

World and Nation

U.S., Soviet Union sign Afghan pact

From Associated Press reports

GENEVA — The United States and the Soviet Union Thursday signed an accord to end Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan and allow the Red Army to start pulling out its 115,000 troops on May 15.

Afghanistan and Pakistan also signed the agreement in a solemn 10-minute ceremony in a marble and gold council chamber at U.N. headquarters. Pakistan was representing the Afghan guerrillas, who have vowed to continue their war to oust the Marxist government in Kabul.

Secretary of State George Shultz, who signed for the United States, said the agreement would allow the people of Afghanistan to determine their own future and restore the independence they have earned through "blood

and sacrifice." Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze signed for the Soviet Union.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the United Nations said the U.N.-mediated agreements "represented a major stride in the effort to bring peace to Afghanistan."

Also signing the accord were Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil of Afghanistan and Acting Foreign Minister Zain Noorani of Pakistan.

The settlement followed six years of on-again, off-again negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, which neighbors Afghanistan and is home to an estimated 3 million Afghan refugees.

The Moslem insurgents fighting the Marxist Afghan government for

10 years have headquarters in Pakistan. Pakistan also serves as the conduit for foreign military aid to the guerrillas.

Perez de Cuellar opened the 10-minute ceremony by thanking Afghanistan and Pakistan for their "tireless efforts." He also thanked the United States, which supports the guerrillas, and the Soviet Union, which backs the government, for agreeing to guarantee the accord.

Aides then carried the leather-bound document from one minister to the next for signing. Copies go to each country and the United Nations.

The agreement commits Pakistan and Afghanistan to not support "directly or indirectly, rebellious or successionist activities" against each

other, and it provides for withdrawal of Soviet troops who entered Afghanistan in 1979 to help the government.

Schultz said the accord was "a goal the world has sought" for a long time and said he was confident the Soviet Union would begin its troop withdrawal on schedule May 15.

But in Pakistan, President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq said today he foresees continued turmoil in Afghanistan because the agreement doesn't address the issue of a new government to replace the one headed by President Najib.

There is no provision in the accord to end the war, and it says nothing about the composition of future Afghan governments.

Senate approves its version of \$1.1 trillion federal budget

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Senate approved a \$1.1 trillion federal budget for fiscal 1989 on Thursday after earlier deciding not to shift \$50 million in spending from energy research to health care programs.

The spending plan passed on a 69-26 vote. The Senate and the House, which passed its version of the budget earlier, must now agree on a compromise measure.

Violence in Israel continues

JERUSALEM — Soldiers on Thursday shot an Arab to death and wounded four, and a Palestinian youth wrote an open letter to a Jewish child saying the violence kills "innocents like you and me."

A strike called by the PLO to protest mass arrests by the Israeli army virtually shut down the occupied lands and Arab east Jerusalem, but some Palestinians have begun complaining about the economic pinch caused by repeated strikes.

Hospital officials also said a 70-year-old Arab woman suffocated on Wednesday after soldiers threw a tear-gas canister into her home. The army said she died of natural causes.

Piedmont jet's engine explodes

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — An engine on a Piedmont jetliner exploded into jagged pieces Thursday, slicing through both sides of the plane and forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing as passengers screamed and fainted.

No injuries were reported among the 56 passengers and four crew members, but passengers said some on board fainted after the turbine blades ripped through the

News in Brief

right rear bathroom and a work area for attendants as the plane cruised at 31,000 feet.

"It blew a big hole in the plane," said passenger Fred Hinton of Raleigh. "I'm 240 pounds, and it was big enough that I could crawl through it."

"All the kids were screaming," Hinton said.

Piedmont Flight 486 was flying from Charlotte to Columbus, Ohio, when its right jet turbine disintegrated about 9:45 a.m., Piedmont officials said. The plane, 40 miles south of Charleston, immediately lost air pressure in the cabin; several passengers later complained of headaches, earaches and elevated blood pressure.

N.Y. billionaires plead innocent

NEW YORK — Real estate mogul Harry Helmsley and his "hotel queen" wife Leona, one of the world's wealthiest couples, loudly asserted their innocence Thursday as they were arraigned in an alleged \$4 million tax scam.

"Not guilty," both replied in strong voices to charges in a 188-count state indictment accusing them of hiding millions of dollars in renovations on their Connecticut mansion as business expenses.

"The fact is they did not pay millions of dollars in income tax," said U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani in announcing a 47-count federal indictment against the Helmsleys on similar charges. He noted the charges were announced the day before federal income tax returns are due.

Passenger begs officials to give in to hijackers

From Associated Press reports

ALGIERS, Algeria — A Kuwaiti passenger aboard a hijacked jumbo jet pleaded with his government Thursday to give in to the Arab gunmen's demands and said the gunmen would kill everyone aboard if Kuwait refused.

Negotiations to free about 36 hostages aboard the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 were suspended.

The hijackers have demanded that

Kuwait free 17 pro-Iranian extremists convicted of terrorism. Kuwait has rejected the demand.

The plane was commandeered April 5 on a Bangkok-Kuwait flight with 112 people aboard. It was first diverted to Mashhad, Iran, where 57 people were freed. It went on to Cyprus, where two hostages were killed and 13 released, and flew to Algiers on Tuesday.

The hijackers, thought to number

about eight, are armed with grenades and guns and have threatened to blow up the plane and kill their hostages.

In a call from the plane to the control tower, the passenger identified himself as Ahmed Zayed.

"My name is Ahmed Zayed," the passenger said over the radio to the control tower. His words were monitored by reporters. "Hello. Hello to my family. I am in good health. I ask the government to release the 17 Islamic Jihad prisoners. If not, they will kill us all."

The call came after the official Algerian news agency, Algerie Presse Service, reported that talks between Algerian negotiators and the

hijackers had been suspended. It did not say why the talks were broken off.

The talks had reached an impasse on Wednesday. A ranking Algerian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Wednesday that Kuwait's "intransigence" had created the standstill.


For the Record


Thursday's article, "Committee works for recognition of outstanding seniors," did not fully identify Dave Brown, senior class vice president. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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SPEAKERS:
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Prof. Tom Regan, N.C.S.U., foremost authority on animal rights
Robert Greenberg, M.D., U.N.C., Dept. of Pediatrics
Tom Giduz, M.D., U.N.C., Dept. of Psychiatry and UNC students

A Walk Past Research Building will precede the rally. Walkers assemble at 3 PM on Franklin St., opposite the Post Office. Free parking on most Univ. lots on Saturday.

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