

## World and Nation

## Soviet Union calls for military cuts

From Associated Press reports

VIENNA, Austria — The Soviet Union on Monday proposed huge reductions in troops and armor and recommended that the Warsaw Pact and NATO negotiate to eliminate all battlefield nuclear weapons from Europe.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposals went far beyond the reductions NATO plans to suggest at conventional arms talks that begin Thursday.

A U.S. official, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, said Shevardnadze's purpose in proposing the missile talks was "to see whether possible fissures in the alliance could be developed."

"I wouldn't characterize it as one of the most positive characteristics" of Shevardnadze's speech, the official said.

Secretary of State James Baker told 35 foreign ministers gathered in a baroque palace that the West's goal,

at least initially, is to reduce the Warsaw Pact's current advantage in conventional forces.

Estimates vary but give the Soviet-led alliance at least a 2 to 1 advantage in tanks.

"The Warsaw Pact's conventional military preponderance, especially in the spearheads of attack, is what makes an invasion possible," Baker said.

He urged Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to implement the "new thinking" that guides economic and political reform in the Soviet Union by renouncing the Brezhnev Doctrine "beyond any shadow of a doubt."

That doctrine permits military intervention in a Soviet bloc country in the event of a liberal insurrection. The late President Leonid Brezhnev introduced it after the Red Army crushed the liberal "Prague Spring" of 1968 in Czechoslovakia.

"Those in the East should be free

of the fear that armed Soviet intervention, justified by the Brezhnev Doctrine, would be used again to deny them choice," Baker said.

He also said Australia would organize a conference to prevent the spread of chemical weapons and the Bush administration was exploring ways to speed the removal of U.S. chemical weapons from West Germany.

Baker added, however: "Unilateral action is not enough. The Soviet Union has enormous stocks of chemical weapons threatening Europe. We therefore call on the Soviets to join us, to accelerate the destruction of their enormous stockpile of these frightening weapons."

In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Kohl said: "I welcome this intention to explore ways for the early removal of chemical weapons from the Federal Republic."

Kohl's chief spokesman, Friedhelm

Ost, said earlier that Baker telephoned the chancellor Saturday night and told him the aging U.S. chemical weapons would be withdrawn by 1992.

Shevardnadze countered a NATO proposal to retire at least 25,000 Warsaw Pact tanks, then reduce armor, artillery and personnel carriers on both sides by 5 percent to 10 percent with a three-phase plan for radical cuts.

The foreign minister's arms reduction program went far beyond NATO's by adding missiles, combat aircraft and soldiers.

"Let me ask what kind of reductions are these if they do not affect the main component of armed forces — their personnel?" he said. "And surely airplanes and helicopters can be used for a surprise attack."

In the Soviet second phase, 500,000 men on each side would be demobilized.

## Ala. senator 1st Democrat to back Tower nomination

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Sen. Howell Heflin of Alabama became the first Democrat to swing behind John Tower's confirmation as defense secretary Monday, delivering a major boost to the troubled nomination a few hours after President Bush appealed for lawmakers to put aside partisanship in the struggle.

"I will rely on his pledge and give him a chance to prove himself," Heflin said in a speech on the Senate floor, referring to Tower's promise to swear off drinking if he is confirmed to head the Pentagon.

Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia walked to Heflin's side moments after the Democrat completed his speech and thanked him.

Heflin, who had been courted by the Bush administration, bucked the growing list of Democrats who have come out against the nomination. He cited Tower's qualifications; the "uncertain state of the evidence" against the nominee, specifically the allegations included in an FBI report on the nominee; and the alcohol promise as reasons for his decision.

**Bush delays action on strike**

WASHINGTON — President Bush won't push yet for a bill banning secondary picketing but is ready to move quickly if the strike against Eastern Airlines spreads, a White House spokesman said Monday.

Meanwhile, the chairman of a House aviation subcommittee scheduled a hearing for Tuesday

## News in Brief

and said he hoped for quick action on separate legislation to force Bush to appoint an emergency board and end the strike for 60 days.

Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., suggested his legislation "might give cover to the administration" for the emergency action Bush refused to take on Friday before the strike began.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Monday that as long as Eastern's striking members of the Machinists union refrain from picketing other airlines or railways, "we wouldn't find it necessary to send up the legislation" barring such secondary action.

**Court rejects air regulations**

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, in a defeat for Northeastern states, refused Monday to require the federal government to crack down on interstate air polluters.

