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Reuter Report

Farmers warn budget may escalate debts

WASHINGTON - Farm group leaders and bankers Monday warned that President Reagan's budget proposals on farm credit programs would worsen the growing debt crisis among the nation's farmers.

"They are moving from a system that worked so so to a system that does not work at all," said Varel Bailey, president of the National Corn Growers

Association.

Reagan's fiscal 1936 budget proposes ending direct government loans to fermers but increasing funds for government guarantees of bank loans.

Chemical warfare money requested

WASHINGTON --- President Reagan asked Congress Monday for money to manufacture new chemical weapons, a request it has rejected repeatedly since he took office. Reagan asked for a chemical warfare budget of \$1.4 billion in fiscal 1986, with \$225 million going for modernization of the U.S. retaliatory capability in the event of a chemical warfare attack. Of the rest of the request, 74 percent would go for producing clothing and equipment for protection against chemical warfare and 10 percent for the destruction of old wespons.

Production of chemical weapons was stopped in 1969. In recent years Congress has rejected requests for money for new chemical weapons, although it has approved funds for chemical warfare defenses and for the destruction of aging stockpiled chemical weapons.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said in an annual report to Congress that new chemical weapons were needed to deter other nations from initiating chemical warfare and to spur a world agreement to ban such arms.

Reagan, South African leader meet

WASHINGTON — Chief Gatsha Butholezi, leader of South Africa's six million Zulus, met President Reagan Monday and strongly supported Reagan's refusal to impose economic sanctions in retailation for

Buthelez came to the White House to back Reagan's policy of quiet diplomacy with South Africa a day after Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, renewed his own demands for economic pressures to force racial policy changes by the Pretoria government. Tutu, enthroned as Johannesburg's first black Anglican bishop, wants an end to U.S. and other foreign investment in South Africa if necessary, but Buthelezi opposes such action.

Halting investment would mean that "my people would suffer," he said.

Missing Americans meeting topic

WASHINGTON - U.S. and Vietnamese officials will meet in Hanoi this week to discuss the 2,483 American servicemen still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, the Pentagon said Monday. It said the Feb. 6-9 session was one in a series of technical meetings agreed to by the two sides in September 1982 and was not prompted by any new development.

Since the meetings began, the Vietnamese have turned over the remains of 18 American servicemen, the Pentagon said.

Thousands of workers join fast

LA PAZ, Bolivia — Thousands of workers joined a fast by unionists Monday as a 24-hour general strike brought Bolivia to a standstill, trade union officials said.

Nearly 10,000 workers in Cochabamba, the country's third largest city, joined a hunger strike begun last week by union officials in support of wage demands by Industrial workers who put down their tools 17 days ago, Labor Federation Secretary General Walter Delgadillo said.

Only emergency services at hospitals, airports, and public utility companies were being assured, Delgadillo said. All other sectors, including private and state-owned banks, mines, oil wells and public offices, were shut down by the general strike called to press for payment of a government-ordered 200 percent wage raise for industrial workers, he said. There was no comment from the government.

Troops find last of missile

HELSINKI, Finland — Finnish troops Monday recovered the last major part of a stray Soviet missile from a Lapland Lake and the government considered whether to charge the Soviets for its return.

Military authorities called off their search for wreckage after a helicopter and divers hauled the main body section, assumed to contain the steering equipment, from Lake Insri. A well-placed military source said the missile was an old-type vehicle beyond classification that had been reconstructed for use as an aerial target and controlled by ground radar.

- Meanwhile the Foreign Ministry was considering a request from Mos-cow for the return of the debris. The Foreign Ministry said so international agreement covered the question, but that Helsinki is likely to return the debris after military experts have examined it and to charge Moscow for

Soviets celebrate Yalta's 40th

MOSCOW -- The Soviet Union, marking Monday's 40th anniversary of the wartime Yalta meeting of allied leaders, attacked the alleged rebirth of German militarism and said that East European frontiers are permanent. "Only political fools could... attempt to put into doubt the historic Yelta decisions," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Viadimir Lomeiko at a press conference. Lomeiko assailed "certain circles in the U.S.A. and other NATO countries" who tried to depict Yaltz as leading to the splitting of Europe and Soviet begamony in the East. The Foreign Ministry press conference comaxed a campaign in the state media projecting Moscow's view of the summit attended by Soviet leader Josef Stalin, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin Roosevelt. The three effectively shaped the outlines of postwar Europe at the meeting in the Crimean resort on Peb. 4-11, 1945. Many Western historians and politicians see Yalta as setting the scene for Soviet domination of