, the Government said.

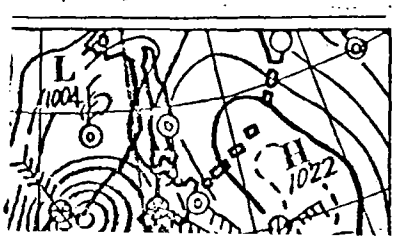
The Government said it had also sent to the Diet for approval the new Japan-U.S. Extradition Treaty signed last week.

The revision bill would allow the Government to detain foreign fugitives on condition that their home countries guarantee to make an official request for delivery.

Under the current domestic legislation, the Government cannot detain fugitives except from the United States, with which Japan has an extradition agreement.

According to the revision bill, the Government would have discretion to decide whether or not it should extradite a fugitive.

The bill would also allow the Government to permit at its own discretion foreign judiciary authorities to stop over in this country on their way home with criminal suspects under escort.



JAPAN TIMES
SAT. MARCH 11, 1978

One of the plaintiffs in a rice-bran cooking oil poisoning case puts up a banner to inform other complainants and supporters of their victory in the suit after the Kokura branch of the Fukuoka District Court ruled Friday that Kanemi Warehouse Co. and Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry Co. were responsible for a mass outbreak of PCB poisoning.

DSW 306405

PCB Poisoning Victims Reject Court Ruling on Responsibility

Friday's court ruling on the Kanemi rice bran oil case was regarded as unsatisfactory by the plaintiffs, who have suffered from the effects of the poisoning for 10 years.

Commenting on the ruling that the state and the Kitakyushu municipal government are exempted from responsibilities, Mrs. Meiko Nakayama, 48, head of the association of the poisoning victims in Kitakyushu, said, "I cannot accept the ruling. I don't understand why the administration should be exempted from its duty of observing the rules. It is an unreasonable ruling."

Mamoru Torisu, 56, a representative of the National Liaison Council of the Victims of the Kanemi Rice Bran Oil Poisoning, said, "If Kanegafuchi Chemical Industries appeals the decision, they are devils with human masks. I ask that they stop tormenting the victims."

Kanegafuchi, one of the defendants, appealed the decision to the Fukuoka High Court after Friday's ruling.

Tatsuo Morinaga, another leader of the council said that the ruling, which exempted Sannosuke Kato, president of Kanemi Warehouse Co., of responsibilities, was unbelievable.

Mrs. Kazuko Shibata, 36, from Shimabara, Nagasaki Prefecture, whose two children were poisoned by the rice bran oil during pregnancy, said, "Mr. Kato is the top man of Kanemi. It is strange that he has no responsibilities for the poisoning."

She said that she could not sleep well when she thought of the future of her two children, whose teeth and internal organs have been deformed.

After Friday's ruling, the plaintiffs and their lawyers issued a statement that the ruling was unsatisfactory because it exempted the state and the Kitakyushu municipal government from responsibility. However, it praised the ruling as a significant step toward prevention of environmental and food pollution by chemical substances.

Masayoshi Oyama, lawyer for Kanemi Warehouse, called Friday's ruling "fair and reasonable." He said that the calculation of the compensation by the court was reasonable. But he said that he was dissatisfied because the state was exempted from the responsibilities. He said, "The state should consider the words of the plaintiffs that money is not a real solution to the problem."

Takashi Osawa, president of Kanegafuchi Chemical Industry, issued a statement th he could not accept the rulin which found Kanegafuc responsible for the poisonin He said that the poisoning wa caused through negligence o the part of the food processin company, Kanemi Warehouse.

Abusive Language

OSAKA—About 300 com plainants in a rice-bran cookin oil damage suit and the supporters held a rally here an staged a demonstratio procession to Kanegafuc Chemical Industry Co. prior Friday's ruling on the suit.

They waited for the news the ruling to be made by t Kokura branch of the Fukuo District Court, sitting in front TV sets in front of Kanegafuc offices in the Asahi Shimbu building.

N-Sub Leaves

YOKOSUKA, Kanagawa Pref. (Kyodo) — The 3,860-ton U.S. nuclear-powered submarine Pogy left the U.S. naval base at Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, at around 9 a.m. Friday after completing a six-day visit.

Japan's 1st Heavy Water Reactor Nears Completion

TSURUGA, Fukui Pref. (Kyodo) — Japan's first heavy water reactor, nearing completion in Tsuruga, was shown to the press Friday.

The reactor named the "Fugen" will attain the critical mass — the point at which it will achieve a self-sustaining chain reaction — around March 20 and begin power generation around July.

The Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation started building the advanced thermal reactor (ATR) with a power generation capacity of 165,000-kilowatts in December 1970 as a national project at a cost of about ¥100 billion.

Unlike the current light water reactors in use in Japan, the heavy water reactor was designed by Japanese engineers and indigenous materials were used for its construction.

What distinguishes the Fugen from light water reactors is that have been put into place.

By the end of April, all 96 fuel assemblies composed of a mixture of plutonium and natural uranium and 128 others using slightly enriched uranium are expected to be put into place.

Full-fledged operation of the Fugen will start in March 1979. Electricity generated by the reactor will be distributed in the Kansai area through the Kansai Electric power Co.

10-Month Jail Tern Asked for Kito in Prison Visit Case

The prosecution Frida recommended a 10 month imprisonment for former jud Shiro Kito indicted for abuse authority stemming from a 19 incident in which he visit Abashiri Prison and obtain prison records on a Commun leader.

A statement by t prosecution read at the Tok District Court charged that K visited the prison on July 1972, looked over a photographed prison records Kenji Miyamoto, chairman the Japan Communist Party.

Later, Kito phoned the pris officials and had them mail copy of the record.

The statement said that Ki though he was not in charge any trial that required records, made prison offici believe that he needed materials as part of his duties

Accord Reached in Int'l Custody Case

OSAKA — A battle by a Japanese father and an American mother for custody of a three-year-old girl came to an end Thursday night when the two parties reached an agreement that the mother would live with the child for the time being at the father's home.

The truce came 34 hours after the Osaka District Court had granted custody of the child to the mother Wednesday in a final round of talks and agreed that (1) the mother will live with the child and the father's parents at the father's home in Higashiosaka until the Supreme Court makes a final decision on the custody of the child, (2) both sides will comply with the Supreme Court decision and if it grants the custody to the mother, the child will be turned over to her, (3) if the father's side does not keep their word, that the father will appeal lower court decision to Supreme Court within 10 da The Supreme Court is expec to make a decision in three six months.

After the father and mot reached the agreement sho after 10 p.m. Thursday, child was released from finement at the court. She the court carried on grandfather's back, throv

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