

From the Press Office

SUMMARY OF 7.45 NEWS

Three gunmen have seized the Iranian Embassy in London and are threatening to kill 20 hostages. The men, identified by police as Iranian Arabs burst into the Embassy in a daylight raid taking a policeman, who was on duty outside with them. Calling themselves the 'group of the martyr', the gunmen have served a series of demands on the British Government. Ken Begg reports. Iranian gunmen have threatened to kill their hostages and blow up the Embassy if their demands are not met and have set a 24 hour deadline. They have told police they want the release of 91 prisoners being held for political crimes in Southern Iran. Speaking in English and Arabic the gunmen have demanded an aircraft to fly all of them, hostages included from London to an undisclosed destination. At least 20 hostages are inside the Kensington embassy. 3, including the police officer are thought to be British. The remainder are members of the Iranian Embassy staff. The gunmen have requested a doctor for one of the hostages, believed to be suffering from a gunshot wound. They have told police they will hold them responsible if the wounded man dies. But police say they have so far been unsuccessful in their efforts to get a doctor to the Embassy. Hundreds of police are outside the Embassy, many of them armed and wearing bullet proof vests. The British Government has made it clear that while it will continue to negotiate with the gunmen it will not give in to their demands.

There has been serious fighting in the streets of Amsterdam as Queen Juliana formally abdicated in favour of her eldest daughter Beatrix. Malcolm Downing reports.

East and West Germany have signed a series of agreements on transport connections with West Berlin. Both sides have emphasised the political significance of the agreement. Malcolm Downing reports.

In Atlanta, Georgia one of President Carter's friends, the former Budget Director, Mr. Bert Lance has been acquitted on some charges of violating Federal banking laws. Geoff McMullen reports.

There have been more demonstrations by South African school and university students over education standards.

The Federal Government introduced legislation into Parliament last night to deal more speedily with the flotilla of refugee boats in Darwin Harbour and along the northern coastline. But according to the Opposition it's a classic example of closing the gate after the boats had bolted. Barry Cassidy reports.

The Federal Government is to examine health services and law as they affect young people. The study is the Government's response to a series of resolutions carried at the National Youth Conference in October last year.

China has released industrial production figures showing spectacular gains in consumer goods. The United Press International said the production figures were the most complete report on the Chinese economy since the revolution in 1949.

The cost of maintaining an average middle class family in the United States has risen by more than 10 per cent this year to more than \$20,000.