

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## U.S. to interview Yurchenko

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union on Tuesday agreed to a U.S. demand for an interview with KGB spy Vitaly Yurchenko to prove that he is not being coerced into returning to his homeland after three months in the hands of American intelligence agents.

A State Department official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said the interview was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon at the department's headquarters, and that a doctor would be present.

The purpose of the meeting was to assure U.S. authorities that Yurchenko truly wanted to return to the Soviet Union and was not being forced to do so by Soviet officials, said Charles Red-

man, a State Department spokesman. Meanwhile, the top two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee said the panel will investigate the CIA's handling of the Yurchenko case.

Yurchenko, identified by U.S. intelligence experts as the onetime head of the KGB's American section, came to the United States in early August and was in the custody of CIA officials until last weekend.

He turned up at the Soviet Embassy on Monday and, at an extraordinary news conference, said he had been abducted in Rome, drugged, and pumped for Russian secrets at a CIA hideout in Virginia, but managed to

escape. The State Department said the allegations were "completely false" and that Yurchenko defected freely, but for some reason decided to return to the Soviet Union.

Redman said it appeared that Yurchenko's decision to go to the embassy after three months of talking to U.S. intelligence officials "was a personal decision and we will attempt to confirm that at a meeting with him."

In another development, U.S. intelligence sources said Yurchenko may have defected to the West in part to be near a girlfriend in Canada and may have returned because the affair turned sour.

## Commonwealth depositors upset over having to pay legal bills

LINCOLN — Commonwealth Savings Co. depositors were stunned Tuesday by the news that they apparently will be paying the legal bills for both sides of the federal lawsuit they filed last week against the state in its role as the Commonwealth receiver and against the state Department of Banking and Finance.

"That's gotta be unreal. That's a further denial of our civil rights," said Claude T. Weimer, president of the Nebraska Depositors Action Committee, which filed a \$50 million federal court lawsuit Thursday on behalf of 6,700 depositors who had money in Commonwealth when it was declared insolvent and closed by the state on

Nov. 1, 1983.

"Already, the state as a defendant collects taxes from us to defend against our suit and the receiver takes funds to pay an attorney to advise them on how they should handle our affairs," Weimer said. "Unfortunately, much of that action has been adverse to our cause. I can't believe this."

Members of the NDAC, other depositors and some non-depositors contributed \$250,000 to pay the plaintiff's costs of the suit, the NDAC said last Friday.

On Tuesday, Roger Hirsch, counsel for the state Banking Department, said that the Commonwealth receiver will pay the legal bills to defend itself

against the suit, which alleges that the defendants deprived Commonwealth depositors of their rights, money, property and legal status in the administration of the insolvent institution.

The receiver's funds come from the investment of what remains of Commonwealth deposits and from the sales of property pledged as collateral for the bad loans that drove the institution into insolvency.

"It would seem the appropriate place for the cost to come from," Hirsch said. In effect, the depositors will be paying the receiver to defend itself against the depositors.

Hirsch said he could not estimate the legal bills that will be incurred.

## Talks end on downbeat, but... 'Life doesn't end in the middle of November'

MOSCOW — Secretary of State George Shultz wound up 14 hours of "vigorous discussion" with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other Kremlin officials Tuesday, saying the talks failed to narrow the superpowers' differences on arms control.

Shultz said despite "serious disagreements," the two sides had pledged to work hard in preparing the Nov. 19-20 summit meeting between President Reagan and Gorbachev in Geneva.

In a news conference before departing for an overnight refueling stop in Iceland, Shultz tempered his downbeat appraisal of the two-day visit by observing "we see some positive developments" in the U.S.-Soviet relationship.

But he was unable to cite any major area of reconciliation or prospect of an

accord for the first superpower summit in more than six years.

In fact, Shultz said, he would not bet on an agreement in principle between the two leaders on how to pursue a treaty to curb the arms race.

