



Tiniest tot

Myra Faulkner leans over her baby in San Diego where doctors called news conference last week to describe tiny Mignon as the most premature baby ever to live. The infant was 17 weeks premature when she was born on Nov. 7. In the 17th week of life, Mignon is still not "out of the woods."

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

Canadian initiative adopted

UNITED NATIONS (CP) — A Canadian initiative on human rights has led to United Nations recognition of the problem of persons who have disappeared in countries where authoritarian governments cover up the killing and imprisonment of opponents.

There are no accurate figures on the number of political prisoners or disappeared persons. Amnesty International estimates there are at least 500,000 persons classified as prisoners of conscience in jails around the world.

A spokesman for Amnesty International in New York says the figure is at best a guess. Information is lacking on the large number of political prisoners confined to camps and jails in such countries as Cambodia, Vietnam and China.

The number of disappeared persons—people whose relatives have been unable to trace—runs into the tens of thousands. Again, it's only a wild guess, says Amnesty International. In Argentina alone, it says its figures go as high as 15,000 unaccounted for.

Last week, the UN General Assembly approved without a vote a resolution on the general question of disappeared persons, calling on governments to undertake speedy and impartial investigations of reports of enforced or involuntary disappearances.

"This was a distinctly Canadian initiative," a Canadian spokesman says. "Some people wanted to interpret this as being in Cyprus. Others wanted it to be interpreted as being in Argentina or Chile or Eastern Europe. But we were

careful to avoid these regional boobytraps to get to the general form of concern."

The Assembly called on governments to ensure that law enforcement and security authorities or organizations were fully accountable for unjustifiable excesses which might lead to enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Governments were urged to co-operate with other governments, United Nations organizations and other bodies "in a common effort to search for, locate, or account for such persons."

The UN Commission on Human Rights was asked to take up the question of disappeared persons at its next session in Geneva.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim will continue to use his good offices in such cases, drawing upon the help of humanitarian organizations.

Canada abstained in the approval of another Assembly resolution dealing with missing persons in Cyprus. The assembly called for the establishment of an impartial body to trace an estimated 2,000 missing persons in Cyprus.

While the General Assembly condemned Chile for continued human rights violations, a special UN committee reported on its attempts to trace 600 missing persons in the South American country. But the ad hoc group said it was unable to learn what happened to them.

INTERPRETIVE

Amnesty International says 1,500 are missing in Chile. Cuba places the figure as high as 3,000.

The Chilean disappearances are of particular interest to Canada. The Canadian government has taken in about 7,000 Chilean refugees since the 1973 right-wing military takeover in Chile. Many of the refugees have missing relatives in Chile.

While there was some improvement in the human rights situation in Chile, Argentina continues to be the leading violator in Latin America, says the Council on Hemispheric Affairs (COHA), a private group based in Washington.

In its annual report, COHA published a new list of 13,000 victims of Argentinian repression, prepared by the New York-based Argentine Information Service.

The service is staffed by Argentine professionals living in the United States as well as U.S. experts on Argentine affairs.

A number of human rights organizations including Amnesty International helped provide information.

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Acupuncture mystery solved?

TORONTO (CP) — A neurobiologist at University of Toronto says he may have solved the age-old mystery of acupuncture.

Dr. Bruce Pomeranz says needles placed in certain muscles trigger the release of a natural pain-deadening chemical from the pituitary gland on a signal from the brain.

"We're defending the hypothesis like crazy," Pomeranz says. "We'll probably spend the next 10 years on it."

The breakthrough in his research was the 1975 discovery of the natural analgesic, endorphin, by California scientist Avram Goldstein of Stanford University.

Recall totals staggering

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than nine million motor vehicles and more than 14 million tires were recalled in the United States for safety defects in 1978, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported today.

The number of motor vehicles recalled was the second highest on record, topped only by 12.9 million in 1977. But the 14.5 million steel-belted radial 500 tires being recalled by Firestone Tire Rubber Co. is the largest in history.

U.S. automakers recalled 8.1 million cars, vans, trucks, buses and motorcycles in 199 recall campaigns. Foreign manufacturers called back one million vehicles in 71 campaigns.

Among the four major U.S. manufacturers, Ford recalled 3.8 million, General Motors 1.7 million, Chrysler 1.5 million and American Motors 600,000.

The largest single vehicle recall was conducted by Ford and involved 1.5 million 1971-1976 Pintos and Bobcats with potentially unsafe fuel tanks.

CARPET CARE TIPS

by Pat Thomas



Carpeting in heavily traveled spots gets hard wear. For better and longer appearance life for your floor covering, manage to give these areas breathing spells. Small rugs are helpful as is occasional moving of furniture and reversing of rugs from time to time. Small scatter rugs are especially recommended for areas in front of chairs or furniture used for viewing TV. The normal shuffling during TV watching is equal to very heavy wear. And while you're choosing carpets, come to see us for the greatest choice in patterns and colors.

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