



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Soviet spacecraft joins orbit around Mars

MOSCOW -- An unmanned Soviet research probe went into orbit around Mars on Sunday after a six-month, 111-million-mile voyage from Earth, Tass reported.

On a mission that has so far been plagued by problems, Phobos II arrived with instruments and experiments prepared by 12 countries and the European Space Agency.

Soviet officials say the mission will help them get ready to send a manned craft to Mars in the early 21st century.

The breaking rockets of Phobos II fired at 3:55 p.m. Moscow time, the official news agency Tass said. Soviet ground controllers began analyzing data from the craft to ensure a proper orbit, it said.

Phobos II was launched July 12

in an ambitious program to unlock mysteries of the Red Planet and its largest moon, Phobos.

The probe is supposed to record daily and seasonal temperature changes on Mars, make a temperature map of the surface, and identify areas where the soil is permanently frozen, Tass said. Data will also be collected on the planet's mineral makeup and atmosphere.

The Phobos mission is the most ambitious of nearly 20 U.S. and Soviet unmanned missions to study Mars.

Tass said Phobos II is the first spacecraft to orbit Mars. However, U.S. officials say U.S. probes orbited Mars during the Viking missions of the 1970s. The planet is believed to be most like Earth after Venus.

Team probes air crash

FAIRBANKS, Alaska -- Canada pulled out of joint cold-weather military exercises Monday, the morning after eight soldiers were killed in the crash of a C-130 transport plane trying to land in icy fog at 50 degrees below zero.

The four-engine Hercules was carrying eight crewmen and 10 paratroopers from Edmonton, Alberta, to participate in Brim Frost '89 when it crashed Sunday night at the end of the runway at Fort Wainwright, said U.S. Army Maj. Sherrel Mock.

Three men were in serious condition, one was listed as stable and six others were being held for observation at the base's Bartlett Army Community Hospital, Mock said Monday.

"We don't know if the cold weather had anything to do with it," Mock said. "Teams are out there right now, going through the wreckage."

"The investigation is still in its early stages. They're wondering if it was the weather or something me-

chanical."

A 450-man Canadian paratroop force was to support the U.S. Army's 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division (Light), in a major land battle that was the centerpiece of the Brim Frost ground exercises near Fairbanks.

But after the crash, Canadian officials canceled their forces' participation and recalled their remaining aircraft and soldiers, Mock said.

"They canceled because of the equipment they lost (in the crash)," Mock said. "The aircraft was bringing in equipment ranging from snow machines to cold weather gear."

Military planners call Brim Frost "the premier cold weather training exercise in the free world." But temperatures plunging to more than 60 below zero during the past two weeks have been too much of a test.

The bitter cold has caused metal fatigue and rubber fatigue in trucks and aircraft, stalling equipment and generally slowing maneuvers, Mock said.

"But we've been able to land aircraft," he said.

"Another Canadian C-130 had landed an hour earlier," he said. "The third aircraft in the flight was diverted to the Fairbanks airport because the runway was blocked."

The plane's last contact with the control tower was at 6:47 p.m. There were no distress calls from the crew before the crash, Mock said. There was no explosion or fire after the plane broke in two and skidded to a halt about a quarter-mile down the runway, he said.

Six victims were dead on arrival at the Army hospital and two others died later, he said.

About 26,000 servicemen, 120 aircraft and 1,000 vehicles from the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, Civil Air Patrol, reserve units and Canadian Forces were participating in the arctic training exercise. The \$15 million exercise began Jan. 20 and is to continue through Feb. 1.

Americans begin to leave, missionaries stay Embassy flag lowered last time

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Marine guards lowered the flag for the last time Monday and the U.S. Embassy staff prepared to depart before the Red Army leaves Kabul's fate to Afghan soldiers and Moslem guerrillas who wait in the hills.

"As we say goodbye, we say, 'God bless the United States,'" said Charge d' Affaires John D. Glassman, the ranking American diplomat still in Kabul, at the solemn ceremony.

"Today we leave at a moment that is both happy and sad, pleased that the people of Afghanistan are going to be relieved of their suffering, but we know their struggle is not over."

"The people of the United States are with them," Glassman said, raising the folded flag above his head in a salute. "We will be back when the conflict is over."

