



U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar leaves a Geneva hotel Tuesday after a series of meetings with various players in the Mideast hostage negotiations.

Americans still held hostage:
Terry Anderson, Thomas Suther-land, Joseph Cicippio, Alann Steen, Jesse Turner



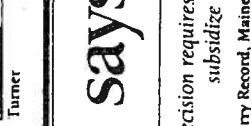
Anderson



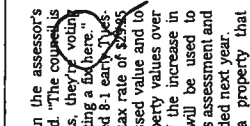
Sutherland



Cicippio



Steen



Turner

Diplomacy intensifies on hostages

• New releases could be set in motion if Israel frees a Muslim cleric in exchange for missing Israeli soldiers in Lebanon.

By ANWAR FARUQI
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Diplomacy intensified Tuesday to bring an end to the hostage drama in Lebanon, and reports pointed to a possible deal in which Israel could free a Muslim cleric within days and Arab captors would turn over missing Israeli soldiers.

In a sign of the quickening pace of efforts to free the Western captives, U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced plans to meet with an Israeli negotiating team and said the two sides were "not that far apart."

"I continue with my hopes," he

INSIDE
Edward Austin Tracy has decided to file in Boston for medical care 3D.

told reporters in Geneva, Switzerland, "I think we are advancing step by step."
Israel, for its part, suggested it might be willing to make concessions, possibly including the freeing of some detainees, in exchange for information about its seven missing servicemen.

Several of Israel's enemies indicated a willingness to take action on the servicemen — three or four of whom were said to be alive — as part of a hostage swap.
President Bush said while U.S. policy forbids negotiating with the kidnappers, he backs the secretary-general's bid to broker a release.

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State official says plan is unfair

City officials believe the phase-in plan will give them time to correct any problems.

By EDWARD D. MURPHY
Staff Writer

Portland's decision to phase in its revaluation over a two-year period is an unfair way to equalize tax assessments, a state property tax official said Tuesday.

Larry Record, director of the Maine Finance Department's property tax division, said the concept of the property tax, the rest will be added next year.
For example, a property that increased from \$50,000 to \$120,000 will be assessed at \$85,000.

66 The decision requires one class of taxpayer to subsidize another. 29

Larry Record, Maine Finance Department

The tax bill will be \$2,468. If the revaluation had been implemented fully, the rate would be \$22.30 and the tax bill would have been \$2,676.
In other words, the property owner gets a one-time break of \$190.
However, owners of property that increased at a slower rate will have to make up the difference.

Record said the council's decision means some taxpayers are "deprived of paying their fair share."
Recordsaid the state tax assessor will investigate the revaluation if

Portland to phase in new tax assessments

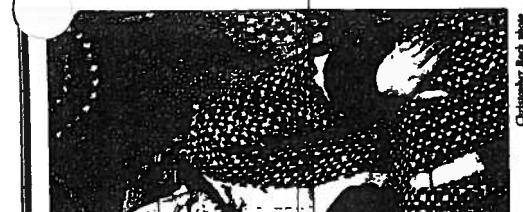
Impact of increases will be faced by taxpayers over a two year period.

By EDWARD D. MURPHY
Staff Writer

After listening to seven hours of citizen complaints, the Portland City Council voted 8-1 early Tuesday morning to phase in a controversial property revaluation in two equal steps.
The decision means that some taxpayers, angered by extraordinary increases in the value of their properties, will face the impact of new assessments over two years

rather than immediately. The new tax rate will be \$23.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The value will be calculated by adding the previous value and half the increase. For example, a house that jumped from \$50,000 to \$120,000 will be assessed at \$85,000 for tax purposes. Had the full valuation been used, the tax rate would have been \$22.30.
Theodore T. Rand, an at-large councilor, voted against the two-step plan on principle. Rand, who owns property on Great Diamond Island, said phasing in revaluation will save him hundreds of dollars. He has favored immediate implementation.

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Christopher Bach photo
Lear is King Lear in the at 8 p.m. tonight.

ation and photos are used, in source for inclusion in Daily Bulletin. Mail to: Daily Bulletin, Portland Press Herald, P.O. Box 1660, Portland 04114. We reserve the right to reject any item.

