

New nuclear defense plan includes urban evacuation

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter, reflecting administration concern over the pace of Soviet civil defense improvements, has approved a new plan to ensure the nation's preparedness in the event of a major nuclear attack, it was reported Monday.

The New York Times said the five-year program would cost about \$2 billion — up from roughly \$90 million spent last year on civil defense. The program will require congressional approval.

The program is not geared to a massive — and costly — building

plan to increase the number of underground bomb shelters, the paper said. Instead, it is designed to expedite the evacuation of major U.S. cities to protect millions of urban dwellers.

It would involve an educational program to brief citizens on the best and quickest way to react to a nuclear crisis.

The plan — although supported by the Pentagon and the National Security Council — has met resistance at the State Department, where officials believe a stepped-up program to cope with a nuclear attack will dissuade the Russians from agreeing

to arms restraints, the Times said.

Government officials who support the program were quoted by the Times as saying the program was designed to protect as many as 140 million Americans. Carter reportedly made the decision last month to support the program.

White House aides told the Times the decision represents a significant about-face in American strategic policy. Civil defense has received relatively little attention since the early 1960s.

It's bad news when you get sick in Russia

United Press International
WASHINGTON — An American surgeon just back from Russia has one piece of advice: "Don't get sick in the Soviet Union."

"If you do get sick, take the next plane to Helsinki or Frankfurt or Nuremberg," Dr. W. Leonard Weyl, an assistant professor of surgery at Georgetown University,

told U.S. News and World Report.

Weyl said Soviet hospitals resemble the American hospital of the 1930s and their surgical practices often are those abandoned by American physicians 45 years ago.

"Their medications are few and very often obsolete," he said. "A hospital in Kiev listed a charge of two rubles for use of a leech," a sucking worm used to draw out blood.

The average hospital room has four patients, beds that do not crank up electrically, no call system to summon help, and toilet facilities limited to one restroom at each end of the hall.

"And, of course, no telephones, radios or television sets," Weyl said.

Nuclear protestor honored by rallies

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — Lights from thousands of candles flickered in downtown Oklahoma City park Monday to highlight at least 100 similar vigils throughout the nation commemorating the death of Karen Silkwood and supporting her battle for stricter control of nuclear facilities.

Silkwood had promised to expose numerous safety violations at the Kerr-McGee Corporation plutonium facility at Crescent, Okla., but she never arrived at a set meeting with a newspaper reporter. She died in an auto crash only a few weeks before the interview.

Silkwood supporters predicted the Oklahoma City demonstration was the largest of the more than 100 cities and civil disobedience actions planned Monday and later in the week at Washington, D.C., and locations in 45 states.

Local Silkwood advocates said thousands of people attended the rally in Robert S. Kerr Park in downtown Oklahoma City. The late U.S. senator for whom the park is named also co-founded the Kerr-McGee Corporation. Its corporate offices are located opposite the park area and were the admitted target of Monday's planned protest action.

At the Washington demonstration, protesters have promised unspecified acts of civil disobedience against Kerr-McGee offices unless officials promise financial restitution to atomic workers in payment for physical damage plutonium cause in plant workers. The radioactive substance is a cancer-causing agent known not to exhibit effects for as long as 10 to 15 years after exposure.

Local organizers also planned a march of the Cimarron facility and a march to the site where Silkwood's car crashed.

Silkwood estate attorneys and an American Chemical and Atomic Workers Union official have claimed documentation of alleged safety violations were taken from her car the night of the crash, but Kerr-McGee officials have said no such evidence existed.

Shortly after Silkwood's death, the Cimarron plant at Crescent was closed.

In a recently publicized tape recording of a conversation between Silkwood and the reporter,

Silkwood said medical tests on workers at the Cimarron plant showed they had been exposed to dangerously high levels of plutonium.

Shortly before Silkwood's death, her apartment was found to be contaminated with radioactivity from plutonium.

The Silkwood case has become common ground for political unity among several diverse organizations. Vocally and financially supporting the case has been the American Civil Liberties Union, National Organization for Women, at least one major labor union, Women's International League for Peace and dozens of antinuclear groups.

