

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Reagan says he's ready to deploy space shield unilaterally

WASHINGTON — President Reagan redefined his goals for the proposed "Star Wars" missile defense system Wednesday, saying he would deploy the space shield unilaterally if other nuclear powers can not agree on a worldwide nuclear defense and disarmament program.

"If we had a defensive system and we could not get agreement on their part to eliminate the nuclear weapons, we would have done our best and we would go ahead with deployment, even though, as I say, that would then open us up to the charge of achieving the capacity for a first strike," Reagan said in an interview less than two weeks before he meets Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva.

The president's comments appeared to negate the terms he laid out in an

interview with Soviet journalists last week in which he said he would not deploy a defensive system until offensive missiles had been dismantled. But Reagan denied there was any inconsistency in his separate descriptions of his policy.

"The terms for our own deployment would be the elimination of the offensive weapons," Reagan said to the Soviets. "We won't put this weapon - this system — in place, this defensive system, until we do away with our nuclear missiles, our offensive missiles . . . And if the Soviet Union and the United States both say we will eliminate our offensive weapons, we will put in this defensive thing in case some place in the world a madman someday tries to create these weapons again."

But on Wednesday, he told the White

House correspondents of Western news agencies that if the U.S. research program he calls the Strategic Defense Initiative were to come up with an effective system to defend against nuclear attack, the United States would call a meeting of all nuclear powers to "see if we cannot use that weapon to bring about . . . the elimination of nuclear weapons."

If that conference failed to gain an agreement for mutual use of the defensive system, Reagan said, "we would go ahead with deployment."

Earlier Wednesday, when asked if he meant to give the Soviets veto power, in effect, over deployment of the proposed defensive weapons system, Reagan replied, "Would you forgive me if I say, hell no."

Up \$60 million from 1984

World arms spending at \$800 billion

WASHINGTON — World military spending will reach \$800 billion this year — \$60 billion more than last year — continuing a post-World War II weapons buildup at the cost of social programs, a report by arms control advocates said Wednesday.

The United States and the Soviet Union, with 11 percent of the world's population, account for more than half the military spending the report said.

Among the United States and its European allies, annual per capita military spending amounts to about \$45, compared with \$11 for health research, the report said. The world spends about \$450 to educate each child and \$25,600 to support each soldier.

The findings, based on official U.S. and international statistics, were published by World Priorities, an economic

research group whose sponsors include the Rockefeller Foundation, the Arms Control Association and the World Policy Institute.

The aim of the report is to demonstrate, with official statistics, the disparity between spending on weaponry and that on health, welfare and education.

For example, it said:

- The Soviet Union spends more on its military than the governments of all the developing countries spend for education and health care for their 3.6 billion people.

- The budget of the U.S. Air Force is larger than the total education support for 1.2 billion children in Africa, Latin America and Asia, including Japan.

- Developed countries on average spend 5.4 percent of their GNP for mil-

itary purposes, 0.3 percent for development assistance to poor countries.

- Since 1960, Third World military spending has increased five-fold and the number of countries ruled by military governments has grown from 22 to 57.

- The Soviet Union maintains more than 778,000 troops in 22 foreign countries; the United States has 479,000 troops at bases in 40 foreign countries.

Another reason for the high cost of military forces is the astounding complexity of new weapons, the report said. In 1985 dollars, it cost \$10 million to build 10 medium bombers in 1945; today it costs \$650 million.

The United States could buy a submarine for \$28 million in 1945; now it costs \$692 million, the study said.

Colombian guerrillas seize court; army troops launch counterattack

BOGOTA, Colombia — About 25 leftist guerrillas shot their way into the Palace of Justice on Wednesday, but three hours later troops stormed the court building, seizing the lower three floors and freeing more than 100 hostages.

Guerrillas of the April 19 Movement still held a "large number" of judges on the top two floors of the five-story structure, according to one of the hostages, Supreme Court President Alfonso Reyes. He was contacted by telephone and said, "If the government doesn't cut off its attack there could be a tragedy here."

Bogota radio stations said preliminary reports indicated at least 17 guerrillas and one police lieutenant were killed and four policemen were wounded.

Reyes told radio station Todelar, "We are here with a large number of judges as hostages and it is a question of life or death that the gunfire stop. Please pass that on so the president will give the order to stop the attack."

As the judge spoke, bursts of submachine gun fire could be heard from Reyes' office on the fourth floor of the building. Exchanges of gunfire continued as night fell.

Radio Caracol telephoned federal Judge Fernando Gonzalez before the army assault, and he said, "I think all 24 members of the Supreme Court are being held hostage."

It was not known if Gonzalez was among more than 100 people who were freed and fled from the building during and after the army assault.

Radio stations said President Belisario Betancur's brother, federal Judge Jaime Betancur, was among those who escaped unharmed.

At least 15 guerrillas were killed when the soldiers launched their assault, Radio Caracol reported.

Photos from Landsat satellites

Atlas gives new picture of world

WASHINGTON (AP) — Its publishers call it "the most riveting look at our continent ever put between covers of a book." Before even one copy was ready, 200,000 had been sold for \$29.95 — or \$39.95 for the deluxe issue, which comes with a magnifier.

The National Geographic Society's "Atlas of North America," unveiled Wednesday, looks at the continent from space and presents a stunning portrait.

In vivid blues, greens and reds —

photographic images printed in colors other than their own to bring out details invisible to the human eye — the atlas is, according to the society, "a new way of seeing the earth that is neither mapping nor photography, but does the work of both and better than either."

