

News Digest

By The Associated Press

U.S., Soviet Union suggest arms plans

Leader suggests development plan from arms layoff

UNITED NATIONS — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev Tuesday proposed that leaders of the 15 nations on the U.N. Security Council meet to discuss how money saved from disarmament could be spent on economic development.

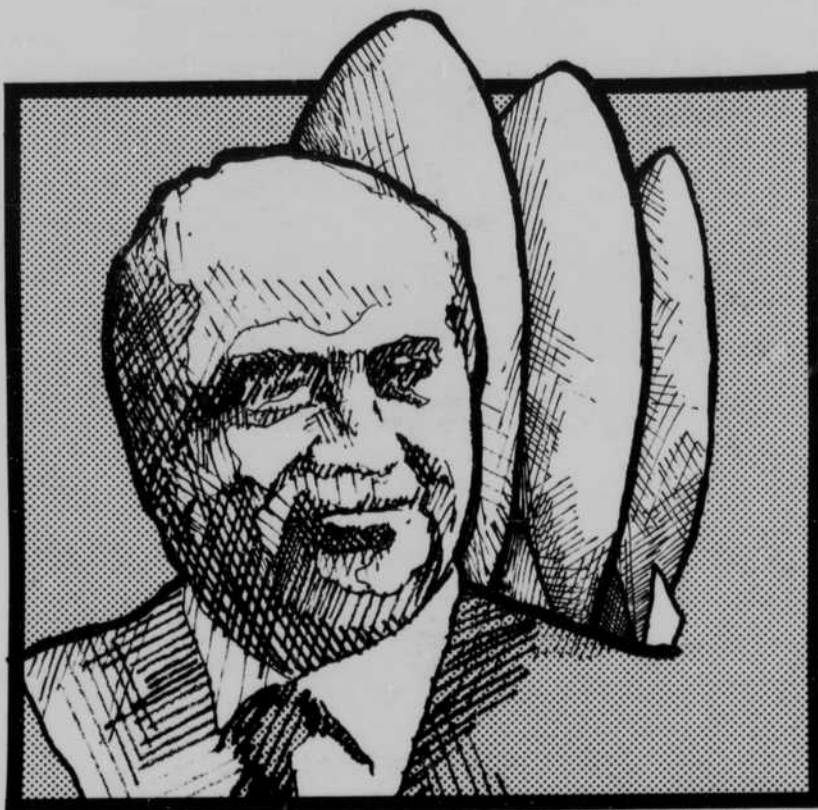
The Kremlin chief made the suggestion in a message read by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir F. Petrovsky to the 140-nation International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

"It would be useful to discuss in principle the problems of disarmament and development at a special meeting of top leaders of member states of the U.N. Security Council," Gorbachev said in the message.

The Soviet leader also proposed that the United Nations create an international fund into which member states would place money saved through disarmament. The money would be given to developing countries.

The United States has expressed opposition to a linkage between the issues of disarmament and development, and refused to send any representatives to the current conference, which began Monday and runs through Sept. 11.

Gorbachev referred to the U.S. action,



Brian Barber/Daily Nebraskan

saying: "Obstacles erected by the opponents of disarmament on the road towards the conference have confirmed once again the interdependence of disarmament and development and the urgency of the task."

Negotiators for the United States

and Soviet Union have worked through the summer trying to resolve the problems before the scheduled meeting Sept. 15-17 in Washington of Secretary of State George P. Shultz and the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

Arms verification simplified under new U.S. proposal

GENEVA — The United States presented new proposals on Tuesday that it said would simplify verification procedures under a U.S.-Soviet agreement to do away with all intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Members of the American delegation submitted the proposals in a meeting of the negotiating teams dealing with Intermediate Nuclear Forces — medium- and shorter-range weapons with ranges from 300 to 3,000 miles.

U.S. spokesman Terry Schroeder said that Soviet acceptance in July of eliminating all intermediate weapons, called the double-zero option, had enabled the United States to change its verification requirements.

