

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Defecting Americans

### Soviets say U.S. soldier, wife granted political asylum

MOSCOW — The Kremlin announced Thursday an American soldier and his West German wife had defected to the Soviet Union and been granted asylum because they feared political persecution.

The U.S. Army in West Germany and the Pentagon in Washington could not confirm the defection, which would be the first by an American serviceman to the Soviet Union since the Vietnam War.

The Pentagon issued a statement, however, saying it was investigating an enlisted man with a name similar to that announced by the Soviets who had deserted in West Germany a month ago. It said it was not certain if he was the same person.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov announced the defection at a regular news briefing and said, "They have chosen the Turkmenian

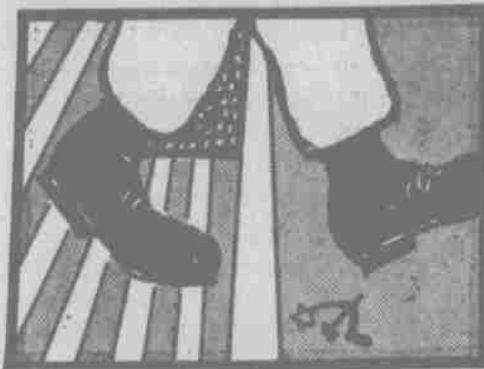
**'They have chosen the Turkmenian S.S.R. for their honeymoon. . . they were afraid of being victimized for their progressive views.'**

—Gerasimov

S.S.R. for their honeymoon."

He identified the soldier as William E. Roberts of the U.S. Army, whom he said had been stationed in West Germany, and his wife as P. Neumann, a West German.

Both have been granted political asylum because "they were afraid of being victimized for their progressive views," Gerasimov said. He said Roberts "had been persecuted" while stationed



with the Army in West Germany, but the Soviet spokesman provided no details.

Gerasimov did not say when the couple entered the Soviet union or give any other details.

Army Maj. Dennis Pinkham, a spokesman for the U.S. European command in Stuttgart, West Germany, said military officials were attempting to verify the report.

The Army announced Thursday afternoon that it had declared a deserter one of its soldiers assigned to West Germany, Pvt. 2nd Class Wade Evan Roberts. It noted that his name differed from that released by Moscow.

Roberts was assigned to Bravo Battery, 3-79th Field Artillery, 42nd Field Artillery Brigade, in Geissen, West Germany, and was listed as having been absent without leave since March 2.

The Army added that Roberts was 22, listed his home of record as San Bernardino, Calif., and said that, according to military records, was single.

The Pentagon and Army stressed, however, that they were still investigating Roberts' disappearance and "at this time, we are unable to establish whether or not this is the individual referred to in that (Soviet) announcement."

## Senate votes to override Reagan veto

WASHINGTON — The Senate overrode President Reagan's veto of an \$88 billion highway bill today, 67-33, as rebellious Republicans rejected a last-minute presidential plea for support in a high-stakes showdown with congressional Democrats.

The tense roll call reversed Wednesday's vote in which the Senate initially upheld the veto. It came after Reagan had spent nearly two hours in the Capitol in private meetings with Senate Republicans, urging them to sustain both the veto and, with it, his political prestige.

But with its two-thirds majority, the Senate thus joined the House in enacting the bill into law over Reagan's objections.

The measure permits the states to raise the speed limit to 65 mph on most stretches of interstate highways and includes provisions for more than 100 highway demonstration projects tailor made for individual members of Congress.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater denied that the defeat would be damaging to Reagan's ability to govern for the next 21 months, saying he thought the president would benefit from having demonstrated his willingness to fight.

Asked to respond to suggestions by some lawmakers that a Reagan loss on so crucial a fight would reduce his presidency to caretaker status, Fitzwater told White House reporters, "I think the context of the president's remarks is that he wanted to show that he's willing to fight. . . There will be no lameduckism" through the remainder of his administration.

## One dies, dozens trapped in Quebec mine fire

MURDOCHVILLE, Quebec — A fire broke out in a copper mine in the Gaspé area of eastern Quebec, trapping dozens of miners underground overnight. Mine officials said today one worker died but 53 others were found alive.

