

## Indonesia Defends Ousting of Reporters

**BALI, Indonesia (AP)** — A top Indonesian official said today President Reagan's "winds of freedom" are still blowing on the eve of his meeting with Indonesian officials after the "hurricane" that led to expulsion of two Australian journalists.

"We are not against press freedom," Foreign Minister Mochar Nurhasanudin said in a news conference on the tropical resort island.

"On the other hand, we don't have to like it. I mean when a hurricane hits you, you don't have to like the hurricane."

He said he regretted the expulsion of a New York Times reporter, adding he had tried to reverse her banning but failed when she entered the country on a tourist visa, was discovered and ordered to leave.

U.S. Ambassador Paul Wolfowitz delivered an "expression of concern" to Indonesian officials after the Australians in the White House press party were ousted, but American officials indicated they considered the case closed and Reagan was unlikely to raise it when he meets with Suharto on Thursday.

Near the officials said, would Reagan dwell on other human rights issues such as what are known here as "suspectees" of suspected criminals and political repression in East Timor.

"We do talk about these things" with Indonesian officials, one American said, "but we don't want to hit it square on the nose."

Senior U.S. officials made clear they did not want the meeting, set to discuss economic issues, to be complicated by the whitewash caused by the reporters' case.

Reagan has made "the winds of freedom" the theme for his 12-day trip to the Far East, but officials said today he would concentrate on issues of free trade and free markets during his visit here to talk to Suharto and the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a compact of non-Communist trading partners in the region.

## Peel Trial: Defense Hits Investigation

**KETCHIKAN (AP)** — The Alaska State Troopers didn't follow up leads that Dean Moon, one of the crewmen on the fishing vessel *Investor*, is still alive, a defense attorney claimed Tuesday in the murder trial of John Kenneth Peel.

Attorney Philip Paul Weidner said two witnesses reported seeing someone resembling Moon in San Francisco in 1982. One of the men knew Moon, a 19-year-old from Billie, Wash.

Prosecutor Mary Azza Henry objected, strongly. Weidner speculated in front of the jury that Moon had hooked up with a Bay Area fisherman's contact named as an informant Sgt. James Stogdill, the Trooper in charge of the investigation.

The lawyer also accused Stogdill of distorting Peel's claims of innocence.

Peel, 25, is accused of killing eight people aboard the fishing vessel *Investor* and setting the boat on fire to hide the crime in 1982.

Stogdill told jurors Monday that Peel wasn't denying his guilt when he told troopers "they were just" to accuse him.

Peel told two troopers they were on the wrong track and had the wrong man when they arrested their theory of how and why Peel killed his former skipper, his family and four crewmen, but Stogdill said Peel didn't explicitly deny his involvement.

Weidner also alleged that investigators didn't pursue adequately allegations that *Investor*-skipper Mark Coulbert tried to pay a large amount of cocaine aboard another fishing vessel in Craig within a day of the murder.

The trial is in its sixth week.

## AGREEMENT WITH STATE:

## Woman to Pay for Fire

**FAIRBANKS (AP)** — A woman who lost control of a land-clearing fire on her property on Chena Hot Springs Road has agreed to pay the state \$50,000 for getting out the blaze.

The payments, to be made over five years, are part of a settlement reached last month between Cheryl Ostrow and the state government in a civil suit.

Last October, she was charged with criminal violations and was fined \$500 and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service work.

She set a land-clearing fire on her property last July, but it escaped the

burn area, and the state Division of Forestry responded to fight the fire.

The state claimed that Ostrow violated conditions of her burning permit, which required that a fire break be dug down to mineral soil around the 50-acre agricultural clearing and that two people be present during the fire. Firefighting tools and water were to be available at all times.

Between May 1 and Oct. 1, burning permits are required in the Fairbanks area for all open burning, except for approved barrels and cooking and warming fires.

## Crash Victims Set Off Fire

**ANCHORAGE (AP)** — A car, crushed and shaken Washita couple started a fire in Peters Creek Valley to stay warm while they waited for rescuers after their plane crashed. The blaze touched off a brushfire that eventually covered 40 acres.

Smoke from the fire brought state troopers, firefighters and the Civil Air Patrol. The couple, Michael and Barbara Campbell, both 50, were taken to Valley Hospital in Palmer for treatment.


Their Piper PA30 crashed Monday after taking off from Big Lake, said

CAP Polarus Squadron spokeswoman Delinda Wall. They stayed with their plane until cold forced them to lower elevations for search, said Troopers spokesman Paul Edmond.

The next morning they built a fire that quickly spread through the dry grass and caught the attention of Chugach volunteer firefighters, Edmond said.

Chugach State Park rangers and state Fish and Wildlife Protection Division officers flew over the area and spotted the couple.

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**Teen Center Board to Meet**

The Sitka Teen Resource Center's board of directors will hold a board meeting on Thursday at the Centennial Building.

Currently, there are three vacancies on the board. The public is invited for further information, call 747-3000.

**SAFV to Meet**

Sitka's Against Family Violence will hold a general membership meeting 7 p.m. May 29 at St. Gregory's Catholic Church on the agenda will be consideration of options for changing voting requirements for SAFV members. For further information, call 747-3000.

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