

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Arms talks resume; Gorbachev offer 'welcomed'

GENEVA — Soviet delegates to talks on limiting nuclear weapons today formally presented to U.S. negotiators the proposal by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to ban all nuclear arms by the year 2000. But both sides refused to disclose details.

"Of course we will introduce those proposals today because we feel those proposals are the key points for our discussion," Viktor P. Karpov, the chief Soviet delegate, told journalists at the Soviet mission before the two sides resumed arms negotiations.

Gorbachev's plan, announced Wednesday night, calls for a 50 percent cut in the superpowers strategic missile arsenals and eliminating their European-based medium-range rockets within eight years, followed by a universal nuclear weapons freeze and, finally, worldwide nuclear disarmament.

Karpov said that the proposal's first stage was "a direct task" of the negotiators in Geneva.

U.S. spokesman Terry Shroeder said Thursday's session lasted two hours and 10 minutes but refused to provide details of the talks, citing the confidentiality agreement agreed by the two

sides when the talks began last March.

Max M. Kampelman, the chief U.S. delegate, said after the two sides sat down at the negotiating table that "the American delegation is here in a constructive spirit anxious to find an accommodation."

He said the U.S. side was "looking forward to the day when the threat of nuclear war can be removed."

Shroeder said Wednesday the Kremlin proposal would be "studied carefully."

Karpov, speaking to reporters, criticized the U.S. proposal for a space-based missile defense, known as "Star Wars," which has been the major sticking point in the talks.

"The Star Wars program is very dangerous and we feel that banning of that program is very important for reducing arms, first of all nuclear arms," he said.

Gorbachev said his arms reduction plan was possible only if both superpowers "mutually renounce the development, testing and deployment of space strike weapons."

There was no announcement on when the next meeting would be in the fourth round of arms

parleys in 10 months. But the talks were expected to follow their usual pattern of one meeting a week by each negotiating group — space and defense, intermediate-range nuclear forces and long-range nuclear weapons.

Secretary of State George Shultz, speaking on "CBS Morning News" about Gorbachev's proposal, said President Reagan "has long been calling for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and he has said that the way to do it is to start with radical reductions. So to the extent that the Soviets are coming along to that point of view, we welcome it; we welcome it wholeheartedly."

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency Tass said Washington's reaction to Gorbachev's plan will demonstrate whether the United States is committed to ending the nuclear threat or just paying lip service to peace.

In Washington, the White House on Thursday cautiously welcomed Gorbachev's proposal, but expressed concern that the Kremlin continues to tie cuts in offensive weapons to the elimination of the "Star Wars" program.

"At first glance, many elements in the new

Soviet proposal appear unchanged from their previous proposals and cause us concern," spokesman Larry Speakes said.

Reagan said in a statement Wednesday that he would give the plan careful study.

Speakes cited "the continued linkage of reductions to a ban on 'space-strike arms,'" a reference to the Strategic Defense Initiative, more popularly known as Star Wars. "We believe strategic defenses can make a significant contribution to stability in a world free from nuclear weapons."

But the spokesman reiterated that the administration considers it "a serious proposal worthy of further study" and said "there may be some constructive steps" in the area of verification of each side's compliance with existing arms agreements, particularly with regard to proposed on-site inspections of weapons tests.

"Other parts of the Soviet offer also require more concrete detail, and we hope Soviet negotiators will explain their proposals promptly and fully in the proper negotiating forums," Speakes said. He added those details should be explored at the bargaining table in Geneva.

In Brief

AIDS breakthrough

NEW YORK — Researchers have found the lock-and-key by which the AIDS virus zeroes in on its target in the body's immune system, raising new hopes for a vaccine against the deadly disease.

In a report to be published today in Science magazine, the researchers said the finding suggests new ways of stopping or preventing AIDS infections, either by treating immune cells to reject the AIDS virus or by using drugs to attack the part of the virus that directs it toward immune cells.

The new research, by Dr. J. Steven McDougal and colleagues at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, explains how the AIDS virus is able to discriminate among many white blood cells and infect only the T-4 lymphocyte blood cells.

Farm chief elected

ATLANTA — Dean Kleckner, an Iowa hog farmer elected Thursday to head the nation's largest farm organization, said American farmers must "sell to the world" to overcome their worst economic slump

since the Great Depression.

Kleckner, who succeeds Bob Deiano as president of the 3.4 million-member American Farm Bureau Federation, pledged to continue the bureau's efforts to improve farm income.

"Sell, sell, sell. That's got to be our motto from now on," said the 53-year-old resident of Rudd, Iowa.

State lottery bill

LINCOLN — Saying Nebraskans should be allowed to speak, Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh introduced a constitutional amendment Thursday to establish a state lottery.

"This gives people a chance to be involved," DeCamp said of his LR322. "It let's the people speak and brings it all to a head."

The proposal would allow the Legislature to establish a state lottery that is deemed most efficient and calls for regulations guaranteeing that "improper elements" would not be involved.

