

## Bush leaves for Europe; trip crucial for arms talks

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Vice President George Bush left for Western Europe Sunday on a delicate sales trip aimed at convincing Western Europeans to stay the course in arms negotiations with the Soviets.

The mission is essentially political, trying to offset a remarkably successful barrage of ideas and proposals from the Soviet Union. But Bush cannot appear to involve himself in European politics.

Both the Bush trip and Soviet campaign are keyed to West Germany, the vice president's first stop on a seven-nation, 13-day trip. A strong vote for peace and environmental

groups in elections there March 6 would give a strong unilateral disarmament flavor to the new German

### Analysis

parliament, weakening Bonn's staunch pro-NATO policy.

The latest Soviet suggestion, to clear a 320-mile-wide swath of central Europe of tactical nuclear weapons, was rejected by the State Department Friday as "unrealistic."

Before that, Soviet leader Yuri Andropov offered to cut the existing Soviet missile force by two-thirds,

matching the size of British and French nuclear arsenals, if the United States would forego deployment of 572 Pershing II and ground-launched cruise missiles. That, too, was rejected by the United States and West Germany.

The United States, negotiating with the Soviets in Geneva for the rest of the alliance on reductions in intermediate-range missiles, has stuck to its opening position: The United States will move ahead on the deployment of its missiles in December unless the Soviets agree to remove all their estimated 600 medium-range missiles.

Bush, as sort of a traveling arms

control evangelist, said he will argue that Western policy "is a strong moral position, banishing a whole new generation of intermediate nuclear forces from the face of the earth."

But there are Europeans who suspect the U.S. insistence on Reagan's "zero option" of eliminating missiles on both sides altogether is really a device to avoid any arms control agreement at all.

They believe it was thought up by hawks in the Pentagon who seek to move ahead on their rearmament program to try to intimidate the Soviets or even engage them in a preventive war.

Bush's job will be to try to remove that impression.

## New Prairie View A&M official says 'drastic change' possible

by Patrice Koranek

Battalion Staff

The newly appointed president of Prairie View A&M says he thinks conditions at Prairie View are right to make it an excellent national university.

Dr. Percy A. Pierre, former dean of engineering at Howard University, said Friday that he had offers from other universities, but chose Prairie View because of the "opportunity to do something that hasn't happened in the country in the last five years... and that is to make a drastic change in the stature of this university."

Pierre was named president of Prairie View on Friday by System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen. The position opened when Dr. Alvin Thomas requested reassignment after 16 years as the head of the Waller County school.

Prairie View needs to receive part of the state's Permanent University Fund to achieve national prominence, Pierre said. System officials from Texas A&M and the University of Texas already have agreed to share the PUF with Prairie View; however, final approval rests with Texas legislators and voters.

The PUF is composed of income

from oil produced on land set aside by the Legislature.

Hansen said that funds from the PUF probably will be used for equipment, salary increases and construction at Prairie View. The Board of Regents also wants to work toward making Prairie View a university that will be nationally recognized, he said.

Pierre, who begins his duties today, said he will review the personnel at Prairie View for the next few weeks. He said he expects to bring in some new people to fill administrative and faculty positions, but said no major changes are in order.

Pierre, who is a former assistant secretary of the Army for research, development and acquisition, said he thinks all parts of the Texas A&M System can help provide the country with the research necessary for the country's future prosperity. He said he would like to see more emphasis given to science and technology and would like to increase enrollment.

Hansen also announced that Dr. Ivory Nelson, who was acting president at Prairie View, will join Pierre's staff on Tuesday as an executive assistant. Hansen commended Nelson for "his significant contributions" to Prairie View.



Dr. Percy A. Pierre, new Prairie View A&M president

"He came in at a difficult time and began to work at once at building on Prairie View's strengths," Hansen said. "Through his efforts, improve-

ments have been initiated in the physical plant, financial stability has been improved and new academic programs developed."

Nelson said he is happy to take advantage of opportunities that come along and said he feels good about becoming the first black administrator in the Texas A&M System.

Pierre was formally offered the president's job on Wednesday and signed a letter of intent that sets his salary at \$78,000 a year. He will be given a car, a house and other benefits. The house probably will be located between Prairie View and Houston and will be leased by the university.

Pierre has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a doctoral degree, also in electrical engineering, from Johns Hopkins University. He did one year of post-doctoral study in electronic communications theory at the University of Michigan.

He was selected dean of engineering at Howard University in 1971 and served as assistant secretary of the Army from 1977 to 1981. In 1981, Pierre formed a private consulting firm, Percy A. Pierre and Associates, based in Washington, D.C.



staff photo by Octavio Garcia

### Let's go fly a kite

The spring-like weather over the weekend prompts Diana Webber, left, a senior aerospace engineering major from Sacramento, Calif., and Marsha Ripptoe, a lab technician at the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center, to take advantage of the sunny, warm and slightly windy weather by test-flying a kite.

## Tiny crack delays new shuttle's flight

**United Press International**  
CAPE CANAVERAL — Launch technicians found a tiny crack in the nose of the space shuttle Challenger's main engine Saturday that apparently caused a hydrogen leak and forced delays in the shuttle's first flight. NASA officials said they hope to repair for a launch in March after replacing the defective engine.

NASA spokesman Hugh Harris said the crack was only three-quarters of an inch long.

"This crack certainly is the right size (to account for the leak)," Harris said. He said the crack apparently had escaped detection during weeks of

searching because it is located on the underside of an engine manifold.