Philosophically, Shultz said "life does not end in the middle of November." He said the possibility of additional meetings between the leaders was "before us, but nothing has been settled."

He said later the four-hour session was "a very vigorous exchange that covered everything."

He twice described the talks as "frank," which in diplomatic parlance often means considerable disagreement. But Shultz said, "It was far from a

straightforward, always quite cordial and I think they reflected our desire to use the time well."

Besides arms control, Shultz singled out regional issues and human rights.

"As we broke up we wished for success at the upcoming Geneva meeting and beyond and pledged to each other that we would work hard for continuing preparations."

At the session with Shultz were Robert McFarlane, head of the National Security Council, and Arthur Hartman, the U.S. ambassador to Moscow.

With Gorbachev were Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Soviet Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Dobrynin.

## Poland changes propaganda tactics

By Charles J. Gans  
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Polish television recently shocked viewers by showing Solidarity supporters outside Poland's U.N. mission in New York shouting "down with Jaruzelski" and carrying placards urging the visiting leader to "go back to Moscow."

The report did not translate the more caustic references to Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski as a "butcher." Viewers, however, did not need to know English to understand the shouts of "Gestapo" or a placard equating a Communist hammer-and-sickle with a Nazi swastika as Jaruzelski's motorcade arrived at the mission.

Although the 15-minute broadcast was intended to discredit the protesters as extremists ignored by New Yorkers during Jaruzelski's September visit, the TV report would have been unimaginable in any other Soviet bloc

country.

The broadcast was a striking example of the Communist government's new offensive in an information war with the Solidarity underground press and Polish-language services of Radio Free Europe, the Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corp.

**'In the information war it is important who is quicker.'**

— Polish spokesman  
Jerzy Urban

Unable to enforce a monopoly on information, the government has changed its propaganda tactics. No longer ignoring opposition, the authorities regularly publicize and ridicule Solidarity protest calls and anti-govern-

ment commentaries on Western radio.

They also have been more forthcoming about economic, environmental and health problems which were often covered up under past governments.

The result approaches, in a limited way, the pluralistic journalism advocated by the Solidarity labor movement during its 16 months of legal existence in 1980-81.

"In the information war it is important who is quicker," government spokesman Jerzy Urban wrote in a foreword to a new book on his weekly news conferences with foreign journalists. "We are the target of a propaganda war in which aggression is a good thing."

Urban, whose news conferences offer a mixture of pure information and sharp attacks on Western press reports, has been a main shaper of the new information policy since Jaruzelski appointed him to his post in August 1981.

## In Brief

### Kerrey open to income tax increase

LINCOLN — Gov. Bob Kerrey said Tuesday that he is willing to consider a 1 percentage point increase in the state's income tax rate, but he emphasized that he wants to see a sufficient amount of budget cutting by the Legislature.

Kerrey commented as lawmakers took their first step toward enacting an Appropriations Committee plan to reduce the 3 percent budget cuts slated for NU and the state college system and to raise the state income tax rate for 1985 only.

Kerrey said he did not know what he would do if he received a bill for \$17 million in budget cuts. Senators who talked with Kerrey Tuesday morning to find out whether he would veto anything less than a 3 percent cut for NU and the state college system came back with varying versions of his position.

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh said he wouldn't support the 2 percent cut for state colleges because he got the impression Kerrey would veto it in favor of a 3 percent cut. Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln said the governor's position was more flexible than that.

"The word veto never passed my lips," Kerrey said. "The question is, if we get the \$17 million (in cuts) and the cigarette tax, will DeCamp support the income tax?"

Kerrey said he would consider an income tax increase, but only for tax year 1985, which would raise about \$17 million in extra revenue. "That income tax must go down on Jan. 1," he said.

### 5 schools fined in asbestos violations

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a total of \$41,200 in fines against five Nebraska school systems for alleged violations of federal asbestos regulations.

The EPA said the systems failed to "inspect, sample and analyze" asbestos in school buildings. The agency said the school systems also failed to maintain records about asbestos in the buildings.

