

World and Nation

U.S. monitors Soviet nuclear test

From Associated Press reports

SEMPALATINSK, U.S.S.R. — The land heaved and windows broke more than two miles away Wednesday when the Soviet Union detonated an underground nuclear bomb for the first American experts to witness a Soviet nuclear blast.

The Americans stood in a chilly wind on the barren test site at the Forward Command Post Semipalatinsk Polygon about 1,700 miles southeast of Moscow in the republic of Kazakhstan.

The wind blew the Soviet and American flags in the direction of the test range, far from the nearest settlement on the steppes of Soviet Central Asia and a four-hour bus ride from the city of Semipalatinsk. As the shock wave rippled out, the ground shook and a low rumble began. Within moments of the 11 a.m. blast, a reddish dust cloud rolled above the spot where Soviet scientists planted a nuclear device in a shaft drilled 642 yards into hard rock.

Some observers seemed a bit queasy from their proximity to ground zero, only 2.4 miles away. Soviet observers watching a similar test on Aug. 17 in Pahute Mesa, Nev., remained about 30 miles from the blast site — too far away to feel the impact. It was the first time Soviet experts were allowed to see a U.S. nuclear test and monitor it with their own equipment.

After Wednesday's test, the Soviet scientists quickly checked their instruments and announced they had obtained the data necessary to determine the force of the blast.

The information was gathered in a few millionths of a second before the explosion destroyed the sensor cable buried a few yards from the nuclear device. The Soviets and the Americans, who monitored the blast with U.S. technology, have agreed to release the data within a month.

The blast was designed to have a force of 100 to 150 kilotons, about 10 times that of the atomic bomb the

Americans dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, at the end of World War II, but less powerful than the multi-megaton hydrogen bombs detonated in the atmosphere at the height of nuclear testing in the 1960s.

The Hagfors Observatory of the Swedish Defense Research Establishment said the Semipalatinsk explosion measured between 50 and 150 kilotons.

The joint experiment was the culmination of a "dream for many experts who have spent their careers watching and studying their counterparts from a distance," said C. Paul Robinson, the chief U.S. negotiator at the Geneva talks on limiting nuclear tests.

"We are extremely pleased," said Deputy U.S. Energy Secretary Joseph Solgado. "The experiment went very well for both sides."

Igor Palenych, head of the Soviet observation team, said, "If the Americans had any doubt about our level of science and technology in the

nuclear field, now they know."

Both sides expressed confidence that the test explosion would lead to ratification of treaties limiting the size of underground nuclear blasts.

At a news conference in a trailer village that served as the command post for the test, Salgado said Wednesday's experiment and the one like it in Nevada "have demonstrated the effectiveness and non-intrusiveness of CORTEX," the U.S. technology developed to gauge the force of nuclear explosions.

The Soviets, however, remain skeptical that the U.S. on-site measuring system offers a long-term solution to the problem of verifying nuclear tests.

Lt. Gen. Arkady D. Ilyenko, chief of the Semipalatinsk test site, said it was too early to determine whether the American method was non-intrusive — meaning it does not interfere with the blast or pick up other data that the country doing the testing would like to keep secret.

Investment banker confirmed as new secretary of treasury

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Wednesday confirmed the nomination of investment banker Nicholas Brady to serve as treasury secretary during the remaining four months of the Reagan administration.

The 92-2 vote installed Brady with time to spare before a meeting late next week in West Berlin of finance ministers from the world's industrial powers.

Senators of both parties were anxious for a strong vote of confidence to strengthen Brady's hand in the meeting of the G-7, as the finance ministers' group is known.

Man mistaken for Hatcher

A Robeson County construction worker says he is staying at home after law officers mistook him for Indian fugitive Eddie Hatcher and held him at gunpoint until his identity could be confirmed.

"I'm a nervous wreck still," said Lesley Manuel Dial, 28. "I'm scared to leave my own home because of what happened, scared the guns are going to be thrown on me again."

Dial said he was driving his father's Cadillac with a friend about 2 a.m. Saturday when he was stopped by officers in the Prospect area, an Indian community in western Robeson County.

"They said, 'All right, Eddie Hatcher, pull over. Get out of the car with your hands up. You're under arrest,'" Dial said Tuesday.

FBI employees punished

WASHINGTON — FBI Director William Sessions suspended three FBI employees and censured three others Thursday for negligently operating what he called an "unnecessarily broad" terrorism probe into a group opposing the Reagan administration's Central American policies.

All those disciplined were lower- and mid-level employees. The suspensions were for 14 days

News in Brief

without pay.

Sessions said top-level officials had been unaware the bureau was collecting information "on rank-and-file members" of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador who he said had "nothing to do with international terrorism."

Stock market hits 5-week high

NEW YORK — The stock market overcame some early hesitancy to reach a five-week high Wednesday, responding to better-than-expected news on international trade.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials climbed 17.60 to 2,100.64, closing above 2,100 for the first time since it stood at 2,107.40 on Aug. 8.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by nearly 2 to 1 in nationwide trading of stocks listed in the New York Stock Exchange, with 979 up, 502 down and 489 unchanged.

It's not the end of the world

MONROE, N.C. — Flake Braswell says he knows first-hand the disappointment felt by those who believed the Rapture would come by 10:55 a.m. Wednesday. He remembers the day the world didn't end 18 years ago.

