

## news digest

By The Associated Press

### Press silent

Havana—The Cuban press is maintaining total silence on recent United States-Cuban developments, but the Cuban government clearly hopes they signal a chance to improve relations with its big northern neighbor. Cuban news media completely ignored a visit last week by New York Democratic Congressman Jonathan B. Bingham. The Foreign Ministry has declined comment on President Carter's statement Wednesday that he "would be willing to move toward normal relations with Cuba" if it showed restraint abroad and respect for human rights at home. Still, these and other developments appear to be common knowledge among Cuban citizens—many of whom listen to the Voice of America and to Florida commercial radio stations. Foreigners here say their Cuban neighbors freely discuss Bingham's visit and Carter's comments about Cuba. A visiting American engaging Cubans in casual conversation is repeatedly told of their hope for normal relations "provided we can stick with our principles."

### Mending fences

Washington—President Carter and Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau are meeting this week for the first time, determined to mend some battered old fences in a mood of good neighborliness. The agenda for the

Canadian leader's two-day visit starting today is loaded with issues ranging from rival fishing rights to nuclear controls, from pollution of rivers to human rights. The visit also will have a certain symbolism. The Carter-Trudeau encounter, like last week's meeting between Carter and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, suggests that Carter is placing high priority on fostering good relations with all the nations of the Western Hemisphere. The focus of the two leaders' talks today will be on international matters, including the projected London economic summit talks, East-West relations, checking the spread of nuclear technology and equipment, arms sales and the law of the sea.

### Water projects

Washington—President Carter will ask Congress to delete funds in the next fiscal year for 18 water projects including mammoth irrigation and power projects in Arizona, North Dakota and California, it was learned Saturday. The cuts, designed to stop construction on "unnecessary and environmentally unsound" dams and water projects, will be included in proposed budget revisions the White House sends to Congress Tuesday, sources said. The projects include the \$1.4 billion central Arizona project, the controversial \$562 million Garrison diversion irrigation and power generation project in North Dakota which Candad had objected to for environmental reasons, and

the \$740 million Auburn concrete arch dam in California which has been under review for fear it might not be able to withstand earthquakes. The Army Corps of Engineers projects for which halted financing was proposed included: Cache Basin, Arkansas; Freeport, Illinois; Grove Lake, Kansas; Dayton, Paintsville and Yatesville Lake, Kentucky; Atchafalya River, Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black Channel and Harbor project, Louisiana; Dickey-Lincoln School Lakes, Maine; Meramec Park Lake, Missouri; and Lukfata Lake, Oklahoma.

### Defense cuts

Washington—The Carter administration is planning to cut actual defense spending next year by \$500 million, a senior defense official said Saturday. The official said Carter plans future savings in defense spending of between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion, including the \$550 million, spread over the next several years. Actual defense spending might increase during the Carter administration with savings reflected by slowing the increase rate, officials said. The drop in defense outlays in the next fiscal year would reduce former President Gerald Ford's defense budget from \$112.3 billion to \$111.8 billion. Meanwhile, a senior defense official said the Pentagon is starting work on a long-range plan, including reform of military retirement, to cut personnel costs which absorb between 55 and 60 per cent of the defense budget.

### short stuff

Community Involvement Services is looking for a volunteer math tutor for a 16-year-old. Call 472-2486 or go to Nebraska Union 200.

The UNL Gay Action Group will meet from 8 to 10 p.m. Tuesday in the living room of UMHE—Commonplace, 333 N. 14th St.

Chi Phi and KLMS Radio are sponsoring a dance marathon March 4 and 5 for Muscular Dystrophy. A registration and information booth will be in the Union North Lobby from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The ASUN Government Liaison Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Union. The committee lobbies for student interests in local, state and national government.

Candidates for ASUN spring elections must file by 4 p.m. Friday. Forms are available in Union 334.

The Physical Education and Recreation Dept. is sponsoring Master Classes in folk, square and social dancing. Ethnic costume and Mexican dancing will be at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday and square dancing will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Mabel Lee Hall 119 (formerly the Women's Physical Education Bldg.).

The College-Career Christian Fellowship organization will meet at 7:30 tonight in the Union.

The Ag Econ Agri-Business Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Nebraska East Campus Union.

The Table Tennis Club will meet from 7 to 10 tonight in the North and South Conference Rooms in the Union.

The Baha'i Association will meet at 7:30 tonight in the Union. Room number will be posted.

The Annual Agriculture College Basketball Tournament sponsored by the Agronomy Club will be March 2 through 4. Because of a mix-up, the new deadline for entry is 5 p.m. Wednesday at Keim Hall 233, or call 472-1526.

The Concerned Pro-Life Student organization will meet at 7 tonight in the Union. Room number will be posted.

E. Graham Evans, professor of mathematics at the University of Illinois, will speak on his research specialty in commutative algebra at 3:30 p.m. today in Oldfather Hall. He also will speak on the *Four-color Problem* at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Hamilton 102.

AICHE members will tour the Goodyear plant at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. Sign up by the office on the second floor of Avery.

The Lincoln Backgammon Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Branigan's Party Room, 1228 P St.



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