

News Digest

Judge refuses to block test of anti-satellite weapon

WASHINGTON (Reuter) — A U.S. judge Thursday refused to block today's test of an anti-satellite weapon, setting the stage for a new confrontation with the Kremlin, which has warned it will hold its own tests if the weapon is fired.

District Court Judge Norma Johnson denied a request by four Democratic congressmen and a group of pro-arms control scientists to delay the controversial test.

After hearing arguments for about 40 minutes, Johnson said the issue involved a political question that did not fall within the court's jurisdiction. She also said there was insufficient evidence that the test would result in irreparable harm.

A U.S. F-15 jet is scheduled to fire a

rocket tipped with a foot-long ASAT weapon at an old orbiting U.S. satellite over the Pacific Ocean. Ground-based radar will be used to determine whether the weapon hits the satellite.

Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman declined comment on Johnson's decision. He told reporters the test was "militarily necessary in the sense that it is a developmental test."

The United States has charged that Moscow already has an ASAT weapon, but defense analysts say it is crude compared to the device being tested by the U.S. Air Force.

The Congressmen (George Brown of California, Joseph Moakly of Massachusetts, Matthew McHugh of New York and John Seiberling of Ohio) and

the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists said President Reagan's Aug. 20 decision to proceed with testing violated a 1985 law requiring him to certify that certain arms control steps had been taken.

The Soviet Union has threatened to resume its own ASAT testing if the United States proceeds.

But Kenneth Adelman, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, Wednesday told Congress the planned U.S. test would not be an irreversible step toward a weapons race in space.

Today's planned test will be the first by the United States against an actual target in space. Last year, two tests were held against points in space.

College men comply

Draft verification rule dropped

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Education has quietly dropped its controversial rule requiring colleges to verify that male students receiving federal financial aid have registered for the draft.

The rule had been set to go into effect this fall.

A department spokesman said Thursday the rate of compliance among young men is so high that it isn't necessary to have college aid administrators police the requirement.

"It's been going about 98 percent perfect, so there's no need to verify,"

said Duncan Helmrich.

"There's just no reason to hold the schools up" on awarding aid, he said. "Things are going so well that we're not going to bother to have the schools seek proof."

Congress in 1982 passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., requiring student aid recipients to sign forms certifying that they had registered for the draft.

The Education Department then proposed a rule holding colleges accountable for verifying that the students actually had registered before awarding them any federal grants, loans or

other financial help.

Some students and civil liberties groups challenged the Solomon amendment, but the Supreme Court upheld the law, 6-2, on July 5, 1984. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger said it was "plainly a rational means to improve compliance with the registration requirement."

Although the military is not now conscripting anyone, draft registration was reinstated in 1980 under a law signed by President Carter. All male citizens and resident aliens born after Jan. 1, 1963, must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

Calling it quits

Angry teachers say they may leave profession

NEW YORK (AP) — A majority of teachers think their views aren't being sought in shaping education reforms sweeping the country, and more than one in four say they are likely to quit the classroom within five years, according to a poll released Thursday.

"Clearly, many teachers feel left out of the wave of reform," said Louis Harris, who conducted the second annual "Metropolitan Life Survey of The American Teacher."

Teachers are as opposed as ever to merit pay, according to the latest survey. And most also are leery of allowing school districts to hire non-certified persons as teachers — a growing practice in New York City, Los Angeles, New Jersey and elsewhere.

Low salaries and poor working conditions were cited by nearly two-thirds of the 27 percent of teachers who said that they were "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to leave the profession in five years.

More than half of all teachers surveyed said they had seriously considered leaving the profession for some

other occupation. But those who have stayed on said they did so mainly because of their love of teaching.

'Teachers are telling the American public that education is headed for deep trouble unless teaching is treated as a true profession.'

NEA President Mary Hatwood

The telephone survey of 1,847 public school teachers conducted between April and June found that 36 percent say they experience "great stress" on the job, compared with only 27 percent of all American adults who say they feel that way.

"Teachers are telling the American public that education is headed for deep trouble unless teaching is treated as a true profession," said Mary Hatwood Futrell, president of

the National Education Association.

The survey findings were particularly ominous because federal studies now estimate that by 1992 the nation will have 34 percent fewer teachers than are needed.

The teachers gave mixed grades to the moves toward educational reform during the past several years, including efforts in some states to improve curriculum, increase salaries and require students and teachers to pass standardized tests.

Most significantly, Harris said, nearly two-thirds — 63 percent — felt their views were not sought in shaping educational reform. A nearly equal proportion, 64 percent, said reforms reflect the views of their administrators.

More than nine out of 10 teachers believe that "providing a decent salary" and "more respect for teachers in today's society" would help retain good teachers.

But 50 percent said "merit pay" based on a teacher's performance on evaluations or tests "would not help at all" to attract good teachers to their ranks.

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

The last 119 of more than 10,000 Lebanese prisoners captured by Israel during the last three years were released to the southern Lebanon Red Cross on Wednesday but Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was quick to warn Thursday that the release would not set a precedent.

In an unusual letter to 2.1 million active U.S. military personnel, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger pledged that current retirees and personnel on active duty will not face pension reductions. Congress proposed in a still-pending 1986 defense bill that \$2.9 billion be slashed from the \$18.2 billion sought for the controversial military retirement fund.

When the final exhibit from the Nebraska State Fair was taken down, State Fairgrounds General Manager Henry Brandt quickly turned his attention to thoroughbred horseracing, which opens a 40-day stint in Lincoln today.