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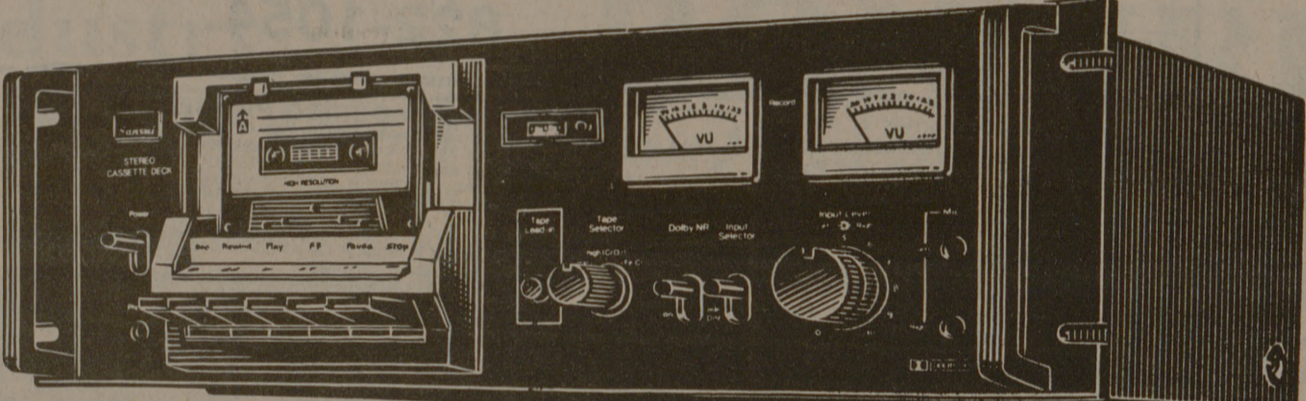
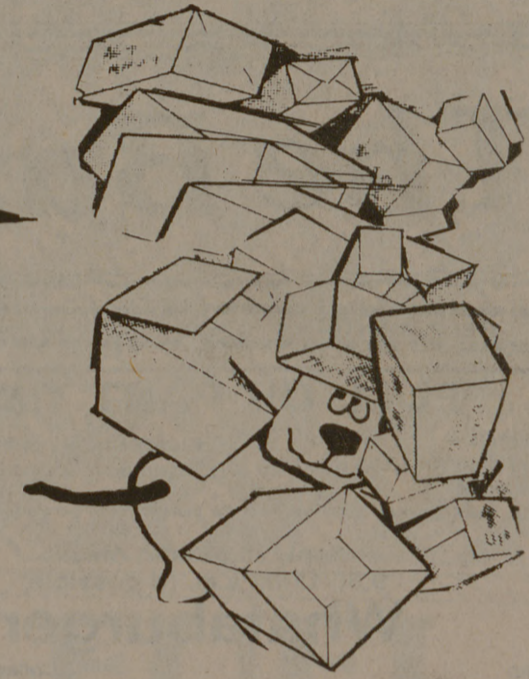
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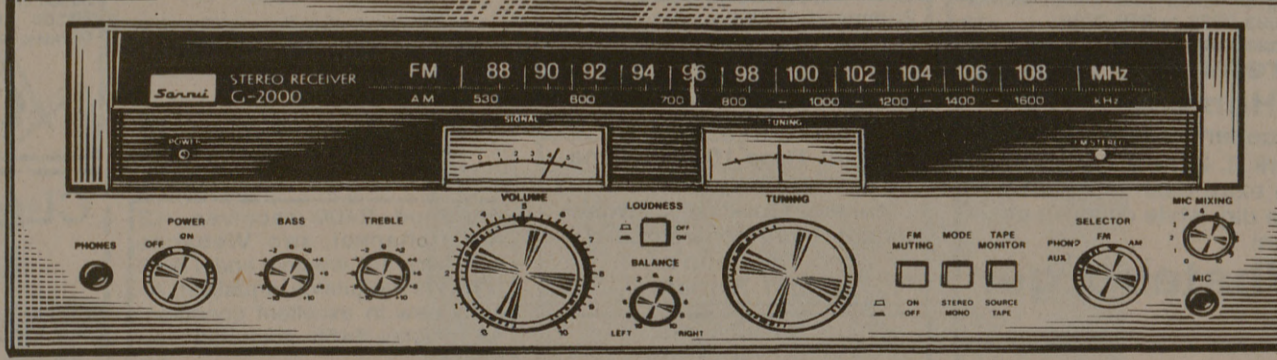


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