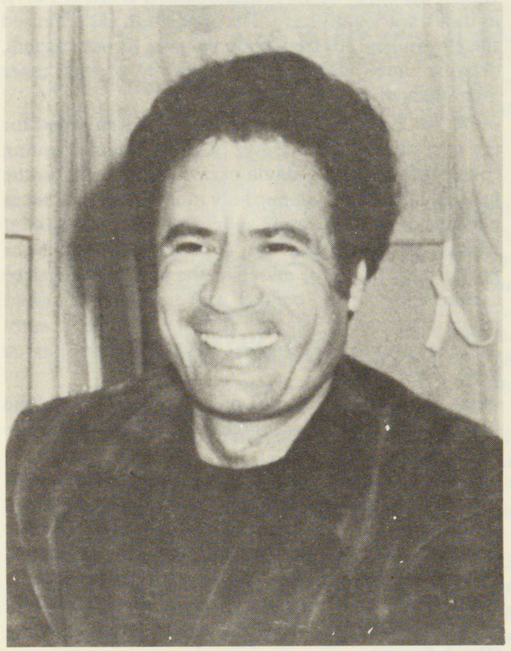
Norway. A month later, in Berlin, the Moroccan distance runner chalks up another world record by clocking in at 3:29.45 over 1,500 meters.

Aug. 4: An amphibious attack force lands near Alexandria while American B-52s stage a bomb strike on Egypt's second largest city as war games commence involving 9,000 U.S. soldiers and contingents from Egypt, Somalia, Jordan and Oman. Codenamed "Bright Star 85", the maneuvers are the third and largest in a series of regularly scheduled exercises between the allies. Absent from this year's wargames are military forces from the Sudan, a regular participant in previous "Bright Star" exercises.



Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi */Sygma*

August: Libya begins the expulsion of thousands of Tunisian, Egyptian, Algerian, Mauritanian and Sudanese oilfield workers, a result of decreased labor needs due to the slump in the world oil market. Many are sent home without their belongings and passports; some are unable to exchange the currency they had earned while in Libya. Tunisia, the hardest hit with more than 20,000 of its nationals deported by Aug. 19, reacts by deporting nearly 300 Libyan nationals, including several diplomats accused of espionage. On Aug. 23 Tunis recalls its ambassador from the Libyan capital, Tripoli, and places armed forces near the Libyan border on alert.

Aug. 12: Egyptian prosecutors bring charges against five people accused in connection with the attempted assassination of a Libyan political refugee now living in Alexandria. One of the Egyptian defendants says that Libyan authorities were behind the plot.

Aug. 19: Winding up a twelve-day, seven-nation African tour, Pope John Paul II meets Moroccan King Hassan and speaks before nearly 100,000 Moslems gathered in a Casablanca soccer stadium in the first official papal visit to an Arab country. The pontiff also touched down in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Togo, and Zaire.

Aug. 20: A group calling itself the "Revolution of Egypt" claims responsibilty for the murder of one Israeli diplomat and the wounding of two others today in Cairo. Egypt pledges to capture the assailants.

Aug. 31: According to Egyptian press reports, 43 officers of the Libyan armed forces are arrested after a failed attempt to overthrow Muammar Qaddafi on the eve of the 16th anniversary of his own rise to power in a military coup Sept. 1, 1969. The rebellion reportedly began when the officers refused orders to invade neighboring Tunisia.

Sept. 4: The Cabinet of Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, installed one year ealier, resigns after failing to turn around Egypt's failing economy. President Mubarak appoints former Finance Minister Ali Lufti to head a new Cabinet.

Sept. 20: A Spanish naval officer and fisherman are killed in a clash with POLISARIO forces off the coast of Western Sahara. POLISARIO briefly holds six other Spaniards as prisoners. On Sept. 29, Spain announces the closing of POLISARIO's Madrid office.

Sept. 26: Tunisia announces a complete break in diplomatic relations with Libya, citing espionage, expulsions, and incursions on its territory by Libyan armed forces.

Oct. 1: Israeli jets destroy the Tunis headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in a surprise attack, killing more than 70 Tunisians and Palestinians.