Before the Soviet announcement, the plan had been for each superpower to keep 100 medium-range weapons on its own territory.

"Today we are laying out how this simplification could be achieved," Schroeder said, adding that the U.S. proposals, "although simplified, will still be the most stringent ever proposed in any U.S.-Soviet negotiations and will include on-site inspection."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley was asked whether the new U.S. position drops some intrusive measures, including inspection of factories and intelligence

monitoring sites.

She replied: "There are two major changes in this. One is we have changed our 'suspect site' inspection proposal because the opportunity for illegal missile activities are significantly reduced when an entire class of missiles and its infrastructure has been eliminated."

"Also, we have dropped our requirement for perimeter-portal monitoring. This was done because the perimeter-portal monitoring system was designed to monitor the flow of missiles from production and final assembly facilities."

"With the production ban and the elimination of all INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) missiles within three years this would be unnecessary."

Schroeder would not give details of the proposals, citing the confidentiality rule the two sides have adopted in the talks.

He said the U.S. delegation "sharply rejected suggestions in U.S. media reports that we are backing off or softening our proposals."

On Monday in Washington, a U.S. official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the new American proposals would scale back demands for on-site inspection of nuclear missile facilities.

Official says he aided contras, kept silent

WASHINGTON — A senior CIA official has told Congress he "got a little too rambunctious" in aiding Nicaragua's contra rebels last year, then sat silently while superiors gave "cute" answers to Congress to nice U.S. involvement in supplying the contras.

Alan Fiers, chief of the CIA's Central American Task Force, said in declassified testimony released Tuesday that he reluctantly decided against speaking up when his bosses told the House Intelligence Committee last Oct. 14 that they knew nothing about the crash of a resupply plane in Nicaragua a week earlier.

"I am troubled by it then; I am troubled by it now," Fiers told the Iran-contra committees on Aug. 5. "I am not very happy about it. Probably it was the most difficult decision I have made in my life."

But he told the committees that as part of the Reagan administration, he did not want to break ranks with "the team" and be the first to tell the story.

He acknowledged that he himself had directed that lethal supplies be dropped to the contras fighting along Nicaragua's southern front.

In other testimony, released by the committees after sensitive portions were blacked out, Fiers said:

● That fired National Security Council aide Lt. Col. Oliver North had a close relationship with CIA Director William Casey, but that he did not know what the two men discussed.

● North, after an interagency meeting on the Contras, began passing

around photographs of a clandestine resupply airstrip being built in Costa Rica. To do so was "dumb," Fiers said, because "it clearly indicated an involvement that was something more than a facilitator at that point in time," late 1985 or early 1986.

● Fiers had been questioned by the grand jury investigating the Iran-contra affair about matters including the Costa Rican airstrip.

● A \$20,000 performance bonus he received from the CIA for 1986 did not constitute a bribe from Casey, but he kept the check in a drawer for three months, waiting to see how the controversy would turn out.

● CIA personnel in Central America should have put a "buffer" between themselves and private citizens or others aiding the contras to get around prohibitions on providing intelligence assistance for deliveries of lethal supplies.

Fiers said that at one point in his direction of the agency's Central American efforts, "I let the reins out, I got a little too rambunctious, like a colt that got out of the barn to play, and I pulled myself back in."

In his testimony he did not specifically refer to possible legal problems from Congress' proscription on contra aid, but said of his backing off, "I didn't do it by myself. My task force lawyer was whispering like Jiminy Cricket in my ear. I probably got us a little too far forward leaning at a point in time and then pulled us back."

Titanic artifacts will belong to everyone

NEW YORK — The more than 300 objects recovered this summer from the wreck of the Titanic will be neither sold nor held privately, but displayed around the world, organizers of an international expedition said Tuesday.

"We have a lot of respect for the people who died" on the luxury line, said Robert Chappaz of France, an expedition organizer. "Titanic was a kind of link between Europe and the United States, and it's part of our common history. It belongs to the people of the world."

Artifacts also will be shown on a

television special this fall, expedition officials said at a news conference.

