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Khomeini agrees to delay Iranian trip

From our wire services

TEHRAN, Iran — Self-exiled religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has agreed to delay his return to Iran for three weeks at the request of Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, a government source said today.

Khomeini had planned to end his 14-year exile and return to Tehran from Paris Friday to begin efforts to replace the Bakhtiar government with an Islamic republic, his aides in France said Wednesday.

The government source, who asked not to be identified, said the need for special security for Khomeini's arrival and protection in Iran led Bakhtiar to suggest that he delay his arrival for at least three weeks.

The source said several million Iranians could be expected to greet Khomeini, who led the uprising that drove the shah from the country upon his arrival in Tehran. "The crowd alone would have been too dangerous and too difficult to handle," he said.

It was early morning in Paris and there was no immediate comment from Khomeini or his aides.

Earlier in the day Wednesday, Gen. Mehdi Rhami, the military governor of Tehran, made no mention of Khomeini in an announcement that all of the nation's airports were being closed, according to a Tehran Radio broadcast monitored in London. The military had closed the Tehran airport for several hours Wednesday.

Bakhtiar's dramatic offer, authoritative sources said, was made in a letter from the prime minister which was carried to Paris by a special envoy. He asked the ayatollah to remain in France for three more weeks and also to abandon his plan for a provisional Islamic government.

In return, Bakhtiar pledged to hold elections for a constituent assembly to decide between an evolving constitutional monarchy and the "Islamic republic" Khomeini has vowed to form in Iran, Dr. Seyfeddin Nabavi said.

Bakhtiar said he would give up his insistence on strict constitutional procedure. Instead, if Khomeini agreed to his terms, the sources explained, Bakhtiar would announce

within one to four months elections to pick a constituent assembly responsible for choosing between the republic demanded by the ayatollah and his own evolving constitutional monarchy.

Before the letter arrived in Paris, the Moslem leader announced that he had chartered an Air France jumbo jet to return to Iran on Friday as scheduled.

The Iranian army Wednesday abruptly announced the reopening of Tehran airport only hours after tank-led troops closed the runways in an attempt to stop the triumphant return of Khomeini. Later in the day Bakhtiar confirmed in a television interview that the ayatollah was free to come.

The ayatollah's chief spokesman, Dr. Ibrahim Yazid, admitted Wednesday that the 78-year-old Iranian religious leader is taking a "calculated risk" with his own safety by ending his 14-year exile and returning to Iran in such volatile times.

Tank and infantry units of the elite Imperial Guards, known for fierce loyalty to the shah, remained stationed at the airport even after its reopening was announced. Although the airport closure by the army was officially announced on the national radio, the reopening was not.

The reopening announcement came only hours after the embattled Bakhtiar told a stunned parliament he had opened talks with Khomeini, who has denounced the Bakhtiar government as "illegal" and vowed to replace it with his own.

The pre-dawn army move to shut the airport appeared designed to solidify the faltering Bakhtiar government and force the Ayatollah to negotiate with Bakhtiar in order to return to Iran.

Two Iran Air Boeing jets, ready for takeoff to pick up the Ayatollah in Paris, were seized on the runway by battle-clad troops and forced back to the hangars.

Soldiers then disabled the entire fleet of Iran Air's grounded Boeing 747s, 707s and 727s to prevent them from taking off, military officials said.

Both the army's move against the airports and its later apparent change of mind took the country by surprise.

Reaction to the army move to close the airport was mostly calm. But several hundred pro and anti-government demonstrators fought in front of the U.S. Embassy and were dispersed by army troops who fired tear gas and rifles into the air.

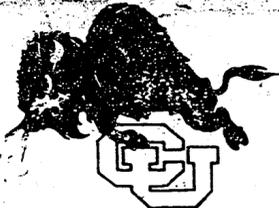


Marcus Larkin

Morning duty

Roy Trimble, 2803 E. Broadway, takes a chilly walk to his barn Tuesday morning with his daily plate of scraps for his cat.

Inside today



Colorado's Buffaloes may have come into the game with a share of the Big 8 cellar, but they were sleeping giants to be sure. Colorado put it to the Tigers Wednesday night by a score of 82-69. Read about it inside in Sports.

