Iran attacks Saudi tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain - An Ira- but several U.S. frigates and destroynian speedboat shot up a Saudi Arabian-owned tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on Sunday after President Reagan said the U.S. Navy will no longer ignore attacks on noncombatants in the Persian Gulf region.

The speedboat fired rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns at the 37,011-ton Sea Trader in the strait, the southern entrance to the

An unexploded rocket dangled from the Sea Trader's hull after the attack but fell into the sea before the tanker reached the port of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

The Indian master, Capt. B.R. Pagarkar, reported his vessel sustained slight damage and no casual-ties among the Indian crew.

It was not known whether any U.S. warships were near the Sea Trader during the attack. Navy officials do said the Sea Trader encountered not disclose warships' movements, flotilla of six armed speedboats.

ers have been in the southern gulf since last week, when U.S. and Iranian ships skirmished in the area.

Reagan warned Iran in his weekly radio broadcast Saturday that continued attacks on neutral parties, includ-ing gulf shipping, "will be very costly

to Iran and its people."
On Friday, U.S. officials disclosed in Washington that the Reagan administration was planning to expand the U.S. naval role in the gulf by giving American commanders the right to intervene in Iranian attacks on

non-U.S. flag vessels.

Previously, U.S. warships have only been permitted to provide "humanitarian aid" to non-American ships in distress and requesting aid, but not to intercede in armed conflict involving those ships.

Gulf-base shipping executives said the Sea Trader encountered a

Soviet reforms face problems

WASHINGTON — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's economic reform program ran into problems last year and things aren't likely to improve in the near future, U.S. intelligence agencies said in a report released Sunday.

Unless Gorbachev can do something to turn the economy around, he may find himself in trouble, said the bleak review which was conducted jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence

Agency.
"Tension within society and the leadership will increase," it said, "Bureaucrats will become increas-ingly frustrated by loss of privileges and status and by demands that they show greater initiative. Military leaders are likely to become more and more uneasy if benefits from the industrial modernization fail to materi-

"Soviet citizens will need to see some improvement in living standards if the regime is to achieve necessary gains in worker productivity and avoid widespread discontent," the study said.

The report concluded that "failure to head off these tensions would, at a minimum, make it more difficult to pursue his economic program vigorously and could ultimately call into question his strong political position

Gorbachev and supporters of his reforms have acknowledged resistance at the highest levels, and there have been reports in Moscow of conflict over reform measures between Gorbachev and No. 2 Kremlin leader Yegor K. Ligachev.

In Brief

Army lifts four-day ban on Palestinian travel

JERUSALEM — The army lifted a four-day ban Sunday to let Palestinians travel from the occupied territories into Israel, but Arabs

said soldiers wrecked homes and shops in another bid to control unrest. Israeli soldiers have killed 173 Palestinian protesters in the nearly five-month-old uprising against 21 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, according to U.N. figures. An Israeli soldier and visible also have been billed. civilian also have been killed.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Cabinet that 165 Palestinians have died in the uprising, including 147 killed by soldiers, Israel radio said Sunday. Rabin said 4,900 Palestinians have been detained since Dec. 8, including 1,700 held in administrative detention for up to six months without trial.

Police ordered Arab merchants in Jerusalem to open their stores at normal hours in a tug-of-war with protest leaders, who are also trying to dictate when shops may do business.

Sloppy repairs, drunkenness plague Chernobyl

MOSCOW — Sloppy repairs, drunkenness and nepotism are ram-pant at the Chernobyl nuclear plant two years after the world's worst nuclear disaster, Pravda said Sunday.

The communist Party daily said engineering jobs at the plant were handed out to medics, teachers, veterinarians and people without any

It also accused Chernobyl's managers of trying to "resolve at any cost" obstacles to full electricity production at the plant "to the detriment of the quality of repair and maintenance of extremely intricate

The scathing attack was a departure from the numerous articles appearing in the Soviet press before Tuesday's anniversary of the April 26, 1986, explosion and fire at the power plant 80 miles north of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev.

Previous stories have stressed the extensive safety equipment installed at the plant, improved worker training, the decrease to safe levels of radiation and the return of people to surrounding areas.

Official says school system 'still at risk'

WASHINGTON—Education Secretary William J. Bennett says the American education system has made little progress in the five years since a searing report called "A Nation At Risk" warned that the system was sinking below "a rising tide of mediocrity."

The school system, Bennett says in a report to be formally delivered to President Reagan on Tuesday, "is still at risk."

Bennett acknowledged that "American education has made some undeniable progress in the last few years. . . . We are doing better than

we were in 1983.

"But," he wrote, "we are certainly not doing well enough, and we are not doing well enough fast enough. We are still at risk. The absolute level at which our improvements are taking place is unacceptable low.

Correction

A story in the April 20 Daily Nebraskan omitted Tracy Overstreet's name from a list of newly elected University of Nebraska-Lincoln 4-H officers. Overstreet, a freshman in broadcasting, was elected publicity director. Mitch Mason, a freshman agricultural eco-nomics major, will be the parliamentarian. The story also incorrectly re-ported that a 4-H conference was in South Dakota; it was really in North Carolina. The DN regrets the errors.

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