

News Digest

By The Associated Press



Andy Memhardt/Daily Nebraskan

Reagan and Gorbachev sign INF treaty

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty Tuesday banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles and began talks to curb more threatening long-range strategic weapons.

"We have made history," Reagan declared after he and Gorbachev spent more than three minutes putting their signatures — time and again — into leather-bound volumes containing the treaty and accompanying documents.

"We can be proud of planting this sapling which may one day grow into a great oak of peace," Gorbachev proclaimed.

"May December 8th, 1987 become a date that will be inscribed in the history books — a date that will mark the watershed separating the era of a mounting risk of nuclear war from the

era of a demilitarization of human life," the Soviet leaders said.

Reagan said, "We can only hope that this history-making agreement will not be an end in itself, but a beginning."

Reagan and Gorbachev sat side by side to sign the agreement under the chandeliers of the East Room. The 24-minute ceremony was broadcast live in America and the Soviet Union, as were separate remarks made by the two leaders moments later in the State Dining Room.

Senate Democratic leaders say they expected the agreement will be approved, barring unforeseen difficulties, even though conservatives have been critical of the treaty.

As he has before, Reagan characterized the

treaty with a few words of Russian, "Trust but verify." The audience broke into laughter when Gorbachev interrupted that, "You repeat that at every meeting."

As the laughter died down, Reagan said, "I like it."

Yet Gorbachev, in his remarks in the State Dining Room, underscored Soviet differences about Reagan's Star Wars missile defense plan.

"People want to live in a world in which American and Soviet spacecraft would come together for dockings and joint voyages, not for Star Wars."

"People want to live in a world in which they would not have to spend millions of dollars a day on weapons which they could only use against themselves," Gorbachev said.

Correction

In a Tuesday Daily Nebraskan article it was incorrectly stated that professors could reschedule exams for dead week with the consent of the entire class. The dead week policy says that final examinations cannot be given during dead week regardless of class consent.

ABA gives Kennedy top rating

WASHINGTON — An American Bar Association panel decided unanimously Tuesday to give Supreme Court nominee Anthony M. Kennedy its highest rating a week before the Senate opens hearings on him.

The ABA panel's rating of "well-qualified" was a boost for Kennedy, a federal appeals court judge who is President Reagan's third choice to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

The 15-member ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary

rated Kennedy, 51, of Sacramento, Calif., well-qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland said. The other possible ratings were "not opposed" and "not qualified."

No senator has announced opposition to Kennedy. All but one of the women's, civil rights and civil liberties organizations that campaigned against defeated Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork have remained neutral so far.

Fatal, fiery plane crash 'no accident,' FBI says

CAYUCOS, Calif. — A fired airline worker who wanted to kill his boss smuggled a .44-caliber Magnum handgun onto a jetliner whose crew reported gunshots just before a fiery crash killed all 43 on board, ABC News reported Tuesday.

The airline confirmed that a fired USAir employee and his former boss were on Pacific Southwest Airlines Flight 177a, which crashed Monday afternoon. USAir recently bought PSA.

"At this point it does not appear that it was an accident," said Richard Bretzing, special agent in charge of the FBI in Los Angeles. "It appears at this point — and has yet to be substantiated — that it was a criminal act on board that caused the craft to come down."

But a handgun fired aboard the

jetliner wouldn't necessarily cause it to crash, said George Dahlman, a spokesman for the jet's manufacturer, British Aerospace, at its American headquarters near Washington, D.C.

"Any kind of penetration of the fuselage might result in depressurization, but there's no reason to think that it would cause this kind of accident," Dahlman said.

The crew of the flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco reported gunfire aboard the plane and smoke filling the cockpit and radioed the code for an on-board emergency.

Moments later, witnesses on the ground saw the flaming four-engine BAe-146 jet streak in a vertical dive into the green, oak-studded hills of a cattle ranch 175 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

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Dump contractor gets more say on site

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A five-state compact balked Tuesday at choosing a formula that would make Nebraska the likely site for a regional low-level radioactive waste dump.

Instead, the Central interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Com-

pact commission voted to give the company that will build the site, U.S. Ecology of Louisville, Ky., a set of directions for recommending which state will get the dump.

That recommendation will come before the commission at a meeting in New Orleans Dec. 15.

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