

WORLD NEWS

IN BRIEF

No referendum

LONDON, Friday (AAP-Reuter). — The Home Secretary, Mr Brittan, rejected yesterday calls for a referendum on hanging after Parliament strongly defeated on Wednesday night an attempt to bring back the death penalty for murder.

He told Parliament he did not think matters which were not of a constitutional kind were suitable for a referendum.

Extraterrestrials

WASHINGTON, Friday (AAP-Reuter). — Creatures from outer space are being held prisoner by the US Air Force, a group called Citizens Against Unidentified Flying Object Secrecy has alleged in court. Pentagon officials said the Secretary of the Air Force, Mr Orr, had 60 days to respond to the demand that they be released.

Charges dropped

SAN FRANCISCO, Friday (AAP-AP). — Charges against three men arrested for allegedly conspiring to sell seven surplus military transport aircraft to Libya were dropped yester-

aircraft to Libya were dropped yesterday at the Government's request, but prosecutors left open the possibility of refiling the charges.

US ships veto

ATHENS, Friday (AAP-AP). — The Greek Government confirmed yesterday, without explanation, reports that it has banned ships of the US Sixth Fleet from making calls to Greek ports. The two Governments are negotiating over the future of US bases and other installations in Greece.

Two dismissed

TOKYO, Friday (AAP-Reuter). — The managing editor and a senior journalist of the newspaper *Tokyo Shimbun* had been dismissed for publishing allegations that members of Japan's armed forces plotted a coup in 1980, a spokesman for the paper said on Wednesday. The newspaper has published a retraction of the allegations.

Malfeasance counts

BANGKOK, Friday (AAP-AP). — A former Minister for the Interior, Mr Prathuang Kiratibutr, had been charged with malfeasance in office in connection with the arrest and release

connection with the arrest and release of a New Zealander suspected of trafficking heroin and the release of another drug suspect, the daily *Bangkok Post* reported yesterday.