- G. Reeves, 24, of Windown
- Prescott, 76 in 50 mph zone, 1:55
- Portland, \$172.50.
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- s, car accident.
- day's calls, Standish
- 3 p.m., Route 113, propane gas

(13), (14)

HOSTAGE

Continued from Page 1A

much the better."

The Islamic Jihad statement said the envoy would be carrying an "extremely important message." It did not identify the envoy, disclose his travel plans or state the contents of his message. It also did not say whether the envoy would be an Islamic Jihad member, a third party, or even a hostage.

Last year, another pro-Iranian group used a hostage to send a message to the United States. American hostage Frank Herbert Reed was freed April 30, 1990, and said he carried a message for the White House. The message was never made public.

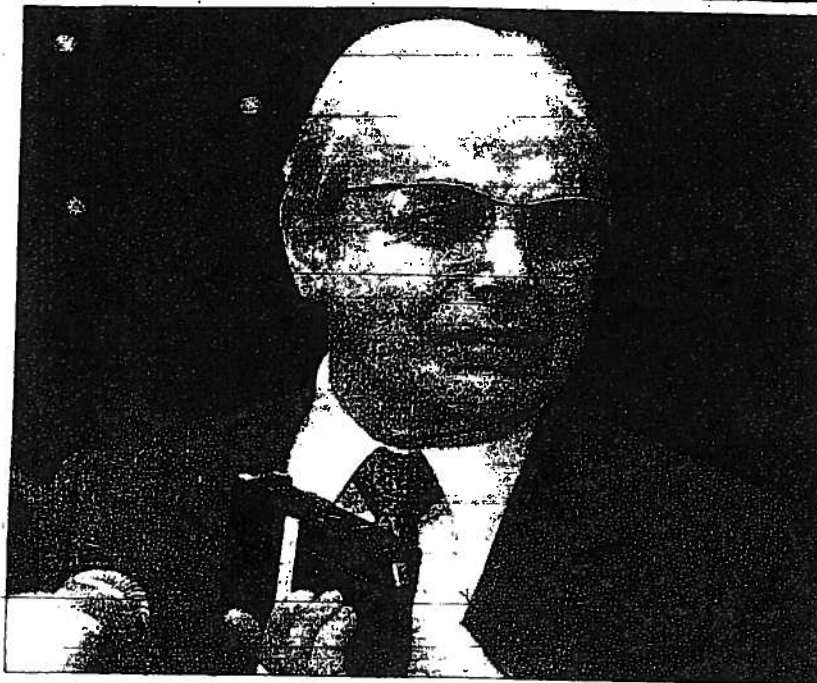
Anderson, 43, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, was abducted March 16, 1985, and is the hostage who has been held the longest. Sutherland, 60, of Fort Collins, Colo., dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut, was kidnapped June 9, 1985.

There was no mention of either man in Tuesday's 13-line Arabic statement from Islamic Jihad. The statement was delivered to a Western news agency along with a black-and-white photograph of Anderson.

Anderson was shown in profile, unlike previous pictures of him in captivity. He wore a dark T-shirt and had a slight stubble of beard. He was not wearing his eyeglasses.

The last previous picture of Anderson was released by Islamic Jihad on July 18. In it, he had a bushy beard.

The statement from Islamic Jihad said:



U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar talks to reporters Tuesday in New York after terrorist kidnappers said they will send a "special envoy" to see him about the hostage deadlock.

"In line with our belief in the need for action to resolve the issue of our imprisoned holy warriors around the world, especially in occupied Palestine, as well as the issue of those we hold (hostages) we

shall send a special envoy carrying an extremely important message to U.N. Secretary-General Mr. de Cuellar within the next 48 hours."

Thirteen Westerners are missing

in Lebanon - six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans and an Italian. Most are believed held by militants linked to Hezbollah, or Party of God, which is backed by Iran.

Caution ma those who

● Relatives of hostages have been through the roller coaster of hope and despair many times before.