In town today

9 a.m. Boone County Court meets, fifth floor, County-City Building.
8 p.m. Concert, Little River Band, Ice Chalet.

Uehling and Hart face legislators

Opposition to M.U. ticket plan voiced

By David Kraus
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Stressing the need to "maintain the quality of the (athletic) program and to do it on self-generated funds," University Chancellor Barbara Uehling and Athletic Director Dave Hart Wednesday answered legislative criticism over the controversial football season ticket policy.

The current University season ticket plan is to allow persons in the prime seating area to retain two football tickets at the regular price and require a \$250 donation for each additional one.

Criticism came from some key Democratic legislators, including the House majority leader and the head of the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Joe Holt, D-Fulton, House majority leader, said he would "mull over it (the policy)

in the next day or two."

Holt, who acted as chairman at the meeting, also has met with opponents of the plan.

"Consideration should be given to people who have supported the team through 1-10 seasons," he said. "I don't see any reason why a compromise can't be worked out."

Rep. Wayne Goode, D-Normandy, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee which will be considering the University's 1979-80 budget soon, said the plan "may eventually hurt the University."

"It's poor public policy for the University of Missouri-Columbia to use football tickets to extract donations from people," Goode said.

One of the most ardent opponents to the plan was Rep. Francis Barnes, D-Kirkwood, a graduate of the University, who called the plan inflationary and begged that it be reconsidered. "I think you are making a grave mistake," he

said. "Inflation is the worst problem facing our country."

"These are not donations. These are extractions. You're cutting right at the supporters of the University. It is a sincere, desperate and fatal mistake."

Barnes' pleas were followed by applause.

Dr. Uehling agreed to "re-evaluate" the policy, saying "we're always open to criticism," but would make no assurances that changes would be made.

In her statement before the group of about 50, the chancellor had cited new needs as the reason for requiring certain season ticket holders to donate \$250 to keep their tickets. These needs include artificial turf on Faurot Field, a new track and the ability to comply with Title IX guidelines.

"Title IX will be interpreted as requiring equal per capita expenditures in men's and

women's sports," Dr. Uehling said. "For this year's budget, we would have needed an extra \$849,000 to meet those guidelines."

The chancellor said 1,696 people holding a total of 9,408 tickets in the area on the west side of Memorial Stadium between the 20-yard lines will be affected. She pointed out that since 600 of these people are already donors, the policy will have an impact only on 1,000 to 1,100 people.

"People wanted to donate money," she said. "We needed money, and we didn't have seats to give them."

When asked if the two-ticket limit could be raised to four tickets at the regular price, Dr. Uehling said no.

"That would free too small an amount of seats," she said. She pointed out that under the present plan, 6,016 seats would be freed, but that if people could protect four tickets, only 2,739 seats would open up.

Mayor says audit reflects a 'bang-up' job

By B.J. Martin
Missourian staff writer

Columbia has made "significant strides" in its financial management during the 1978 fiscal year, a spokesman for the city's auditors said Wednesday.

In a Jan. 5 report made public Wednesday, Price Waterhouse & Co., Columbia's auditors, listed only 11 recommendations for improving the city's monitoring of finances. In their 1977 analysis, the auditors had made 57 recommendations and called the city finance department's accounting control sloppy.

Mayor Les Proctor said the city's finance department had done "a bang-up job" in improving its accuracy and efficiency.

The Price Waterhouse & Co. report showed a \$2.2 million surplus in the city general fund, with less than \$1.4 million in general obligation debts outstanding. Proctor called the surplus "healthy," and said it resulted from conservative estimates of city revenues and liberal estimates of city expenditures in preparing the fiscal budget.

Among the recommendations in the report, the city finance department was urged to make more frequent checks on coal receiving and coal invoice processing. The report also recommended requiring the city's coal supplier to get a weight ticket at an independent scale in Columbia.

The report suggested that the city's monthly write-off of 3 percent of the coal inventory as "pile shrinkage" may have been inaccurate, and that "the adjustment could have resulted from im-

proper measurement and reporting of coal usage, pile shrinkage or shortages in receipts."

