

World and Nation

Presidents to hold summit on ship

From Associated Press reports
 WASHINGTON — President Bush announced Tuesday he will hold a shipboard summit in the Mediterranean with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Dec. 2 and 3 "to put up our feet and talk" informally prior to a full-blown superpower meeting next year.

Bush described the weekend meeting as an open-ended discussion with no fixed agenda. He said neither he nor Gorbachev "anticipate that substantial decisions or agreements will emerge" on arms control or other matters.

The talks will take place on U.S. and Soviet naval ships on alternate days. The precise location was not announced, but a site off Italy appeared likely since Gorbachev is to visit there from Nov. 29 to Dec. 1.

Bush acknowledged he originally had opposed the concept of a get-acquainted

session, favoring instead a well-planned meeting with assurances of concrete results.

However, he decided that with dramatic democratic changes sweeping across Eastern Europe, the leaders of the two superpowers "should deepen their understanding" of each other.

"I don't want to have two gigantic ships pass in the night because of failed communication," Bush said. "I just didn't want to, in this time of dynamic change, miss something — something that I might get better firsthand from Mr. Gorbachev."

The president said he expected "a lot of discussion" about Eastern Europe.

Bush's announcement drew bipartisan applause on Capitol Hill, although Senate Democratic Leader George Mitchell said he was not about to rescind his criticism that the president's

policies toward the blossoming of democracy in Eastern Europe have been too "timid."

Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., the GOP's deputy leader, said, "That kind of stuff about being too timid or too cautious bounces off George Bush like a .22-rifle bullet off a tank."

The summit was jointly announced in Washington and in Moscow, where Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the talks between the two leaders were "aimed at allowing them to know each other better" and would "contribute to broadening the changes taking place in the Soviet-American relationship."

Much of the planning appeared still to be done. White House chief of staff John Sununu, asked what country Bush would use as the staging area for the talks, said, "We don't know yet."

However, sources suggested that Naples, Italy, a major seaport, was the most likely area.

The sources, insisting on anonymity, also said the most likely U.S. ship for the talks was the cruiser Belknap, the 547-foot long, missile-armed flagship of the Sixth Fleet, based in the Mediterranean. There was speculation Bush would make the ship his headquarters and spend the night there.

Officials said they did not know if first ladies Barbara Bush and Raisa Gorbachev would accompany their husbands. Bush said he decided to meet on a ship so "we can do it without too much fanfare ... where there's a relatively few number of people, not a lot of crush of bodies out there and a chance to put our feet up and talk ... I think it's easy logistically for both sides."

East Germany's New Forum may be legally recognized

From Associated Press reports
 BERLIN — Communist authorities are considering legalizing the New Forum opposition group, East Germany's state-run media reported Tuesday.

Meanwhile East German leader Egon Krenz went to Moscow to meet the architect of East bloc reforms, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Also on Tuesday, the ruling Politburo held its weekly meeting, and the official ADN news agency indicated more leadership changes could be in store.

The main evening news program "Aktuelle Kamera" and ADN said the Interior Ministry was studying an appeal of the ban on New Forum.

In September, the Interior Ministry turned down the group's application for registration, describing it as an anti-state organization, and ordered its members to cease all activity. But the group has been tolerated in recent weeks and its members have taken part in recent dialogues with Communist authorities.

News in Brief

forecast improvement in that industry as mortgage rates decline.

The Commerce Department's Index of Leading Indicators, designed to foretell economic activity six to nine months in advance, inched up 0.2 percent in September.

At the same time, the department reported new home sales dropped 14 percent, the sharpest decrease since a 19 percent decline in January 1982 during the last recession.

Several Navy accidents reported
 NORFOLK, Va. — A wave struck a freight elevator on an aircraft carrier as sailors moved missiles from one deck to another early Tuesday, sweeping three men and 38 missiles into the Atlantic Ocean, the Navy said. Two sailors were rescued.

In the Pacific Ocean, another sailor was missing after being swept off a Navy carrier into rough seas Monday night, a Navy spokesman said Tuesday.

Navy planes and ships searched through the day for the two sailors from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in the Atlantic and the USS Carl Vinson in the Pacific.

The accidents aboard the Vinson 620 miles north of Wake Island and on the Eisenhower 90 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras were the third and fourth accidents on Navy ships in three days.

Nixon, Deng discuss U.S.-China relations

From Associated Press reports
 BEIJING — Richard Nixon told Deng Xiaoping on Tuesday some Chinese leaders had lost respect in the United States, and Deng accused Washington of involvement in the democratic movement that China's army crushed in June.

China's 85-year-old senior leader told the former president that "China has not done one single thing harmful to the United States" in the past decade, according to Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency.

A member of the Nixon party who

attended the meeting between Deng and the American leader who opened the door to China in 1972 characterized their conversation as a "a very tough, no-holds-barred exchange."

Nixon also met with Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin on Tuesday about the "tragedy" of the military crackdown on student-led dissent, the American informant said.

Nixon told Deng he had observed relations closely for 17 years and "there has never been a more difficult crisis than at the present time."

He said it was important to discuss

differences and "repair the damage that has been done to the respect in the United States among China's friends for some of China's leaders."

He did not identify those leaders.

Deng, Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun have been singled out for ordering the June attack on pro-democracy demonstrators in which hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people were killed.

According to Xinhua, Deng said the United States "was involved too deeply in the turmoil and counterrevolutionary rebellion," the government's terms for the democracy movement.

