

Reagan: Door still open to Soviets

From the Reuter News Report

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Thursday night he was "ready, willing and able" to meet Soviet leaders in an effort to improve superpower relations.

In a departure from previous White House statements he said detailed preparations for a summit were not necessary. He said he would be willing to meet Soviet Leader Konstantine Chernenko even if Moscow did not return to the stalled arms reductions talks.

"You can have an agenda in the general area of things which would lead to better understanding

and that is good enough for me," he said at his 25th news conference since becoming president in 1981, his first since May 23.

"We are ready, willing and able," Reagan said. In the past the White House has said a summit should only be arranged if carefully prepared in advance and concrete results were expected.

Reagan said the White House was pursuing quiet diplomacy with the Kremlin, trying to establish a basis for talks.

"I have been in communication myself," he said. Reagan said there was a danger in summitry in that rather than accomplishing anything the meeting could lead to new tensions. "It is a two-edged sword," he said.

Reagan said the United States had encountered problems because the Soviet leadership had changed three times since he assumed office. Asked for a date for a summit, he replied, "I couldn't give you that one."

Democratic presidential candidates Walter Mondale and Gary Hart and two influential members of Reagan's own Republican Party have called for annual superpower summits. Reagan said he was not playing political games by suggesting a change in attitude about meeting the Soviet leadership.

"This is legitimate. The door is open," he declared.

NASA official to speak at UNL

Clarke Covington, manager of the Space Station Project Office at NASA, will visit UNL Tuesday to lecture on the space station project.

Covington will speak at Love Library Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. The lecture, sponsored by the Frank E. Sorenson Lecture Fund, is free and open to the public.

Bob Patterson, director of UNL summer sessions, said he arranged one main lecture every summer with the Sorenson lecture fund. Patterson said the lectures usually are given by a dignitary from NASA in memory of Frank Sorenson's contributions to the aviation and aerospace education.

Patterson said Professor Erich Goldhagen of Harvard University will give a lecture titled "The Holocaust: 40 years After." Goldhagen will speak at Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery Auditorium June 25 at 10:30 a.m. This lecture is also free and open to the public.

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David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Construction began Monday on an addition to the University's Health Center. The addition, which will help the center meet the university's growing health needs, is part of a \$3 million renovation project. The addition should be completed next May, but the entire project will not be finished for another two years.

UNL faculty get a shot at the keyboard

By Jana Bouma

A new program will help UNL faculty members keep up with an explosion of computer technology and use UNL computers as a resource in the classroom.

The program, still under development by the UNL Computing Resource Center, is called the Faculty Support Center (FASTER). It will be available at the beginning of fall semester.

Doug Gale, director of the resource center, said FASTER will provide sophisticated workstations where faculty members can get hands-on training in the use of state-of-the-art computers. Each workstation, he said, will be able to function either as a stand-alone microcomputer or as a terminal connected to UNL's mainframe computers.

FASTER will be a long-term program to provide training for faculty and staff members on newly acquired computer equipment, Gale said. The program will be especially useful this fall, he said, because UNL will get two Control Data Corporation computers and will install new computer terminals throughout the campus.

The program will provide five major services to faculty members and teaching assistants, Gale said. The first will be short courses and workshops on the use of interactive terminals connected to UNL main-

frame computers. The center's microcomputers, Gale said, will provide that training by stimulating any computer terminal on campus.

The second service provided by the program will be short courses and workshops on the use of stand-alone microcomputers and special microcomputer software, such as data processing packages.

A third service will be regularly scheduled laboratory sessions, when faculty members can work with various software packages with the help of an instructor.

As a fourth service, the center will schedule open times when users may practice and experiment on their own.

Eventually, the center will provide a fifth service by developing a software library, Gale said. Then, users can evaluate software packages before purchasing them.

Besides serving UNL faculty and staff, the center eventually may provide short courses and workshops on microcomputers to Nebraska residents. Such services, Gale said, would be offered in the evenings and on weekends when faculty use would be low.

Students ultimately will benefit from the program, Gale said, because it will improve the quality of instruction. This will happen because the university will respond quickly to the rapid changes of computer technology.

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Off The Wire

National and international news from the Reuter News Report

Chinese to get missiles from U.S.

WASHINGTON — Marking a nearly complete turnaround in U.S.-Chinese relations, the United States has agreed in principle to sell China anti-aircraft and anti-armor missiles, as well as advanced artillery munitions and technology, defense officials said Thursday. They said groundwork for the deal was worked out during the visit this week of China's defense minister, Zhang Aiping. Details of the proposed sale will be worked out later by technical teams from both nations, officials said.

Lebanon asks for U.S. help

WASHINGTON — Lebanese Christian militia leader Fady Frem Thursday called for an active U.S. role in reconciling the warring factions in his country. Frem, commander in chief of the Lebanesc forces, said at a news conference he had met Reagan administration officials and members of Congress to "ring an alarm bell" on Lebanon's future and warn that Syria was seeking to control the war-torn Middle Eastern country.

Frem said since his arrival in the United States last Saturday he also had been contacting the 1.5 million Lebanese-American community to establish a "U.S.-Lebanese committee" to facilitate dialogue. "We in Lebanon would very much wish, as a matter of inter-societal and inter-governmental relationship, that the United States get involved in a positive reconciliatory process between all the communities in Lebanon," he said.

The Reagan Administration pulled its peace-keeping forces out of Lebanon in February soon after a bomb blast destroyed the U.S. Marines headquarters near Beirut airport.

GM wages at all-time high

DETROIT — General Motors, the nation's largest manufacturing company, said Thursday labor costs for its 375,000 U.S. hourly workers rose to an all-time high averaging \$22.40 an hour in the first three months of 1984. The company's announcement came about a month before the start of negotiations on a new labor contract with the United Auto Workers union in which strong pressures for wage increases are expected in view of GM's record profits. GM said Thursday its hourly labor costs were continuing to rise as inflation-triggered cost-of-living raises amounting to 17 cents an hour would be included in workers' pay this week.

Walesa may step done

WARSAW — Lech Walesa said Thursday he might step down as Solidarity leader if Polish voters ignore an appeal by the banned union's underground to boycott national elections Sunday. The elections will be for new regional and local councils across the country, and the government has campaigned intensively for a massive electoral endorsement of Communist policies.

In a statement carefully worded to avoid making any overt call for a boycott, which would leave him open to prosecution, Walesa said: "It is possible that after June 17, I shall suspend my activities."

Snow in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A rare snowstorm has buried areas of South Africa under as much as three feet of snow, killing four children, causing power failures and cutting off small towns. Police said the children, aged between 10 and 14, died last night as they walked back to their homestead from school near the Natal town of Estcourt. Three were found alive by families who began a search after they failed to come home, but all of them died of exposure before an ambulance arrived.

Natal, which in recent months has been hit by hurricanes and floods after a long period of drought, had the heaviest snowfalls. One town saw its first snow in more than 60 years.