

First U.S. ship to leave Persian Gulf this week

MANAMA, Bahrain — The United States plans to reduce its fleet of warships in the Persian Gulf this week with the withdrawal of a frigate, U.S. sources said Sunday. The move reflects confidence in the Iran-Iraq truce.

The sources said the vessel will leave barring a last-minute change in plans. It would be the first American warship to be removed from the gulf since Iran and Iraq agreed to an Aug. 20 cease-fire in their eight-year war.

The 3,600-ton missile frigate, the USS Rodney M. Davis, will be de-

tached from gulf duty on Tuesday, said the sources on condition of anonymity. It will sail for its home port in Yokosuka, Japan, they said.

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Maj. Mike Stepp refused comment, citing a Defense Department policy of not discussing ship movements or locations for security reasons.

The ship's departure would trim overall American naval strength in the region from 26 to 25 vessels. The Pentagon says the U.S. gulf force will gradually be scaled back to a pre-war

level of about five ships if the cease-fire stays in effect.

U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and nearby waters have frequently departed, but they were replaced by other vessels in a rotation schedule.

The fleet dropped from 27 to 26 ships when the USS Vincennes cruiser departed from the Arabian Sea on Sept. 5. The Vincennes was to have been replaced by the cruiser USS Mobile Bay but the orders sending it to the gulf area were canceled a day before it was to have left.

Since the cease-fire, no flareups of

violence have been reported in the waterway. More than 500 commercial ships were damaged there by air and gunboat attacks in the four-year tanker war that spun off the main Iraq-Iran ground conflict.

U.S. military officials have already ended 17 months of escorting convoys of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tankers and curtailed regional air surveillance.

The U.S. Navy squadron inside the gulf itself, normally about 16 ships, includes six minesweepers, an amphibious landing ship, and the flag-

ship USS La Salle. There are also two missile cruisers, one missile destroyer, and four frigates besides the Rodney M. Davis.

The Rodney M. Davis arrived in the gulf Sept. 9 and was scheduled to return in early January to Japan, where it is assigned to the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

The missile cruiser USS Reeves and missile frigate USS Vandegrift are also scheduled to leave in the next week but will be replaced, the sources said.

Gulf talks resume, priority on disengagement

GENEVA — U.N.-mediated peace talks between Iran and Iraq resume Monday in an effort to consolidate the precarious truce and disengage troops in the 8-year-old Persian Gulf war.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar flew to Geneva Sunday and said he hoped for substantive progress on an exchange of prisoners held by the two countries.

Each country released 25 prisoners of war Sunday but still hold thousands of others.

Iraq freed 25 disabled Iranian pris-

oners and they were flown to Tehran, the capital of Iran, aboard a plane chartered by the International Red Cross. Iran reciprocated immediately by releasing 25 Iraqi prisoners who boarded the same plane for the return flight to Baghdad, Iraq, according to Francoise Derand, a spokesman at the Red Cross office in Geneva.

In a brief chat with reporters after his arrival, Perez de Cuellar said he hoped the meetings in Geneva would be "if possible much more useful" than the 10-day round early this month in New York.

Perez de Cuellar last week named withdrawal of the forces as his first priority in the new negotiations.

Urgency to his efforts was added by a report warning that forces "remain in dangerous proximity" after eight years of fighting that has killed or wounded an estimated 1.5 million.

The report by the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group warned of constant danger of renewed fighting between the two sides, whose soldiers are separated in some places by only 30 feet.

A cease-fire has been in effect since Aug. 20.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq Aziz, have said no progress was made on the principal issue stalemating the talks since they began in Geneva Aug. 25 - the delineation of a border between the two nations.

Iran says a 1975 treaty set the border in the middle of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway, Iraq's only navigable outlet to the sea.

Iraq, which rejected the treaty in

1980, demands sovereignty over the entire waterway.

Other disputed stretches line the more than 800-mile-long frontier, according to U.N. sources. They say the discrepancies have impeded an exact definition of the "internationally recognized boundaries" to which the two countries are to withdraw under the U.N.-mediated cease-fire.

The resolution calls for a permanent cease-fire, withdrawal of troops to the pre-war border and the repatriation of POWs.



Bob Nelson/Daily Nebraskan

Vice President George Bush waits in the wings before a campaign speech in Omaha Civic Auditorium's Exhibit Hall Oct. 28. Polls showed Sunday that Bush's lead in the presidential race had dropped below the double-digit mark.

Polls don't worry Bush

PHILADELPHIA — Vice President George Bush on Sunday shrugged off recent polls that showed a narrowing lead over Democratic rival Michael Dukakis, and said he would campaign harder than ever in the final week before the Nov. 8 election.

Asked why the polls showed his once double-digit advantage over Dukakis appeared to be eroding, Bush replied, "I don't think they are, and I'm not going to say any more about it."

The GOP nominee spoke briefly to reporters outside the residence of Roman Catholic Cardinal John Krol, where he attended a private Mass with his wife, Barbara, and grandson George P. Bush.

