

News Digest

By The Associated Press

In Brief

Searchers find gun at jetliner crash site

CAYUCOS, Calif. — Searchers found a gun Wednesday in the wreckage of a jetliner, and FBI officials said flight recordings showed someone entered the cockpit without authorization just before the crash that killed all 42 people aboard.

News reports have said that David A. Burke, fired last month by USAir, the owner of Pacific Southwest Airlines, may have carried a .44 magnum handgun aboard PSA Flight 177i, which crashed Monday on a flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco. He may have been seeking revenge against former boss Ray Thomson.

Nobel prize winner says leaders should read more

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Nobel literature prize winner Joseph Brodsky says there would be less grief in the world if leaders were chosen on the basis of what they read rather than their political programs.

"As a form of moral insurance... literature is more dependable than a system of beliefs or a philosophical doctrine," the Russian exile poet said in the traditional Nobel lecture in the Swedish Academy's Grand Hall in Stockholm's old town.

FBI treat case as kidnapping; sheriff has doubts

CRETE — Federal investigators say they are still treating an Oklahoma woman's alleged abduction last month as a kidnapping in spite of skepticism expressed by the Saline County sheriff.

Clare Marshall, 23, a physical education teacher, told authorities she had jumped from her car near Milligan after driving all day from Shawnee, Okla., at the force of a 6-foot-4 black man.

'Roll-up-your-sleeves' session

Aides describe Reagan and Gorbachev meeting as productive

WASHINGTON — President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev grappled with differences over Afghanistan and cutbacks in strategic nuclear arms Wednesday in a two-hour meeting that ended "on a very optimistic note."

"This was a day of heavy lifting," presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said at the conclusion of the leader's lone meeting of the day.

Reagan and Gorbachev are to wind up their discussions with an Oval Office meeting and a working luncheon on Thursday. The White House said Reagan would address the nation at 8 p.m. CST today from the Oval Office, just hours after Gorbachev sums up the meetings at a Soviet Embassy news conference.

Reagan and Gorbachev discussed the Iran-Iraq war, the seven-year-old Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and prospects for cutting strategic nuclear arms, Fitzwater said.

"The president and the general secretary were very pleased with the meeting this morning. They left on a

very optimistic note. There's a very good feeling on where we are going," Fitzwater said.

But two administration officials, both insisting on anonymity, said afterward that Fitzwater conveyed an impression of too much optimism and that no breakthroughs were near. Circulating through the same ballroom where Fitzwater had just briefed, the officials said he had meant to convey optimism about the warmth of the leaders' relationship, not movement on issues.

Fitzwater said it was "a kind of roll-up-your-sleeves" session after the pre-ordained drama of Tuesday's treaty signing.

As the meeting broke up, Gorbachev "smiled at me and the president winked," said Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman. He and Fitzwater declined to discuss details of the meeting.

Gorbachev's time with Reagan was limited because of the Soviet leader's private agenda.

Soviets express joy over arms treaty

MOSCOW — Soviets shed tears of joy and looked hopefully to a visit by President Reagan next year as they spoke word of goodwill Wednesday following the signing of the nuclear arms treaty by the two superpowers.

"There hasn't been any other president who has gone so far to meet," said a 55-year-old man from Rostov in southern Russia, who identified himself only as Nikolai. "We, two great powers, will trade and live in friendship and peace." At the Cheremushkinsky Farmers Market in the southern part of the capital.

Tatyana Loginovskikh, who was selling apples at the market, burst into tears when she recalled hearing a radio report about the signing of the treaty by Reagan and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Soldiers capture fugitive colonel

MANILA, Philippines — Dozens of soldiers raided a house Wednesday night and captured Gregorio Honasan, the colonel called "Gringo" who led a coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino in August that cost 53 lives.

Aquino, who had accused Honasan of trying to kill her and her family during the attack on the presidential

palace, said she was "really overjoyed" at his capture.

Honasan's effort was the most serious of several major plots to unseat the government since Aquino took office Feb. 25, 1986, and Ferdinand E. Marcos fled the country after 20 years as president.

Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, military chief of staff, said four other rebel officers and two civilians were arrested with Honasan about 7:30 p.m. in the Valle Verde district of suburban Pasig and were undergoing "tactical interrogation."

Whole soccer team perishes in Peru navy plane crash

LIMA, Peru — A navy plane carrying Peru's top soccer team crashed into the ocean off a popular Lima beach, and a crewman was believed to be the only survivor among 44 people aboard, navy officials said Wednesday.

A spokesman said the survivor pulled from the choppy waters was believed to be a pilot and was being

treated at a military hospital.

He said 12 bodies had been recovered since the plane crashed late Tuesday night after having trouble with its landing gear and circling the Lima airport from two hours.

The plane was returning to the capital from a game in Pucallpa, a jungle city 355 miles northeast.

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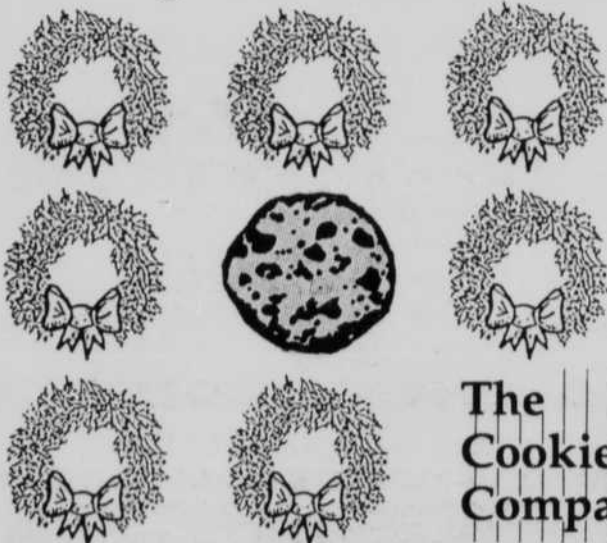
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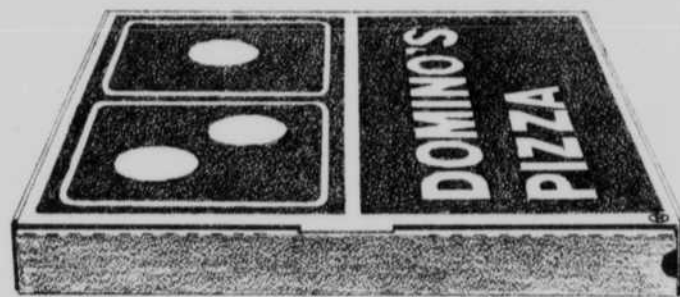
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