

National

Plan called vulnerable to Soviet attack

Reagan may revive Carter's MX plan

United Press International — President Reagan is leaning toward reviving the Carter administration's land-based MX missile plan, but the Pentagon's top engineer said Tuesday it must be developed by an anti-missile system will be "nonsurvivable."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes told reporters in Santa Barbara, Calif., Monday that Reagan has made some preliminary decisions on the MX basing and whether to go ahead, as expected, with a new B-1 bomber.

During the 1980 campaign, Reagan was critical of the Carter administration's plan to base the MX short for "experimental missile" in the deserts of Nevada and Utah.

The Carter plan involved digging 4,600 shelters in Nevada and Utah and shuttling 200 missiles among them in a "shell game" intended to shield their exact locations from the Soviets. Proponents of the MX say it is needed to counter the vulnerability of the present U.S. land-based missile force to a Soviet first strike.

Today, Richard DeLauer, defense undersecretary for research and engineering, told a breakfast meeting of reporters in Washington no decision has been made on any key defense issues by the president or the Pentagon.

DeLauer said Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger "believes that an undefended MPS (multiple shelter system) is non-survivable" no matter how many silos are built, a statement with which he agreed.

DeLauer said the "shell game" system would in time prove vulnerable as the Soviets increase the number of their missiles and the number of nuclear warheads each can carry.

Survivability of U.S. missiles, he said, would involve a defense — an anti-ballistic missile, currently limited by a treaty with the Soviets that is up for renewal next year.

DeLauer said it was not for him to suggest abrogation of the ABM treaty as this would be a political decision, but "it is hard to build a survivable land-based system

without a defense."

DeLauer also appeared to rule out putting the MX on a proposed "Big Bird" aircraft that could remain aloft for up to two days — a project still on the drawing board and recently promoted by Weinberger.

He said Weinberger wants to delay a decision on the MX basing mode until a complete defense package can be worked out.

The basing plan is opposed by many of Reagan's political allies in Utah and Nevada, including Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., Reagan's closest congressional confidant. The Utah-based Mormon Church also is opposed.

But the president apparently has been convinced it is the only way to go and there is now little talk of the airborne option recently promoted by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Strong criticism of the airborne concept from the Air Force, members of Congress and other members of the administration apparently shifted it to the back burner.

Reagan met in Los Angeles last week with Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, who favors the land-based approach. After the meeting, Tower said the airborne proposal no longer was under serious consideration.

Speakes, without tipping the president's hand, said he would not dispute Tower's comment.

Reagan will meet today with Weinberger and budget director David Stockman, but their discussions are expected to focus more on the 1983 and 1984 defense budgets.

Meantime, Speakes also said Reagan will "do whatever is neces-

sary" to ensure Congress accepts his proposed sale of AWACS radar planes and other military hardware to Saudi Arabia.

Speakes said Reagan is expected to discuss the matter with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who strongly opposes the sale, during discussions Sept. 9 in Washington.

Reagan plans to remain at Rancho del Cielo until Sunday, when he will fly back to Los Angeles. He will leave Los Angeles Sept. 2 and make an overnight stop in Chicago for two speech-making engagements before arriving back in Washington.

Senator to fight expulsion

United Press International — Sen. Harrison A. Williams Jr., D-N.J., charged in the government's income tax investigation, vows to fight a committee recommendation that he be the first senator expelled from the Senate since the Civil War to be expelled.

"I certainly feel in my heart and in my mind that I have not done anything that warrants resignation or expulsion," Williams said Monday after the Senate Select Committee on Ethics unanimously recommended his expulsion.

Harrison, 61, a member of the Senate for 23 years, was dejected by the vote, but heartened by the call to delay a vote by the Senate pending completion of the trial appeal.

"They recognize because the case is not finished, there is a recognition that mitigating circum-

stances might still arise in that tribunal," said Williams, who maintains he was the victim of federal entrapment.

Chairman Malcolm Wallop, R-Wyo., said members of his panel did not enjoy voting to expel their colleague, but declared, "This committee has made a fair judgment."

In a formal statement, the six-member committee said: "The Ethics Committee unanimously finds, based on the evidence before it, Senator Williams' conduct (in Absecon) was ethically repugnant to the point of warranting his expulsion from the U.S. Senate."


Williams, with his wife Jeanette at his side, talked with reporters in the same room in which the ethics panel had spent seven hours debating his fate.

He said he was grateful for the recommended delay in the vote by the full Senate, saying it would afford him an opportunity "to show my innocence."

The committee, in its statement, noted Williams is challenging his conviction on due process grounds in U.S. District Court in New York. District Judge George Pratt is expected to rule in the proceeding in October.

Williams, former chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, was found guilty May 1 on nine counts of bribery and conspiracy.

In response to speculation he might resign rather than face an expulsion vote, Williams said: "I have indicated I am not going to resign. I am going to advance every opportunity that is before me to show clearly my innocence."



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