

News Digest

By The Associated Press

Gorbachev ready for summit, Soviets say

MOSCOW — Mikhail S. Gorbachev is ready to visit Washington this year and sign an agreement scrapping medium-range nuclear missiles without a link to restrictions in the "Star Wars" system, Soviet officials said Tuesday.

"We have no doubt that an agreement relating to intermediate-range missiles and shorter-range missiles will be signed," Foreign Ministry spokesman Boris Pyadyshev said at a regularly scheduled news briefing.

In Washington, a U.S. official said Foreign Minister Eduard Shevard-

nadze would visit the U.S. capital, by Soviet request, at the end of the week to discuss a third meeting between the Soviet leader and President Reagan.

Gorbachev surprised Secretary of State George P. Shultz in Moscow last week by saying the was not ready for another summit. Shultz said Gorbachev had asked whether he could expect an agreement on the Star Wars space-based defenses.

At the United Nations in New York, Soviet Ambassador Alexander M. Belonogov said the Kremlin would like the summit to reach an agreement

in principle on limiting Star Wars, but indicated it was not mandatory.

When asked whether the United States must make concessions on its space-defense plan before the next summit, he said, "It is not a matter of concessions. It's a matter of how to make the next Soviet-American summit the most productive, efficient and useful for the whole of mankind."

In Moscow, Pyadyshev told reporters, "Today we are unable to say precisely when, but it is clear that in the nearest future this agreement will be prepared for signing at the highest

level, as this has been agreed between the leaders of our states."

He would not say a summit would happen this year, only that it remains possible. "In a very brief period of time, we may witness a major step, a major breakthrough in the area of nuclear disarmament," he said.

Shevardnadze met with U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock and another State Department official in Moscow. A top officer at the Foreign Ministry summoned Western European ambassadors countries to discuss the Shultz visit to Moscow last week.

In Brief

U.S. will maintain ties with new government

WASHINGTON — The United States will maintain ties with the government in Burkina Faso, despite a bloody coup in that African state 10 days ago, the State Department said.

"We are encouraged that the new regime is seeking contacts with the west and with its neighbors in West Africa, and we anticipate being able to maintain continuity in our relations with Burkina Faso," said State Department spokesman Charles Redman. There are about 300 U.S. personnel in Burkina Faso.

Third Brazilian dies of radiation poisoning

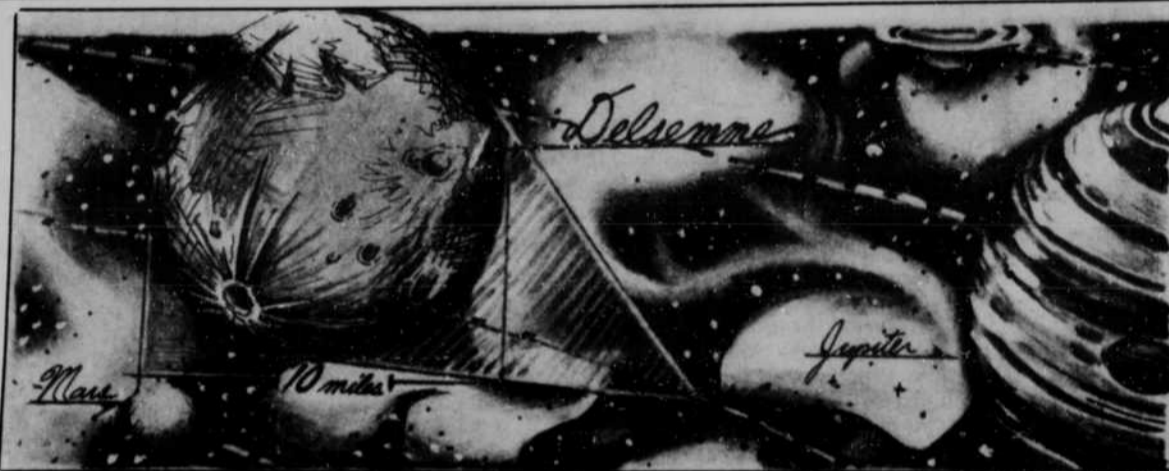
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — A junkyard worker who helped break open a capsule containing radioactive cesium 137 died Thursday, the third victim of the glowing substance he and friends found and sold to a junk dealer.

So far, doctors have treated and released 200 people, but 39 remained hospitalized as a result of the radioactive contamination when the workers and dealer showed the substance to friends and neighbors. They admired it, rubbed it on their bodies and carried it in their pockets.

Rail cars still short because of big harvest

KEARNEY — A shortage of rail cars at area grain elevators brimming with a big harvest will continue for several weeks, Union Pacific Railroad spokesman John Bromley said Tuesday.

Bromley said Union Pacific will continue to repair out-of-service cars through the rest of the year and has leased 3,000 cars to add to its fleet. He said cars are needed throughout Nebraska and northern Kansas.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Planet spans about 10 miles Spatial speck named for professor

TOLEDO, Ohio — First it was "1982 BT1," then it became "minor planet 2954." Now, the minor planet, or asteroid, bears the name of Dr. Armand Delsemme, a University of Toledo professor of astrophysics.

"Delsemme" is one of thousands of objects in the solar system, ranging in size from 10 to 1,000 miles in diameter. It is travelling in a zone between Mars and Jupiter, some 150 million to 500 million

miles from the sun. "It is seen as a pinpoint of light. One can guess its size by its brightness," Delsemme said. "It is closer to 10 miles (in diameter) but it is difficult to say."

The minor planet was discovered by Dr. Edward Bowell, an astronomer who specializes in minor planets, on Jan. 30, 1982, during his observations at the Lowell Observatory.

It was named after Delsemme

by the International Astronomical Union, an organization of astronomers from Japan, the Soviet Union, the United States, and 80 or more other countries.

Under IAU rules, an astronomer who discovers a minor planet has the prerogative of naming it once it has been re-observed in its predicted orbit, after one complete trip around the sun. "Delsemme" was re-identified in its predicted orbit in 1986.

Senate works to approve health bill

WASHINGTON — The Senate worked toward passage Tuesday of a catastrophic health insurance bill to protect America's elderly against the devastating costs of serious illness.

Debate leading to votes on a handful of amendments and the bill itself came after weeks of behind-the-scenes negotiations that gained White House support for a compromise version that closely tracks basic provisions of House-passed legislation, but contains important cost-containment provisions for a new prescription drug benefit.

That administration support — coupled with the already wide bipartisan backing for the measure — assured eventual passage. But Senate rules allowing unlimited debate left uncertain when the floor vote would come on the measure, which was approved unanimously by the Senate Finance Committee last summer.

Moreover, difference between the House and Senate versions made inevitable the need for a conference committee to work out final details.

Correction

President Ronald Reagan was misquoted in a Oct. 19 Daily Nebraskan article on the stock market. Reagan was quoted as saying "all business invoices are up." Reagan actually said "all business indices are up."

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