

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Majority think nuclear war with Soviet Union is unlikely

NEW YORK — Most Americans believe the Soviet Union is a military threat to the United States, but few think nuclear war with the Soviets is likely in this century, according to a Media General-Associated Press poll.

In fact, many Americans believe relations between the Soviet Union and the United States are improving, the poll found.

In the nationwide telephone poll of 1,512 adult Americans, 47 percent said relations with the Soviet Union had improved under President Reagan, while only 10 percent felt relations had declined. Thirty-eight percent said relations had stayed about the same under Reagan, and 5 percent were unsure.

About half the respondents said relations would continue to improve under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Only 6 percent said they felt relations would decline, and 34 percent said they would stay the same.

However, 69 percent said the Soviet Union was a military threat to the United States. Of those, 34 percent said the threat was increasing, 6 percent said it was decreasing, and 58 percent said it was staying about the same.

One-quarter of the respondents said the Soviets were not a threat.

On the question of nuclear war, nearly three-quarters said it was not likely to occur with the Soviets in the next 15 years. Eighteen percent said nuclear war was likely, and the rest were unsure.

Young people said nuclear war was likely more frequently than older people. Women also were more likely than men to think nuclear war would occur.

And 34 percent of black respondents said nuclear war with the Soviet Union was likely within the next 15 years, compared with only 17 percent of whites.

Most of the respondents had a vastly different impression of American relations with China, once a U.S. foe. Only 26 percent said China was a military threat to the United States, while 64 percent said it did not pose a military threat.

Respondents in the Media General-Associated Press poll included a random, scientific sampling of 1,512 adults across the country Feb. 1-8. As with all sample surveys, the results of Media General-AP telephone polls can vary from the opinions of all Americans because of chance variation in the sample.

Weather sends crew inside Shooting begins for ABC miniseries

ELMWOOD — The film crew for the ABC miniseries "Amerika" received a less than pleasant introduction to Nebraska's weather as they began shooting on location.

"They're shooting inside the farmhouse," said Bob Wright, publicity head for ABC-Circle Films. "The crew is all huddled on the porch freezing to death."

Because of the cold, wet weather, the film crew had to light the outside of the farmhouse as well as the cramped interior, Wright said Monday.

The farmhouse set, like all those on private property, was closed, he said.

Robert Ulrich, who stars in the ABC series "Spenser: For Hire," and Kris Kristofferson are among the principal characters in the 12-hour miniseries,

which will depict life in the United States 10 years after a Soviet takeover.

The principal actress working Monday was Christine Lahti, who plays one of the leads, Wright said.

Cindy Pickett, who played Vanessa Sarnac in ABC's "Call to Glory" appears on NBC's "St. Elsewhere," is one of the female leads, he said.

Ulrich will arrive in Lincoln next week to work on "Amerika" after he completes shooting for the Spenser series in Boston, Wright said.

Kris Kristofferson will arrive in Lincoln later this month, Wright said. Kristofferson, a singer and songwriter, will also perform two shows in Lincoln on March 26.

A casting call Sunday at Tecumseh

High School drew 1,200 area residents looking for parts as extras in the miniseries.

"We just thought it would be a lot of fun," said Bob Leuenberger, who farms and works for the Tecumseh Post Office. He and his family applied for jobs as extras.

Jody Hummer, ABC's supervisor of casting in Nebraska, said more than 2,000 extras will be required for shooting in Tecumseh, Lincoln, Seward, Unadilla and Waverly.

"These people that are hired on are not really 'extras,'" Hummer said. "They are the atmosphere and real life of the film. We're looking for the feel of Tecumseh, and you can't have that without Tecumseh people."

Setting it Straight

In an article titled "Golden Key" honorary comes to UNL, will induct about 7,000," (Daily Nebraskan, March 17), a typographical error misrepresented the number of expected inductees. Only 250 out of the 2,123 invited members are expected to be inducted.

Scholarship amounts, which have not yet been determined, will be based on the number of students inducted.

Dorm gourmet offers students elegant dining

URBANA, Ill. — Chateaubriand for two served by candlelight, with fresh flowers on the table and classical music in the background — University of Illinois students discover even a residence hall dining room can be elegant.

Each week, they scramble for reservations and a change to sample international gourmet foods at bargain prices in this tiny and unusual restaurant in Allen Hall.

"What a way to end the week," one guest wrote on the comment card. "The food was excellent, the service was impeccable and the ambiance was delightful." Another said Reservations Only "is a nice place to have for poor

college students."

On a typical Friday night, diners might select the Chinese shiu-bow appetizer, steamed buns stuffed with pork, egg and sausage in oyster sauce; an orange and jicama salad; pears with grated cheese, topped with a raspberry; a spicy African chicken groundnut stew; carrots and grapes sauteed in butter with a sweetened vodka sauce; crepes suzette; and a beverage.

The check: \$4.50 plus a punch of their meal ticket (worth about \$1.10).

Reservations Only is the creation of Maria Ramos, director of residence hall food service on this campus of more than 30,000 students. She wanted to

provide an intimate atmosphere for them to experience gourmet dining.

Ramos also wanted a place where she and a few colleagues could get away from their administrative chores and do what they enjoy the most.

"We thought it would be really fun once a week to run a real restaurant — haute cuisine," said Ramos, who creates a new menu each week and prepares the entrees and desserts. "It is a creative effort that appeals to our interests."

It is a labor of love for them. Only the students who work in the dining room are paid. But they share the same enthusiasm for Reservations Only, which opened in November 1984.

