

LOS ANGELES SCHOOL

'Kids forced into porn'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cameras rolled and teachers watched as preschool children were sexually molested by adult strangers in a game called Naked Movie Star, say prosecutors seeking to have three of seven defendants held without bail.

"It appears that the primary purpose of the McMartin preschool was to solicit young children for pornographic purposes," deputy district attorney Eleanor Barrett said Tuesday. "It is my belief that these photographs and movies were taken for commercial purposes."

Barrett said 125 children who attended the Virginia McMartin preschool between 1973 and 1983 may have been involved. No photographs or films have been recovered, authorities said. Seven school staff members have been charged with 115 felony counts involving 18 children who testified before a county grand jury.

One unidentified parent was quoted in today's Los Angeles Times as saying that his four-year-old daughter told investigators that she and two other children were driven to a horse stable where sex acts were filmed.

RAID ON IRAN

Iraqis use new jets

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi military says its French-supplied Super-Etendard warplanes attacked and "destroyed" two major naval targets southwest of Iran's Kharg island oil terminal in the Persian Gulf.

The air raids Tuesday marked the first time Iraq reported using any of the five sophisticated fighter-bombers which it obtained last fall from France.

Lloyd's insurance syndicate in London confirmed that a Greek tanker, the 41,329-tonne Filikon L, was hit by an Iraqi missile about 70 nautical miles south of Kharg on Tuesday afternoon along with another unidentified "naval target."

However, the Greek shipping line's New York agent said the Filikon L had loaded oil at Kuwait and was not near Kharg island when it was hit. He said it was still seaworthy and no one in the crew was hurt.

An unidentified Iraqi military spokesman read a statement over Baghdad state television which said that at 5:35 p.m. Tuesday, "a formation of our Super-Etendard jet fighters raided and totally destroyed two major naval targets southwest of Kharg island."

He said other Iraqi warplanes attacked and destroyed a pumping station north of the town of Dezful, "scoring direct and effective hits."

Iran, which has been at war with Iraq since September 1980 in a dispute that began over the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, had no immediate comment on the Baghdad radio report.

In London, Roger Barker of the Lloyd's insurance syndicate's intelligence department said the Filikon L was owned by Elfellowship Inc. and registered in the Greek port of Piraeus. He said he knew nothing about the other target.

"Ropes were placed around her waist and her hands were tied behind her back," the father said.

Barrett said because the children were touched by strangers not connected with the school, they may have been "victims of child prostitution."

Prosecutors allege children were kept silent by threats to themselves and their parents.

Brad Sales, an assistant to therapist Kee McFarlane who interviewed the children, was quoted in court documents as saying that rabbits, turtles, dogs and cats were mutilated, and birds and fish were tortured in front of the children.

The youngsters allegedly were told they and their parents would be similarly treated if they revealed the molestations, he said.

Barrett's findings, released Tuesday, were contained in the district attorney's response filed in Los Angeles Superior Court to defence motions to reduce the defendants' bail.

"We want the court to set no bail for three of the seven defendants because of the substantial likelihood that great bodily harm to some children will result if the defendants are released," district attorney Robert Philibosian said in a statement.

The no-bail motion names Raymond Buckey, 25, who is charged with 75 counts — the bulk of the charges; his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, 57, who is charged with 15 counts; and teacher Betty Raidor, 64, 12 counts.

The other four defendants are free on bail. They are Peggy Ann Buckey, 28, charged with one count; Babette Spittler, 36, six counts; Mary Ann Jackson, 56, five counts; and Virginia McMartin, the 76-year-old grandmother who founded the school, charged with a single count.

All seven were arrested March 22. Indictments allege children were raped, sodomized, forced to submit to oral copulation or fondling.

McMartin, who was cited for her "outstanding community service" in 1977, has called the allegations a "bunch of lies" and relatives of some of the other defendants have rallied to support the school, which closed in January because so many parents pulled their students out.

The pornography question arose when several children told McFarland, a social worker at Children's Institute International, that they had been photographed.

McFarland said 125 students at the school told her of playing a game involving picture taking, says Barrett's report.

Barrett said 31 of the children described a game called Naked Movie Star which "entailed the children removing their clothes and being photographed by one or more of the teachers present."

"Raymond Buckey is identified by almost all of the children as taking the majority of the photographs," Barrett's report said.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, responding to the allegations, created a 15-member task force Tuesday to review laws governing preschool licensing procedures.