In a Jan. 15 response to the report, also released Wednesday, Columbia finance director Harold Boldt agreed to have the weight tickets checked and to request certified weight tickets. Also, he agreed to reduce the shrinkage allowance to 1 percent.

Other recommendations were to:

Review contract awarding procedures for engineering services on major construction projects. The report pointed out that as of Sept. 30, \$2.6 million was awarded in sewer construction projects without obtaining competitive bids.

Review the potential for implementing automated program controls in the city's data processing and finance departments.

Revise the payroll system to establish checks on the hiring practices of department directors.

The report showed that under the hiring system in use at the time of the report, payments to "fictitious or previously terminated employees could be processed and remain undetected."

Boldt's response to the report said reforms were either planned or under way regarding each recommendation.

The finance department Wednesday released the 1978 financial report, which Boldt called "the most complete, comprehensive and accurate in the city's history." It includes, for the first time, a statistical section with data for a 10-year period, and it is supplemented by a condensed financial report designed for Columbia residents with little or no experience in governmental accounting.

Proctor: finances are sound

By Mark Shepherd
and Mark Leheny
Missourian staff writers

Mayor Les Proctor tried Wednesday to dispel predictions of the city's imminent financial crisis.

In a statement released at the presentation of the city's financial audit, Proctor said "a financial crisis" has been predicted in some quarters, including city hall. I believe you will find a city in excellent financial condition, with any 'crisis' only imagined.

"To summarize our overall financial condition, in my opinion, we are sound at the present time and for the foreseeable future. Any talk about a 'financial or fiscal crisis' is alarmist in nature and misleading to the public."

Proctor was responding to comments by city officials in the Columbia Missourian's series on the future of Columbia's budget. He said, "I think election time is a critical time. I would hate to see a dozen candidates adopt this myth that a financial crisis is looming around the corner."

Although Proctor based his assessment and prediction on the financial statements examined in the audit, neither the audit nor those statements contained judgments on the city's present (See HARGROVE, Page 11)

City election may mold next year's budget

By Mark Shepherd
and Mark Leheny
Missourian staff writers

The April city election may determine for next year the shape of Columbia's budget and the scope of city services.

The current City Council appears to be in a budget-cutting mood. Mayor Les Proctor, Fifth Ward Councilman Ed Vaughan, Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Goodrich and First Ward Councilman Pat Barnes all are eyeing reduced expenditures as the chief way to forestall a predicted budget crunch. The dimensions of the crunch are future expenditures are predicted to rise at 12 percent a year, while revenues are predicted to grow at only 7.5 percent, a 4.5 percent deficit.

Proctor and Barnes are not seeking re-election, but both Vaughan and Goodrich will be opposed.

Insight

City finances:
Time for decisions

Assistant City Manager Charlie Hargrove, the city staff budget man, said in a September memo to the council that "reduction of activity must be a part of, and perhaps most of, the solution." Why the popularity of cutbacks? Most who support checking budget growth cite

public opinion. They say news of California's tax-limiting Proposition 13 has affected the city's taxpayers.

"The city administration had better become aware of the fact that we are living beyond our means," says former mayor George F. Nickolaus.

It appears it is. The 1978-79 budget message prepared by the city administration warns, "Even though the budget is balanced, we do not feel the procedures followed may be described as a long-range strategy for shaping our future. Our chief concern is our continual spreading of total resources thinner and thinner, resulting in a barely perceptible, but inexorable, decrease in service levels."

Barnes says, "I think for the most part, people are sick and tired of tax increases." People are willing to do without some services to save money, he says.

Assessing just what Columbians think isn't so

easy, though, says Sixth Ward councilman and mayoral candidate Clyde Wilson.

"Anyone who says he is voting according to his constituency really is voting according to half a dozen people he listens to. I really don't know what my constituents think. I have no idea what they think. I have to do what I think is knowledgeable. Some councilmen may think they are voting according to their constituency, but in my opinion they are not."

Goodrich disagrees. "I think I pretty well understand what my constituents think. Day in and day out we get this information from our constituents."

But Wilson says, "If you had a vote, a majority of the public would vote to cut services. The problem

(See PROCTOR'S, Page 11)