

world

USSR peace offensive expected to leave Afghanistan

United Press International
U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown says he expects the Soviet Union shortly will stage a "peace offensive" in Afghanistan by withdrawing a Russian military division before television cameras, then moving two divisions back under the cover of night.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, national security adviser, said, "This would be designed to show the Soviet Union is reducing its presence in Afghanistan."

Vladimir Pozner, Radio Moscow commentator, who heard Brown's comments in Moscow via satellite, disagreed with the defense secretary's statement and said the Soviet forces would withdraw "as soon as the government of Afghanistan no longer needs the military aid it asked for."

A Pakistani newspaper Tuesday reported Moslem rebel claims that guerrillas had captured a large number of weapons, overrun a government headquarters in the northwestern town of Karez Kabirs, and wiped out a telephone system in Jalalabad east of Kabul.

Afghan President Babrak Karmal said Tuesday, "Afghanistan has no desire or intention to threaten or provoke any of its neighbors."

He said the Soviet troops do "not constitute any cause for alarm" and they would withdraw after Afghanistan was no longer threatened by outside forces.

The Soviets and Afghans have accused the United States, Great Britain, China, Egypt, and Pakistan of

arming and assisting Moslem insurgents fighting the Moscow-backed Kabul regime.

A Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman repeated Pakistan's policy of having "the minimum possible relations with Karmal."

"The most important thing is the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan," he said.

Brown called Tuesday's reports in the New York Times that Oman, Kenya and Somalia have agreed to give the United States access to military facilities to defend the oil-rich Persian Gulf region "prematuring". However he would not make an outright denial of the report.

"We have been negotiation with several countries for use of their facilities," Brown said.

"These negotiations have not reached full fruition. I am reasonable certain that we will be able to make arrangements for their access."

India tells Soviets to leave Afghanistan

United Press International
NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi stood her ground against Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko Tuesday, telling him the Russians must get out of Afghanistan.

In an extended three-hour meeting at Gandhi's office, the prime minister reiterated India's stand on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and told the visiting Gromyko that Russian troops would have to go, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Gromyko had expressed Moscow's friendship for India when he arrived in New Delhi Tuesday for talks to explain the Russian invasion of Afghanistan and perhaps to make an arms deal.

Gromyko refused to make specific proposals for a timetable for withdrawing the Soviet troops which have occupied the strategic Central Asian Nation since December.

The Indian spokesman told newsmen, "We conveyed our views in clear terms. The tension in the region should be ended early."

He said Gandhi had reaffirmed India's stand on Afghanistan as expressed



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in the Indo-French declaration signed Jan. 27, 1980 with France's President Valery Giscard d'Estaing. The accord said the use of military force in the interference in the

domestic affairs of a nation is inadmissible" and called on the region that could threaten and stability "in sensitive

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Judge killed by guerillas at terrorism forum in Rome

United Press International
ROME — Guerrillas shot and killed a prominent judge Tuesday in an attack at Rome University where he was attending a conference on ways to combat terrorism.

Police said three gunmen opened fire on Judge Vittorio Bachelet shortly before noon inside the Rome University political science building where the meeting was in progress.

Bachelet, 53, was vice president of Italy's Superior Council of Magistrates, former president of the

Catholic Action organization and a colleague of the late Premier Aldo Moro, who was kidnapped by Red Brigades guerrillas and found murdered May 9, 1978.

Police said Bachelet was walking up a stairway inside the building when three youths blocked his way, pulled out pistols and opened fire.

They said he was hit by seven .32-caliber bullets, fell down the stairs, and died almost immediately.

Witnesses said the attackers, between 20 and 25 years old, ran out of

the building after shooting Bachelet and disappeared among the students going to classes.

Anti-terrorist troops immediately cordoned off the campus in the western suburb of Rome in case the gunmen were still in the area.

The assassination of Bachelet was the 12th political killing in Italy since Jan. 1 and the first since last year when gunmen belonging to the Front Line guerrilla gang shot a witness in a terrorism trial.

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Navy seeks more bases

United Press International
SINGAPORE — The command of U.S. forces in the Pacific and the Indian Oceans said Tuesday that they are being reorganized and sought for a long-term American presence along Middle East routes.

Adm. Robert Long said the key role in countering Soviet actions.

He said negotiations for bases with several nations in the region, including Kenya and Oman, were close to realization.

A nuclear-powered battle group already has been moved into the region from the Atlantic Ocean, he said.

"We intend to remain and protect our own vital interests as well as the vital interests of our allies," he said.

He praised Singapore and other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for cooperation with his naval forces.

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