

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Gorbachev resists offer of Washington summit

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev offered Tuesday to eliminate Soviet short-range nuclear weapons in Europe, which the official news agency Tass said went beyond arms control proposals he made last week.

It quoted the Soviet leader as saying to Secretary of State George Shultz during a 4 1/2-hour meeting: "What are you afraid of? We are for a reliable agreement with the most stringent and all-embracing control."

Gorbachev said during a visit to Czechoslovakia last week that the Soviets would be willing to discuss reductions in tactical, or short-range, nuclear weapons apart from negotiations on eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe. Washington says the Soviet

not clear immediately. The two sides have been working toward an agree-



advantage in tactical missiles is 130-0. The effect of the latest proposal was

ment on weapons with a range of 600-3,000 miles, but Gorbachev's offer applies to those with a range of 350-600 miles.

NATO allies in Europe have expressed concern about vulnerability to Soviet superiority in tactical weapons and convention forces if medium-range missiles are withdrawn.

Charges of espionage by both sides have surrounded the Shultz visit, but nuclear arms dominate his agenda. U.S. and Soviet arms experts have held separate meetings in an attempt to narrow differences.

A dispute over the 130 short-range Soviet weapons has delayed an agreement on medium-range missiles. State Department spokesman Char-

les E. Redman called the Shultz-Gorbachev meeting "very intensive, serious, businesslike."

'What are you afraid of? We are for a reliable agreement with the most stringent and all-embracing control.'
—Gorbachev

Before it began, Shultz handed Gorbachev a new invitation from President Reagan for a summit in Washington,

but the Soviet leader said: "Generally, without reason, I do not go anywhere, particularly America."

"This cannot be just a stroll," he said. "When I will be nearing retirement, then I may travel just for pleasure, but now I need business."

Gorbachev, 56, has steadfastly resisted Reagan's invitation, even though the two leaders decided at their 1985 meeting in Geneva to hold summits in both Washington and Moscow.

"You're welcome to come," Shultz said. "I have a letter from the president and it says so."

Reagan and Gorbachev held an "interim" meeting last October in Iceland and reached tentative understandings to reduce nuclear weapons.

WASHINGTON — Just when you had finished your 1986 return and thought it was safe to forget about taxes for awhile, the Tax Foundation predicted Tuesday that the typical American will have to work another 19 days to pay up for 1987. Tax Freedom Day 1987 is May 4 — two days later than last year.

Economists at the non-partisan research organization calculate that if every cent a worker earned during the first part of the year were earmarked for federal, state and local taxes, he or she would have to toil for the tax collectors through May 3. Viewed another way, an average person will have to work two hours and 43 minutes of each eight-hour day to pay taxes.

"This year, the American taxpayer has returned to the same point he was at prior to passage" of the 1981 federal tax cut, the foundation said. Those across-the-board reductions were wiped out by subsequent federal tax increases and a

growing tax burden at the state and local levels, the analysis said.

The news came a day before the deadline for filing federal tax returns — a chore that perhaps 10 million Americans were putting off until the last hour. Returns must be postmarked by midnight Wednesday.

As the deadline approached, financial institutions were doing a booming business in Individual Retirement Accounts, which — after these returns — will no longer be universally deductible.

Professional returns preparers had all the business they could handle and Internal Revenue offices were swamped with last-minute pleas for advice.

The IRS expects 6.5 million couples and individuals to avoid the filing deadline by mailing a Form 4868, which will bring a fourth-month extension. But that form must be accompanied by a check for any estimated tax due.

Workers pay 1st four months' wages in taxes

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Judge warns residents against vigilante action to parole

MARTINEZ, Calif. — A plan to parole a convict who hacked the arms off a 15-year-old rape victim has caused so much anger in Antioch that state prison officials are considering changing the parole location, a state deputy attorney general said Tuesday.

A judge continued until Friday a hearing held on a suit to stop the corrections department from sending Lawrence Singleton to Antioch. Police on Monday had warned angry Antioch residents not to take vigilante action if Singleton was paroled there as planned April 26.

Morris Lenk, a state deputy attorney general, said in court that the Department of Corrections is taking residents' anger into consideration and might change the parole location. Officials have said there is a possibility

Singleton could be paroled to a state in the South where he has relatives.

The 59-year-old former merchant seaman picked up Mary Vincent hitchhiking in September 1978 and raped her, cut off both her arms below the elbow with an ax and left her to die on a road near Modesto. He has been in prison since 1979.

