

News Digest

China in major power shakeup

PEKING (AP) — Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping swept 131 senior Communist Party officials from power Monday to make way for younger men and ensure the success of his economic and political reforms.

He also ended the life-tenure system that prompted power struggles between stubborn, elderly leaders which have plagued China since the communists took power in 1949. Deng himself was a victim when Chairman Mao Tse-tung dismissed him as a "capitalist roader" during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Official announcements said all 131 officials submitted voluntary resignations, including 64 full and alternate members of the powerful 344-delegate

Central Committee. Among those were 10 of the 24 Politburo members.

The resignations came at the fourth full session of the 12th Central Committee in Peking. Deng and his protégés, party chief Hu Yaobang and Premier Zhao Ziyang, had said earlier that major personnel changes would be made at a series of party meetings this month.

Deng himself is 81, but shows no sign of fatigue. He is the nation's paramount leader, head of the Central Advisory Commission and Central Military Commission.

Two-thirds of the evening television news was devoted to the shakeup, listing those resigning and showing them

raising hands in a unanimous decision to retire.

Diplomats called it one of the boldest moves by Deng, who has reversed the radical policies of his predecessors and created unprecedented stability since emerging as top leader in 1978.

"This is a historic point in Communist Party history," said one Western analyst, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "If Deng succeeds, it will be a transition that does not involve a coffin or a bullet or a palace coup."

Before Monday's resignations, the average age of Politburo members was 74. Party chairman Hu Yaobang, 69, once said "senility is a problem" in the hierarchy.

In Brief

U.S. major debtor as deficit hits high

WASHINGTON — The nation's broadest measure of foreign trade registered a near-record \$31.8 billion deficit from April through June, confirming that the country has now become a net debtor for the first time in 71 years, the government reported Monday.

The Commerce Department said the deficit in the current account was 4.9 percent higher than the \$30.3 billion imbalance suffered in the first three months of the year. The current account measures not only trade in merchandise but also in services, mainly investment earnings. Investments, the \$62.1 billion in deficits has undoubtedly for the first six months of the year wiped that surplus out.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said in June that it appeared the country had become a net debtor but economists could not pinpoint when the country crossed over. Monday's report provided further confirmation that the country is now a net debtor for the first time since 1914. That means the United States now owes foreigners more than they owe this country.

Britain expels six more Soviets

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher lived up to her "Iron Lady" image Monday by expelling six more Soviets on spy charges and raising to 31 the number kicked out since a KGB station chief in London defected.

The latest expulsions raised the stakes in a tit-for-tat expulsion war between the two nations which began when Britain expelled 25 Soviets last Thursday and grew when Moscow retaliated by expelling the same number of British diplomats, businessmen and journalists Saturday.

Word of the new British action was conveyed to Soviet charge d'affaires Lev Parchine just minutes after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher left for a Mideast tour.

Parchine was told that Britain regarded Saturday's expulsion of British subjects as "an unwarranted victimization of innocent people."

Lincoln unemployment dips in August

LINCOLN — Unemployment rates for Nebraska, its two largest cities and non-metropolitan Nebraska dropped slightly during August in a typical seasonal change, but the numbers of unemployed people showed greater growth than the numbers of those with jobs for the past 12 months.

The biggest year-to-year contrast in monthly estimates from the state Department of Labor showed up Monday in the non-metropolitan statistics, Nebraska outside Lincoln and Omaha.

The unemployment rate for the state outside Lincoln and Omaha was 5 percent in August, compared to 5.2 percent in July, and 3.8 percent in August 1984. The estimates showed 419,335 people employed outside the two largest cities, a decline of more than 1,200 people in the past 12 months. The unemployment estimate was 22,222 people, an increase of more than 5,000 people in the past 12 months.

In Lancaster County, the department's statistics for August showed an unemployment rate of 3.2 percent, compared to 3.4 percent in July and 2.7 percent in August of last year.

Soviet officials return banned books

MOSCOW — The Moscow International Book Fair wound up Monday with Soviet authorities handing back the titles they banned, and eager Muscovites begging to take away any volumes left over as publishers packed up their wares.

