

Jeff Reiner/Daily Nebraskan

Soviets leave Afghan borders

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Fully equipped Soviet troops left Afghanistan by the planeload during the past week, but the aircraft also left tons of new arms and ammunition for the Kabul government, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Western diplomats, speaking in Islamabad on the condition that they not be identified, said that at the current pace, the Red Army's withdrawal could be completed by the end of the month.

"However, for political reasons the Russians may wish to keep a military presence in Kabul up to Feb. 15," said one source.

Moscow pledged in a U.N.-

sponsored accord last year to remove all of its more than 100,000 combat troops from Afghanistan in nine months from May 15, 1988.

But the country's ruling Marxists still have not reached a settlement with Moslem rebels known as mujahedeen, or holy warriors, who have battled them for more than a decade.

Diplomats said takeoffs and landings of Soviet IL-76 transport planes at Kabul airport numbered about 40 between Jan. 9 and 14, or double the usual rate.

Armed Soviet troops in full kit were seen boarding the planes but only after Afghan troops unloaded

large quantities of military equipment and ammunition.

As many as 18 SS-1 "Scud" missiles were transported from the airport during the period, according to reports from diplomats and Western journalists.

Soviet armor has been digging into new positions north of the Hindukush mountains along the snowbound Salang Road which runs some 240 miles from Kabul north to the Soviet Union, the sources said.

They said that judging by convoys arriving in Kabul, Soviet-Afghan forces apparently have been able to keep the route open despite harassment by the mujahedeen.

Deficit shows drag on budget

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. trade deficit ballooned to \$12.5 billion in November, the biggest imbalance in five months, the government said Wednesday in a report many private economists and even the Reagan administration viewed as a disappointing indication of how deep the country's trade problems are.

The Commerce Department said the trade gap was 22 percent larger than October's \$10.3 billion deficit, reflecting a surge in imports, particularly for business capital goods, and a slight drop in exports.

"We have a serious competitiveness problem in this country," said Lawrence Chimere, head of the WEFA Group, an economic consulting firm in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. "There's a limit to how much you can improve by cutting costs and driving the dollar lower."

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the November performance was of concern but "we trust this is an aberration and does not change the overall trend."

Even with the November deterioration, the trade deficit for the first 11 months of 1988 was running at an annual rate of \$137.3 billion, almost 20 percent below the all-time imbalance of \$170.3 billion set in 1987.

Departing Commerce Secretary C. William Verity, a top administration trade expert, said the November report was disappointing evidence that the country's trade problems are far from being solved. He said the rapid pace of improvement in the first part of 1987 had leveled off in recent months.

"All of this means that we have a long way to go," Verity said in a statement. "We must continue to

improve our efficiency and quality at home and pursue our efforts to reduce trade barriers abroad."

In brighter economic news, the Federal Reserve Board reported that U.S. industry operated at 84.2 percent of capacity in December, the highest rate in nine years.

Much of the increase reflected the boom U.S. manufacturers have enjoyed in export sales as the weaker dollar made their products competitive once more on overseas markets.

However, analysts said the November trade report showed that until Americans' appetite for imports is curbed, the trade imbalance will remain stuck in the \$130 billion-a-year range, further increasing the country's dependency on foreign investment as Americans hand over billions of dollars every year to foreigners in exchange for cars, televisions and other imported products.

President-elect Bush faces the problem of trying to improve America's trade balance in order to keep the economic recovery alive. But analysts said he must accomplish that task without erecting more trade barriers and further worsening global trading tensions.

"The trade report is disturbing. It is evidence that for the last seven months we haven't made any progress on the trade adjustment process," said Bruce Steinberg, senior economist at Merrill Lynch in New York.

The November deficit was the largest since a \$13.2 billion June imbalance. November's deficit reflected a big jump in imports, which shot up to \$39.7 billion, \$1.6 billion above the October level and the second highest level on record. Exports fell by \$639 million to \$27.2 billion.

Balloonist will drift over Pacific

TOKYO -- A Japanese computer engineer will attempt the first solo trans-Pacific flight in a helium balloon he designed, an official involved in the project said Wednesday.

Fumio Niwa will take off on Feb. 11 from Yokohama south of Tokyo

and fly to a location yet to be decided on the West Coast of the United States, said Kazuyuki Kodama, one of 20 people working on the project. Niwa plans to complete the 4,800-mile trip in three to four days.

In 1981, a four-man crew from Japan and the United States crossed

the Pacific Ocean in a balloon, but Kodama said this would be the first time anyone has tried it alone.

Niwa, 38, spent about \$787,000 to build the balloon, and quit work at a computer company in November to prepare for the flight.

Cosmos feel few ills after orbit

MOSCOW -- Two cosmonauts who spent a year in space suffered fewer physical effects than expected, and there do not appear to be any barriers to even longer missions, Soviet space specialists said today.

"Longer flights, we believe, are quite possible, and we think they will be carried out," Anatoly Grigoryev, director of the Institute of Bio-Medical Problems of the Soviet Health Ministry, told a news conference.

Grigoryev said cosmonauts Musa Manarov and Vladimir Titov, who returned to Earth on Dec. 21 after a year in space, suffered some atrophy of their calf muscles and some loss of calcium, as have other cosmonauts.

But because of exercise and training developed by Soviet scientists, the effects suffered by

Manarov and Titov were less severe than their predecessors', he said.