The amendment, which would be placed on the 1986 general-election ballot if it captures legislative approval, would require that pro-

ceeds from the lottery be used to reduce property tax.

Escapees found

LINCOLN — Two Nebraska State Penitentiary inmates who had been missing for nearly 24 hours were recaptured Thursday in a utility pipe tunnel network beneath the prison, a prison official said. They offered no resistance.

Prison officials believed the men disappeared about 6 p.m. Wednesday. They were identified by prison officials as Richard Harrington, 31, and Fred White, 29.

Drug depresses

CHICAGO — One of the most frequently prescribed drugs in the United States, used to control high blood pressure and heart problems, probably causes depression in hundreds of thousands of the patients who take it, a new study indicates.

The drug, Inderal, is in a class of life-saving medications called beta blockers. They keep hormones in the adrenaline family from stimulating the heart in times of stress.

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February 28, 1986 is the Deadline!

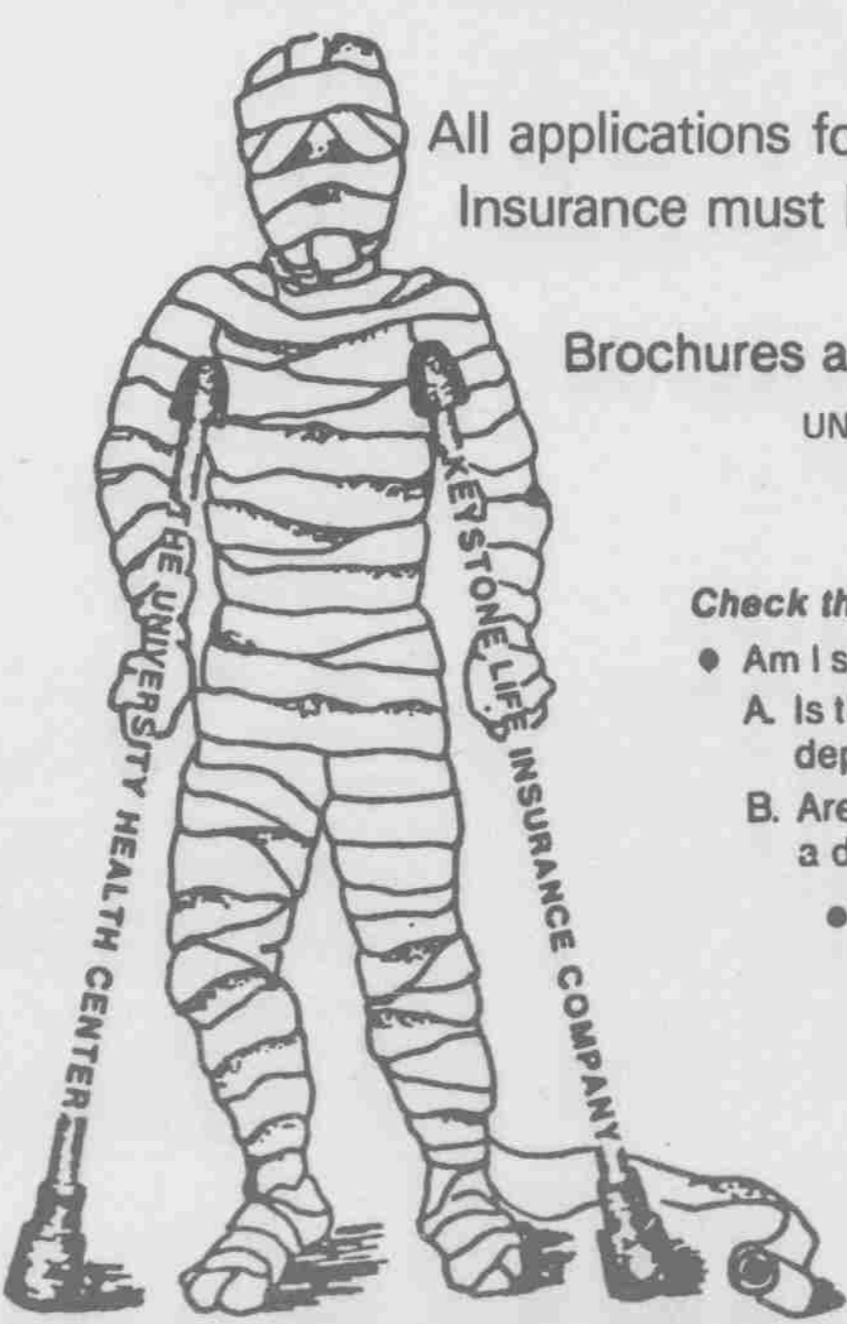
All applications for the Student Health and Accident Insurance must be received by February 28, 1986.

Brochures and information are available at:

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 or call 472-7437

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 - Is there an age limit? Most policies limit the age for dependent coverage to age 23.
 - Are you thinking of marriage? Most policies exclude a dependent after he becomes married.
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