

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Soviet defector 're-defects'

WASHINGTON — Vitaly Yurchenko, a high-level Soviet KGB officer who defected to the West in August, has re-defected to the Soviet Union, a spokesman for the Senate Intelligence Committee said Monday.

The spokesman, Dave Holliday, said he was told by the Central Intelligence Agency about Yurchenko's change of heart. The Soviet Embassy in Washington called a news conference late Monday afternoon and said Yurchenko would appear there.

CIA spokeswoman Patti Volz refused to confirm or deny the report.

Yurchenko, 50, was described as the No. 5 man in the KGB, the Soviet intel-

ligence service, at the time he defected in Rome in early August. According to U.S. government sources, he served as first secretary of the Soviet embassy in Washington from 1975 to 1980 and oversaw KGB intelligence operations in the United States.

The sources said Yurchenko had been undergoing extensive interrogation by the CIA at an undisclosed location in the United States.

Acting on information he provided, U.S. authorities said they learned that Edward L. Howard, a former CIA employee, sold intelligence secrets to the Soviet Union. Howard, a 33-year-old economic analyst for the New Mexico

state legislature, vanished in early October while under FBI surveillance.

Howard was last reported to be in Helsinki, Finland.

U.S. government sources said Yurchenko identified another American who had been working for the KGB, but no arrests have yet resulted from Yurchenko's information.

An arrest warrant issued on Sept. 23 in Albuquerque, N.M., charged Howard with conspiracy to deliver national defense information to aid a foreign government. Howard worked for the CIA from January 1981 to June 1983, but left the agency after failing a polygraph exam, sources said.

Sakharov ends hunger strike; wife allowed to travel to West

NEWTON, Mass. — Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, speaking with relatives here for the first time in six years, said Monday he is recovering after losing 44 pounds during a hunger strike that ended after the government said his wife would be allowed to leave the country for medical treatment.

Sakharov, 64, and his wife, Yelena Bonner, 62, were contacted by his stepchildren and mother-in-law by telephone in Gorky, where he was exiled in 1980.

Sakharov's voice on the phone was a surprise to the family, which had scheduled the call last week following reports that Bonner had been given permission to leave the country. She has been abroad three times for eye treatment, most recently in 1979.

Bonner plans to go to Siena, Italy, at the end of the month to consult with an ophthalmologist about her eye prob-

lems, then to Boston for coronary bypass surgery, her children said.

Bonner's children said their mother and stepfather apparently were reunited Oct. 23, just before Bonner was granted an exit visa. They said he had apparently been in a hospital during his hunger strike.

"They want us to know he is alive. That's quite clear," Tatiana Yankelevich, Bonner's daughter, said when asked why Sakharov had been permitted to talk on Monday.

Bonner's children said they believe Sakharov's fast and the Nov. 19-20 summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev led to the permission for their mother to leave.

Efrem Yankelevich, Bonner's son-in-law, said she spoke cautiously about her trip, and could not specifically say why she was told late last month she

could leave the country for three months.

Mrs. Yankelevich said Soviet officials wanted Bonner to leave as soon as possible, but she postponed her trip until she was sure Sakharov was well again and would be cared for during the winter.

Yankelevich said Sakharov was regaining weight, and "his only problem now is his heart." He has had a history of heart problems.

Sakharov, winner of the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize, helped develop the Soviet hydrogen bomb. As early as 1959, he openly criticized the government's nuclear weapons buildup. He was exiled to Gorky after criticizing the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in December, 1979.

Bonner, a pediatrician who married Sakharov in 1971, was exiled to Gorky in 1984, ending her freedom of travel in the Soviet Union.

Court to rule on homosexual activities

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, setting the stage for a major gay rights ruling, said Monday it will decide whether the sexual activities of consenting homosexual adults are constitutionally protected.

The justices said they will review a Georgia prosecutors' appeal of a ruling that, if upheld, could undo the sodomy laws in about half the states. Their ruling is expected by next July.

The court has not issued a detailed ruling on the rights of homosexuals since 1967, when it said aliens found to be homosexual may be deported as people "afflicted with a psychopathic personality."

