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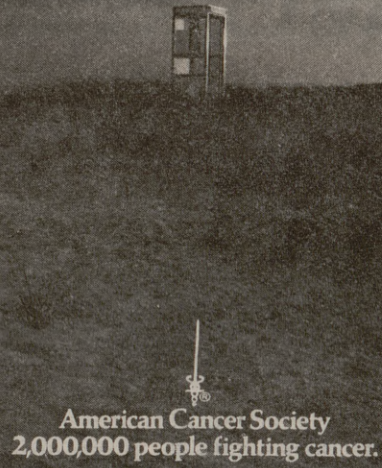
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Korea to discuss reunification

United Press International
SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea Thursday formally accepted a North Korean proposal for the prime ministers of the two nations to meet to discuss the reunification of the divided peninsula.

If held, the meeting would be the first between the prime ministers of the two Koreas since the division of the country at the end of World War II. It also would mark the first inter-Korean political contact in five years. The Jan. 12 letter from North Korean prime minister Li Jong-ok proposed a face-to-face meeting with his South Korean counterpart for "an unreserved exchange of views" on unification.

It also indicated the proposed prime ministers' meeting, if successful, could lead to a summit meeting for a broader exchange of views.

The South Korean letter, signed by Premier Shin Hyon-hwak suggested the meeting be preceded by preparatory contacts between working-level representatives of both sides on Feb. 6.

In his reply, Shin called on North Korea to make joint efforts to prevent war and to pave the way for an eventual unification of the land

through peaceful means.

"I believe it is indeed our historical mission that we all Koreans must prevent the recurrence of war and consolidate peace on the fatherland in order to achieve a peaceful unification of the country," Shin's letter said.

Using a surprisingly hospitable approach, the South Korean letter for the first time referred to North Korea by its official name — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Jan. 12 letter from Li Jong-ok had also, for the first time, used the Soviet government's official name — the Republic of Korea.

South Korea's letter proposed as a meeting site either "Freedom House, an octagonal administrative building in the southern part of the Panmunjom truce village, where Li's letter had been delivered, or another mutually agreeable place.

Shin's letter reconfirmed the Seoul government's policy that unification of the Korean land should be approached on a gradual basis by accumulating trust and confidence through extensive exchanges in various fields.



Another Soviet diplomat expelled

United Press International
WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand Thursday ordered the Soviet ambassador to New Zealand expelled on charges he funneled money to the country's Communist party.

The expulsion of Ambassador Vsevolod Sofinsky came two days after New Zealand ordered a correspondent for the Soviet Novosti news agency to leave the country as part of

New Zealand's sweeping protest of the U.S.S.R. invasion of Afghanistan.

Three days ago Canada expelled three Soviet diplomats on charges of using Ottawa as a base to spy against the United States.

Prime Minister Robert Muldoon said Sofinsky was ordered to leave "immediately."

"It is established international convention that a diplomatic repre-

sentative does not interfere in the domestic politics of the country he is accredited to," Muldoon said. "The Soviet ambassador has violated this convention."

He added, "the government has evidence" the ambassador had recently been involved in "the provision of funds to the communist Socialist Unity Party."

Muldoon said the leftist party "has been at the center of much of the industrial strife which has plagued this country in recent years."

He said the information against

Sofinsky "was obtained by the security intelligence service in the course of its routine surveillance of Soviet diplomats."

He declined to give any details of what was uncovered, saying the investigation was continuing.

Muldoon said the government believes the Socialist Unity Party has been supported by the Soviet Union and was subject to directions from Moscow.

"The personal involvement of the ambassador shows that this is a matter of official Soviet policy," he said.

Ken Douglas, secretary of the Federation of Labor and a member of the Socialist United Party, denied the group was receiving payment from Moscow.

"They only thing provided by Moscow was air tickets for members to make visits to the Soviet Union," said Douglas who has supported the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"This is another attempt by the prime minister to blame the country's problems on malcontents and the Socialist Unity Party," he said.

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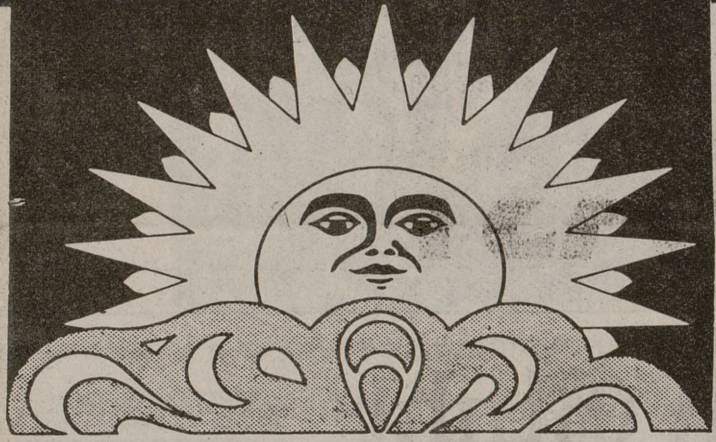
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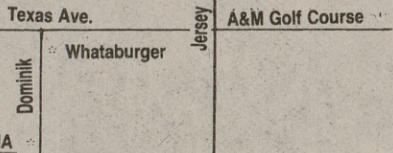
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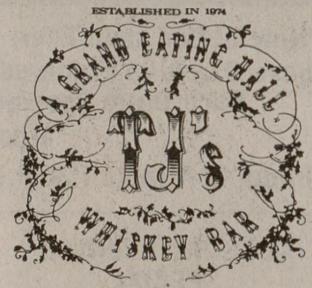
MESSENGER

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Fri. and Sat.
8:30-1 am



MESSENGER will be appearing at T.J.'s Restaurant and Lounge from January 23 to February 2. Messenger is lead by three former members of the Toby Beau band: Ron Rose-vocal, lead guitar, banjo, mandolin; Rob Young-vocal, drums; and Steve Zipper-vocal, bass guitar. All three were with Toby Beau for several years, including tours with Bob Seger and the Doobie Brothers.

Michael Workman, formerly of Great Southern, plays keyboards for Messenger. Beth Hooker is lead vocal for Messenger. About Beth, Action Magazine has written, "In a tasteful and ladylike way, Beth Hooker has definite sex appeal and presents it on the stage."



Gag attempt doesn't quiet exiled Soviet

United Press International
MOSCOW — Andrei Sakharov defied attempts by Soviet authorities to gag his dissident activities and telephoned supporters to update his written appeal for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, dissident sources said Thursday.

It was the first telephone call from Sakharov since he was arrested Tuesday and exiled to Gorky, 250 miles east of Moscow. Friends also received a short telegram from him Wednesday night.

In a document signed Monday night, Sakharov and others had deplored the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and had called on the Soviet public workers and others to demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

According to dissident Georgy Vladimov, Sakharov telephoned from Gorky Wednesday to make two changes in that declaration by adding "sportsmen and sports lovers" to the list.

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