Bush's chief of staff, Craig Fuller, said the campaign had expected all along to see a tightening in the numbers and was not alarmed by the latest apparent shift toward Dukakis.

"I think it's to be expected as you get to the final days of the campaign that you're going to see some tightening in this race, but that's going to cause us to work harder. We'll not allow ourselves to lose the edge we've had as a campaign team," Fuller said.

On a light campaign day in the Philadelphia area, Bush told a crowd of supporters outside suburban Montgomery County Bush-Quayle headquarters that he would continue to campaign at full steam.

U.S. to relax restrictions against North Korea

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is expected to relax some diplomatic and trade restrictions against North Korea early this week as part of a coordinated strategy with South Korea to ease tensions on the peninsula, according to U.S. officials.

Although modest, the moves are believed to be the most extensive the United States has adopted toward North Korea since the Korean armistice was signed 35 years ago. An official announcement could come as early as Monday.

The officials said the U.S. trade embargo against North Korea, one of

the tightest in the world, will be relaxed, possibly to remove the ban on the sale of U.S. medical supplies to North Korea. There also may be an easing on currency exchanges with North Koreans.

In addition, a prohibition on U.S. diplomats having substantive diplomatic contacts with North Korean representatives may be lifted, said the officials, who asked not to be identified. North Korea is one of a handful of countries with which the United States does not have diplomatic relations.

The United States allowed limited contact with North Korean diplomats

in early 1987 but then restored the ban after U.S. officials said there was convincing evidence that North Korea sponsored a terrorist incident last November in which a South Korean passenger plane was blown up over Southeast Asia. The incident claimed 115 lives.

South Korean President Roh Tae Woo has been encouraging the administration to demonstrate more flexibility toward the north and came here 10 days ago with that message.

Since then, the State Department has been working with the Treasury Department and other agencies on the paperwork required to carry out the

changes contemplated.

Historically, South Korea has, with U.S. help, tried to isolate North Korea but Roh has altered that policy by calling for trade between the two countries and for summit meeting with President Kim Il-Sung.

As U.S. officials see it, Roh's moves reflect increased South Korean self-confidence based on the country's growing economic strength and the success of the summer Olympic games held in September in Seoul.

North Korea made no attempt to disrupt the games, which Roh took as an encouraging sign. In addition, he has been under strong domestic pres-

sure to make an effort that could lead to the eventual peaceful reunification of the peninsula.

The officials said recent developments have left North Korea more isolated than before. Its principal backers, China and the Soviet Union, ignored North Korea's appeals for a boycott of the Olympics.

Only Cuba and a handful of other leftist countries supported the North Korean call.

The officials believe that the combination of events may have left the North Koreans more amenable than before to increased peaceful contact with the south.

Gorbachev says he's tired of slogans

MOSCOW — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev says he's had enough of meetings and sloganeering and that it's time for Soviet society to get down to work.

Speaking to a gathering of the Young Communist League, or Komsomol, Gorbachev expressed his impatience with the slow pace of reform under his policy of perestroika, or restructuring.

"Society has been engaging in meetings for too long," he said Saturday. "Meetings, slogans, and criticisms should be followed by acts which would set the policy and the entire potential of society into motion."

Gorbachev's remarks were distributed late Saturday by the official news agency Tass. They appeared to signal the Soviet leader's impatience to get the country moving rather than any disenchantment with the more open atmosphere he has fostered.

His policy of glasnost, or greater openness, has encouraged more open public debate and a wide-ranging reevaluation of Soviet history and future prospects.

At the same time, his efforts to reform the country's economy have not yet improved living standards for Soviet citizens, Gorbachev's stated goal. Gorbachev stressed to the young Communists, who were marking the 70th anniversary of their or-

ganization, that perestroika will work only if they work.

"What should be done for the processes of perestroika to gather momentum and unfold on a larger scale? It is essential to do concrete work in each work collective, in each town and village, relying on glasnost and democracy, on everything which has democratized economic life, and on what is taking place in the political process of the country," he said.

Gorbachev boosted his position in the Soviet leadership a month ago by assuming the presidency when Andrei A. Gromyko retired and by streamlining the Communist Party bureaucracy with his supporters in key positions.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor	Curt Wagner	Night News Editor	Amy Edwards
Managing Editor	Diana Johnson	Asst. Night News	Anne Mohr
Assoc. News Editors	Jane Hirt	Editor/Librarian	John Bruce
	Lee Rood	Art Directors	Andy Manhart
Editorial Page Editor	Mike Reilly	General Manager	Dan Shattil
Wire Editor	Bob Nelson	Production Manager	Katherine Policky
Copy Desk Editor	Chuck Green	Advertising Manager	Robert Bates
Sports Editor	Steve Sipple	Sales Manager	David Thiemann
Arts & Entertainment Editor	Micki Haller	Circulation Manager	Eric Shanks
Diversions Editor	Joeth Zucco	Publications Board	Tom Macy
Graphics Editor	Tim Hartmann	Chairman	475-9868

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE (except holidays); weekly during the summer session.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tom Macy, 475-9868.

Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1988 DAILY NEBRASKAN