

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Gorbachev favors dismantling alliances

BERLIN — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stepped up his courtship of Western Europe on Monday by saying he would support disbanding the Warsaw Pact and NATO alliances.

At the same time, Gorbachev voiced readiness to meet again with President Reagan if "the appropriate international atmosphere is created."

The Soviet leader, on a visit to East Germany, also charged that the United States had ignored the opinion of its West European allies by sending warplanes to bomb Libya last week.

In a speech to workers in East Berlin, the Soviet Communist Party gen-

eral secretary said Moscow was ready for "a simultaneous disbanding of the Warsaw Pact and NATO, or, for a start, their military organizations."

The Soviets have previously said they were prepared to scrap the Warsaw Pact if the West dissolved the NATO military alliance. The offers have been viewed with skepticism in the West.

On the possibility of a superpower summit this year, Gorbachev said, "We are ready for a Soviet-American meeting so long as the appropriate international atmosphere is created, and real disarmament steps are possible."

On Monday, in his speech to the workers, he repeated the proposal on conventional arms and said he also favored "all-European cooperation on economic, ecological and other issues."

"It is finally time to grasp the simple thought that the barriers can be removed," he said. Gorbachev then expressed readiness to meet with Reagan.

Gorbachev kept up his criticism of Reagan on Monday, charging that the United States "piratical action (against Libya had) not only failed to take notice of world public opinion, but of the majority of its NATO allies too."

Gorbachev has used his public appearances to issue several statements and proposals on disarmament and East-West relations.

Gorbachev's suggestions that troop levels and conventional weapons be reduced have already met with a positive response in West Germany, where Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Monday described the proposals as a "step forward."

After Khadafy

Reagan seeks advice from allied countries

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Monday that after he decided to launch a limited military strike against Libya, some U.S. allies suggested a coordinated, "all-out" attack to force a change in Moammar Khadafy's policy of exporting terrorism.

In an interview with The Associated Press and other news agencies, the president said the suggestions were "that we look seriously together at real major action" against Libya.

He did not name the nations or the leaders who offered that advice. But the Washington Times, in a report published Monday, quoted a senior administration official as saying French President Francois Mitterand told U.S. envoy Vernon Walters he would support the mission only if it were strong enough to be aimed at overthrowing Khadafy.

Walters made a whirlwind tour of European capitals in the days just before the April 14 air raid to inform the allies of U.S. intentions and seek their support. Only Britain publicly backed Reagan's action and permitted use of British air bases by U.S. Air Force planes participating in the attack.

"We found that some of them were suggesting that — not that the answer be nothing of that kind — but that we look seriously at, together, real major action against Libya," Reagan said. "Some of them suggested that... if we were going to resort to force, that then perhaps it should be a wider-based and a more all-out effort to change the Libyan policy."

Walters consulted with leaders in Great Britain, West Germany, France, Italy and Spain between April 11-15. The bombing raid occurred early on the

morning of April 15, Libyan time.

In Paris, there was no immediate official reaction to Reagan's remark, with a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry saying only, "We have noted the comments."

In the Hague, a Dutch foreign ministry spokesman said his government

ment," Reagan said. "I think we all know how we feel about terrorism. I'm hopeful we can sit down and work out what it is that we can do together to deal with this problem."

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials said they were convinced that Libya is "blowing smoke" with claims to have

Border patrol has extra task

EL PASO, Texas — Determined, sophisticated terrorists could easily cross the border into the United States, according to federal officials whose agencies are on alert after the bombing of Libya.

The vast, open spaces of the 1,952-mile border between the United States and Mexico, coupled with limited manpower of federal agencies, has made it relatively easy for illegal aliens to slip in, officials said Monday.

It would be just as easy for a professional terrorist, they said. Authorities along the 4,139-mile border between the United States and Canada also are on the watch for imposters and false passports that could give away a potential terrorist.

"The best we can do is be alert to the possibility of terrorist activity," said Larry Richardson, the chief Border Patrol agent for the El Paso district. "An unarmed terrorist, someone handled routinely, would have a lot of odds in his favor."

Terrorist profiles have been given to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Customs Service and the Border Patrol. But a terrorist trying to enter the country would probably have a physical appearance that would make him blend with the rest of the population, said Richardson.

Documents such as passports, birth certificates and visas, are being checked more thoroughly, said Al Giugni, INS district director in El Paso. Officials say sealing the border against potential terrorists would be difficult.

"knew nothing of such a suggestion."

Reagan said he expects to discuss the matter further next week when he meets other allied leaders at the seven-nation economic summit in Tokyo.

"This has simply been in conversation with some of our representatives that have been over there," he explained. "I think it would be the kind of thing they would want to talk about at the summit as to whether we had reached that point or not."

"I'm not going there with the idea we should get some grandiose state-

retrieved an F-111 bomber missing from last week's raids.

But these officials, declining to be named publicly, acknowledged that the recovery of such a plane by the Libyans would represent a serious setback.

The officials did say the Soviet Union "would dearly love to get its hands" on such a plane, not so much because of the airframe and engines, but because of the F-111's terrain-following radar and its so-called "Pave Tack" targeting system.

In Brief

Sub dismantling

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, overriding several senior advisers, has decided to dismantle two U.S. nuclear submarines to keep the United States within the limits of the controversial SALT II treaty when a new Trident nuclear submarine goes to sea, a U.S. official said Monday.

Two Poseidon submarines, with 16 multiple-warhead missiles apiece, will be taken out of the U.S. nuclear fleet and destroyed over the next six months.

The decision was described as "tentative" in the sense that Reagan was sending two envoys to consult with allies in Asia and Western Europe before making a formal announcement.

Shuttle remains

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA plans this week to release the remains of the seven Challenger astronauts to their families after ending part of a nearly 3-month underwater search for wreckage from the space shuttle.

The official end of the underwater search for crew cabin con-

tents had been expected since the recovery last week of the remains of payload specialist Gregory Jarvis. Bruce Jarvis, of Orlando, said he had been notified that his son's remains were the last to be found.

The hunt continues for other shuttle wreckage, particularly the bottom segment of the right booster rocket in the area around its joint.

Nuclear test

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — A major nuclear weapons test, the third announced test in the past month, was scheduled for this morning at the Nevada Test Site.

The test, code-named Jefferson, was scheduled for 7:30 a.m. CST at the site 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, said spokesman Jack Campbell. The explosion will have a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons, he said. It will be the 10th announced test by the United States since the Soviet Union began a unilateral test moratorium Aug. 6. Not all tests are announced for security reasons.

The test was expected to demonstrate CORREX, a new U.S. system for measuring the explosive punch of nuclear tests.

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