

Kissinger calls proposals responsible Soviet talks progress

Associated Press
SCOW — Secretary of State Alexander A. Kissinger said today that the United States and Soviet Union are making responsible proposals for narrowing the gap toward a new arms agreement. The ruling reportedly went into session yesterday to review the situation.

Gromyko, joining Kissinger for lunch at the U.S. Embassy residence, said "we on the Soviet side would like to see an agreement prepared, published and signed — periods, commas, everything."
But when asked for a report on how the talks were going, he said only that "negotiations will be continued" and that the Soviets hope an understanding would be reached.

The new round of talks between Kissinger and Soviet Communist party leader Leonid I. Brezhnev had been set for noon (4 a.m. EST) today. But the meeting was postponed until 6 p.m. (10 a.m. EST). Kissinger meanwhile held the lunch for Gromyko.

There was no official explanation as to why the noon session was postponed. But it was generally assumed in conference circles and mentioned by some Soviet sources that the Politburo was in lengthy session. The Politburo, chaired by Brezhnev, usually meets on Thursday, but formal announcements are not made.

The Politburo would be expected to review before final decision the results of the negotiations which went on Wednesday.
Kissinger left the door open slightly for a return to Moscow after a NATO council meeting in Brussels. "I would have to see what develops," he said.

Next week we are expecting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the United States.
"I think we're on a course in which we can take the progress that has been made to Washington and see where we go from there."

At best, according to U.S. officials, Kissinger had hoped to construct the framework of an agreement with Brezhnev, principally by resolving the Backfire and Cruise missile problems.

Even then, there would have to be several months of technical negotiations in Geneva before a treaty limiting offensive nuclear weapons was ready for signing by Brezhnev and President Ford.

The basic outline of a compromise offered by the Americans called for limiting the Soviet Backfire bomber

in range, exempting it from a 2,400 missile and bomber limit agreed to by each side in talks at Vladivostok in November 1974. The American Cruise missile also would be exempt from the limit and its range held to about 375 miles.

The Boston Globe, in a dispatch from Washington, reported additional points in the American proposal. It said:

The Soviet Union would be allowed to deploy only 200 to 300 Backfires as medium-range bombers, and any additional would have to come within the 2,400-weapon ceiling.

The Soviets also would not be allowed to build a large fleet of tanker planes to refuel the medium-range bombers on long-range missions.

The cruise missiles exempted from the 2,400-weapon ceiling would be those placed aboard submarines. Long-range B52 and B1 bombers could also be armed with 12 to 20 of the missiles each, but each bomber with such armament would take the place of one of the 1,320 multiple-warhead intercontinental missiles ICBMs permitted within the 2,400-weapon ceiling.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko said in a speech Wednesday that Brezhnev and the other Soviet leaders hope the discussions will be a "serious step forward toward the completion of work on the new accord . . ."

"It is our very strong desire to see this accord negotiated, prepared and signed."

Panel sets jet crash blame

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — A misunderstanding over three words, "cleared for approach," led to the crash of a TWA jet-liner that left 92 persons dead in the Blue Ridge mountains, government investigators say.

In a rare split decision, a 3-2 majority of the National Transportation Safety Board put the primary blame for the Dec. 1, 1974, crash of TWA flight 514 on the crew of the Boeing tri-jet 727.

But in an unusual dissent, two members said the crash also was caused by the failure of the traffic controller to tell the pilot the altitude he should maintain as he approached Dulles International Airport for landing.

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Photo by Ted Roberts

A two-car collision occurred about 4:30 p.m. yesterday on Throckmorton Street. Involved were Michael Wayne Johnson, 17, and Lougue Burton Douglas, 32. Only minor damage was done to the cars, and no injuries were reported.

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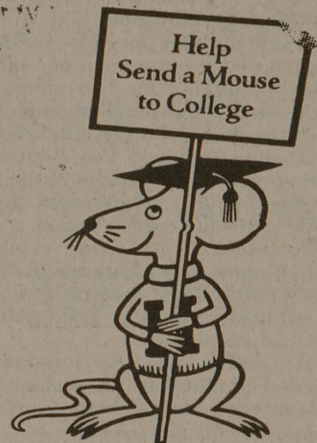
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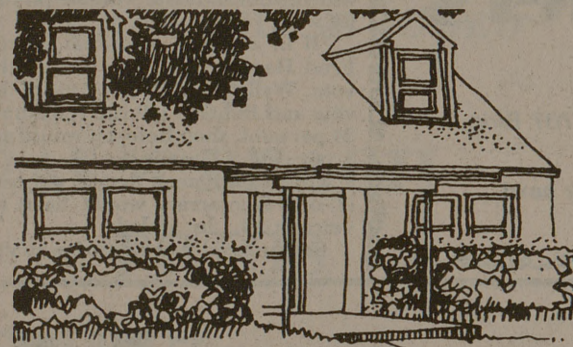
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