Congressmen find post-election period good time for overseas travel

By The L.A. Times
Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress have once again found the post-election period to be a good time for foreign travel.

Among the travelers are at least four lame ducks who announced months ago that they would not seek re-election. Three of them are spending more than two weeks abroad at taxpayers' expense.

The most extensive trip is being taken by U.S. Rep. William Randall, D-Mo., the chairman of the Select Committee on Aging who is retiring.

Randall left Nov. 5 and will return Nov. 21 after visiting Yugoslavia, Romania, France, Germany, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt and Italy.

An aide said Randall was studying cell regeneration projects in geriatric centers in Belgrade and Bucharest, then joining members of the Select Committee on Narcotics for the rest of the trip. Randall is not a member of the narcotics committee.

The retiring chairman of the House International Relations Committee, U.S. Rep. Thomas E. Morgan, D-Fla., is on an 18-day visit to Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand to study foreign policy interests in the Far East.


Two senators who were defeated in re-election attempts, Frank Moss, D-Utah, and Gale McGee, D-Wyo., have not decided whether they will attend a conference on South African problems in Lusaka. A third defeated senator, John Tunney, D-Calif., has dropped out of the Lusaka trip.

At least 14 senators and 50 congressmen who will remain in office next year are spreading out across the globe from the Antarctica to Finland between now and the new Congress that convenes Jan. 4.

Six senators, Carl Curtis, R-Ne., Birch Bayh, D-Ind., Milton Young, R-N.D., Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and J Bennett Johnston, D-La., are now in China.


Two members of the Armed Services Committee, Sens. Dewey Bartlett, R-Okl., and Sam Nunn, D-Ga., are visiting defense officials of NATO countries in France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy and Spain.

U.S. Sen. Dick Clark, D-Iowa chairman of the African affairs subcommittee, is on a month-long tour of Africa which will end at the conference in Lusaka.


The Select Committee on Narcotics, investigating international narcotics trafficking in Europe and the Middle East, includes committee members Lester Wolff, D-N.Y., James Scheuer, D-N.Y., Benjamin A Gilman, D-N.Y., and non-committee members, Randall, Cardin Collins, D-R.I., who is listed as "ex-officio" and William Lehman, D-Fla.

Joining Morgan on the International Relations Committee trip to the Far East, Australia and New Zealand, are Reps. L.H. Faustman, D-N.C., Robert Lagomarsino, R-Calif., and Sam Beggans, D-Fla., a Ways and Means Committee member.


A Science and Technology Committee trip to the Antarctica in December to study National Science Foundation projects there is scheduled to include Flowers and Scheuer.

A partial list of other House members traveling or scheduled for trips includes Al Quie, R-Minn., to Israel, Egypt and the Naissa UN/ESCOR conference; Gay Vander Jagt, R-Mich., to Geneva for a trade meeting; Dawson Mathis, D-Ga., to Indonesia and the Philippines on palm oil imports; David Bowen, D-Miss., to the Panama Canal.

House Armed Services Committee members Robert Moffett, D-Wa., and W.C. Daniel, D-Va., will visit command control centers in England, Germany, Belgium, Iran, Italy and the island of Diego Garcia.