

World and Nation

Earthquake destroys Armenian cities

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — Soviet authorities rushed military surgeons and tons of medical supplies Thursday into Armenia, rocked by an earthquake that officials said virtually destroyed several cities and killed tens of thousands of people.

Armenian journalists said a Politburo commission led by Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov received preliminary estimates that up to 50,000 people died in the Wednesday earthquake, which measured 6.9 on the Richter scale. Soviet officials reported thousands of people were killed but provided no death toll.

President Mikhail Gorbachev cut short his trip to the United States and flew home to lead a worldwide emergency rescue effort in the southern republic, which has a population of 3.3 million.

"Urgent measures are being taken to help all those affected by this terrible tragedy, and I have to be there in this effort," said Gorbachev, who planned to fly to Yerevan after arriving in Moscow. He canceled planned trips to Cuba and Britain.

President Reagan offered emergency humanitarian aid, Cuban President Fidel Castro pledged to send construction workers and Bri-

tain dispatched London firefighters to join the rescue effort.

Soviet TV showed a clock on a building in the city of Leninakan, on the Turkish border near the epicenter of the earthquake, stopped at 11:41 — the instant the disaster struck.

The earthquake destroyed two-thirds of Leninakan, Armenia's second-largest city with a population of 250,000 people, a TV correspondent said.

Spitak, a town of 16,000 about 45 miles away, "was practically erased from the face of the Earth," the correspondent said.

Tass said half the buildings in Kirovakan, a city of 150,000, had crumbled.

A special meeting of representatives of all 15 Soviet republics was called in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, on Friday to discuss disaster relief.

Soviet authorities dispatched doctors, engineers and food and medical supplies to the area, and a "helicopter bridge" was set up to ferry the injured northward to hospitals in neighboring Soviet Georgia, the Tass news agency reported.

Tass said 2,300 people were hospitalized in Yerevan with injuries from the quake and that 200 had been

hospitalized across the border in Georgia. It did not say how many of the injured were treated elsewhere.

For a second night Thursday, millions of Soviet TV viewers saw soldiers searching for survivors and bodies in huge piles of concrete rubble, either by hand or with cranes. The disaster coverage by the state-run media was unprecedented in its speed and scope.

Ryzhkov, head of an earthquake commission, told Soviet television the main task before authorities is to search the rubble for the injured and dead.

He then turned directly toward the camera and made an unusual appeal to factory and business officials nationwide not to wait to be asked, but to start immediately sending heavy cranes, helicopters and other equipment to the stricken area.

Friday and Saturday were declared days of mourning in Armenia.

Soviet TV and the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda reported from Leninakan that preliminary estimates were that tens of thousands of people were killed.

Foreign Minister spokesman Vadim Perfiliev said authorities were having difficulty calculating a death toll because communications with the

region were severed.

He said the Foreign Ministry was reviewing requests by foreign reporters to visit the disaster area, but that none had been approved.

Komsomolskaya Pravda said soldiers were working under spotlights in the wreckage of a Leninakan school. It said two sergeants pulled the bodies of more than 50 children from the ruins and that only a few children had been found alive in the collapsed building.

The newspaper Izvestia reported the population of Armenia has risen markedly in recent weeks as settlers fled violent ethnic strife between Armenians, who are mostly Christian, and predominantly Moslem Azerbaijanis.

About 180,000 refugees reportedly have fled across the border between the two republics in the last three weeks.

The last earthquake in the Soviet Union with a death toll in the thousands was an Oct. 5, 1948, temblor in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenia. The Soviet press — acting under Gorbachev's policy of *glasnost*, or greater openness — recently gave the death toll for the Ashkhabad quake as 110,000.

6 killed as plane hits building in Germany

From Associated Press reports

REMSCHIED, West Germany — A U.S. Air Force warplane struck an apartment building and exploded in flames Thursday, killing six people, injuring dozens of others and destroying homes for more than a block.

"This looks like a war," said Johannes Rau, governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, after touring the scene in central West Germany.

The U.S. Air Force suspended all tactical training flights in Europe until early next week, a U.S. Air Force commander said.

The A-10 Thunderbolt II jet, designed to support ground forces and fight tanks, was carrying 1,000 rounds of 30mm training ammunition when it crashed, said U.S. Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Ed Neunherz.

Witnesses said the plane flew low over a school and hit the top floor

of an apartment building about 1:30 p.m. At least six multifamily homes then caught fire and burned.

Opposition political parties called for a ban on low-level flights and sharp cuts in air exercises. Peter Kurt Wuerzbach, the second-ranked official in the Defense Ministry, said West German authorities were calling on their allies to halt low-level training missions until Christmas.

