

# National / World

Officials hope Reagan approves

## Air Force alters missile project

United Press International  
**OMAHA** — Some Air Force officials are hoping President Reagan will announce a decision today on a scaled-down proposal concerning the MX intercontinental ballistic missile, The Omaha World-Herald reported.

The newspaper said Tuesday the Air Force has sharply revised its proposal for deploying MX missiles and decreased the program's cost by \$10 billion.

The Air Force has told Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger a reduced deployment of 100 mobile MX missiles to be shuttled among 1,000 shelters would be acceptable, the newspaper said, temporarily abandoning its three-

year fight for 200 missiles and 4,600 shelters.

Although there was no indication of White House reaction to the plan, sources told The World-Herald it could be politically acceptable to Reagan.

The smaller MX deployment would cost about \$23 billion compared with \$33 billion outlined in the original concept and probably would meet with less resistance from the public, The World-Herald said.

The entire program would be centered in Lincoln and Clark counties in southeastern Nevada and not far from Las Vegas where the business community generally has supported the plan to base the

missiles in desert valleys, the newspaper said.

All missile shelter and support facilities would be on land now owned by the government.

Some Air Force leaders are hoping Reagan will use today's ceremony at the Pentagon to dedicate the new MacArthur Corridor — named after the late general — to announce decisions on the MX and possibly on a new bomber for the Strategic Air Command.

A source told The World-Herald the Air Force views the revised proposal as "something on which we could build if it appears as if the Soviet threat is not diminishing."

The source said future activity could involve "perhaps an antiballistic missile system. Perhaps more missiles and more shelters. Perhaps a combination of the two," the source said.

"At the same time, we would engage in research and development on an air-mobile MX and deep underground basing. We would not just be producing 100 missiles and building 1,000 shel-

ters," the source said. "We would be continuing our research and development as a hedge against the future."

The source said approval of the plan would "send a message to our allies and to the other side that, after study and delay through three administrations, we are showing determination; that we are serious."

"This would not be a closed decision, it would be an interim solution."

The new plan calls for locating missile facilities in an area of 3,500 square miles as opposed to more than 5,000 square miles proposed for the larger development.

An aggregate of 13 square miles would be closed to the public. That would include 21 acres for each shelter, one large main operating base to be built in the Coyote Spring area, about 60 miles east of Las Vegas, and a sizable support base.

The original concepts which the shelters would be connected by unpaved roads, and missiles would be moved from shelter to

shelter at random, remain unchanged.

Instead of being spotted apart, shelters would be at two miles from each other on the revised plan.

The additional shelters would serve the LOADS (low altitude air defense system) ballistic missile system being developed by the Army to deter specific shelters that could be threatened by an incoming Soviet warhead and to protect only the shelters.

"One-mile spacing would be enough for LOADS," source told The World-Herald.

Most of the proposed MX shelter area is close enough to Las Vegas to enable construction workers to live in that city and commute to work.

The influx of construction workers and families into relatively spoiled desert areas has been a major point of opposition to the larger MX system proposal.

The source said greater grassroots opposition to the MX existed in Utah than in Nevada.

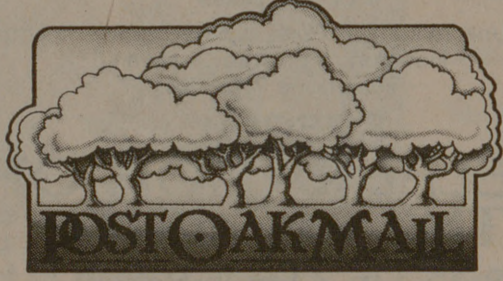
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## Judge recommends charges be dropped

United Press International  
**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador** — A Salvadoran judge recommended a request for the United States to extradite a wealthy Salvadoran, accused in the murder of two American land reform experts, be dropped for lack of evidence, court officials say.

It is the second time in a month a Salvadoran judge has recommended charges be dropped against suspects in the murder last January of Mark David Pearlman, 36, of Seattle, Wash., and Michael Hammer, of Potomac, Md.

Court officials Tuesday said Judge Felix Antonio Orellana recommended an extradition request against Hans Christ, a wealthy Salvadoran in custody in Miami, be revoked for lack of evidence.

Christ and his brother-in-law Ricardo Sol Meza were accused of shooting to death Pearlman, Hammer and the head of El Salvador's Agrarian Reform Institute, Rodolfo Viera, on Jan. 3 in a hotel coffee shop in San Salvador.

A hotel waitress initially told police she saw Christ and Sol Meza leaning over the bodies of the Americans, who were working on San Salvador's land reform program under the aegis of the AFL-CIO's Institute of Free Labor Development.

Last month, a judge recommended charges be dropped against Sol Meza because the waitress, Teresa de Jesus Torres-Lopez, changed her version of the shootings. Torres-Lopez, the state's sole witness, is now living in the United States for fear of her safety.

El Salvador's Supreme Court, which must rule on the recommendation submitted Monday by Orellana, said it would act "in a short period of time" on the extradition request against Christ.

Christ has been held in a jail since April pending the outcome of the extradition request.

In other developments, guerrillas Tuesday killed Mario Levy Van Severen, owner of a liquor distillery, his San Salvador home. The previously unknown Francisco Mena Sandoval, Communist Party spokesman, claimed responsibility.

Three guerrillas ambushed 24 hours around Suchitlan, miles north of the capital, the rebels dead and one was while injuring one soldier, military spokesmen said.

At least 17 political assassinations were reported Tuesday around the Central American nation where political violence killed 22,000 people since 1980, local authorities said.

## 'Yen' for honesty leads man to return money

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United Press International  
**CHICAGO** — Stan Peterson got a few thousand yen, a bottle of sake and a warm feeling by returning a briefcase containing more than \$17,000 to the Japanese graduate student who lost it.

Peterson, a grinder operator at

the Fisher Body Plant in Springfield, Ill., returned the case to Masaki Abe Monday at the Countryside Police Department.

He said he retrieved the case after it fell from the top of his car. He opened it at home and found \$5,500 in American dollars' checks, 1.8 million Japanese yen, Abe's visa and passport.

Officials said with the rate of exchange the money is more than \$17,000 in U.S. money.

"When I saw what was in it, I knew he would need it," Peterson said.

Abe, his wife and dog arrived in the United States three days from Tokyo. Abe, 31, was scheduled to begin a Soviet government program at the University of Chicago and had planned to use money to pay his tuition.

Peterson said when he returned the briefcase Monday, Abe started to cry.

"I knew they were very poor and it gave me a nice feeling," Peterson said.

Peterson was able to locate Abe by calling a local radio station police in the area. He said it almost six hours to track down the couple.

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