"You're speaking to the voice of experience," said Braswell, 62, who taught members of the Union County True Light Church of Christ that the world would end in 1970. Many quit their jobs.

"I'd have to advise them like I did my people: It's time for you to go get a job," he said.

End-of-time teaching drew a lot of attention this week because of a book that predicted the Rapture — supposedly a prelude to the Second Coming of Christ when Christians are removed from Earth — by Tuesday night.

Hijacking incident ends in shootout

From Associated Press reports

MASERU, Lesotho — South African police killed three hijackers and arrested the fourth in a shootout Wednesday night, ending a hostage drama in which gunmen seized a bus carrying 71 pilgrims headed to see the pope, South African officials said.

One of the hostages, a young woman, was killed, and 11 passengers were injured, the officials said.

The report of the shootout came from South African police headquarters. Lesotho's military government had requested South African help in handling the hijacking. Police said the shootout occurred when the hijackers tried to drive the bus through the closed gates of the British High Commission in Maseru.

The hijackers began shooting, and South African officers returned fire.

Police said the casualties among the hostages were "apparently caused by the wild firing of the hijackers." They said no policemen were injured.

The shooting broke out about 20 minutes after Pope John Paul II arrived in Maseru, eight hours behind schedule. The hijackers earlier had demanded to meet with the pope and

Lesotho's king, Moshoeshe II, a government official said.

After nightfall, gunfire was heard at the site where the bus was parked, and flares lit up the sky. Reporters were blocked from getting close enough to the scene to determine what was happening but saw ambulances take bloodied victims to a hospital.

Police ordered journalists at the scene to disperse and then chased them away with whips. The bus was hijacked Tuesday night enroute to Maseru.

Earlier Wednesday, bad weather forced the pope's plane to land in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he met Foreign Minister Pik Botha at the airport and was briefed about the hijacking.

The pope then journeyed overland to Lesotho.

Before the shootout, helicopters and armed cars blanketed central Maseru as 100 armed soldiers and police set up roadblocks and kept spectators at least four blocks from the bus, parked outside the British High Commission.

Youth

... the answer is no, not a chance."

Most states are just gaining awareness of the problems, the report said. Less than 5 percent of states' education expenditures go to programs for at-risk students, and existing programs affect 10 percent of the at-risk students at the most, according to the report.

"On the basis ... of where the states now stand, President Reagan's goal of a 90 percent (high school) graduation rate by 1990 now seems 90 years away," MDC President George Autry said at the press conference.

In addition, federal education spending has decreased 23 percent in the 1980s, according to the report.

State spending increased 26 percent and local spending increased 29 percent during the same period, but educational reform efforts channeled most of that money into higher teacher pay and more in-school time, the report said.

In fact, education reform efforts this decade that focused on excellence rather than equity may have created even more dropouts, the report said.

"While some aspects of general education reform have been helpful to at-risk students as well as other students (lower teacher-to-pupil rates)," the report said, "more difficult examinations and stiffer graduation requirements, without

accompanying remediation, seem to be aggravating the dropout problem."

North Carolina has stepped up dropout prevention programs under the Basic Education Plan adopted in 1985, Bryan said.

"Dropout prevention programs are an integral part of our reform efforts," Bryan said. "We recognize we can't expect to raise the standards without making special provisions for students for whom school is already a trouble field."

North Carolina ranks 34th in the nation in dropout rates, but the rates are declining, she said.

A school in Granville County, which had one of the highest dropout rates for its district, implemented a "Meaningful Other Person" program, Bryan said. At-risk students were paired with a teacher or student to encourage them to come to school. The school now has the district's lowest dropout rate, Bryan said.

Three North Carolina school districts received federal grant money for dropout prevention recently, said Marie Robinson, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Education. The department funded 89 such programs nationwide, Robinson said.

However, many state and federal programs are not permanent programs, said Dave Dotson of MDC. "The funding is not long term. That is a serious concern we have."

Armed robbery

about their safety. Edwards said the frightening aspect of the incident was that it occurred in a place that was not generally considered dangerous.

"What scared me at first was that it happened so close to the building," he said. "It was not a particularly dark area; there was light. That's what makes it so scary. If it had happened around Morrison pathway or some dark area on campus, I could understand."

"I was invited to go with them. I could have been there and got robbed if I did not have so much work to do. I could have been a victim also," Edwards said.

Also, sophomore Hawkeye Siew has started an escort service to serve female residents of his floor that has received tremendous support. He asked for volunteers on the night of the robbery, and by the next day 20 males had volunteered.

"All I needed to do was ask for it (support) and it was there," Siew said. "But it seems sad it took a robbery for us or (people in general) to realize that we need something like this. This is residents helping residents."

For the Record

In Wednesday's story, "Service to provide a SAFE walk home," the number of the SAFE escort service was incorrect. The number is 962-SAFE.

In "National symposium to focus on liberal arts issues," also in Wednesday's paper, the DTH incorrectly reported that U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett and Lynn Chaney, director of the National Endowment of Liberal Arts, would speak at the symposium. The DTH regrets the errors.

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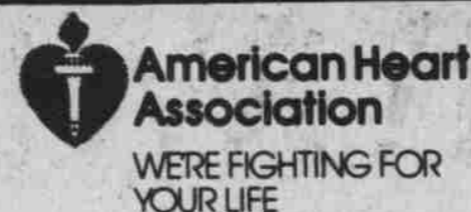
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