Marine guards brought down the Stars and Stripes, gently folded the flag and handed it to Glassman, who walked to a small slab of marble on the other side of the compound that honors Adolph Dubs, the former U.S. ambassador.

Dubs was kidnapped, then killed along with his abductors when soldiers tried to rescue him Feb. 14,

1979. U.S. officials still do not know the motive.

Soviet soldiers entered Afghanistan's civil war nine years ago and are to be gone by Feb. 15 under a U.N. mediated agreement. Moslem insurgents, who get most of their support from the United States and Pakistan, were not parties to the agreement and predict victory soon after the Red army is gone.

Yuri Maslyukov, Soviet deputy premier, arrived to meet with Najib just after Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov ended a three-day visit to Kabul. A Western diplomat in Islamabad, Pakistan, said the visits were meant to "boost the sagging morale of the communist government."

Embassy officials would not say when the American staff of two diplomats, four Marine guards and five others would leave on a chartered flight to New Delhi, India. The Kabul airport was closed Monday by a three-inch snowfall.

The State Department said last week the embassy would be closed because of fears that Afghanistan's conscript army could not protect foreign diplomats after the Soviets leave.

The departure of the embassy staff will leave 10 Americans in Afghanistan, all missionaries.

West Germany was the first country to withdraw its diplomats. After the U.S. closure was announced, Britain, France, Japan and Austria followed suit.

The Soviet Embassy has said it will continue operating after the military withdrawal, but with a greatly reduced staff. Some of the Kremlin's East European allies have indicated they may leave.

Najib's government accused the United States of closing the embassy as a means of inciting the guerrillas to more intense warfare after the Red Army departs.

Moslem guerrillas began fighting after a communist coup in April 1978. Soviet soldiers arrived in December 1979 and totaled an estimated 115,000 when the withdrawal began May 15. Half were gone by Aug. 15.

Although the rest have until Feb. 15 to leave, the final Soviet convoy is expected to head north later this week on the Salang Highway, the 250-mile route through the rugged Hindu Kush mountain range to the Soviet border.

Amnesty International! calls for halt of Iranian political executions, abuses

LONDON -- Amnesty International on Monday urged the world to pressure Iran to halt a six-month campaign of political executions during which more than 1,000 people have died.

The London-based human rights group made its plea in a statement submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Commission which is scheduled to begin its annual meeting Monday in Geneva.

Amnesty International detailed other abuses it said have persisted in Iran, including torture, detention without trial and other "cruel, inhuman or degrading" punishments.

The group also said it was concerned about a massive anti-drug crackdown and 21 recorded instances of amputation, usually of the four fingers of the right hand, which it considered "cruel, inhuman or degrading."

Tehran radio reported Sunday that 22 more drug smugglers were hanged publicly in various Iranian cities in the previous three days, raising the total to 113 in the crackdown launched two weeks ago.

"Amnesty International urges the international community to use whatever channels are available to persuade the Iranian government to put an end to the present wave of public executions and to implement and observe judicial and other procedures to safeguard the human rights of its

citizens," the statement said.

"Since the end of July 1988, Amnesty International has recorded over 1,000 names of political prisoners who have reportedly been executed," the statement said. "And further reports are still being received."

Olympic diver given 17 years

TAMPA, Fla. - Olympic diver Bruce Kimball was sentenced today to 17 years in prison for killing two people and injuring four others when his car plowed into a group of teenagers last August.

The 1984 Olympic silver medalist, who was legally drunk at the time, must serve an additional 15 years probation, Hillsborough Circuit Judge Harry Lee Coe ruled.

"You must be punished," Coe told Kimball after the 2 1/2 hour sentencing hearing. "You must suffer the consequences of drunken driving, and we must stop it."

The terms of the probation require Kimball to participate in community work aimed at teaching young people the dangers of alcohol.

Kimball has been in jail since earlier this month, when he pleaded guilty to two drunken driving manslaughter and three great bodily injury counts.

Prosecutors said Kimball was driving down a narrow road at approximately 75 mph and then skid 397 feet before hitting his victims.

Today, Kimball changed his plea to no contest, a technical move aimed at making it easier for victims to recover damages from his automobile insurance company.

Later, on the courthouse steps, the athlete's mother offered an apology.

Florida sentencing guidelines called for a penalty of between seven and 22 years.

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