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## AROUND THE WORLD

# Iran premier urged to quit

DR BAZARGAN  
... "our hands  
are tied"

TEHERAN, Monday

IRAN'S increasingly powerful Shiite clergy has issued an implicit call for the resignation of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan hours after he accused Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeiny of taking away his power to deal with problems facing the country.

Mr Abol Hassan Bani Sadr, a key aide of Ayatollah Khomeiny, charged in a speech published yesterday that Dr Bazargan's government was "cracking up".

He said there is no choice but to "uproot the present government and replace it with another."

### Reversal

The attack on Dr Bazargan coincided with criticism by other top Khomeiny aides, including Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, alternate chief of the group studying Iran's new constitution and Ayatollah Ahmad Azari-Qomi, who resigned as Tehran prosecutor protesting against government obstructionism.

It was the strongest attack since Dr Bazargan became Ayatollah's Khomeiny's provisional

premier in February pending the transfer of power to an Islamic government.

It was also the first time that members of the Revolutionary Council, Iran's supreme executive and legislative body, took part in an attack on the premier.

The attack was a reversal of circumstances. Until recently, Dr Bazargan had been threatening to resign but was urged each time by Ayatollah Khomeiny to stay on.

### No power

Earlier yesterday, Dr Bazargan hit out at his critics in a speech on the opening day of an economic seminar.

He said: "Our hands are tied because our power has been taken away, our authority has been taken away... we insist that reconstruction takes time, but nobody listens."

He added: "They (the clergy) want decisiveness from us but they take our authority away by always speaking badly against the government and its employees."

The clergy has blamed the premier for failing to institute the decisions of the Revolutionary Council. — UPI, Reuter.



### Blood under coffin mystery

SALISBURY, Mon. — The Roman Catholic Church is investigating the mysterious appearance during a funeral service of blood under the coffin of a British poet-missionary believed to have been murdered by black insurgents.

The drop of fresh blood, about four centimetres in diameter, appeared in the Catholic cathedral as a funeral service was being given for John Bradburne, who for nine years had lived with black leprosy sufferers and treated them at a leprosarium in the north-east.

Close friends described Mr Bradburne, a lay member of the Franciscan Order whose bullet-riddled body was discovered on Sept 5, as "saintly." — UPI.

### They fled West in a home-made balloon

SAFE at last in West Germany after a harrowing 30-minute flight in a hot air balloon from East Germany, the families of Guenter Wetzel and Peter Stelzyk relax in the Bavarian town of Nails on Sunday.

Under cover of darkness Mr and Mrs Wetzel and their two children and Mr and Mrs Stelzyk and their two children fled from the East German town of Poessneck in their home-made balloon which took the two housewives months to meticulously stitch together.