The event, held in Moscow every two years, attracted publishers from more than 100 countries to do business with the Soviet state-owned publishing houses.

But for the thousands of Russians who packed the pavilions during the week-long fair, it was a rare chance to see and read foreign books outside state bookshops.

Publishers are not allowed to sell their books to the public, and security men checked all bags at the exit to remove any books stolen by Soviet citizens.

The boyfriend of a Soviet girl who tried to steal a volume by Vladimir Nabokov said she was later expelled from the Young Communist League, a major blow for any career in the Soviet Union. Others had letters written to their place of work.

Cuba to free 70 political prisoners

HAVANA — Cuba is to free more than 70 political prisoners on humanitarian grounds after a private appeal to President Fidel Castro by visiting U.S. Roman Catholic leaders, a U.S. diplomat in Havana said Monday.

Castro's decision was passed to the U.S. authorities by Cuban bishops who traveled to Washington for an episcopal conference last week.

The move to free the detainees stemmed from private talks Castro had with American bishops last January and the decision was passed on to the local church by the Cuban leader himself only hours before they left for the United States.

Human rights groups estimate some 250 anti-Castro Cubans are still serving long jail terms in Havana, and the visiting churchmen, including the archbishops of Boston and San Antonio, brought home an undisclosed list of prisoners said to be seriously ill or in poor mental health.

Farm bank president predicts losses

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. — The federal banks that lend to farmers will lose between \$350 million and \$400 million this year and more in 1986, the president of the agency that raises lending funds said Monday.

Falling farm product prices have pushed farmers to a crisis point and the federally administered banking system that loaned billions of dollars to the farm industry is feeling the pinch.

Spokesmen for the farm banks said recently they were considering asking for a multi-billion-dollar government assistance program because farmers were unable to repay loans.

The farm credit system has surplus funds and capital stock that were worth about \$9.2 billion at the end of 1984 and were expected to fall to \$8.5 billion by the end of this year.

From News Wires

'Mr. President, the hotline is up...'

U.S., Soviet leaders keep in touch via satellite

By Saul Pett

(AP) — They arm against each other, they threaten and denounce each other, they spy, issue ultimatums, draw lines and thoroughly distrust each other. But they stay in touch.

Every hour of every day, whether Armageddon looms or recedes, they communicate by satellites 600 miles and 22,500 miles above the earth.

Washington to Moscow:

"Interference by casual water, ground repair or a hole, cast or runway made by a burrowing animal, a reptile or a bird occurs when a ball lies in or touches any of these conditions or when the condition interferes with the player's stance...A ball is 'lost' if (a) it is not found or..."

While this may sound like a celestial game of trivia, it is part of a serious business. Messages like these belong to a varied repertoire of texts used to test the "hot line," the direct, secret form of communication by which the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union hope to avoid unintentional war while not foreswearing intentional war.

It is one of several ways the two superpowers have agreed to try to prevent war by accident, mistake or misunderstanding.

The hot line is intended to keep an avenue open by which opposing leaders can reach each other quickly and privately, away from public scrutiny and pressure, to control events that might otherwise make a mushroom cloud out of a molehill.

To make sure the line is working, the Pentagon sends a test message every even hour on the hour. Every odd hour on the hour, the Soviets send one back. Each side transmits in code and supplies the other with the decoding formula.

While they rarely run out of things to say about each other, they do face a problem in what to say to each other, every hour of every day. By agreement, the test messages carefully avoid anything political or controversial.

And so the Pentagon has sent the Kremlin the rules of golf, which the Russians do not play, making that a sure test of their translators as well as the hot line.

Washington has discoursed on the glories of chili, which the Russians don't eat, and Moscow has enriched

with an encyclopedic view of Russian coiffures of the 17th century.

