

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Superpowers fail to clear arms treaty obstacles

GENEVA — American and Soviet arms experts failed Monday to clear all obstacles blocking a superpower treaty on elimination of intermediate-range nuclear missiles, which is supposed to be signed in two weeks.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze authorized a U.S. spokesman, Charles E. Redman, to describe the day's talks as "constructive." More talks are scheduled for today.

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said at least one key issue was unresolved: the designation of a U.S. ballistic missile plant for the Soviets to monitor.

Redman said U.S. and Soviet arms experts, in three separate meetings, "made progress, but there are still things to be done."

The Soviets have acceded to a U.S. demand to observe the assembly of Soviet SS-25 missiles to ensure that the intercontinental weapons are not modified illegally to replace outlawed SS-20s.

The goal is to resolve the outstanding obstacles by Tuesday, giving lower-level negotiators two weeks to

draft a final text for President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to sign Dec. 9.

The group, appointed Monday by Shultz and Shevardnadze, was headed on the U.S. side by Paul H. Nitze, senior arms control adviser, and by Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, chief of the Soviet general staff.

Another U.S.-Soviet team, led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rozanne L. Ridgway and Anatoly Adamyshin, a Soviet deputy foreign minister, worked separately on human rights, regional and bilateral issues.

Shultz and Shevardnadze posed for photographers, who asked them to shake hands. They dodged the few questions reporters were able to ask.

"The talks are always businesslike, straightforward and constructive," Shultz said. "That's always been true of my talks with the foreign minister. It's true this time."

"That's a tradition," Shevardnadze agreed.

They declined to say exactly how the talks were going.

"As far as the results, we'll speak about that tomorrow," Shevardnadze said in Russian.

## Inmates seize hostages

U.S. offers moratorium on Cuban's return to restore order

The United States, reacting to rioting at prisons in Louisiana and Georgia, has offered to impose a moratorium on the return of Cuban nationals denied U.S. residency because of mental instability or past crimes, Attorney General Edwin Meese said Monday.

Meese said the moratorium would be in effect until each case could be reviewed in a "full, fair and equitable" manner and affected "all such Cubans detained in the United States."

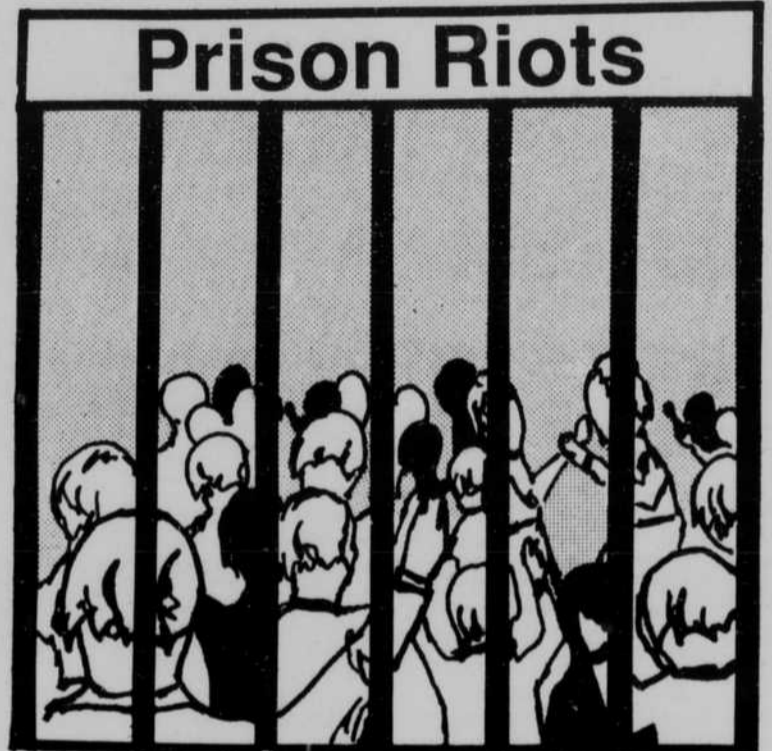
In Atlanta, inmates seized several hostages and torched buildings Monday as they tried to take over the federal prison during a lunch break, authorities said. At least six people were injured, including two inmates who were shot.

The action in Atlanta followed a similar revolt by Cuban inmates who still controlled a burned-out federal detention center near Oakdale, La. The inmates threatened to kill 25 hostages if authorities stormed the center.

Thick black smoke poured from the stone prison in Atlanta, which was surrounded by city police and firefighters, Georgia State Patrol troopers and emergency medical personnel.

Armed prison officials held control of some parts of the main building and 23-acre compound, but authorities refused to discuss what areas were under inmate control.

The Atlanta inmates had no guns but were holding a number of hostages, including federal prison



Christina Geiger/Daily Nebraskan

officials, said Mike Caltabiano, executive assistant to the U.S. penitentiary warden.

Caltabiano said guards fired several "warning shots," but he declined to explain how two inmates happened to be shot.

The inmates, among 1,500 Cubans held at the center, started a fire in the broom factory of the prison industries complex, a building immediately behind the prison, he said.

Fire trucks remained outside

the gates of the inner-city compound. Caltabiano had no details on the extent of the fire damage.

The rioting was sparked by a State Department announcement Friday that Cuba had agreed to accept the return of 2,500 refugees from the 1980 Mariel boatlift, most of them criminals or mentally ill, officials said.