Under the terms of the expedition's covenant, objects recovered "may never be sold," said Robert Slavitt, the expedition's lawyer. "No way, no time, no place, no now."

The expedition's investors will receive proceeds from the television program and sales of tickets to view the collection. Ticket prices would be such that "a family of six will be able to afford it," said George Tulloch, another organizer.

Following a world tour, the Titanic collection will be placed in a museum or other institution for long-term display, they said.

Despite criticism that the expedition was desecrating the resting place of the 1,513 people who died when the Titanic sank in 1912, a statement released by the expedition said the memorial.

Earlier this month the Senate passed a resolution barring the sale or display-for-profit of Titanic artifacts. Although

Slavitt questioned the vote's significance. Tulloch said the collection would be displayed in the United States on a non-profit basis, if necessary.

The Titanic was first located in 1985 by a U.S.-French expedition led by Robert Ballard, a senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. He later used a small submarine, Alvin II, and a small camera-carrying robot sub, Jason Jr., to explore the wreck, and his film became a National Geographic television special on cable station WTBS.

In Brief

Plane crew may have disconnected alarm

DETROIT — The crew of Northwest Flight 255 had disconnected an alarm meant to indicate problems with the airplane's takeoff gear, a Detroit television station reported.

The plane's cockpit voice recorder has shown no evidence that the alarm sounded before Flight 255 took off Aug. 16 from Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The plane crashed just after takeoff in the second-worst airplane disaster in the nation's history.

The alarm would normally go off when the airplane's wing flaps are not in proper position. A preliminary check of the plane's flight data recorder indicated that the wing flaps were not extended before takeoff.

Customs officials seize tons of cocaine

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Customs officials searching shipping containers of toilet paper in San Juan and Florida found an estimated 4,700 pounds of cocaine, one of the largest seizures in U.S. history, officials said.

The cocaine was packed in two-pound cardboard boxes sealed inside the hollow rectangular metal beams that frame the containers.

"This was a highly sophisticated group of smugglers we were dealing with here," said Miami customs spokesman Michael Sheehan.

CDC reports first decline in abortions

ATLANTA — A new report from the national Centers for Disease Control says 1,268,987 legal abortions were performed in the United States in 1983, the latest year for which figures were available. That was down 2.7 percent from the 1,303,980 reported in 1982.

It was the first reported decrease since national abortion record-keeping began in 1969. The CDC, in its latest Surveillance Summaries report, drew no conclusions about the decrease.

Up to 7 inches of rain soak county

Storms dumped up to 7 inches of rain on eastern Nebraska Tuesday, prompting the National Weather Service to issue a flood warning for seven counties, including Lancaster.

Rainfall totaled 7.3 inches at Waverly and 7.15 inches at Ceresco, both near Lincoln. Numerous streams were reported overflowing and some people in low-lying areas were evacuated.

"In the deepest part, water is up to the headlights on a Subaru," said Lancaster County Sheriff's Sgt. Joe Splichal.

Threat empties AIDS brothers' grade school

ARCADIA, Fla. — A bomb threat forced temporary evacuation of an elementary school Tuesday when three brothers exposed to the AIDS virus arrived for their second day of class under court orders.

Later, a caller to the school administrative offices simply said "boom" and hung up, said DeSoto County Sheriff Joe Varnadore. After the first call, the school was searched, nothing was found and routines were resumed, said Larry Browning, school superintendent.

"We'll get to the bottom of this, particularly if they call again, and I'll press charges," Browning said, calling the incidents "hurtful to the school district, the children and the taxpayers."

He said tracers were being put on school telephone lines.

Elsewhere, a school board 50 miles away has voted to bar another child who tested positive for the AIDS virus, and parents in a Tennessee community are threatening a boycott of a school if a young AIDS carrier is admitted.

Arcadia's Memorial Elementary School has been the subject of protest rallies and parents' calls for a student boycott since a federal judge ruled that the Ray brothers — Ricky, 10, Robert, 9, and Randy, 8 — have the right to attend classes with other children.

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