In addition to containing the familiar maps and illustrations found in conventional atlases, the new one makes heavy use of pictures from space to show not only what the earth below looks like but also what it's made of

and how it is being shaped by natural and man-made forces.

The society got its pictures from Landsat satellites, which have been in use since 1972, as well as from weather satellites, crews of the Apollo, Skylab and shuttle spacecraft and from airplanes.

One photograph shows the United States at night, the clusters of lights from the cities appearing as white paint splashes across the unmistakable shape of the country.

In Brief

Judge calls mistrial in Miller case

LOS ANGELES — A judge on Wednesday declared a mistrial in the case of Richard W. Miller, the only FBI agent ever charged with espionage, after jurors deadlocked with the majority favoring his conviction.

The foreman of the jury informed U.S. District Judge David Kenyon that after 14 days of deliberations the panel had voted 10-2 for guilt on three of the key espionage charges against Miller and 11-1 on the four other charges.

U.S. Attorney Robert Bonner said the government would seek to try Miller again and would ask that a date for a new trial be set today.

Miller, 48, a 20-year veteran of the FBI, faces a possible maximum of life in prison if convicted on all seven counts of his indictment. Two of the counts carry life sentences while others carry penalties in the range of 10 years.

He is charged with passing classified documents to the Soviet Union in exchange for promises of \$65,000 in cash and gold.

At least 35 dead in U.S. flooding

Health officials voiced concern about contaminated water Wednesday in the wake of devastating floods that killed at least 35 people in the mid-Atlantic states. The governors of Virginia and West Virginia surveyed damage estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Rivers that crested at record levels were returning to their banks in many areas, but Richmond braced for a surge on the James River and sandbagging continued at historic sites around Washington, D.C., in anticipation of a Potomac River crest up to 7 feet above flood stage.

About 20 people were still listed as missing in the floods that followed three days of heavy rain.

More than 2,000 people remained out of their homes Wednesday in Pennsylvania and the Virginias, while many began the task of mopping up.

For others, however, there was no home to return to, as trailers, A-frames and other structures washed down swollen rivers.

Chilean police arrest student rioters

SANTIAGO, CHILE — Riot police stormed a university campus Wednesday, and arrested at least 140 students in the second day of protests against 12 years of military rule.

Authorities reported that six people were hospitalized with bullet wounds elsewhere in Santiago, nine bombs exploded and police arrested five labor leaders.

The students sought sanctuary in the engineering school on the national university campus after running street battles with police on the final day of the protest organized by opponents of President Augusto Pinochet, an army general who came to power after a coup in September 1973.

Police called in reinforcements, surrounded the building and stormed it after lobbing tear gas grenades through the windows. An official helicopter hovered overhead.

There were no official reports of injuries to students, but journalists saw one being taken away on a stretcher, and an ambulance came to the scene.

It was the most serious clash in the second day of the protest. On Tuesday, more than 20 people were wounded and 300 arrested in street violence.

Jaruzelski resigns premier post

WARSAW, Poland — Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski stepped down as premier Wednesday but was elected to the ceremonial post of state president and remained head of the Communist Party, the most powerful position in Poland.

Parliament elected Politburo member Zbigniew Messner the new premier and asked him to form a new government.

The election of Jaruzelski to the state presidency and his retaining the title of Communist Party first secretary underscored that he would remain the dominant political figure in Poland. He replaced Henryk Jablonski as president.

Jaruzelski, a four-star army general, declared martial law in 1981 and oversaw the suppression of the Solidarity labor movement that year. His resignation as premier apparently signaled the end of that political crisis.

The Communist Party, the real power in this Soviet-bloc country, lost nearly 1 million members after labor turmoil in 1980 gave birth to Solidarity, diplomatic sources have said.

Diplomats said that by relinquishing control over day-to-day government operations, Jaruzelski, 62, would be able to prepare for next year's Communist Party congress.

Yurchenko returns to Soviet Union

WASHINGTON — Smiling broadly, former KGB official Vitaly Yurchenko boarded a Soviet airliner and flew home late Wednesday, capping a bizarre twist in an East-West spy drama in which the defector became an accuser against the nation that offered him a new life.

After a half-hour motorcade from the Soviet embassy to Dulles International Airport outside Washington, Yurchenko walked briskly past three State Department officials, leading an entourage of about 20 Soviets into the Ilyushin 62jet that earlier had returned Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin from pre-summit talks in Moscow.

Before being allowed to leave, Yurchenko apparently satisfied U.S. authorities that he was returning to the Soviet Union on his own accord, without coercion. No one knew what kind of reception awaited him in Moscow but experts here predicted a bleak future for him.

American officials had said Yurchenko defected in Rome in August and was brought to this country. Last Saturday, he left his CIA handlers and went to the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

On Monday, he told a news conference at the Soviet compound that he had been kidnapped, drugged and held at a CIA safe house near Fredericksburg, Va. On Tuesday, he went to the State Department and convinced officials that he was not pressured in asking to go home.

Newsmakers

A roundup of the day's happenings

A young Mexican man who sneaked across the border and won the California lottery's \$2 million jackpot was arrested Wednesday by immigration authorities who said they acted quickly because he "bragged" about his illegal status.

Spencer W. Kimball, the 90-year-old Mormon Church president, died at his downtown Salt Lake City apartment. Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ezra Taft Benson, 86,

senior member of the council of the Twelve Apostles, assumed nominal leadership pending his expected election to succeed Kimball.

Nancy Reagan has received United Cerebral Palsy of New York's humanitarian award for longtime dedication to the emotionally and physically impaired. Reagan was honored with the First Lady Humanitarian Award at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel that raised \$932,315.