Titov, Manarov and French cosmonaut Jean-Loup Chretien also attended the news conference. Chretien spent a month on the Mir orbiting space complex before returning with Titov and Manarov, who hold the space endurance record.

Titov said he and Manarov noticed some atrophy of their leg muscles in the weightless conditions aboard the Mir complex.

He said he had been afraid about the effects of the long period of weightlessness when he returned to Earth, "but our ideas were bleaker than reality. We feel quite well, better than expected."

Scientists said results of tests done on Titov and Manarov still are being analyzed.

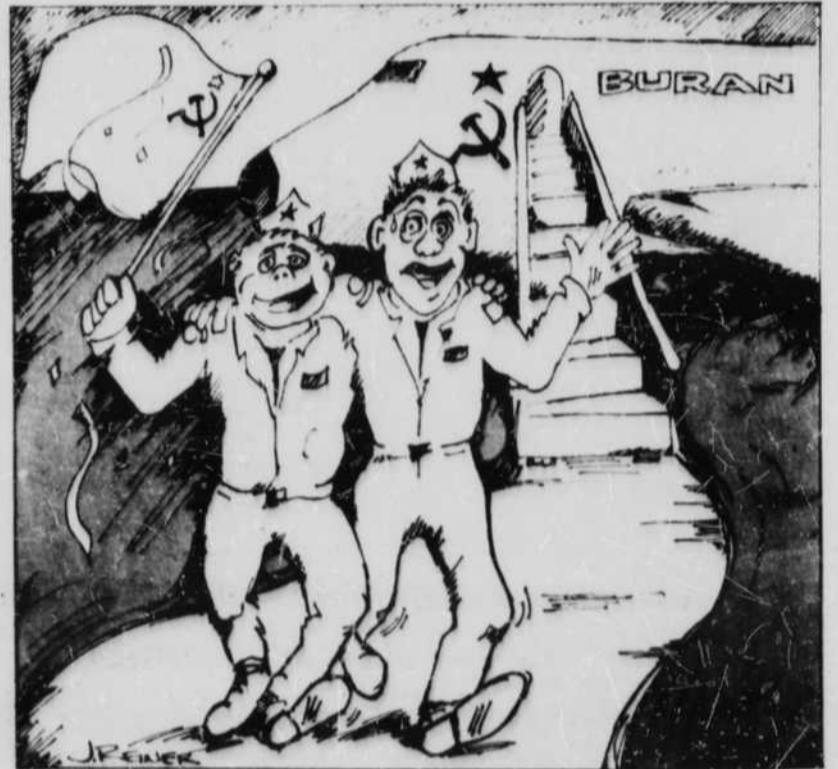
In response to a reporter's ques-

tion, Alexander Dunayev, head of the Glavkosmos space agency, said Soviet officials still had not decided whether the second flight of the space shuttle Buran will be manned or unmanned.

He said technological and economic disagreements about Buran's next flight had not been settled and that a date for the second flight was not set.

Glavkosmos is the space agency charged with development of space engineering for the economy.

Buran was launched Nov. 15 on a three-hour, 20 minute unmanned flight. But the Soviet press has referred several times to an internal debate about the shuttle program. Soviet space officials for years scorned the U.S. shuttle program as inefficient before unveiling a similar-looking craft.



Americans doubt Bush's pledge tax

NEW YORK -- Most Americans think well of George Bush and hold high expectations for his presidency, but an overwhelming majority believes he will abandon his pledge of no new taxes, a national poll has found.

Six in 10 respondents to the Media General-Associated Press survey said Bush, who made his "read my lips - no new taxes" pledge a cornerstone of his campaign, should not seek a tax increase. But 71 percent said they expect him to do so.

Nonetheless, Bush, who takes his oath Friday as the 41st president, won high marks for his Cabinet choices

and his preparations for office since the election.

He was viewed favorably by 59 percent of those surveyed, precisely the same approval rate President Reagan received in a Media General-AP poll last spring. Twenty-five percent rated Bush unfavorably; the rest withheld judgment.

In another favorable comparison with his popular predecessor, expectations for Bush's presidency came close to the ratings of Reagan's performance in a Media General-AP poll conducted in the fall.

Forty-eight percent in the new poll

said Bush will be a good president and 13 percent said excellent. Similarly, this fall 47 percent said history would view Reagan as a good president, 20 percent excellent.

The new poll was conducted by telephone Jan. 4-12 among a random sample of 1,162 adults nationwide. It has a three-point margin of sampling error.

Although the survey found considerable levels of unfamiliarity with Bush's nominees for his Cabinet, 45 percent said their overall impression was that the Cabinet was a good one, and an additional 8 percent called it excellent.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor	Curt Wagner	Night News Editors	Victoria Ayotte
Managing Editor	472-1766	Librarian	Chris Carroll
Assoc. News Editors	Jane Hirt	Art Directors	Anne Mohr
	Lee Reed		John Bruce
	Bob Nilson		Andy Manhart
Editorial Page Editor	Amy Edwards	General Manager	Dan Shattil
Wire Editor	Diana Johnson	Production Manager	Katharine Policky
Copy Desk Editor	Chuck Green	Advertising Manager	Robert Bates
Sports Editor	Jeff Apel	Sales Manager	David Thiemann
Arts & Entertainment Editor	Micki Haller	Circulation Manager	Eric Shanks

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE. Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

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, 475-9858.

Subscription price is \$45 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 1989 DAILY NEBRASKAN