The court's action involves a long-running controversy between the Northeast and the industrial Midwest over responsibility for acid rain, which is caused by pollutants — primarily sulfur and nitrogen oxides.

These pollutants often travel hundreds of miles and fall to the ground as highly acidic rain, destroying freshwater life and forest vegetation in areas where the air otherwise is considered largely pollution-free.

## 4 Tibetans die in clash with Chinese

From Associated Press reports

BEIJING — Police opened fire on Tibetan protesters who marched through Lhasa and burned Chinese businesses Monday in a second straight day of violence. Four Tibetans were reported killed.

Security forces moved into the city's Tibetan section and pulled people from their homes, taking some away in jeeps, American tourists said. Chinese troops also beat Tibetans, said the travelers, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of police reprisal.

"One boy's face was completely bloodied," said a man from New Orleans. "He was no older than 10. Blood was coming from his ears, his eyes."

The Americans and other tourists were contacted in the Tibetan capital by telephone from Beijing. As they spoke, automatic weapons fired and exploding tear gas canisters crackled in the background. Bonfires burned in the streets, they said.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported one Tibetan was killed, and

eight others, including two police officers, were injured in the violence Monday.

Xinhua had said 10 Tibetans and one Chinese police officer were killed in anti-Chinese demonstrations Sunday. Western travelers quoted Tibetans as saying that many more had died on Sunday and that at least four Tibetans had been slain Monday.

The U.S. State Department on Monday deplored the use of weapons on pro-independence protesters in Tibet and called for a restoration of order.

"We have made clear to the Chinese both publicly and privately in the past our concern for human rights in Tibet," said spokesman Charles Redman in Washington.

Police in Lhasa fired from rooftops near the city's main square late Monday afternoon, killing at least two Tibetans, according to an American tourist quoting Tibetans.

Several hours later, security forces fired on a group of 40 independence activists as they threw rocks at a building near the Jokhang Temple,

another tourist said. He quoted Tibetans as saying at least two protesters were killed in that incident.

On Monday morning, thousands of Tibetans flooded the old city, breaking into the small Chinese- and Moslem-run stores that fill the area, pulling out their contents and burning them in bonfires along the city's main thoroughfare.

The crowd, made up mostly of young men, blocked off parts of the old city, barricading it with metal tables and garbage cans, witnesses said. Xinhua said many people were unable to go to work.

Tibetans stoned Chinese who tried to bicycle through the area, foreign witnesses said.

One tourist said he saw a police officer dragged from his bike and chased down the street at knifepoint. Xinhua said the crowd tortured a police officer, but gave no details.

Police guarded the Chinese section of town, but later Monday they moved across a broad road into the Tibetan-held area. The Americans saw hundreds of

police, armed with Chinese-made AK-47s, move in. The armed troops met up with another 100 helmeted troops, carrying only shields and sticks.

"The troops charged up the street at a half-trot," said the tourist from New Orleans. "A lot of tear gas came into the hotel. They were firing up the street pretty fiercely."

At one point, soldiers banged on the window of the hotel's restaurant where several foreign tourists were eating dinner.

"They pointed their guns at our faces," said the New Yorker. "All of us hit the deck."

## Lawyer to seek death penalty in re-sentencing of murderer

From Associated Press reports

STUART, Va. — Patrick County Commonwealth's Attorney Anthony Giorno said Monday afternoon he would soon seek another death sentence for killer Dennis Stockton, hours after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Stockton must be sentenced again.

"We will try to pick another date here quickly, perhaps 30 to 60 days," Giorno said after the high court, without comment, let stand a federal appeals court ruling that Stockton is entitled to a new sentencing.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled last July 22 that Stockton should get a new sentencing because during his original sentencing for the 1978 contract murder of Kenneth Arder, four jurors were told by a diner owner that Stockton should "fry."

"I don't really see and I don't believe that comment in the diner affected the jurors," Giorno said. But Giorno said he understood the justices' position that if a comment outside of the courtroom could have influenced jurors, then there should be a new sentencing.

"If it takes sequestering a jury, that's what we'll do," Giorno said.

Defense attorney Louis Bograd did not immediately return a telephone call a reporter placed to his Washington office.

Stockton was convicted in 1983 in Patrick County in the murder of Arder, 18. Authorities said Arder had been shot in the head, and both hands had been severed.