Antioch residents complained and started petition drives as soon as the plan was disclosed, and Police Chief Len Herendeen said that some residents have been circulating Singleton's photograph.

"One thing's for sure: If he's not a danger to us, we're a danger to him," said eighth-grader Amy Rickerson, who attended a Monday night meeting of the Antioch Police Commission.

Former AWWA employee files discrimination suit

DENVER — A civil rights complaint alleges that a club linked to the American Water Works Association promoted racism and job discrimination practices at the public utility association's headquarters.

Cynthia Maslanik, a Japanese-American who was employed by AWWA for three years, described the club and its alleged effects on AWWA policies in a job discrimination complaint she filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, The Denver Post reported Tuesday.

The club, whose members primarily were traveling salespeople in the water industry, was known as the Road Niggers Association or the Road Negotiators Association, referring to the hard work

and time they spent on the road, former RNA members told the Post.

It was managed through the marketing department of the AWWA, where a racist atmosphere prevailed, said Maslanik and Janet Beardsley, another former AWWA employee.

In the complaint filed in July, Maslanik alleged that she was denied pay raises and passed over for promotion by her boss, Mark Abusamra, who allegedly called her a "Jap" and a "harbor bomber."

Abusamra told the Post that he was not allowed to talk to reporters.

Maslanik said she resigned in June because "I couldn't take working there anymore."

Exploding briefcase kills 1, injures 5

KOKOMO, Ind. — A man on trial for dealing drugs was believed killed Tuesday when a briefcase he was carrying

exploded in the Howard County courthouse, injuring at least five others, including the sheriff, officers said.

The defendant, Robert Gray of Marion, was "believed to be dead" in the blast, prosecutor James Andrews said at a news conference. However, he refused to comment further, and other law enforcement officers would not comment.

Police said the courthouse was sealed

off because they feared more explosives might be inside. Authorities also feared that the building had received severe structural damage that could endanger searchers.

Andrews said confirmation of a fatality would come only after the county coroner was allowed into the blast site, but by late afternoon the coroner still was not allowed into the building.

Andrews said Gray had the briefcase with him when he went into Sheriff John Beatty's office with his attorney shortly before his trial was to resume about 2 p.m.

The prosecutor said authorities had expressed "some concern about that briefcase," which was near Beatty when the explosion occurred.

The other known injured were identified as Jack Adams, a Kokomo police officer; Indiana State Police Trooper Doug Schultz; Charles Scruggs, Gray's attorney; and Beatty.

Katherine Walsh-Miller, a spokeswoman for Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, said Beatty was in serious but stable condition, and would undergo surgery "to clean the wounds."

She said Beatty was burned over 25 percent of his body, suffered numerous burns and embedded fragments of metal on his torso, arms and legs and multiple lacerations.

The other injured were listed in either good or fair condition at St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo, said spokeswoman Mary Lindgran.

Gray was on trial on two counts of dealing in controlled substances. He had been accused of selling LSD to undercover agents in 1983.

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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. 68598-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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In Brief

Reagans' pay \$123,517 in taxes
SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — President Reagan and his wife Nancy paid \$123,517 in taxes on an adjusted gross income of \$336,640 in 1986, according to a copy of the pair's tax return. The Reagans' tax form, which they signed on Monday and which the White House press office made available to reporters Tuesday, shows the Reagans got a tax refund of about \$31,000. They set aside \$15,000 of the refund to apply to 1987, the forms showed. The Reagans donated approximately \$30,000 to charity, including \$11,800 to Reagan's alma mater, Eureka College in Illinois.

Webster: won't change 'hoosier' definition
INDIANAPOLIS — Merriam-Webster Inc. says it's not about to change its definition of the word "hoosier" just because an Indiana senator dislikes its connotations. Quayle introduced a non-binding resolution on the Senate floor which reads: "Whereas, Indiana University's basketball team displayed the real meaning of the word 'Hoosier'; therefore, be it resolved that a Hoosier is someone who is quick, smart, resourceful, skillful, a winner, unique and brilliant."

Omaha mayor has chest tumor
OMAHA — Mayor Bernie Simon has a tumor in the middle of his chest, and tests will determine Wednesday whether it is cancerous, a doctor said Tuesday. Dr. Leo O'Brien said radiation treatment is under way for Simon, who was admitted Monday to Methodist Hospital with what was first described as a pneumonia-like illness.