Associated Press

Relatives of Western hostages being held in Lebanon reacted with caution and bitterness Tuesday to reports that kidnappers may be preparing to release an American and a British hostage by week's end.

"It's very positive, but no reason to get on any rollercoaster," said Kilt Sutherland, daughter of American hostage Thomas Sutherland. "We've seen all this before."

The terrorist group Islamic Jihad, which kidnapped Sutherland and fellow American Terry Anderson in 1985, said Tuesday it would send a "special envoy" to the United Nations secretary-general within 48 hours, apparently to discuss the hostage issue.

An Iranian newspaper, the Tehran Times, reported that an American and a British hostage might be freed.

Anderson's sister, Peggy Say, said U.S. officials had heard similar reports through diplomatic channels. She denounced the reports as "the cruelest treatment of the hostages' families."

"It is par whatever fam loved one bac for each famil Mrs. Say said view from her Her 43-ye Middle East Associated Pr March 16, 1 longest-held Lebanon.

Sutherland, Colo., dean American Un kidnapped Ju Kilt Suther Collins that father - or among the released.

"I believe saying there weekend. But will do will be said.

The most came from V husband, Alar instructor at I lege, was kid 1987.

"We're cert Mrs. Steen sa her home ir Apparently ref from Islamic "These letters their intent. will be it."

TAXES

Continued from Page 1A

4 p.m. A special meeting to consider the tax rate, payment schedules or delay in the revaluation will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the council's chambers.

During Monday's hearing, dozens of speakers said their taxes could double or triple if the new values are used. They also complained that Cole-Layer-Trumble, the private appraisal company the city hired to perform the revaluation, did a poor job in gathering data on homes and determining the area's market values.

Wil Corcoran, project director for Cole-Layer-Trumble, said the complaints were not new and came from "the same (people) inundating our office with phone calls and letters."

Allen said the city may open up a new set of problems if it puts off using the revaluation figures for a year. For example:

● Downtown property owners would probably file hundreds of requests for abatements - cuts in the appraised value of their property - since many expected to receive tax breaks as a result of the faltering commercial market.

● Some homeowners likewise would have seen steady or lower taxes under the new assessments. They could argue that they've been paying too much while more expensive homes have been undervalued, and it's unfair for that situation to continue.

● The city would probably have to raise the tax rate - set at \$40.71 per \$1,000 of assessed value before revaluation - in anticipation of millions of dollars of abatements. That could boost the tax rate by \$2 or \$3, Ganley said.

The state has the power to order the city to use the new figures. On the last point, Allen and Ganley said they think they can convince the state a delay is justified. Ganley said the city could argue that it doesn't have time to investigate the complaints about revaluation before the first bills, due in mid-September, are sent out.

But a state official doesn't see it that way.

"They are in non-compliance," said Larry Record, director of the property tax division of the Maine Finance Department.

Record said state law requires cities and towns to change their valuations when overall appraisals fall below 70 percent of the fair market values. Portland's overall appraisals are below 50 percent of market values.

"I, in good conscience, would not recommend going back to the old values," Record said, noting the inequity of having some taxpayers' homes overvalued and overtaxed.

"To delay implementing the revaluation means you want to continue with the inequities that existed. The people that have been overpaying would continue to overpay," he said.

If the state tax assessor receives a complaint, he could investigate and order the city to use the new values, Record said.

Echoing Record's concerns, Allen said the city would hold another hearing before officially deciding to delay implementation.

"There are some people who would be paying less under the Cole-Layer-Trumble assessment than they are now and we can expect those people to be concerned," he said. "It's by no means clear what the council will decide to do."

But the delay seemed to be a popular choice for several councilors contacted Tuesday.

Councilor Esther B. Cienott said she would like to see a delay at least until unhappy taxpayers complete their appeals. She said she's looking for a solution that "doesn't throw the city into chaos."

"If Cole-Layer-Trumble has screwed up and it's wrong, we should stop it. We have a responsibility to the people," said Councilor Charles W. Harlow.