Oct. 5: A "deranged" Egyptian police officer shoots and kills seven Israeli tourists and his own commanding officer on the Red Sea Coast south of Eilat. Israel accepts the official Egyptian explanation for the incident and says it should not damage bilateral relations. Three months later the policeman involved is said to commit suicide in an Egyptian jail.

Oct. 7: Members of a breakaway PLO faction led by Abu Abbas hijack the Italian ocean liner Achille Lauro after the ship sets sail from Alexandria, shooting and dumping overboard an elderly, wheelchair-bound American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer. The hijackers surrender to Egyptian authorities Oct. 10 and board an Egyptair jet bound for an unknown destination; U.S. Navy jets intercept the plane over the Mediterrannean and force it to land at Sicily where the hijackers are handed over to Italian authorities for prosecution. The mid-air apprehension is heralded by the U.S. public, but creates a temporary chill in American-Egyptian relations.

Oct. 8: Three people, including two Tunisian Jews, are killed and 13 others wounded when a security guard "goes berserk" and opens fire on Tunisia's Djerba Island.

Nov. 3: A page-one story in the *Washington Post* reports on a secret Central Intelligence Agency plan to undermine the Qaddafi regime in Libya, possibly by assassinating the Libyan leader. The Reagan administration denies plans to kill Qaddafi, but defends covert support operations "to pre-empt and frustrate subversive and terrorist activities."

Nov. 6: In a speech marking the anniversary of his "Green March" to the Western Sahara in 1975, Morocco's King Hassan explains that the referendum on Saharan rule proposed in his October message to the UN General Assembly cannot work if the Moroccan army and administration were to withdraw from the territory first, as his opponents have demanded.

Nov. 11: Police in Alexandria say they have frustrated an assassination attempt by four Libyan agents on former Libyan Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Bakoush, who now lives in Egypt.

Moroccan engineers claim the sensors in their fortified wall can detect the movement of POLISARIO's battle-modified Land Rovers. */Africa News*

Nov. 12: Morocco's membership in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) officially lapses, one year after King Hassan announced his country's withdrawal from the body in protest of the SADR's admission to the OAU.

Nov. 24: An Egyptair Boeing 737 en route from Athens to Cairo is hijacked to Malta. After landing, the gunmen, without issuing specific demands begin to shoot passengers and dump their bodies on the tarmac. More than half of the 91 passengers and crew aboard are killed in explosions and a gunbattle when an Egyptian commando team assaults the plane. Egypt accuses Libya of involvement in the incident.

Dec. 12: On the first anniversary of his coming to power in a bloodless military coup, Mauritanian President Ould Taya pardons exiled former civilian President Ould Daddah, who was overthrown by a military coup in 1978. Also given amnesties are five people jailed in 1981 for trying to overthrow former President Mohamed Ould Haidalla, the military leader Taya himself ousted last year. Taya promises democratically-elected institutions will be established in late 1986 to administer major towns and Nouakchott, the capital.

Dec. 16: Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella and resistance leader Hocine Ahmed announce the formation of a "united front of forces opposed to the Algerian ruling regime," at a press conference in London.

Dec. 19: An Algerian court in Medea gives 22 people prison terms of six months to three years on charges of producing and distributing illegal literature and setting up unlawful associations. Several of those convicted are members of the Algerian Human Rights League, which the government considers a subversive organization.

Dec. 25: Algeria's ruling National Liberation Front party opens a three-day extraordinary congress to approve revisions of the national charter involving changes in economic policy, particularly the greater role of the private sector, since the document was adopted in 1976.

Dec. 27: Terrorists gun down 15 travelers, including five Americans, in the Rome and Vienna airports. Circumstantial evidence, as well as congratulatory statements from Tripoli, point to Libyan support of the operation, resulting in the unlikely worsening of the nearly non-existent relations between the U.S. and Libya.

Dec. 31: Tunisian labor leader Habib Achour, under house arrest since Nov. 8, is sentenced to a year in prison for trespassing on the premises of a fishing cooperative in 1984. Observers in Tunis view the affair as part of an offensive against the 350,000-member UGTT by Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali. ■