"This is potentially a momentous case, a watershed," said Kathleen L. Wilde, the Atlanta lawyer for a man

challenging Georgia's sodomy law.

"We think the facts of this case are very strong for us — no money, no minors, no force involved and in the privacy of one's own bedroom," Wilde said.

Michael Hardwick, a self-described practicing homosexual, was arrested by Atlanta police in 1982 on charges of committing the crime of sodomy with another man in his home.

Hardwick sued Georgia officials in 1983 to overturn the sodomy law, even though prosecutors had decided not to seek an indictment against him.

U.S. District Judge Robert H. Hall threw out Hardwick's suit, ruling that the constitutional claims had been rejected by the Supreme Court when it upheld Virginia's sodomy law in 1976.

In that ruling, the justices affirmed a lower court's decision that the state sodomy law was constitutional but issued no written explanation of the affirmation.

The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reinstated Hardwick's lawsuit by a 2-1 vote last May 21.

The Atlanta-based appeals court said the Georgia law "infringes upon the fundamental constitutional (privacy) rights of Michael Hardwick," and said the law may be valid only if state officials show a "compelling interest" in restricting such rights.

In seeking Supreme Court review, Georgia Attorney General Michael J. Bowers said the appeals court ruling could harm "the ability of Georgia and her sister states to legislate in any area which touches upon moral issues."

Marcos campaigns; foes seek rival

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos plunged into campaigning Monday, hours after his surprise call for a Jan. 17, 1986 presidential election. His squabbling foes met to pick a common candidate against him.

Marcos told reporters he was the only issue in the election. He rejected the idea of an election for the vacant vice presidency, saying he wanted to remove all doubts about the popularity of his leadership.

"Let it be a one-on-one fight. . . Let Marcos stand up," he said.

Political rivals said U.S. pressure for democratic reforms in the Philippines to counter a growing communist rebellion almost certainly helped spur Marcos' announcement.

Two weeks earlier, he had indicated there would be no sudden election.

Marcos went vote-hunting hours after he announced the move, choosing as one stop the Tarlac home province of Benigno Aquino. Critics of Marcos, who has governed for 20 years, have accused him of involvement in the 1983 assassination of Aquino, his chief political rival.

"We need the snap election to convince the world that our program is supported by the people," a presidential news release quoted the 68-year-old Marcos as telling 8,000 Tarlac farmers. "We need foreign loans, financial assistance and foreign investments."

The opposition's National Unification Committee representing a dozen parties met in an emergency session in Manila to discuss mechanics for choosing a common opposition standard bearer.

In Brief

U.S. charges Soviets have increased shipments of arms to Nicaragua

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union, after an unexplained slowdown in deliveries of military hardware to Nicaragua, has stepped up such shipments in recent months and is now trans-shipping cargo through Cuba, government sources said Monday.

Intelligence officials still don't have a clear picture of what type of hardware is arriving in Nicaragua, one source said, but there have been indications during the past two weeks of new shipments involving trucks and tanks.

And last week, the source said, a U.S. supersonic spy plane flew over Cuba and confirmed that cargoes were being removed from Soviet and Bulgarian ships and transferred to Nicaraguan freighters.

The Washington Times reported Monday that an SR-71 flew over Cuba twice last Thursday night to take surveillance photographs of the port at Mariel.

At the White House, spokesman Larry Speakes would not comment on the report directly, but he charged that there has been a "steep increase" in military shipments from the Soviet Union to Nicaragua.

The United States has long made clear its concern over Soviet shipments of military cargo to Nicaragua. But the Sandinistas, in turn, say their military build-up is a necessity because the United States is trying to overthrow their government by supporting the Contra Guerrilla army.

Reagan links deployment, disarmament

WASHINGTON — President Reagan says the United States will not erect its "Star Wars" shield against nuclear weapons until America's missile arsenal is abolished. However, the White House took pains Monday to explain that the United States will not disarm unilaterally and would expect the Soviet Union to scrap its weapons also.

In an interview published Monday in Moscow, barely two weeks before his summit in Geneva with Mikhail Gorbachev, Reagan firmly linked deployment of Star Wars with nuclear disarmament.