Great American writers don't talk cheap. Sixteen of America's most famous, including Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Kurt Vonnegut and Saul Bellow, will read from their works on Broadway this fall in a lecture series that costs \$1,000 a seat and already has sold out.

When film legend of the '30s and '40s Greta Garbo

celebrates her 80th birthday Wednesday, she'll most probably be alone — the way she has wanted to be since retiring from Hollywood 44 years ago. In her last published interview almost 50 years ago, Garbo said, "Being in the newspapers is awfully silly. It's all right for important people who have something to contribute, to talk. I have nothing to contribute."

The NU Press has printed a 50th-anniversary edition of "Old Jules," Mari Sandoz's biography of her "repellent yet fascinating" pioneer father.

Should babies be given the vote? In Sweden, the issue is no joke. It has been raised by the Swedish Pediatric Association, which proposes that all the country's 1.9 million children be enfranchised.

Ethnic minorities in the Netherlands, who find their needs and culture neglected by the established media, are making their own television programs to fill the gap and help develop a more multiracial society.

Cincinnati officials unveiled another sign of the city's affection for Reds star Pete Rose — they've renamed Second Street as Pete Rose Way.

From News Wires

In Brief

Panel proposes end to 'pass laws'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A government panel on Thursday proposed repeal of the hated "pass laws" that keep South Africa's blacks out of white areas — the second major retreat from the apartheid system announced in two days.

Even whites who oppose the government hailed the step. "This is the beginning of the end of apartheid," said Sheena Duncan, president of the Black Sash women's movement, which opposes the nation's system of racial segregation. "I really do think it means something. They are not playing around with words this time."

Helen Suzman, an anti-apartheid member of the Parliament, said, "This is probably the most important step forward in 30 years."

A primary effect will be that families now restricted to their tribal homelands could join the men working in the cities, preventing the breakup of families.

On Wednesday, President P. W. Botha told a congress of his National Party that the government was giving up its policy that blacks eventually have to become citizens of black homelands and relinquish citizenship in South Africa.

Blacks, however, still will have political rights only in the homeland, and still will not be able to vote in South Africa.

Soviet spymaster for Britain defects

LONDON — The government announced Thursday that the Soviet spymaster for Britain has defected and has identified 25 espionage agents who are being expelled from the country.

The Foreign Office said Oleg A. Gordievski, 46, recently had been appointed head of the Soviet KGB office in London but defected because he "wished to become a citizen of a democratic country and live in a free society." He was granted asylum in Britain.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the foreign secretary, called the defection a "substantial coup" for the British security services.

Erik Ninn-Hansen, Denmark's justice minister, indicated that Gordievski had been a double agent for the West since the 1970s, when he served with the Soviet Embassy in Copenhagen.

Ninn-Hansen, speaking on Danish television, said Gordievski "supplied police intelligence with much information, also on conversations he conducted, and he was an extremely important source of information of significance to our security."

The 25 Soviets were the largest number of alleged spies to be sent back to Moscow since 1971, when Britain expelled 106 Soviet diplomats and trade officials.

Republicans seize sanctions bill

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leaders Thursday physically seized a South African sanctions bill in an extraordinary bid to halt repeated Democratic efforts to pass stronger curbs than those imposed by President Reagan.

Senate rules require the bill to be present physically in the chamber on the clerk's table for the Senate to act.

Earlier, frustrated Democrats, in the minority in the Senate, temporarily gave up their fight to force final action on the bill but vowed to try tagging sanctions onto other legislation during the next few months.

Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, a leading supporter of tougher sanctions against South Africa, accused Republicans of trickery and action "beneath the dignity of the Senate" by smuggling the bill out of the chamber.

A key Senate aide said Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas and Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the Republicans had removed the bill "to a safe place."

Nuclear war survivors would starve

WASHINGTON — Billions of people who somehow survived the first blast of a nuclear war would merely face drawn-out deaths by starvation, an international scientific group said Thursday in a new study supporting the theory of a crop-ruining global "nuclear winter."

Although an image of total devastation after a nuclear attack may well be accurate for areas around actual targets, one of the report's authors found famine conditions in unscathed areas would be far more typical as hundreds of millions of tons of black smoke drastically cut sunlight and robbed crops of needed warmth and light from the sun.

Estimated famine deaths of 1 billion to 4 billion of the world's 5 billion people after direct blast and radiation effects of actual attacks would cost several hundred million lives.

"The main mechanism by which people would die after a large-scale nuclear war would not be blast effect, would not be burns, would not be radiation but rather would be mass starvation," one doctor said.

S. African businessmen, ANC to meet

LUSAKA, South Africa — Defying their government, five prominent white South African businessmen are scheduled to meet with leaders of the African National Congress guerrillas today, informed sources said Thursday.

Anglo-American Corp. chairman Gavin Reilly is to lead a five-man panel in talks with ANC president Oliver Tambo and other guerrilla leaders about ways to end the country's political and economic crises. The meeting would be the first known contact between the businessmen and the banned ANC, which is the main nationalist group fighting white rule of South Africa.

The South African government opposes contacts with organizations such as the ANC which have called for its violent overthrow.

Lincoln doctors recommend vaccine

LINCOLN — A new vaccine that protects children from bacteria that can cause severe infections, including meningitis, is being recommended by Lincoln physicians and public health nurses.

Medical authorities say the vaccine protects against haemophilus influenzae type b (HIB) diseases in children 24 months to 6 years of age. It's particularly important that children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years who attend nursery schools and day-care centers be protected, officials said.

From News Wires