Prison inmate with towel on his head and armed with a knife, top photo, holds screaming hostage in Lima prison. In bottom photo, the hostage slumps after being wounded by his captor.

LIMA PRISON

Raid ends jail siege

LIMA (AP) — Rebellious prisoners armed with pistols and dynamite held more than a dozen hostages for 12 hours at a downtown Lima prison until their bloody uprising was quelled by guards in a gas attack.

Authorities said a convict ring-leader was killed and four hostages and four policemen injured during the attempted breakout by six armed prisoners Tuesday. The attorney general's office began an investigation today to determine how the convicts obtained their weapons.

Penitentiary guards stormed the convict-held administrative section and warden's office at El Sexto prison, using paralyzing gas and tear gas to rescue the hostages and end the siege, police said. An angry crowd had gathered outside and screamed for police to kill the prisoners.

One guard said rioters cut out the tongue of one of the six women hostages after she gave a telephone interview to reporters from the warden's office. She was identified as prison secretary Carmen Montes.

The guard's report could not be confirmed immediately.

Montes had begged authorities during the interview to meet the mutineers' demands, sobbing: "What do you want? They are going to kill me!"

Another hostage, prison employee Rodolfo Farfan, was shot in the stomach on a balcony in front of reporters and police when the rebels' demand for two escape vans was rejected. Penitentiary Director Carlos Jara Calle said Farfan was in an intensive-care unit at hospital.

The prisoners said that once they got the getaway vehicles, they would release the hostages along the roadside, one by one.

The estimate of hostages varied because the would-be escapers had seized other prisoners as captives, police said. One such hostage was identified as Anontio Diaz Martinez, awaiting trial as a leader of the outlawed leftist radical guerrilla movement known as the Shining Path. Defence lawyers inside the prison also were reported to be taken hostages.

Israelis will go to polls in July

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and opposition Labor leader Shimon Peres agreed today that an Israeli general election should be held July 23, 16 months ahead of schedule, political officials said.

The agreement came during a meeting between the two men in Shamir's office and paved the way for speedy passage of an early election bill by the Knesset (parliament).

The rival party leaders met for the second time in two days to negotiate a date for the balloting. Officials of Shamir's Likud coalition and Peres's Labor party said the leaders finally agreed on a July election, and a spokesman for Shamir said July 23 was the date selected.

Last week, Peres was calling for elections in May or June. Shamir had wanted them in November, one year before his full term would expire, but a Labor-sponsored bill calling for an early election won preliminary approval in the Knesset last week with support from five defectors from Shamir's coalition.

Support for the bill was based primarily on unhappiness with Shamir's economic policies, which have failed to halt a soaring inflation rate.

The second stage of the legislative process could start soon. Parliament could be summoned from its recess for a special session next week to complete the process.

Shamir was believed to have wanted the election as late as possible in order to give Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad time to slow down Israel's inflation rate and implement a new price and wage policy to stabilize the economy.

Labor leaders charged that Shamir sought time to carry out an "election economics" plan based on holding down consumer prices artificially to increase Likud's popularity.

'MARKETING TOOL'

Smoking study hit

BOSTON (AP) — An American study calculating the hidden costs of smoking is intended as a "marketing tool" to help sell nicotine chewing gum to people trying to quit cigarettes, a tobacco industry spokesman said Tuesday.

The study, released Monday, found that a middle-aged man who smokes more than 40 cigarettes a day will suffer an average cost of \$58,987 over his lifetime in smoking-related medical bills and lost wages.

Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals financed the book-length study, and it was conducted by medical economists at Policy Analysis Inc., a Brookline, Mass., research firm.

"Apparently it is intended by its initiator and financial sponsor, Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, as a marketing tool for its stop-smoking gum, Nicorette," said William Toohey, of the Tobacco Institute, a trade group in Washington.

At the drug company in Cincinnati, spokesman William Donaldson responded: "We funded that study because we thought there was a lack of hard data to indicate the cost that smoking may result in. We have not used it as a marketing tool and do not plan to."

CAREER-ACCESS WORKS

In the next year, the Government of Canada will spend more than 24 million on the Career-Access Program in British Columbia and the Yukon, a program providing employers with a wage subsidy for people who face severe difficulties in finding work.

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