

# U.S. will defend Persian Gulf

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The Defense Department envisions a major conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union if Moscow attempts to seize the Persian Gulf oil fields with conventional forces, according to a Pentagon document.

The secret 136-page document considers the region so vital it directs preparations for introducing U.S. forces into the area even if the security of access to Persian Gulf oil is only threatened and there is no outright invasion.

Titled "Fiscal 1984-1988 Defense Guidance," the chilling document sets forth policy,

strategic planning and spending priorities during the next five years and reflects Pentagon thinking. It is accompanied by a memorandum dated March 22, 1982, signed by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

It was made available to United Press International by sources familiar with defense issues.

The Reagan administration has made no secret of its intent to defend Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states — the major suppliers of oil to the West and Japan. The administration has been molding a Rapid Deployment Force shaped specifically to carry out

that objective and the document directs its buildup.

Although it is not specified, the document appears to go beyond the administration's publicly stated policy by suggesting U.S. forces, in a crisis, would enter the gulf without invitation.

"Our principal objectives are to assure the continued access to Persian Gulf oil and to prevent the Soviets from acquiring political-military control of the oil directly or through proxies," it said.

"To achieve these goals, we must allocate a disproportionately larger investment to this region, and we must upgrade our capabilities to project forces

to, and operate them in, the region," the document said. "We should also urgently increase and improve the capabilities of friendly indigenous forces."

"It is essential the Soviet Union be confronted with the prospect of a major conflict should it seek to reach oil resources of the Gulf. If the Soviets perceive this to be a real prospect, we believe it will deter such Soviet action."

The administration has allocated hundreds of millions of dollars for construction of base facilities in Egypt, Oman, Kenya and Somalia for support of the Rapid Deployment Force. The document directed they "be

completed in fiscal 1987."

The document, a key component of the administration's strategy for countering the Soviets, spells out use of non-nuclear forces worldwide to combat perceived Soviet aggression and directs the buildup of U.S. forces over the next five years to assure there is military muscle to enforce that policy.

And, should it develop into a global conflict, the document adds, "If conventional means and total mobilization are insufficient to ensure a satisfactory termination of war, the United States will prepare options for the use of nuclear weapons."

# Reagan may delay benefit hikes

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is considering whether to apply the proposed six-month delay in Social Security cost-of-living benefit increases to other government pension and retirement programs, aides say.

A temporary lid on such hikes, they explained, would be another major move to bring down the projected \$200 billion budget deficit.

Aides said the six-month postponement of cost-of-living boosts in benefits may be applied to civil service, military, Coast Guard, and government retirement, as well as railroad retirement and veterans' compensation and pensions.

Under the Social Security bail-out plan, the cost-of-living

increase due July 1 would be delayed for six months.

Aides said the question of savings in benefit programs — a major part of the federal budget — is one of only a handful of decisions that still must be made on the fiscal 1984 budget Reagan submits to Congress Jan. 31.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said Monday as much as 80 percent of the budget text has gone to the printer, and the remainder should be wrapped up in a few days.

Also on Reagan's desk awaiting an 11th-hour decision is a proposed contingency tax increase — perhaps a surtax on income — that would trigger in fiscal 1986 if the deficit exceeds a certain level.

Reagan has not said whether he will adopt a recommendation from some key Republican lawmakers to freeze total spending on non-defense, non-entitlement, discretionary programs at the fiscal 1983 level of about \$140 billion.

On all such questions, Speakes is telling reporters to wait for the unveiling of the budget.

Speakes said Reagan's attempt to plug news leaks on the budget is generally working well, but he admitted some reports on the president's budget deliberations continue to seep out.

Reagan's drive to curb the deficit next year received a shot in the arm during the weekend

from his advisory commission on Social Security.

Administration officials said a package of reforms hammered out during the weekend by the

commission and top White House aides, including accelerated tax hikes and deferred benefit increases, would trim billions of dollars from the deficit if approved by Congress.

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