

Coup Overthrows Syrian Government

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Defense Minister Hafez al-Assad, fervid Arab nationalist and advocate of all-out war with Israel, staged a military coup in Syria late Friday, a spokesman for the ousted leadership said.

Assad, 40-year-old air mar-

shal, overthrew the Marxist leadership of the ruling Baath party and arrested President Nouruddin al-Assad and Maj. Gen.

Salah Jadid, the party's assistant secretary — general, the spokesman told a news conference. He said the coup took place one day after an emergency Baath congress adopted a resolution firing Assad.

The spokesman, a member of the party's international com-

mittee, said he drove to Lebanon to break the news of the coup. Leftist Premier Dr. Youssef

Zayzen also was arrested, the spokesman said. Assad seized control of the state radio and television and two government newspapers in Damascus, he added.

Assad, a moderate in the socialist Baath party, has blamed

Jadid's Marxists for Syria's crushing defeat by Israel in the 1967 war. He also accused Jadid of pursuing Marxist policies at

the expense of the economy and security of this nation of 6 million people.

Reliable sources said agents of Syria's air force intelligence

service rounded up Assad's opponents and set up a guard at key military and government

buildings.

They said there was no outward sign of tension in Damascus, capital of Syria with 5.8

million citizens, and that Assad had not used tanks or heavy armor to stage the coup.

Assad made his move after a month-long government crisis that grew from the power struggle between Assad's military wing of the Baath party and

Jadid's leftists.

President Assad had resigned Oct. 8 because of his differences with Assad, but the party con-

gress was called to press him into withdrawing his resignation. The Marxists also wanted the congress to curb Assad's growing power.

Assad sent tanks into Damascus Oct. 20 and seized three prominent Marxist members of the 16-man Baath party command.

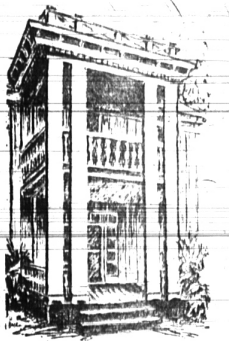
The 158-man Baath party con-

gress went into emergency session Oct. 28.

Assad had tried to throw the Marxists out of the Baath leadership in February 1969, but that fight was patched up with a compromise.

He then succeeded in increasing his authority but the Marx-

ists continued to dominate the party's 16-man command.



West Virginia's Pearl S. Buck—the only woman writer to ever win the Nobel Prize—will be honored with a reception and tea Sunday at 3 p. m. at the Huntington Galleries.

Miss Buck's appearance here is part of a current statewide tour in connection with the planned restoration of her Hillsboro home, a view of which is shown in the Huntington Galleries. She also is to address Marshall University students Monday at 10 p. m. in a convocation at Smith Hall.

Today's Events

MARSHALL University (3-5) will be trying to make it two football victories in a row today as it takes on East Carolina University (1-8) at ECU's Picklen Stadium in Greenville, N. C. Game time is 2 p. m.

WEST VIRGINIA University (6-3), its hopes of a post-season bowl game still alive, meets Syracuse (5-3), another team with bowl aspirations, at Mountaineer Field today at 1:30 p. m. Syracuse coach Ben Schwartzwalder, a Huntington native and one of WVU's all-time football greats, is looking for his first win over the Mountaineers since 1967.

ON THE SCHOOLBOY football circuit, the Class AAA-state championship playoff game in Parkersburg at 1:30 p. m. today matches defending champion Charleston (6-1) against Clarksville Victory (6-1) at City Stadium. The Mountain Lions will be seeking their third straight bowl championship while Victory is marking its first appearance in a playoff game.

AT ASHLAND, the Paul Blazer High Thespians

Weekend Weather

TODAY — Cloudy with a chance of rain today and tonight with the high temperature in the lower 50s. Low tonight near 40. Probability of precipitation 30 per cent today and 50 per cent tonight.

SUNDAY — Cloudy with a chance of rain. High in the upper 40s or lower 50s.

will present "David and Lisa" tonight at 8 p. m. at the school.

THE ANNUAL Faculty Art Show opens today at Marshall College's Hermann Fine Arts Center. It will run until Jan. 11 and will feature ceramics, paintings — both oil and watercolors — as well as sculpture and graphics.

THE CHARLESTON Light Opera Guild will present the classic "Showboat" at the Little Theater in the Civic Center tonight at 8:30 p. m.