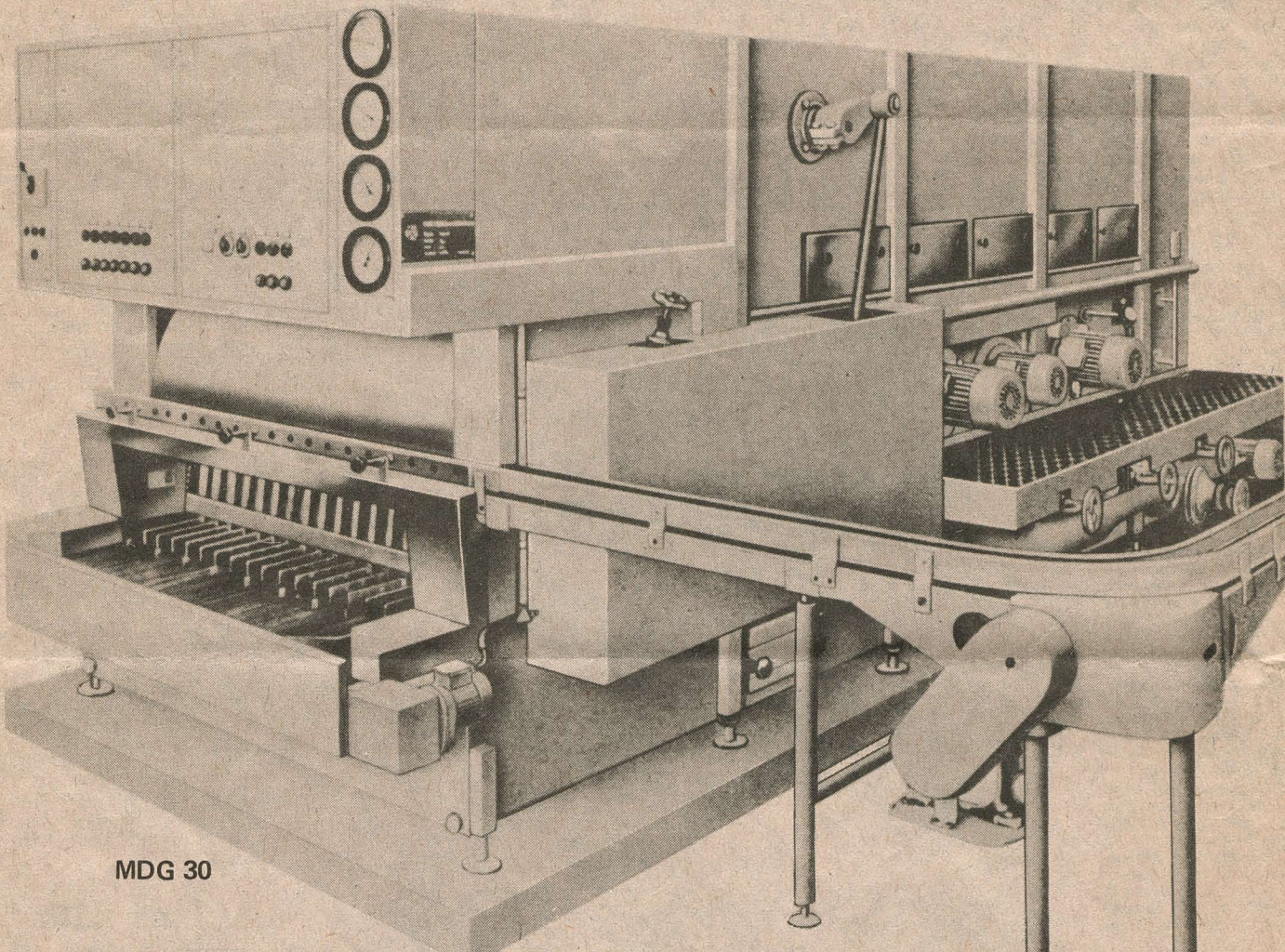
It was their second attempt at escape. Bad weather had forced

them back when they tried to reach the West on July 4.

When the balloon with its two square metre platform touched down, the families were not certain they had reached West Germany. They emerged from hiding after they spotted a police car and fearfully asked: "Are we in the West?"

The 9,700 population of Nails have already made the Wetzels and Stelzyks more than welcome. Mayor Robert Strobel has already offered flats to both families and said: "Jobs, too, can certainly be found." — AP picture.

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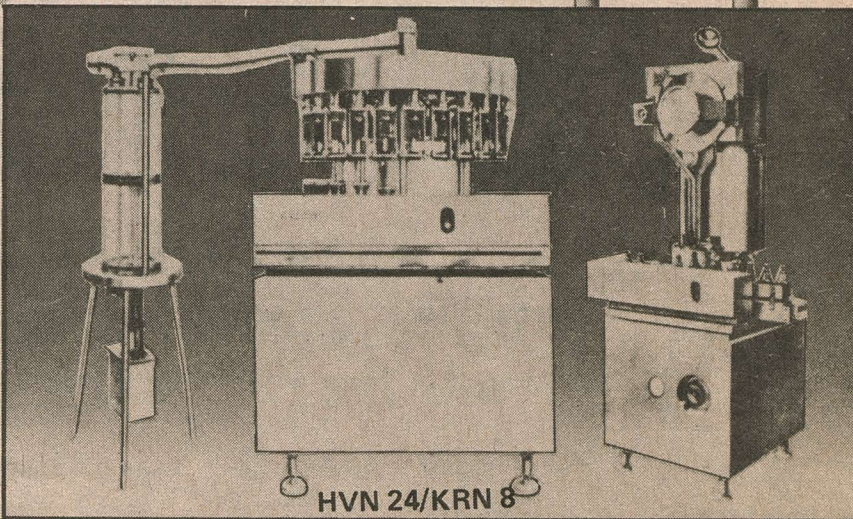
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### China's panda reserve

BEIJING, Mon. — China is setting up a reserve for giant pandas and tourists eventually will be admitted to the area.