The 85-year-old Atlanta prison, the oldest in the federal system, houses more Cubans than any other institution in the nation.

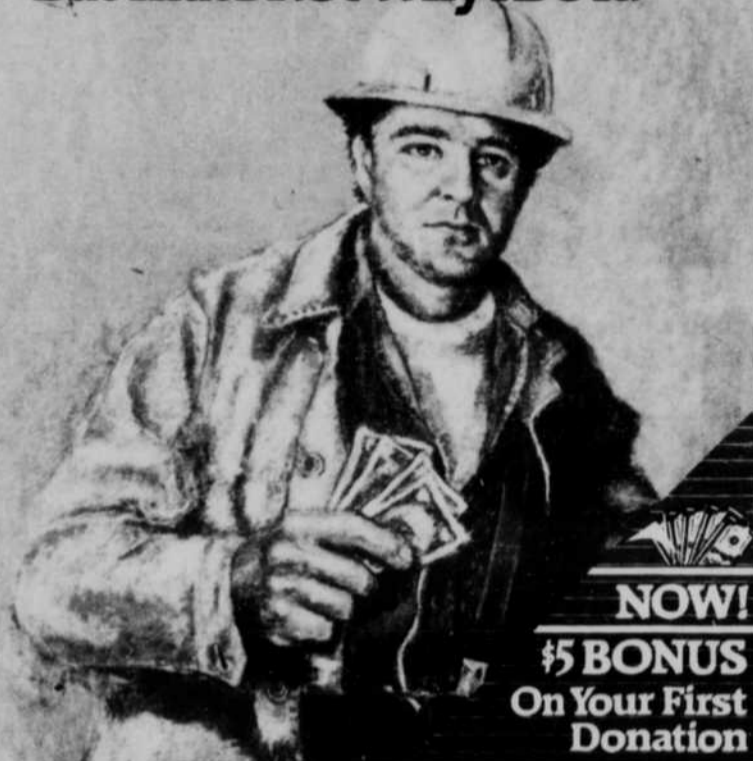
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## Iranian fire sets 2 freighters ablaze

MANAMA, Bahrain — An Iranian frigate shelled two freighters bound for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in attacks Monday that set both ablaze, wounded three crewmen and nearly blew the superstructure off one ship, salvage agents said.

The ships were attacked in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf's narrow entrance, after the Iranians

asked by radio about their identity, cargoes and destinations, the shipping executives said. Iranian vessels often stop or question vessels passing through Hormuz.

Iran has attacked four commercial ships in three days, apparently in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on ships in Iranian waters. Iraq has claimed 20 raids in two weeks, of which inde-

pendent shipping sources have confirmed 10.

About 400 vessels have been attacked in the Persian Gulf since the Iran-Iraq war began in September 1980.

### Thanksgiving like first one

Thanksgiving 360 years ago at Plymouth Colony was similar in many ways to the Thanksgiving Day Americans celebrate today, says Nebraska folklorist and University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of English and anthropology Roger Welsch.

The settlers "paraded in the morning, had a large feast and then spent the afternoon watching a game like baseball in which the ball was kicked with the feet," he said at a recent lecture.

But, noted Welsch, "that's about all that's similar to the pictures we tend to paint of what has been called the first Thanksgiving."

While apologizing for sounding "like some revisionist out to debunk all they stood for," Welsch noted that the feast probably was just a normal Harvest Home celebration, the main course might not have been turkey, and the celebrants probably weren't all Pilgrims. About a third of the settlers were strict Pilgrims in grim black and white garbs, he said.

### In Brief

#### Fitzwater declines comment on pardon report

WASHINGTON — White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater on Monday refused to discuss the possibility of presidential pardons for Oliver North, John Poindexter and Robert McFarlane but criticized the press for "idle speculation and ill-founded rumors."

His comment was triggered by a story in The New York Times that said there was "a hot, widely discussed, wholly unconfirmed rumor" that Reagan will issue pardons Thanksgiving Day for the three former aides who were key participants in the Iran-Contra affair.

#### Newspaper: 10,000 participate in march

VIENNA, Austria — Two policemen and several civilians died in a violent demonstration against harsh living conditions last week in Brasov, Romania's second-largest city, a West German newspaper reported Monday.

Tourists arriving from Romania said 10,000 demonstrators marched through the streets of Brasov shouting anti-regime slogans and clamoring for "more food and heating."

#### U.N. opens war crime archives

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations on Monday opened its archives on Nazi and Japanese war crimes, exposing facts and allegations about more than 36,000 people, including Kurt Waldheim, the body's former secretary-general.

Six researchers from the Nazi-hunting unit of the U.S. Justice Department were first to enter the office building. They viewed microfilm of the yellowed and brittle files of the U.N. War Crimes Commission, which functioned from 1943 to 1949.

#### Attorney General Spire vows to speed decisions

The state Department of Justice has been snail-like on occasion and will take steps to issue opinions more quickly without sacrificing quality, Attorney General Robert M. Spire said Monday.

In a report to state senators, agency directors and constitutional officers, Spire made good on his June promise that he would listen to their criticisms of his office. He said those he received of slow responses, unclear answers, failure to answer the right questions, failure to clarify the office's role and unresponsive staff were justified. And he offered ways that he will make improvements.

### Daily Nebraskan

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