"China was the real victim and it is unjust to reprove China for it," he said.

Deng and Nixon, who was on the fourth day of a private visit, agreed that ideological differences should be overcome and relations improved on the basis of common strategic interests.

"I'm very much in favor of your view regarding state-to-state relations," Deng said to Nixon as they met at the Great Hall of the People. "You should focus on the strategic interests of a country and you should not talk about historical roots or differences in ideology or the strength of a country."

Nixon has urged the governments to bury their differences over the crushing of dissent and mend their frayed relations.

Cease-fire between Sandinistas, Contras expires

From Associated Press reports
 MANAGUA, Nicaragua — President Daniel Ortega disrupted a summit last week by threatening to end a truce with the U.S.-backed Contras, but a rebel leader said Tuesday the Sandinistas already were breaking the cease-fire.

The leftist Sandinista government and Contra leaders agreed to a truce in March 1988, and Nicaragua has extended it on a monthly basis since, but low-level fighting has continued. The latest extension expired Tuesday.

On Friday, Ortega told a meeting of 17 Western hemisphere leaders in San Jose, Costa Rica, he would end the truce. The heads of state, including President Bush, had assembled to honor the 100th anniversary of Costa Rican democracy.

Ortega said his decision was

prompted by increasing Contra attacks in the past three weeks and a rebel ambush earlier in the week that killed 18 people. Many Contra fighters have moved to Nicaragua from camps in neighboring Honduras in the three months since a Central American peace agreement was signed Aug. 7.

Reaction in San Jose was so negative that Ortega backed off and said there were ways the truce could be extended. He left the meeting abruptly Saturday.

After Ortega's announcement, Bush called him "a little man" and an "unwanted animal at a garden party."

Contra leader Enrique Bermudez said Tuesday the Nicaraguan army already had broken the truce.

"The Sandinistas have been waging a silent war against our forces," he said in an interview in Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras. "Now they are trying to make that war public because they are facing defeat in the Feb. 25 presidential elections."

The Contras say they do not initiate attacks and act only in self-defense.

Barricada, the Sandinista party newspaper, quoted military leaders in north central Matagalpa province Tuesday as saying soldiers were ready "to respond to the latest terrorist expressions" of the Contras, estimated to number 1,200 in that area.

It quoted Deputy Commander Orlando Talavera, regional security chief, as saying 18 Contras had been killed in the area since Friday. A statement from Ortega's office Tuesday said Contras had attacked San Miguelito, a town 198 miles southeast of Managua on Lake Nicaragua, killing four civilians.

In San Jose on Friday, Presidents Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela reminded Ortega that the peace plan signed by five Central American presidents Aug. 7 provided mechanisms for resolving disputes.

Provisions of the plan include disbanding the Contras by early December in return for Ortega's pledge that the Nicaraguan elections Feb. 25 will be free and fair.

Congress allows only non-lethal aid to the Contras, but Bush said Tuesday he might seek renewed military aid if the civil war resumed.

"I would re-evaluate this situation in a minute if the cease-fire is broken," he told a news conference in Washington.

Both the United States and Contra leaders want to keep the rebels intact as a fighting force to make sure Ortega keeps his promise about the elections. Congress suspended military aid to the Contras in February 1988.

On Monday, Secretary of State James Baker said threats by Ortega to suspend the truce might be a prelude to cancellation of the elections for a president and national legislature. In an interview the same day with NBC News, Ortega said: "The elections are taking place in Nicaragua, period. With Contra or without Contra they are going to take place, definitely. With war or no war, that is, elections are taking place."

His government says more than 700 people have been killed and more than 1,000 wounded in rebel attacks since the truce was agreed upon in March 1988.

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For the Record

Board of Governors member William Johnson was misidentified in Monday's story, "BOG divided on Spangler." He is a former chairman of the BOG. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.



YOUR EYEGLASS PRESCRIPTION

What does the Federal Trade Commission say about "Eyeglass Prescriptions"?

- Q. Can an eye doctor charge patients an extra fee for releasing eyeglass prescriptions?**
 A. No. It is illegal for an eye doctor to charge their patients any fee in excess of their normal examination fee as an extra charge for releasing or giving the patient a copy of their eyeglass prescription. Example, if their normal examination fee is \$40, they cannot add an extra \$5 or \$10 for giving you the prescription.
- Q. When does an eye doctor have to give out a prescription?**
 A. The prescription must be given to the patient immediately after the eye examination is completed. This means that the doctor must give the patient his or her prescription before they begin selling you eyeglasses (if they also sell eyeglasses).
- Q. What if the patient doesn't ask for the prescription? Does the eye doctor still have to give it out to his or her patient?**
 A. Yes. The Prescription Release Rule requires that the eye doctor prepare the prescription and physically offer it to the patient. Of course, the eye doctor can't force the patient to take it, but must offer him or her the written prescription. Simply asking the patient whether they want their prescription is not sufficient. It's been found that many consumers had never seen a prescription for corrective eye wear, and were unaware that they could take that piece of paper and use it to comparison shop.
- Q. What is the penalty for violating the Rule?**
 A. The penalty for violating the Rule is up to \$10,000 per violation.
- Q. How can you report violations of the Rule?**
 A. You can contact the Federal Trade Commission directly in Washington, D.C. at:
 Eyeglasses TRR, Federal Trade Commission,
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