Sunday's Events

"The Devil and Daniel Webster" — a musical version of the classic story by Stephen Vincent Benet — is the season's first offering by the Marshall University Opera Workshop. After an initial performance Friday night, it'll be repeated Sunday at 2 p. m. at Smith Music Hall on the campus.

"THE BANK DICK," a classic film starring W. C. Fields, will be shown Sunday at 3 p. m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 731 12th Ave. sponsored by the Cabell County Public Library. Admission by library card.

IT'LL BE the battle of the year Sunday for the Cincinnati Bengals (4) as they meet the Cleveland Browns (4) at Riverfront Stadium at 1 p. m. Each team owns a victory over the other thus far this season.

BARBOURSVILLE High School's marching band will present its annual "Appreciation Day" Sunday at 1:30 p. m. at King-Field in Barbooursville. Also on hand will be the Marshall ROTC Drum and Bugle Corps.

OPENING SUNDAY at the Charleston Art Gallery with the eighth annual Gallery Exhibit of Graphics and Drawings for West Virginia and Virginia Artists. And continuing at the gallery will be Guy R. Watson's one-man show in wood and glass.

Dr. Dedmon No Longer MU Prexy Candidate

Dr. Donald N. Dedmon withdrew Friday as a candidate for the presidency of Marshall University, where he is executive vice president and acting president.

His decision was made known in a letter to Dr. Prince Woodard, chancellor of the West Virginia Board of Regents.

Dr. Woodard granted requested permission to release the letter immediately so copies could be distributed among the faculty and administrative staff at Marshall.

The letter said: "I respectfully request that my name be withdrawn as a candidate for the presidency of Marshall University. 'As executive vice president and as a professional educator deeply committed to high education, I shall give complete support to the next president of Marshall. Further, I pledge to you whatever assistance I can give in the selection of the most outstanding person available nationally for the job.'

"Until the new president is chosen, I am pleased to continue in my role as executive vice president and acting president.

"I would like the record to reflect my sincere appreciation for the understanding, support and fortitude you have extended to me during this difficult time for our university. I have also been deeply moved by the support I have received from members of my advisory board, colleagues in the university and friends in the community and state."



Kenneth Yablonski Offers Advice To Consol Widows

Widows Offered \$10,000

FARMINGTON, W.Va. (AP) — Survivors of 78 men killed in a mine disaster two years ago were offered \$10,000 each Friday in a settlement proposed by the Consolidation Coal Co.

Widows, mothers and other survivors of the miners met at nearby Farmington and there with lawyer Kenneth Yablonski to study the proposal. It would allow Consolidation to resume mining operations and give the option to recover 78 bodies or leave them in the giant Cavern No. 9 cavern forever. Two bodies have been recovered.

"You've been over a barrel since the first day your husbands stepped into a mine," Yablonski, son of slain United Mine Workers leader Joseph Yablonski, told the widows. "This agreement won't change anything as far as that is concerned. If you had shut up two years ago, they wouldn't be offering you \$10,000 today."

Consolidation told the relatives it would continue rescue operations in the methane gas-filled depths of No. 9, but company officials said those operations would be "integrated" with the resumption of full-scale mining in the underground caverns that stretches for at least 10 miles in several directions.

The company's proposal will be void unless survivors representing at least 60 of the 78 families rally it by next Sunday, the two-year statutory limit since the Nov. 20, 1968 explosions and fire.

The agreement also hinges on approval by the West Virginia Bureau of Mines, the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the United Mine Workers.

The \$10,000 could be paid in three installments beginning next March; or in 10-yearly installments of \$1,000 each that would collect 8 per cent interest, provided all 78 families approve the agreement.

In addition, survivors would agree not to disrupt any future mining operations, including picket activity.

Yablonski, who called another meeting for Saturday in Farmington, said he wouldn't tell them whether to "sign or reject the proposal, but once you sign, it's binding."

Consolidation said it would, if necessary, seal off the portions of the mine that contain the bodies and erect a memorial above the ground.

The agreement between the widows and the coal company first came to light Thursday when Dr. I. E. Buft charged that the widows would be losing all their rights by signing.

Buft charged Friday that the presentation of the agreement to the widows was "a fast job, a speedy one in the hopes of getting the signatures of the 78 widows so that the coal company could once again start mining coal."

Gov. Arch A. Moore Jr. announced Friday that recovery teams were inches away from discovering some of the bodies of the 78 miners entombed in the Cavern No. 9 mine — was mistaken. Officials for Consolidation Coal Co. said late Friday that the recovery crews still have many yards to go through a solid seam of coal to reach the area where one crew of the miners was believed working when the giant cavern exploded Nov. 20, 1968.

