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## Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

### Lavelle is convicted on perjury charges

WASHINGTON — Former Environmental Protection Agency official Rita Lavelle Thursday was convicted of perjury and impeding congressional investigations into her handling of the agency's toxic waste cleanup program. The unanimous verdict by a 12-member federal court jury came after almost seven hours of deliberations in a nearly weeklong trial. Lavelle, 36, who headed the EPA's so-called Superfund, was found not guilty on one count charging her with using the toxic waste cleanup program to help Republican candidates get elected. She faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$19,000 fine. Lavelle was dismissed by President Reagan Feb. 7.

### Reagan meets with Gemayel

WASHINGTON — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said Thursday after talks with President Reagan there could be a dramatic move toward peace in his homeland if the proper actions are taken now. Gemayel is in Washington for two days of talks about getting foreign forces out of Lebanon and restoring Lebanese government authority over the entire country. He issued a statement that contained no details of his talks with Reagan. After speaking with Reagan, Gemayel returned to the State Department for an unscheduled second meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz.

Gemayel's arrival in Washington followed two days of talks between Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who went to New York Wednesday. Those talks dealt at length with the Lebanon impasse and set the stage for new political and military cooperation between the United States and Israel.

### Long talks in Geneva

GENEVA, Switzerland — The United States and the Soviet Union Thursday had their longest meeting in the current series of strategic arms reduction talks on limiting long-range nuclear missiles. A U.S. spokesman said after the three-and-a-half hour meeting that both sides had agreed to meet again Tuesday, a session that may be the last for this round of the 17-month-old negotiations. The current round that began Oct. 6 is expected to recess after the usual two months.

Thursday's meeting was the second since the Soviet Union walked out of separate negotiations on intermediate-range nuclear forces in Europe eight days ago. The walkout came after a vote in the West German Parliament sanctioned the stationing of the first of 214 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in West Germany.

### A piece of the Eiffel

PARIS — The world's most expensive scrap metal was sold Thursday to a crowd of collectors eager to buy themselves an exclusive gift — a piece of the Eiffel Tower's historic spiral staircase. The rusty 94-year-old ironwork steps, which were removed from the tower earlier this year, fetched a total of \$225,000 with buyers ranging from the tower's home city to California. Prices ranged from \$13,450 for a 14-foot section to \$22,010 for a 24-foot piece to be installed in Disney's Epcot Center in Florida. Some of the 20 pieces will be installed inside the Statue of Liberty and in New Orleans for a bicentennial next year.

### Space conference problems

HOUSTON — The four crewmen working in the European Space Agency's Spacelab Thursday praised the orbiting laboratory as an excellent place to do scientific research and said they would be happy if their nine-day mission were longer. As they began a fourth day in orbit aboard the space shuttle Columbia, the four men gathered in their brightly lit laboratory for a televised press conference with a limited number of reporters in the United States and Europe.

The question-and-answer session began late, did not last as long as planned and was plagued with technical troubles. The first reporter to ask a question had to repeat himself five times before he got through to a NASA scientist sitting in a communication center a few hundred yards away.