The hot line is not what many people think it is: a wire connecting two red telephones in the White House and the Kremlin. While it is a direct and private link between leaders, it is designed to exchange printed, not spoken messages. In setting up the system 22 years ago, both governments agreed it would be less than prudent if the leaders actually talked to each other in time of crisis. Conversational translation risks error and a man's voice, it was felt, could be too easily misinterpreted. Printed exchanges, they agreed, per-

Reagan may not reveal his use of the private line to the Kremlin until he writes his memoirs. As of now, his White House will not discuss it. But according to one unconfirmed report, the Soviets activated it in 1983 to urge the United States to confine its retaliatory air attacks in Lebanon to Lebanon.

The hot line symbolizes a different world. Here, leaders frequently reverse Teddy Roosevelt's injunction about the conduct of foreign affairs; they speak loudly but carry a small stick. They bargain on tip-toe. It was that way in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, which begat the hot line.

In 1978, the introduction of satellite communications made the system less vulnerable to accident or sabotage. Since then, the hot line has consisted of two satellite circuits and the original system, all used in the same tests and messages between leaders.

It works this way: A message from the president goes from the White House by special electronic transmission, secure phone or by hand to a long narrow room at the hushed and mysterious National Military Command Center in the Pentagon.

There, the officer in charge immediately orders the door locked and phones the White House to validate the message. Validated, it is then punched into a small brown machine which simultaneously encodes it. It is then transmitted to two earth stations in Maryland and West Virginia and from there up to an American and Soviet satellite high above the equator, down to two Soviet earth stations in Moscow and Lvov and finally to the Kremlin. There a tape supplied by the Pentagon is run through a machine to decode the incoming message from the president. In their turn, the Soviets reverse the process to transmit to Washington.

The newest improvement in the hot line, scheduled to begin later this fall, is the use of facsimile transmission. This is expected to triple the speed of messages and make possible the exchange of pictures, maps and charts should one side want to warn the other of an errant plane or submarine.

Thus, the strange, split-level Cold War goes on. Each side threatens and distrusts the other but each seeks some kind of reassurance from the other as well.

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mit more time to think and consult for a more reasoned response.

While it is tested 24 times a day, every day, the hot line actually has been used sparingly in its 22 years. Official secrecy cloaks the full count but several former presidents have revealed four gathering crises in which it was used to brake the wild spin of events.

"Mr. President, the hot line is up."

Lyndon Johnson was the first president to hear that and he heard it in his bedroom in the White House on June 5, 1967, the start of the Six-Day War. Premier Kosygin was on the line.

In 1979, Jimmy Carter took a turn. He used the hot line to warn Brezhnev that he would "jeopardize" U.S.-Soviet relations "throughout the world" unless he pulled back from Afghanistan. Brezhnev said Soviet troops would be withdrawn as soon as they were no longer "needed," an idea whose time has not yet come, six years later.

Like his predecessors, President

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

Representatives of El Salvador's government and leftist guerrillas were preparing Monday to negotiate in Mexico for the release of President Jose Napoleon Duarte's kidnapped daughter, Ines. Members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front claimed responsibility for the abduction last Tuesday.

Augusto Pinochet's military government extended the state of emergency in force throughout Chile and renewed restrictions on press coverage of politics and anti-government violence. A state of emergency has been in force in Chile almost continuously since the 1973 military coup.

The left-wing People's Mujahedin organization of Iran published a list of names of 12,028 people it said have been executed in Iran since June 1981. Mujahedin leader Massoud Rajavi sent the new list to the United Nations

asking that it use all means to end what Rajavi called the continuing execution and torture of political prisoners.

President Reagan will have a televised White House news conference at 7 (CDT) tonight, his first formal meeting with reporters since his colon cancer surgery July 13.

Some men don face masks and shoulder pads to play their sport. Jim Ayotte of Springfield, Mass., had to put on a skirt. "That was the hardest thing," said Ayotte, a Springfield College freshman who played field hockey on the winning East team in the national Sports Festival this summer and has his eye on a berth on the men's U.S. Olympic team. "Thank God, it was only for one year. My senior year they changed the school uniform to shorts."

In other countries field hockey is a male game. Here it is primarily played by women.