Prosecutors said a drug trafficker who suspected that Arder cheated him on a drug deal hired Stockton

to kill Arder for \$1,500. Prosecutors said Stockton later killed another man for "running his mouth" about the Arder murder.

During Stockton's sentencing, four jurors were on a lunch break at the Owl Diner in Stuart when the diner's owner asked about the case. A witness later said that the diner owner, Glenn Puckett, told jurors Stockton should "fry."

Puckett, reached Monday afternoon at the diner, told a reporter he did not believe the comment had influenced the jurors who sentenced Stockton to die.

"I don't even know whether I said it," Puckett said. "Hell, you know how you say lots of things."

Asked whether he believes Stockton should die, Puckett said, "I'm not even going to comment."

## Salvadoran rebels prepare offensive

From Associated Press reports

LAS VUELTAS, El Salvador — A rebel leader says his fighters, many now armed with Soviet-designed assault rifles, are preparing a major offensive to answer the government for spurning a guerrilla peace plan.

"We are ready to escalate the war," said Diego. Like many rebel fighters, he uses only a nom de guerre.

Diego is a top officer of the Popular Liberation Forces, one of five guerrilla factions united in the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN). He spoke with The Associated Press Sunday.

"To say we will (escalate the war), then not do it, would be stupid both militarily and politically. So you can be sure we'll do it," he said, sitting on a bench in a classroom off the main square of this rebel-dominated town in the northern province of Calatenango.

Over his shoulder was slung a Soviet-designed AK-47 assault rifle,

one of several hundred Diego said his group has bought indirectly this year from U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels based in Honduras.

"The AKs are part of the military leap we're preparing," Diego said. "It is more potent in terms of firepower. It makes its user feel more powerful, while contributing to the demoralization of the enemy."

The FMLN has been waging a Marxist-inspired war against the U.S.-funded government for nine years. The rebels say they are fighting for a fairer distribution of El Salvador's wealth and to recover national sovereignty they contend has been sold to Washington.

Salvadoran insurgent chiefs said in mid-1988 they were acquiring arms indirectly from the Contra rebels. But AK-47s, the standard Contra weapon, have never been so evident among Salvadoran guerrillas as during the past few weeks.

Contra leaders deny their forces,

which have been mostly idle since Washington cut off military aid 13 months ago, are selling weapons. El Salvador's military high command contends Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government is giving AK-47s to the front.

The acquisition of the guns, which according to several reports may be in the hands of up to 10 percent of the estimated 7,000 rebel fighters, does not mean the Soviet rifle will replace the U.S.-made M-16 as the standard guerrilla weapon.

Diego said the guerrillas still try to use weapons as similar as possible to the enemy's so captured ammunition can be used.

The rebels have not said when their offensive would begin, but their peace proposal was linked to the March 19 election.

"If you have a smaller and less technologically sophisticated army than your enemy, you don't go telling him when you're going to attack," Diego said.

The offensive will be a response to the government's unwillingness to accept the guerrillas' proposal.

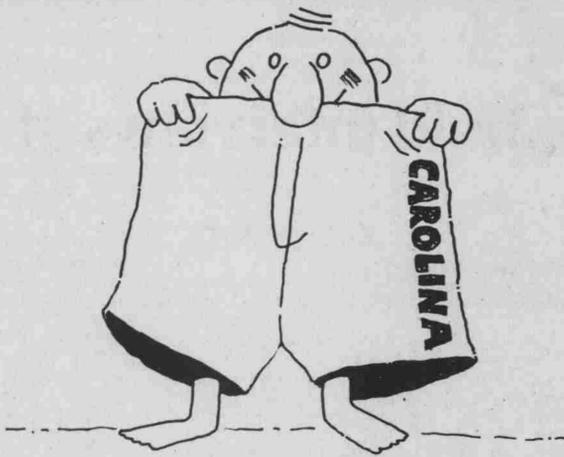
The guerrillas on Jan. 24 offered to take part in and respect the outcome of the presidential election if it were postponed until September and if security and anti-fraud conditions were met.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte's Christian Democratic administration has been at odds with the opposition-controlled legislature over how to deal with the rebel offer.

The FMLN said last week that time was running out and proposed a meeting Tuesday between government and rebel representatives in San Salvador. But Legislative President Ricardo Alvarenga on Monday rejected postponement of the election as unconstitutional.

The constitution says the election must be held at least two months before a new government takes office. Duarte's term ends June 1.

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