While he was not asked directly about the downing of the plane, Laird brought up the subject himself.

"We are deeply concerned," he said, "about the loss of the two pilots who were flying on an unarmed reconnaissance mission."

The Saigon report of the incident noted that accompanying fighter escorts saw the plane crash and explode. They saw no parachutes.

"The bombing halt," Laird said, "was predicted on the fact that the North Vietnamese would negotiate in good faith as far as Paris is concerned."

"To date, the North Vietnamese have chosen not to negotiate in any substantive way."

Laird Warns Hanoi U. S. To Hit Back

(Further Details on Page 20)

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WASHINGTON—Defense secretary Melvin R. Laird warned North Vietnam that the United States stood ready to retaliate against any continued firing at American reconnaissance aircraft.

Laird issued a barely veiled threat of resumed air strikes against offending air defense sites in the North a few hours after the American military command in Saigon announced that an RF-4 reconnaissance jet had been downed by enemy ground fire 42 miles south of Vinh in North Vietnam.

Last May, American fighter-bombers staged four large-scale strikes against air defense and related facilities in North Vietnam. It was explained at the time that the raids were in response to missile and antiaircraft firing at American surveillance aircraft.

Addressing a meeting of the National Council of Community World Affairs Organizations at the Pentagon, Laird raised the matter of downed aircraft.

"We remain ready," he declared, "to take appropriate action in response to attacks on our unarmed aircraft."

Pentagon officials said that some reconnaissance planes had been fired at since the May raids, but that none had been shot down prior to Friday's reported incident.

Pentagon sources said they knew of no immediate plan to strike antiaircraft batteries believed responsible for the latest shooting.

Laird recalled that there had been a recent rocket attack on Saigon and he said that such action, together with firing at reconnaissance planes over the north, or military incursions across the demilitarized zone separating the two Vietnams, were barred by the understanding under which the United States agreed to stop bombing North Vietnam starting Nov. 1, 1968.

North Vietnam has insisted it was not party to any such agreement.

Laird's comments on the newest incident in Vietnam came during a question-and-answer period following a prepared speech.

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Plot To Release Angela By Kidnaping Governor Is Thwarted By Police

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (AP) — A bold plan to kidnap Minnesota Gov. Harold LeVander, his wife and two children, to free Angela Davis, was thwarted by police Thursday night.

Officers went to a southeast Minneapolis apartment at 3:50 a.m. and captured Ronald L. Reed, 24, a fugitive from Omaha, Neb., on charges of attempted bank robbery. They said they found on him handwritten notes relating to the plot.

Reed, for whom no permanent address was listed, did not resist. A sawed off shotgun and a loaded .38 caliber revolver were found in the apartment, police said.

At least two other persons were at the apartment but they were not apprehended, authorities said. The search was carried out with their permission.

A spokesman for the FBI at Minneapolis said, "We are filing a federal complaint against Reed charging him with conspiracy to plan a hijacking of an aircraft."

Reed and Larry L. Clark are charged with attempted robbery of the Ames-Plaza Bank at Omaha, Neb. Oct. 20. Clark is being held in St. Paul, Minn., in connection with the plot to free Angela Davis, a black liberation leader. Reed was arrested in connection with a plot to kidnap LeVander, Republican governor who is retiring in January after a four-year term. Also named as a target of the plot was Mrs. Rosalie Butler, St. Paul city councilwoman and wife of a wealthy contractor active in Democratic affairs. Police Thursday night placed a heavy guard around the governor's mansion and the Butler home next door, on Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Neither the governor nor other occupants of the two homes was aware of the guard. Nor was the Department of Public Safety.

BEECH FORK

It's one of the oldest settled sections of the region.

But soon the Beech Fork of today — and of yesterday — will be no more. Construction of a dam and recreation area means, for many Beech Fork residents, relocating.

And relocating means leaving behind things one has treasured for years. . . .

A favorite fishing hole . . . a well that has served pure water to a family for generations . . . a barn . . . a choice view from a hilltop . . .

And how do the Beech Fork citizens feel about it all?

"The government men can see farther than a common man like me," says one.

"It won't be the same," says another. But few are bitter; most are taking in stride this passing of a special kind of world they've known for a long time.

Tomorrow, The Herald-Advertiser devotes much of SUNDAY, its weekly magazine, to the changing scene of Beech Fork. Writer Melinda Hamilton and photographer Jack Burnett have concentrated not on the people of Beech Fork — their customs, their homes, their past.

It's a special edition we won't want to miss.