

## World and Nation

# Soviets to cut chemical weapons

**From Associated Press reports**  
**UNITED NATIONS** — On Tuesday Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze accepted President Bush's call for extensive U.S.-Soviet chemical arms cuts and challenged the United States to make cuts further and faster.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union will "radically reduce or completely destroy" its chemical weapons, halt nuclear tests and stop making weapons-grade plutonium and uranium — all if Washington reciprocates.

Shevardnadze, speaking to the U.N. General Assembly, said the two governments have narrowed their differences, and predicted that by the U.S.-Soviet summit next spring or summer, "we may have passed the last turn on the road" toward a treaty reducing strategic arms by 50 percent.

He also said that if NATO countries agreed to start talks on tactical nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union would respond by making further unilateral cuts

in its tactical nuclear missiles in Europe.

He repeated his government's call for a nuclear test ban and said Moscow was considering extending a 1963 treaty to cover underground nuclear explosions.

Secretary of State James Baker later praised Shevardnadze's nearly hour-long address as "a good speech, an interesting speech." He said it was "very responsive to the president's statement" on chemical weapons.

But Viktor Karpov, the Soviet Union's chief arms control expert, told reporters, "Our proposal is a wider one" and does not wait to destroy all weapons or halt production until all nations capable of producing them have signed a ban.

"It will not be sufficient only to get rid of old weapons if the United States is going to produce new chemical weapons," Karpov said.

Bush told the General Assembly on Monday that the United States would

destroy more than 80 percent of its chemical weapons, before signing an international treaty banning use of the weapons, if the Soviet Union would reduce its arms to a similar level. That would mean greater cuts by the Soviet Union, which has a larger stockpile.

Bush said in the first eight years of a chemical weapons treaty, the United States would be ready to destroy 98 percent of its arsenal if the Soviet Union joined the ban. The United States would destroy all chemical weapons within 10 years once every nation capable of building the weapons signed the treaty, he said.

Shevardnadze said, "The Soviet Union is ready, together with the United States, to go further and assume mutual obligations prior to the conclusion of a multilateral convention."

The Soviet Union offered to: cease production of chemical weapons, as it says it already has done, including more sophisticated binary weapons; renounce the use of "those barbaric weapons"

under any circumstances; and institute rigorous verification of the cessation of production.

Shevardnadze praised the U.S.-Soviet dialogue and said progress had been made in recent talks.

"These talks have demonstrated the increasing awareness by both sides of the need to cooperate for the benefit of mankind and the growing confidence that such cooperation is possible."

Agreement to hold a summit meeting next year, he said, "shows that we have moved quite far ahead in solving a number of major bilateral and international problems."

But he said extraordinary efforts at the highest level would be needed to conclude an agreement on a 50 percent reduction in strategic offensive arms. "Our partners have accommodated us on mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles. Positions on other outstanding problems have become closer to each other."

# Former HUD leader declines to testify in House hearing

**From Associated Press reports**  
**WASHINGTON** — Former Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Samuel Pierce Jr. refused to answer questions Tuesday from a House panel investigating housing scandals, citing his constitutional right against self-incrimination. He contended he had been "prejudged by this body."

Pierce, compelled to appear by a subpoena, accused the subcommittee of trying to rush him into testifying without adequate preparation and said he hoped to tell his story later.

His refusal to testify came at a dramatic meeting of a panel that has been investigating allegations of billions of dollars worth of fraud, mismanagement, influence peddling and political favoritism at HUD, which Pierce headed throughout the Reagan administration.

**Environment protection pledged**

**WASHINGTON** — The head of the World Bank, responding to long-standing criticism, pledged Tuesday that his agency would make protection of the earth's resources a top priority in the 1990s.

"In the coming decade, it will be impossible to improve the quality of life in developing and industrial countries alike unless we do much more to conserve our global environment," World Bank President Barber Conable said in his opening address to the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Over the years, environmental groups have attacked both international lending organizations for ignoring the environmental threats posed by the loans they made to the Third World for development projects.

**Genetic defects may cause cancer**  
**NEW YORK** — Researchers have identified precise abnormalities in

## News in Brief

an anti-cancer gene linked to lung cancer, raising the possibility of early diagnosis and better treatment for the 150,000 people who get lung cancer each year.

During the last several years, researchers have found indirect evidence that defects in at least six genes can contribute to the formation of lung cancer.

A new study has pinpointed precise chemical changes that should be useful for identifying people at high risk of getting lung cancer, or for predicting how deadly a particular case of lung cancer will be, said the author of the study's findings, Dr. John Minna of the National Cancer Institute-Navy Medical Oncology Branch in Bethesda, Md.

**Smoochers to split top prize**

**RENO, Nev.** — Three couples have been declared winners in the first annual Great American Kiss-Off, but their lips are sealed about what they'll take home for their efforts.

The six contestants agreed to divvy up the \$10,000 top prize after smooching for 42 days, then hiring a lawyer to legally unlock their lips.

"I'm just glad it's over," Fernando Gonzales said Tuesday, one day after all parties embraced the pact.

He and his wife, Karen, were declared the official first-place finishers after they and two other couples outlasted 11 other pairs who entered the contest sponsored by a furniture company. The company agreed to let the three top couples split the \$10,000 as they pleased.

"We thought it was going to be a two-week thing, but it turned into a marathon," said Gonzales. "I'm recovered now. But it still feels like I'm kissing."

# Press conference shows Chinese hard line

**From Associated Press reports**  
**BEIJING** — Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin took a hard line Tuesday at his first news conference, insisting that those arrested in the spring democracy movement were criminals and refusing to rule out more executions.

