

## NATO condemns Warsaw Pact conventional force superiority

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO leaders on Wednesday demanded huge cutbacks in Warsaw Pact tanks and artillery, and endorsed President Reagan's efforts to negotiate strategic arms reductions with the Soviet Union.

Defining strategy for a new set of East-West negotiations, NATO leaders said Soviet conventional forces pose the threat of a surprise attack and must be slashed to rectify an imbalance in military strength.

The Soviet cutbacks would entail, for example, "the elimination from Europe of tens of thousands of Warsaw Pact weapons relevant to surprise attack, among them tanks and

artillery pieces," a NATO communique said.

Meeting behind closed doors at alliance's heavily guarded headquarters, the leaders of the 16 alliance countries attempted to accentuate agreement. They did not want to highlight differences about the pace of modernizing short-range nuclear missiles left in Europe after the elimination of longer-range weapons covered by a new U.S.-Soviet arms treaty.

According to his spokesman, Reagan quoted Benjamin Franklin, telling the NATO leaders, "If we do not all hand together, we will as-

surely hang separately."

Security was so strict that a NATO guard attempted to eject a reporter who asked Reagan a question as the leaders posed for a "family photo."

Emphasizing alliance unity, Reagan said, "There are no great fundamental differences there. I have never seen such harmony and togetherness as we have."

Reagan mixed NATO summitry with Middle East peace efforts. He ordered Secretary of State George P. Shultz to make a return to the Middle East after the summit windup Thursday night to continue his efforts to set up Arab-Israeli peace talks.

## Robertson dropping libel suit

WASHINGTON — Pat Robertson's lawyer said Wednesday the GOP presidential candidate is ready to "pay a substantial amount of court costs" in dropping his libel suit against a former congressman who accused Robertson of avoiding combat duty in the Korean War.

Former Rep. Paul McCloskey, R-Calif., said Robertson's effort to drop the case meant "he's chickening out of the trial just like he chickened out 37 years ago."

Robertson has repeatedly declined McCloskey's offer to settle the suit if Robertson would pay his accuser's legal defense bills, which McCloskey estimated at \$400,000.

As recently as last Thursday, the former television evangelist declared he was "ready to go to court" and "wouldn't pay a nickel to somebody who is a patent liar."

The court costs would cover such

items as the taking of depositions, however, some of that money apparently would go to McCloskey.

Robertson, in South Carolina, said Wednesday he wanted to press ahead with the suit but couldn't be in court and out campaigning for the Republican presidential nomination at the same time.

"If the judge will give me about another month, I'd love to go into it," Robertson said.

U.S. District Court Judge Joyce Hens Green has declined to change the Tuesday start-of-trial date, and Rigler said of that stance, "I can't understand why a respected judge did it."

The suit is scheduled to go to trial next Tuesday, the delegate-rich Super Tuesday of the primary season. But in Washington, Robertson's attorney, Rigler, said the court will be formally asked for dismissal.

McCloskey, commenting Wednesday of CBS-TV, said, "The courtroom's a great place to learn the truth. Now that he's up with the truth to be told and testimony under oath, he's backing off."

"I think the truth ought to be told. I don't know any better place to get the truth than in the courtroom. He invoked the process, he ought to go through with it," McCloskey said.

The lawsuit was filed in 1986 following publication of McCloskey's allegations that Robertson used the influence of his late father, Sen. A. Willis Robertson, D-Va., to avoid combat duty in the Korean War.

A number of former Marines have come forward since the lawsuit was filed to support McCloskey, though other witnesses deny that temporary reassignment to a special training unit in Japan.

### In Brief

#### Troops fire tear gas in West Bank hospital

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank — Israeli troops fired tear gas inside an Arab hospital Wednesday, forcing doctors to don gas masks and sending dozens of choking patients fleeing with their faces covered by Arab headdresses.

Soldiers clubbed a Palestinian teen-ager suspected of throwing rocks at troops from a barricade erected about 10 yards from the hospital's emergency room.

An Associated Press photographer saw soldiers throw the youth head first down a flight of stairs, then sit on his stomach while beating him with a wooden truncheon.