I really enjoy this — they come for a nice quiet meal, dressed like you would for a fine restaurant," said waiter Bill Bila, a law student from Oak Lawn.

The restaurant is open on Friday night and only about 75 people can be served. Students get first priority, and about 50 are on the waiting list each week.

Most students arrive in coats and ties or dresses, and often they are surprised by what they find.

"I had heard good things about Reservations Only but I was really impressed when I walked through the door," said Michael Mrazek, a senior from Arlington Heights. "I didn't expect THIS."

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In Brief

Lottery opposition
LINCOLN — A motion to kill a proposed constitutional amendment that would mandate a state lottery has been signed by 24 members of the Legislature. Several lawmakers have said that the bill motion, which was printed in Monday's legislative journal, clearly means that the lottery plan has no chance of passing. The proposal, Legislative Resolution 322, is on general file, the first stage of floor debate. A simple majority of those voting is sufficient to kill a bill at that stage. Even if the kill motion were taken up, and failed, the resolution would still have no chance to win passage if the 24 senators who signed the motion were to stand firm in opposition to the lottery idea.

Player retention
OMAHA — Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said 71 percent of the scholarship players recruited since 1973 have remained in school through the completion of their eligibility. Osborne said an article in the Omaha World-Herald earlier this month gave the wrong impression about the retention rate of scholarship players in the NU program. The article said that of those who entered the program between 1973 and 1985, 28 percent of the scholarship recruits left the team before completing their eligibility.

Czechs defect
MUNICH, West Germany — Ten Czechoslovakians left their tourist group in the West German city of Passau and three asked for political asylum, border police in Munich said Monday. The 10 were part of a group of 185 Czechoslovaks who traveled to West Germany on a Danube river boat tour last Thursday. They left the group on Friday, police said. Ten days ago, 14 Czechoslovak tourists defected from another group in Passau and asked for asylum in West Germany, police said.

Recover delay
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Strong underwater currents Monday delayed a salvage ship's effort to hoist a chunk of Challenger debris that might include the right rocket booster joint suspected of causing the shuttle explosion. The Stena Workhorse started the retrieval after a robot submersible, the Gemini, attached a sling and lift lines to the piece. But a Navy spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. Deborah Burnette, reported later that the effort was delayed by swift currents.

Marcos ruling
NEW YORK — A federal judge refused Monday to bar U.S. officials from providing the government of the Philippines with copies of financial records that deposed president Ferdinand Marcos brought with him to Hawaii. Judge Dominick DiCarlo of the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that the two Marcos aides who filed the suit against the Customs Service did not have standing to assert their claims on behalf of the former president. Marcos, who is staying at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, was not himself a party to the suit.

Contra aid
WASHINGTON — Supporters and foes of giving \$100 million to Nicaraguan rebels claimed Monday that public support is running in their favor. The House passed a critical measure Monday that would provide the aid.

After special envoy Philip Habib maintained that President Reagan's proposal has strong support among Central American officials, the White House said calls and wires had shown that by a better than 2-1 margin, people were responding positively to Reagan's nationally broadcast Sunday night appeal for support for the aid program. On Capitol Hill, however, House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., said calls and telegrams to his office were showing public resistance to Reagan's request to send money to the Contra counterrevolutionaries fighting the Sandinista government in Managua.

OIL OPEC in turmoil...

GENEVA — OPEC ministers, unable to agree on a strategy for reversing a traumatic drop in oil prices, suspended an emergency meeting Monday for at least one day, reflecting what cartel sources called major disagreements among the 13 members.

Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, oil minister of Venezuela and president of OPEC, said the break was needed to allow the group's technical experts to reassess the outlook for oil demand.

Grisanti said the ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would hold informal, bilateral contacts before reconvening in full conference today.

The meeting's uncertainty caused nervous trading in the spot and futures oil markets. On the New York Mercantile Exchange, the April-delivery price of West Texas Intermediate, the main U.S. crude, vacillated between \$12 and \$13 a barrel.

There were unconfirmed rumors that cartel members were close to a production sharing agreement under which prices would stabilize between \$15 and \$20 a barrel.

Ranji Salman Abdul Hussain, acting chief delegate from Iraq, said a consensus favored cutting OPEC production and reinstating output quotas. But Libyan Oil Minister Fawzi A. Shakshuki said there had been no agreements and no proposals put forth.

... Mexico celebrates

MEXICO CITY — Oil is more than Mexico's leading source of foreign revenue. It is a matter of national pride, considered a danger as well as a great blessing.

Today, the national holiday marking the 48th anniversary of the nationalization of Mexico's oil fields will be celebrated in the midst of an economic crisis aggravated by falling crude prices.

Mexico, the world's fourth-largest crude producer, depends on oil sales for 70 percent of its foreign revenue, which is used to meet payments on the \$96.4 billion foreign debt and buy needed imports.

Oil prices have fallen 50 percent since December, cutting sharply into the amount of revenue Mexico can expect to collect this year. Mexico also has reduced its export goal from 1.5 million barrels a day to 1.3 million, as a result of the weakness in the world market.

"The Mexican economy confronts one of its most adverse challenges of the present century," President Miguel de la Madrid said late last month in a nationally televised speech on the economy.

The president said the price decline will translate into a loss of \$6 billion in revenue this year, about half the amount that had been expected from oil sales and about one-third the value of all exports.

Oil exports brought in \$13.3 billion in 1985.