Councilor Richard W. Paulson also said that a delay is "not unreasonable," but other councilors said they want to hear more about the plan before committing themselves.

Black churches doubling as schools

● The crisis of inner city schools prompts renewal of the black church's traditional commitment to education.

By SUSAN CHIRA
The New York Times

CHICAGO - Those who would save America's inner-city schools are discovering a long-neglected resource - the black church.

From after-school tutorials to summer schools, computer classes to family science activities, black churches are renewing their historic commitment to education.

But now they are getting money from private foundations and some government agencies, who see black churches as their best link to children in neighborhoods beset by poverty, violence and school failure.

For years, these donors shunned religious institutions, worried about the separation of church and state. Now, however, many have come to believe that churches, by their very

nature, can supplement what many see as gaping holes in public schools - providing moral or religious training and treating the whole range of social ills that doom many children to failure. To avoid church-state conflicts, most require that money go only to non-religious educational programs.

On just one summer day here, more than 500 children sit in makeshift classrooms in churches around the city, racing to chalkboards to work out mathematics problems or drawing pictures of the solar system.

In an unlikely pairing of science and religion, the National Science Foundation, a government agency, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a professional group, are financing hundreds of instructional programs in

black churches here and around the country to improve math, science and computer skills.

The Association for the Advancement of Science has spent \$800,000 over the last four years for such programs in 800 churches in 17 cities.

Private foundations are also giving money. Carnegie Corp., for example, has given \$2.3 million for church-based educational programs in nine cities.

Such church educational offerings include preschools, classes in how to be a parent and special programs tailored to young black men.

Most of the children in the programs are not members of churches, but are often those whose public schools have failed.

Black churches stepped up their educational programs as concern

mounted over inner-city public

"We are re here," said Rev. Progressive Be Orleans is sp year on educa computer train Association for Science and Ap

"What's go community i: change. If each teach one, we'l From their i 1800's, the pred black congrega

giving education mission, said t the Congress Churches.

Many foundi leges to educ barred from w the public syst churches retrea last several ye renewed their e

"If you want with the black c to deal with ch

"We are responsible who live here. What's going on now in my community is something I can change."

Rev. Willie Gable, Progressive Baptist Church

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1A

fundamentalist schools, in some cases to teach them at home, school officials say.

At Kennebunk Christian Academy, Raymond Antociccio, the headmaster, said the school will be lucky to reach its enrollment goal of 110 students this year. Its peak enrollment was 130 in 1988.

"The economy is definitely hitting the Christian schools harder than it is hitting the private prep schools," Antociccio said. "We have mostly blue-collar, middle-income families."

The Bissonnette family of Dayton is typical of those leaving the Kenne-

bunk Christian Academy.

Although determined to have a Christian-oriented education for their three children, Debra Bissonnette said the total cost of nearly \$7,000 is no longer affordable to her and her husband, Gerald, whose hours as a textile worker at West-point-Pepperhill in Biddeford have been cut back.

"I love the school, but it was either that or not pay the mortgage," she said.

To make ends meet, Debra Bissonnette will teach the children at home and hope times get better.

The Bissonnettes will not turn to the public schools, she said, because they want Christian values included in their children's schooling. "Obviously, our options are limited," she said. "When the finances come

back we will probably re-enroll." Antociccio said he sees the same pattern with many families.

"They are trying homeschooling, and if that doesn't work they'll come back to the day schools. Unfortunately, it might bring about the demise of the day schools," he said.

Last spring, another Christian school not far from Kennebunk went under because of low enrollment.

Bethel Christian Academy in Portsmouth, N.H., which had a peak enrollment of 150 in the mid-1980s, closed after enrollment fell to 80 students. It since has reorganized as the Portsmouth Christian Academy and will open in the fall.

Officials of three southern Maine Christian schools whose enroll-

ments have st only slightly s ented programs that parents' slipped.

Ronald Chris Gloucester, said his families w schools and oth ing at home finances.

Eastgate's e: slightly to about fall, he said, b held to \$1,400.

"The parents ment and their fice on behalf of reason we're sti said.