Troops detained 20 Arabs suspected of participating in demonstrations in Ramallah, Israel radio said.

#### Four wounded as gunmen opens fire near the Alamo

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — A man with a gun in each hand jumped out of a taxi near the Alamo on Wednesday and opened fire, wounding four people at random before being shot by lawmen, authorities and witnesses said.

"He just started shooting. All hell broke loose," said Todd Tarble, 20, who was waiting for a bus about three blocks from the historic site.

"He had two guns in his hands, Tarble said. "The guy was acting like John Wayne."

The gunman was in reported in good condition at a local hospital. One victim was in serious condition and the other three suffered relatively minor gunshot wounds.

#### FDA commissioner warns against aspirin claims

ROCKVILLE, Md. — The Food and Drug Administration chief on Wednesday warned aspirin manufacturers against making advertising claims that their product is beneficial in the prevention of a first heart attack.

FDA Commissioner Frank E. Young met for over an hour with the nation's leading aspirin manufacturers and told them that ads making such claims would constitute "mislabeling."

#### Study says 1 in 500 young women have AIDs virus

BOSTON — A study of Massachusetts women who gave birth found that one in 500 was infected with the AIDS virus, and researchers projecting their findings nationwide say several thousand AIDS-infected babies could be born in the United States each year.

Most surveys of AIDS infection have concentrated on male homosexuals, drug addicts and others at high risk of catching the disease. Estimating the prevalence of the virus in the general population has been difficult.

Can you be religious  
and wonder if there really is a god?

Can you be religious  
and think Jesus was a good man but only a man?

Can you be religious  
and live only for this life?

Can you be religious  
and ask why bad things happen to good people?

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March 27th "What is Religion"  
led by Scott WhilHITE

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## Consolidation bill gets first-round nod

Lawmakers gave first-round approval Wednesday to LB940, a significantly watered-down school consolidation proposal sent to the floor by the Education Committee.

Committee Chairman Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion, who headed an ad hoc task force which drafted the original bill, said the amended bill "is a different approach, one that faces some rocky roads ahead."

The amended version represents a compromise from the original bill which would have required all elementary only (Class I) districts to merge or affiliate with a district that offers a high school, or combine with others to form a new high-school-only district by July 1994.

Withem said the significantly amended proposal answers the major objections of oppo-

nents while keeping alive efforts to compromise on the issue.

The amendments would:

- Remove the July 1994 deadline for taking action; instead declaring it the intent of the state to work towards that goal.

- Put a two-year expiration date on nonresident tuition. Under current statutes, students in the elementary-only districts pay the district where they attend high school.

- Drop requirements that all schools be accredited by 1992. The Department of Education is encouraged to revise its accreditation rules to give more flexibility to small districts.

- Modify the bill's provisions for the formation of new high-school-only districts.

## House passes landmark bill

WASHINGTON — The House overwhelmingly passed a landmark civil rights bill Wednesday that would broaden protections for women, minorities, the elderly and the handicapped. President Reagan has vowed to veto the measure.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act, considered by many lawmakers the most significant civil rights measure in 20 years, was sent to the White House on a 315-98 vote. The Senate passed it by an equally lopsided 75-14 vote in January.

Both chambers passed the bill by the two-thirds margin needed to override a presidential veto, but it was unclear whether the huge margins would hold up following Reagan's vow Wednesday to reject the measure.

The restoration act was designed to reverse a 1984 Supreme court decision that narrowed the scope of four major civil rights laws meant to prevent taxpayer financing of discrimination.

Supporters of the act said hundreds of discrimination complaints had been dropped or restricted since the decision.

"We have suffered far too long in waiting for this great and important day," said Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich.

In letters delivered Wednesday to several House Republicans, Reagan said flatly he will veto the measure "if it is presented to me in its current form."

In the letters, sent from Brussels, Belgium, where Reagan is attending a NATO summit, the president said the bill "dramatically expands the scope of federal jurisdiction over state and local governments and the private sector" and "poses a particular threat to religious liberty."

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