The miners were found in emergency lunchroom shelters on different levels of the Gaspé mine, spokeswoman Dominique Archambault said.

By mid-afternoon, 11 of the 54 men who were in the mine when fire began Wednesday night had been brought to the surface, along with the body of the one victim. Only one of those rescued was injured.

Another 29 men were located in a sealed-off and ventilated lunchroom at the 2,000-foot level, and the 13 remaining miners were found in other shelters, Archambault said.

The cause of the fire was not known, but mine officials were ruling out an explosion. The fire started about 2,500 feet below-ground.

The fire trapped the miners during a shift change at 7 p.m. Wednesday, and many of the workers made it safely to the lunchroom area where they have fresh water, ventilation and radio communications with ground level. Mine officials said they would not let the miners leave until the smoke was cleared.

The copper mine, both underground and open-pit, has a work force of 800 and is the major employer in the town of Murdochville, population 3,900. It is located about 250 miles northeast of Quebec City on the Gaspé Peninsula at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

Noranda Inc., one of Canada's biggest corporations, owns the mine.



**THE PSYCHEDELIC FURS' MASTERSTROKE:**

**"MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT"**

"Midnight To Midnight." The new album from the Psychedelic Furs! Featuring the single, "Heartbreak Beat," plus "Shock," "Angels Don't Cry" and more! On Columbia Records, Cassettes and Compact Discs.

**\$5.98**

Columbia, are trademarks of CBS Inc. © 1987 CBS Inc.

**Pickles**

RECORDS • TAPES • COMPACT DISCS

237 So. 70th — 220 No. 10th — 3814 Normal

**You Sell It. You Design It. You Get Paid For It.**

Advertising Sales positions now available. For more details, attend an information session. **Find Out About It!**

**Things To Do:**

- Thursday, April 2 3:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 3 9:30 a.m.
- Nebraska Union Room Posted

**Daily Nebraskan**

UNL does not discriminate on the academic, admissions, employment programs and abide by all federal laws pertaining to same.

**Daily Nebraskan**

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday in the fall and spring semesters and Tuesdays and Fridays in the summer sessions, except during vacations. Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1987 DAILY NEBRASKAN

**North Central Association**

accreditation visit to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln ANNOUNCES:

**Open Meeting**  
Monday, April 6-4 p.m.

TWO LOCATIONS:  
East Campus Union  
Nebraska Memorial Union  
Room Numbers will be posted

Open to all faculty, staff and students.

**In Brief**

**Lawmakers advance organ donation bill**

LINCOLN — The Legislature gave 25-1 first-round approval Wednesday to a bill requiring hospitals or doctors to request organ or tissue donations after the death of patients.

Sen. Arlene Nelson of Grand Island, a chief sponsor of LB74, said she hoped the measure would increase organ donations, which could thin the ranks of people awaiting organs for transplant operations.

"I consider it, without question, a preservation of life issue," said Sen. Brad Ashford of Omaha, another co-sponsor of the bill with Sen. Gary Hannibal of Omaha.

Casting the opposing vote was Sen. Emil Beyer of Gretna.

Ashford said the bill represents a "very fine balance" between an effort to increase organ donations and to treat surviving relatives of potential donors in a sensitive, compassionate manner.

**'Love pennant' to honor Lincoln MIA**

LINCOLN — A special flag will be raised on the east side of the County-City Building Friday morning in honor of a Lincoln man missing in action in Vietnam.

The 3-by-5-inch yellow "love pennant" with a black silhouette of the State of Nebraska will be raised below the POW-MIA flag for Larry Zich, who has never returned from Southeast Asia.

Zich was a warrant officer who was last seen on April 3, 1972, on a mission as a helicopter pilot.

**SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN MICHIGAN**

- Counselors
- Nurses
- Cooks
- Maintenance

Lake of the Woods for Girls  
Greenwoods — For Boys

Interviews On Campus  
Tuesday, April 7  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Nebraska Union  
City Campus

No appointment needed