The Xinhua news agency said today the country now has about 60 pandas living in the wild, or half the number at the start of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 because state regulations protecting rare animals and plants had been ignored. — Reuter.

### Modest gain

The social democrats saw their vote percentage shrink in three consecutive elections — all of them with Mr Palme at the helm — and the 52-year-old leader fought against the wall in the election campaign amid speculations that his political career was at stake.

Preliminary returns showed the social democrats, who campaigned for a "warm people's home socialism solidarity," gained a modest 0.6 per cent for a total of 43.6 per cent or 2.3 million of the six million eligible voters. This would give the social democrats 155 seats — up three — in the 349-seat legislative body.

Mr Palme, who spent the past three years in unaccustomed opposition following defeat at the polls in 1976 after 44 years of social democratic rule, said he would form another social democratic minority government "seeking broad majorities" in parliament if offered the job as premier again.

But the final results could still be days away. — AP.

### Two fanatics killed

MANILA, Mon. — Government troops chasing members of a fanatical religious sect known as Rizalists killed two and wounded another in a clash in the far southern province of Bukidnon, the military said today.

The troops captured shotguns, machetes, spears and bottles of oils used in their rites by the Rizalists — named after Filipino national hero Jose Rizal. — Reuter.

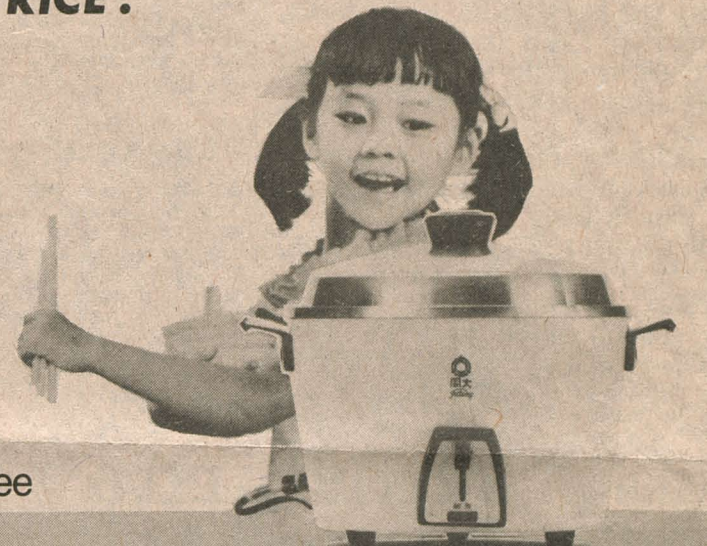
### On with strike

ROTTERDAM, Mon. — Tugboat crews, on strike since Aug 23, voted yesterday to continue their stoppage and intensify efforts to prevent other dock employees going to work. — UPI.

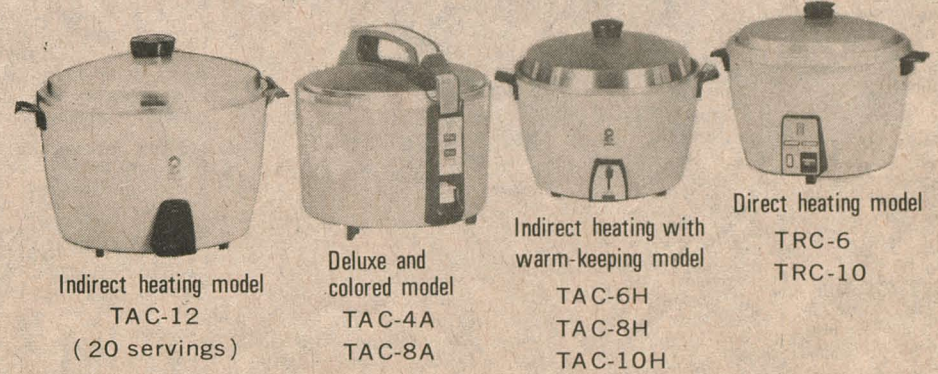
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