

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Human rights to lead talks

WASHINGTON — The United States and the Soviet Union are discussing an overhaul of soviet emigration rules to make them "less arbitrary," Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday.

"We're looking to see if there aren't some procedures that could be human and understandable," Shultz said in an interview.

He and other State Department officials welcomed reports from Moscow that mathematician Josif I. Begun and a handful of other Jewish dissidents would be granted exit visas.

Referring to a possible U.S.-Soviet summit, Shultz said, "people all ascribe it to the imminence of a meeting of some kind." But, he said, "that's not a

good way to handle these things."

He said human rights were at the top of the agenda for talks he will hold here next week with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

● The United States is insisting the Soviets reduce their intermediate-range nuclear missiles at a faster clip as part of a treaty banning the weapon. "We certainly don't want to get down to zero before they do," Shultz said. The Soviets have more than twice as many deployed, 683 to 332.

● Still, Shultz said, the treaty "is undoubtedly the strongest of any arms control agreement we've ever had" because of the verification procedures being drafted to insure the missiles are dismantled.

The United States is prepared to respond to a request from Vietnam for artificial limbs and other assistance for war victims. But there will be no other humanitarian aid or trade concessions in exchange for increased information on more than 2,400 missing American servicemen.

● American inspection of Soviet military maneuvers last month under a Stockholm agreement to reduce tension in Europe "went off very smoothly." If the Soviets made a reciprocal request to observe western maneuvers "I'm sure it will go smoothly."

Many Libyans reported dead

N'DJAMENA, Chad — Chad's military command said Tuesday its forces killed more than 1,700 Libyan soldiers and destroyed more than two dozen aircraft and scores of tanks when it overran a major Libyan base over the weekend.

The command said hundreds of other Libyan soldiers who fled into the desert from the base would likely die of thirst.

In Washington, the State Department defended the Chadian

strike, saying there were still as many as 5,000 Libyan soldiers in northern Chad.

On Saturday, Chadian troops intercepted a Libyan column en route to attack the northeastern Chad outpost of Ounianga-Kepir, routed it and chased the invaders 60 miles back into Libya, capturing the Matan as-Sarra base.

It was the first time in the Chad-Libya conflict that Chadian troops attacked inside Libyan territory.

In Brief

Computers drive enthusiast to mental ward

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A teen-ager's obsession with computers gave him a mechanical mentality that finally drove him to a mental hospital with "computer syndrome," a Danish medical journal said.

The unidentified 18-year-old became interested in computers at the age of eight and spent most of his free time from the age of 10 with his father's computer equipment, the weekly Journal for Doctors reported.

He began to think and dream in computer language, the journal said.

Record \$39 million raised in MD telethon

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The 22nd annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon raised a record \$39,021,723 on Monday and workers tossed confetti as the entertainer declared the effort "a good day for mankind."

The show surpassed last year's record of \$34,096,773 by nearly \$5 million. A long list of corporate sponsors presented Lewis with an additional \$34,306,197 in pledges above the \$39 million raised across the United States and Canada.

Iraqi attack breaks lull in Persian Gulf war

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iraq said its warplanes attacked two ships Tuesday night near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, ending a brief lull in the Persian Gulf tanker war before a U.N. peace mission to the region.

The official Iraqi News Agency said two "large maritime targets," which usually mean tankers, were hit at 9 p.m. east of Kharg. It did not identify the vessels and there was no independent confirmation of attacks near the terminal in the northern gulf.

Iraq's announcement raised to 25 the number of ships reported hit since Aug. 29 by either Iran or Iraq, which have been at war since September 1980.

V.P. aides withheld hints

WASHINGTON — Aides to Vice President George Bush received a steam of clues indicating Lt. Col. Oliver North was "chairman of the board" of a secret effort to resupply contra rebels in Nicaragua, but they never told Bush, according to depositions and documents made public Tuesday.

Army Col. Samuel J. Watson said the vice president was not told of allegations that a group of corrupt profiteers was overcharging the contras for weapons and supplies because the infor-

mation was unproven and "not mature."

The words "resupply of the contras" appear in a memo prepared for Bush by his staff to describe the purpose of a meeting he and his aides were to have with former CIA agent Felix Rodriguez seven months before the Iran-contra affair became public last year.

But Watson and Donald Gregg, Bush's national security adviser, told the congressional Iran-contra investigation committees that they do not know how the words got into the document.

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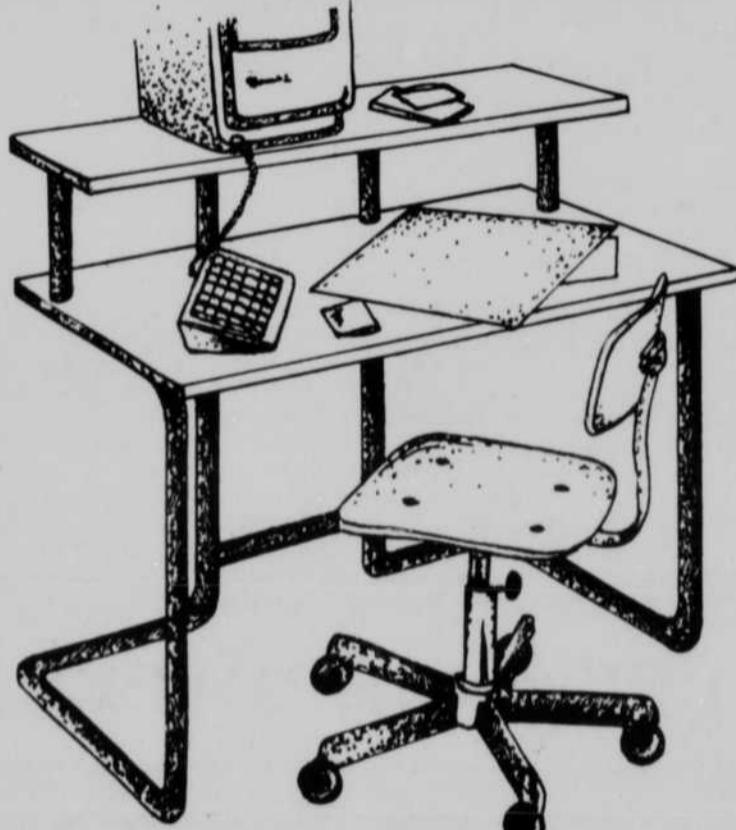
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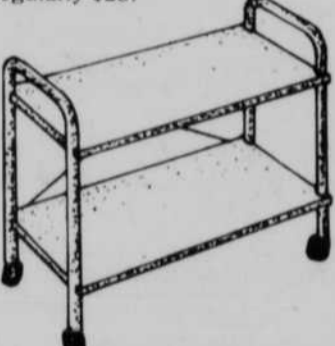
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