Morris Kay, EPA Region 7 administrator in Kansas City, Kan., proposed fines for alleged violations in the following schools: Brownell-Talbot, Omaha, \$6,000; North Bend Elementary, North Bend, \$7,300; Wilber Public, Wilber, \$8,600; St. Wenceslaus Elementary, Wahoo, \$12,000, and Neumann High, Wahoo, \$7,300.

The fines were proposed after inspections of the schools. Each district has 20 days to request a hearing, meet with EPA officials or develop a compliance schedule.

Schools with buildings that contain "friable asbestos" are required by federal regulations to send written notices to schools employees, parent-teacher associations and parents. Such schools must also maintain records for public review.

### Farmers tell relatives: get another job

LINCOLN — A majority of farmers surveyed by the University of Nebraska Bureau of Sociological Research said they would not recommend that their relatives take up farming.

"Farmers from all income groups overwhelmingly said they would not recommend farming to a relative," bureau director David Johnson said. "Among farmers with the lowest incomes, 86 percent said they wouldn't, and only 5 percent said they would."

Johnson's report was based on a spring survey of 1,845 Nebraskans in all walks of life in the 1985 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey.

Overall, the survey found that more farmers and ranchers than not like their work but many aren't happy with their financial situations and don't expect to continue in the work 10 years from now. The study found that while financial satisfaction is low among farmers and ranchers, their job satisfaction is high in all income groups.

### Pa. officials debate abortion regulation

WASHINGTON — A Pennsylvania lawyer urged the Supreme Court on Tuesday to reinstate that state's invalidated abortion regulations, saying they fall within a "permissible role for the state to play" in women's decisions to end their pregnancies.

State Deputy Attorney General Andrew S. Gordon said the regulations "showed a proper regard" for past rulings that established a woman's constitutional right to have an abortion.

He said the state legislature "attempted to strike a balance" between the right and the protection of maternal and fetal life.

But Philadelphia lawyer Kathryn Kolbert, representing the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, attacked the regulations. She said they could spark "increased levels of violence" against abortion clinics and "increased levels of harassment for women seeking abortions."

The focal point in the Pennsylvania case, as in an Illinois abortion dispute argued after it, has been those states' attempts to expand, by threat of criminal sanctions, their regulatory powers over doctors who perform abortions.

### 12 dead as rivers rise; thousands flee

Rivers roared out of their banks Tuesday in West Virginia's worst flooding disaster and 12 people died in Virginia and Maryland as a storm deluged the mid-Atlantic states, forcing thousands to evacuate their homes and leaving others missing.

Some residents scrambled to safety on rooftops and in trees as floodwaters also inundated houses in North Carolina and Pennsylvania before the storm system which had stalled over the Carolinas crept slowly northward out to sea.

Hundreds of roads were submerged, some covered by as much as 12 feet of water and others by mudslides, and looting was reported in isolated pockets beyond the reach of busy police.

Six one-ton canisters of poisonous chlorine gas were washed into the James River from a plant near Lynchburg, Va., but city Fire Chief William A. Anderson said he was more concerned about several tanks of propane gas seen floating in the river.

"With the rate of the river, they would be like torpedos" if they hit bridge piers, he said.

West Virginia Gov. Arch Moore, who mobilized the National Guard and appealed to President Reagan to designate 22 counties as a federal disaster area, said the flooding "covered more territory and affected more people" than any in the state's history.

## Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

Four priests in the Omaha Catholic archdiocese will be elevated to the level of Reverend Monsignor, a title that hasn't been awarded to a priest in the Omaha archdiocese for 25 years. Archbishop Daniel Sheehan nominated

the four priests and Pope John Paul II made the designations. The priests are the Very Rev. Edward C. O'Donnell, the Rev. Robert P. Hupp, the Rev. Albert L. Krejci and the Rev. Cyril J. Werner.