His statement suggested for the first time that Star Wars technology would not be deployed until U.S. nuclear weapons are dismantled, but White House officials insisted that was not the case.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes and Edward Djerejian said Star Wars, as the Strategic Defense Initiative, envisions reducing nuclear weaponry in stages as components of the defense system are installed.

While insisting that Reagan's comments were clear on the point, Speakes said Star Wars would be deployed even if Moscow refused to go along with disarmament and the United States felt it had to keep its missiles.

Zorinsky hospitalized for chest pains

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward Zorinsky, D-Neb., was hospitalized in serious but stable condition Monday after complaining of chest pains, officials said.

Zorinsky, 56, came to his office Monday morning not feeling well, said Art Jaeger, his press secretary. "He had some chest discomfort, that sort of problem," Jaeger said, and went to see Dr. Freeman Cary, the congressional attending physician.

Cary ordered an ambulance to take Zorinsky to George Washington University Hospital, where he was admitted to the coronary care unit, said Karen Beauregard, a hospital spokeswoman.

She said doctors had made no diagnosis, but were running "routine" tests and planned to keep the senator hospitalized for observation for at least 24 to 48 hours.

Zorinsky was hospitalized with similar complaints three years ago.

Farm credit resolution debated

LINCOLN — The Legislature began debate Monday on a resolution that would condemn the use of federal funds to assist the troubled Farm Credit System.

The resolution, LB9, was intended to have the Legislature say it "condemns the use of federal funds to assist the Farm Credit System, unless such funds shall also be used to aid, in a fair and equitable manner, other non-governmental lending institutions engaged in agricultural finance."

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh, sponsor of the resolution, said the infusion of federal funds would only help bond holders, rather than farmers who are in debt. Such action, DeCamp said, would do nothing to eliminate the situation confronted by debt-ridden farmers who are faced with foreclosures.

Sens. Chris Beutler of Lincoln, Loran Schmit of Bellwood, Carson Rogers of Ord and Tom Vickers of Farnam proposed an amendment that would rewrite the DeCamp resolution.

The proposed amendment would ask Congress "to take appropriate action, including financial assistance, to assure a stable Farm Credit System."

'Social sounds' lure Humphrey to sea

SAN FRANCISCO — After nearly a month in waters well off its usual path, Humphrey the wayward whale headed for the freedom of the Pacific Ocean on Monday, lured homeward by marine biologists playing the flute-like sounds of feeding humpbacks.

As the 40-foot, 45-ton behemoth frolicked eight miles from the end of its 3½-week fresh-water journey, a flotilla of military and civilian boats surrounded it to keep it moving toward the open sea.

The whale also shook off the two transmitters that had been shot into its skin with a crossbow to help marine biologists locate it.

Crewmen aboard the 40-foot cruiser *Boatlegger* needed about 3½ hours to find Humphrey on Monday morning before they resumed luring it toward the ocean with the high-pitched, "social sounds" broadcast over a submerged loudspeaker.

The friendly serenade succeeded in accomplishing something that had stymied scientists for 24 days, when the whale was first spotted in San Francisco Bay.

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

Friends of an AIDS-stricken eighth-grader have raised about \$5,000 to help his family with medical bills. The 13-year-old boy's condition came to light when Swansea, Mass., school officials decided to keep him in classes because experts said it was unlikely he would transmit the disease, which he contracted during treatment for hemophilia.

A federal judge on Monday sentenced former Philadelphia Phillies caterer Curtis Strong to 12 years in prison for his conviction on 11 counts of distributing cocaine to major league baseball players.

Sylvia Campbell, the principal at Granbury (Texas) Elementary School, said she would spend a day on the

school's roof if her pupils achieved a 97 percent attendance rate. The students came through and Campbell says she will too. "She's on the roof," school secretary Mary Stumm said after tallying attendance figures from Oct. 7 to Nov. 1. "They made 97 percent."

In London, American oil magnate John Paul Getty II, 53, says as long as he has money, he'll keep giving it away.

Ben, a six-month-old black bear that likes a little warm beer now and then can no longer trot into Lahoma, Okla.'s only tavern for a can of his favorite brew. The Garfield County Health Department told Ben "This, Bud, is not for you." Now the only animal allowed in a bar is a seeing eye dog.