Maj. Gen. Marcus A. Anderson, commander of the U.S. Third Air Force, told reporters at the scene that all tactical training flights would be suspended until next Tuesday.

"In light of this mishap, the U.S. Air Force in Europe has suspended all tactical flying from now through next Tuesday in memory of those who were killed or injured in the mishap today," Anderson said.

"I want to say how much the U.S. Air Force regrets this very unfortu-

nate mishap," he added. The Third Air Force is based at the Royal Air Force base Mildenhall, England.

West German Defense Minister Rupert Scholz cut short a visit to Washington because of the accident.

A West German military spokesman, Gen. Botho Engelin, said six bodies, including that of the pilot, had been pulled from the smoldering wreckage.

The Air Force identified the dead

pilot as Capt. Michael Foster, 34, but did not give his home town.

A statement sent by telex to the news media said he was survived by his wife and two sons.

The pilot's parachute hung from a tree about 30 yards away, a witness said.

Rescuers said they feared the death toll could rise, although they emphasized they were uncertain how many people were killed.

Center

ably support the BCC, but there is a question of how high on the priority list the proposal will be. There are many items to be considered, and the trustees are not yet sure where the BCC issue will come in, he said.

"We've just touched on the details of what the program entails," Tanner said. Only two of the trustees have

visited black cultural centers at other universities, so few members of the BOT have a working knowledge of the proposal, he said. In particular, the trustees need more details about the costs of the proposed BCC site before they can make a decision, he said.

BOT Chairman Bob Eubanks visited the extensive Black Cultural

U.S. Supreme Court justice hospitalized with pneumonia

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice William Brennan was hospitalized Thursday, suffering from pneumonia.

Brennan, 82, was taken to the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in suburban Maryland in the early afternoon after visiting a doctor at the U.S. Capitol, court spokeswoman Toni House said.

A statement read by House in response to a reporter's inquiry added, "His illness is not expected to affect his work except for the Monday, Dec. 12, session."

The court is scheduled to begin a four-week recess after issuing orders and possibly announcing decisions Monday.

House declined to answer other questions concerning the justice's health or his hospitalization.

Brennan participated in the court's oral arguments Wednesday and reportedly has enjoyed good health recently.

Brennan, appointed to the nation's highest court by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956, is its oldest and most senior member.

For three decades the court's leading liberal light, Brennan is now one of three liberal, octogenarian justices. Thurgood Marshall and Harry Blackmun are 80.

By comparison, the average age of the court's conservative justices is about 60.

Agency plane shot down

RABAT, Morocco — Two DC-7s of the relief agency U.S. AID came under missile attack Thursday near the Morocco-Mauritania border, and one was shot down, according to the spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Rabat.

News in Brief

The attack occurred near a border area where nationalist rebels have waged a guerrilla war against the Moroccan government to establish an independent Western Sahara.

The area where the plane went down is 650 miles southwest of Rabat, the Moroccan capital.

Court upholds rape conviction

RALEIGH — A sexually abused child's statements made outside the courtroom can be admitted as evidence in some cases even if the victim does not testify, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

But in approving such hearsay testimony in a child sexual abuse case for the first time, the state's highest court said it was not establishing a principle that would apply in every instance.

In a 7-0 decision, the court upheld the first-degree rape conviction of Danny Mark Deanes of Hertford County. He was sentenced to life in prison July 15, 1987.

The victim had described the incident to a social worker and a doctor and had used anatomically correct dolls to demonstrate it. A physical examination revealed that the girl had gonorrhea.

Dow Jones average falls


NEW YORK — The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, which had risen 61.35 points in the week's first three trading days, dropped back 11.92 to 2,141.71.

from page 1

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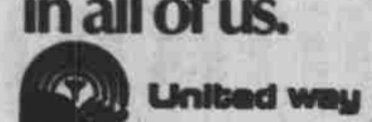
Center at Purdue University this year, and trustee William Darity is a dean at the University of Massachusetts, which also has a large Black Cultural Center.

Normally the BOT doesn't call a vote on a presentation like this one, Tanner said, but they may vote to put it on an agenda for future study.

For proposals as large as the BCC, a BOT committee is generally formed to research all aspects of the project, he said.

The formation of a committee is

It brings out the best in all of us.



For the Record

In the Dec. 8 story, "Lyn' and cheatin' take to the stage," Patrick Emerson was misidentified as Richard Emerson. Patrick Emerson is portraying Jerry in the play "Betrayal." The DTH regrets the error.

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