Asked by a reporter if the Tiananmen tragedy could have been avoided, Jiang said: "We believe it was not a tragedy. Tiananmen was a counterrevolutionary rebellion opposing the Communist Party leaders and seeking to overthrow the socialist system."

Premier Li Peng, who also took part in the news conference, reaffirmed the party's determination to end rampant corruption and said new limits on official perks would be announced in a few days.

The 62-year-old Jiang, whose highest previous post was head of the Shang-

hai party committee, was catapulted into the national leadership in June after soldiers retook Beijing's Tiananmen Square by force from student-led pro-democracy protesters, killing hundreds and possibly thousands of people en route to the square.

His predecessor, Zhao Ziyang, was accused of supporting the protests and ousted.

Jiang took a mild tone toward Zhao on Tuesday, saying he was leading a "comfortable life" and receiving full salary. He said Zhao was still under investigation but did not suggest he might face further punishment or be put on trial.

The unusual news conference, for both local and foreign reporters, appeared intended to demonstrate the solidity of the new party leadership in time for the 40th anniversary of the

founding of Communist China on Oct. 1.

When Zhao took office in 1987, he was the first party leader to hold a news conference with foreign reporters in more than a decade.

But while Zhao shook hands and joked with the reporters, Jiang sat behind a table in the Great Hall of the People and answered most questions with well-worn phrases from official speeches and editorials.

He appeared relaxed, however, and ventured a few personal remarks, complimenting two young Taiwanese reporters on their Mandarin Chinese. Mandarin is the official language of both the mainland and Taiwan, but many older Chinese speak regional dialects.

In an apparent effort to emphasize a collective leadership, Jiang was joined by Li and the four other members of the Politburo Standing Committee, the party's top body. Each answered at least one question.

Song Ping, in charge of party organization, and Yao Yilin, in charge of economic planning, read their answers,

indicating the questions they were asked were arranged in advance.

The leaders' comments held no surprises, reiterating the party emphasis since June on opposing Western bourgeois influences and promoting traditional socialist values.

Jiang said the party was understanding toward most students and others who took part in the massive pro-democracy marches of the spring and would seek to "unify and educate them."

"The youth are the hope of the future," he said. "We are full of warmth toward them ... But there is no denying that there have been some conspirators who acted with ulterior motives to overthrow the Communist Party and the government."

Asked if he could rule out that dissidents who advocated nonviolence, such as student leader Wang Dan, would be executed, Jiang said it was up to the courts to decide.

"We cannot substitute the party for the government or for the judicial system," he said.

# Filipino gunmen kill 2 in continuing violence

**From Associated Press reports**  
**MANILA, Philippines** — Gunmen believed to be communist rebels ambushed and killed two American civilians working at a U.S. military base Tuesday, shortly before Vice President Dan Quayle arrived to discuss the future of U.S. military installations here.

The victims were employees of Ford Aerospace Corp., which contracts to maintain an electronic warfare training range at Camp O'Donnell. The camp is a U.S.-run facility about 50 miles north of Manila and 12 miles from the U.S. Clark Air Base.

Ford Aerospace spokesman Norman Black identified the victims as William Thompson, 45, and Donald Buchner, 44. He said both were retired from the U.S. Air Force. Their hometowns were not known.

Also Tuesday, gunmen killed a member of President Corazon Aquino's presidential guard, about a mile from where the president will meet with Quayle on Wednesday.

The attacks followed a series of bombings this month and came amid growing opposition to U.S. military installations in the Philippines.

The Americans slowed their car as they approached a dump truck and a jeep blocking a highway near Capas, 60 miles north of Manila, police said. Six men sprang from the jeep and riddled their car with gunfire, according to police Lt. Pepito Pimentel.

The assailants then opened the car door and pumped bullets into the victims, Pimentel said. The attack occurred about 5 p.m. "We deplore this senseless

and cowardly act of terrorism," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington.

"Acts like this will not deter us in our resolve to support the democratic government in the Philippines."

Col. Florentino Amorabon, a spokesman for the Philippine Constabulary in central Luzon island, said the assassins were believed to be members of the New Peoples Army, which operates in the area.

In April, rebels killed U.S. Army Col. James Rowe as he was driving to the headquarters of the U.S. Joint Military Assistance Group in Quezon City, near Manila. In October 1987, rebels killed three Americans in simultaneous attacks outside Clark Air Base.

The United States operates Clark Air Base, the Subic Bay naval base and four smaller installations in the Philippines, but there are increased calls for an end to the U.S. military presence.

As Quayle arrived, hundreds of leftists burned his effigy and an American flag while chanting "Bases out! Quayle go home!"

Quayle arrived in Manila about 7:30 p.m. from Japan for a visit expected to focus on the future of the bases, which operate under a lease that expires in September 1991.

Acting Foreign Secretary Manuel Yan said Quayle was bringing a letter from President Bush believed to include a proposal to begin talks on extending the lease.

Two hours before Quayle's arrival, about 150 members of the League of Filipino Students and the Youth for Nationalism and Democracy reached the airport terminal and began a noisy demonstration against the visit.

Protesters shouted "Quayle go home, bases out!" and "Yankees go home!" They carried banners reading "Quayle visit — a curse."

After negotiations with police, the group agreed to pull back about a half-mile along the main road into Manila. Police estimated the crowd grew to nearly 1,000 by the time Quayle arrived.

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 Sun., Oct. 1, 9:00 a.m.  
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