"It's very, very hard to get to," Harris said. "You can't see it easily."

Once a technician got to the crack, however, he was able to feel helium gas spewing out when helium was injected into the engine under pressure.

Launch technicians will continue to check Challenger for other possible leaks in a process that will be completed Tuesday, Harris said. He said the only replacement engine available for Challenger would be substituted for the cracked engine.

"We will set a launch date after the analysis is complete," Harris said.

## Congress to receive Reagan's budget today

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan may get his spending freeze tough Congress, but the cuts in his 1984 budget for health care, a \$30 billion increase in defense spending and standby taxes may run into trouble.

The president will formally send Congress today an \$848.5 billion budget for 1984 that would freeze spending for many domestic programs, cut Medicare-Medicaid and pension costs and raise defense spending by \$30 billion.

The budget proposal is \$43.3 billion larger than the 1983 spending bill, with the proposed increase in defense spending accounting for most of that.

Written summaries of the budget were leaked on Capitol Hill Friday, shortly after budget director David Stockman and others briefed leading members of Congress on the document.

Republican and Democratic members who attended the briefings agreed afterward that drastic action is needed to reduce monstrous budget deficits.

They appeared to support extending a six-month freeze on cost-of-living increases for Social Security to broad retirement, Supplemental Security Income, veterans compensation and pensions, food stamps and child nutrition and freezing the pay of federal civilian and military employees for one year.

The cost-of-living and pay freeze together would save \$19 billion in 1984 and about \$77 billion through 1988.

The members also seemed to agree with Reagan's plan to freeze most domestic spending. Under his budget, the 1984 spending for appropriated nondefense discretionary programs would be \$115 billion compared to 1983's \$116 billion.

But that is about where any bipartisan consensus ends.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker and others have already said they believe Reagan's proposed \$30 billion increase in defense spending could be cut by \$7 billion. Democrats want even more cut from the Pentagon budget.

And Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., acknowledged after his briefing it "will be difficult" to enact the administration's proposed major entitlement changes, such as in Medicare and Medicaid.

The Reagan plan would "reform" Medicare-Medicaid, cutting \$60 billion from costs over five years by raising patient premiums and setting physician payments.

Leading the Democratic attack, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., immediately labeled the health care proposals in the Reagan budget "a frontal assault on the health of the American people."

## Guatemalan troops cause Mexican refugees to flee

**United Press International**  
LAS DELICIAS, Mexico — Hundreds of refugees have fled from camps on Mexico's southern border, where Guatemalan soldiers allegedly shot to death three men, beheaded a fourth and kidnapped another, relief workers said.

Paul Hartling, head of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, Sunday said he had traveled to Mexico for urgent talks with local officials about reports of two incursions by Guatemalan troops last week.

Relief workers said the camp of La Hamaca, 50 yards from Mexico's

southern border, was attacked last Thursday by some 200 combined Guatemalan civilian patrol and army soldiers who shot to death two men and decapitated a third.

In a separate attack, refugee workers said another Guatemalan force Wednesday crossed the clearly marked border at Santiago, into Mexico's Lagunas de Montebello National Park about a quarter mile inside Mexican territory.

They said the soldiers captured a refugee whose bullet-riddled body later was found on the Mexican side of the border near Santiago.

The slain refugee's mother told four foreign correspondents that another man was taken away by the Guatemalan soldiers and dragged naked across the border. She said she feared he had been killed.

"Here we are not safe any more. Here there is a lot of danger," said a camp leader, sitting with his 500 Mayan Indian refugees on a hill overlooking their former home in La Hamaca.

The camp leader, who asked to remain unidentified for fear of Guatemalan troop reprisals, said the group left the camp because of the threat of another attack.

## Independent truckers prepare to strike over gasoline tax hike

**United Press International**  
Independent truckers, risking financial ruin and confrontations with other drivers, parked their rigs today to protest the Reagan administration's 5-cent gasoline tax, but a spokesman said the strike was "jelling" slowly.

An early determination of how many truckers joined the protest was impossible, but a strike leader said 100,000 were expected.

Many drivers said they would join to avoid the violence that marked a 1979 strike and authorities in some areas increased highway patrols to prevent attacks on non-striking drivers.

"Most of the drivers that I know are definitely parking their trucks," said a woman at Jerry's Truck Stop, in Delaware, N.J. "It's not worth having their own vehicles shot up, and they have their beliefs in what they're doing."

Many truckers were waiting to see if the strike gains momentum or if a

legislative remedy can be found.

"I'll stop if everybody else does," said Jim Danekas Jr., a driver from Ackley, Iowa, while resting at a truck stop near Dallas. "I've seen a few trucks rolling by tonight. I have a delivery to make in Dallas at 4 a.m. I plan to go ahead with it. I'm justing to see what happens or doesn't happen."

Independent truckers, already hard-hit by the recession, are caught between trying to make a living and staving off an estimated \$5,000 in expenses they will incur under the Surface Transportation Act of 1982, including the gas and road-use taxes.

"I can't afford to shut down but at the same time you can't afford to keep running," said Dale Baker, president of the Indiana Independent Truckers Association.

"I have to strike and Congress is putting me out of business," said Charles Eberly, 45, a trucker from Sioux City, Iowa. "Right now I'm an independent. If I don't strike I'll be a

dependent — a dependent on welfare."

The early affects of the strike were subtle with a sampling of truck stops saying business was normal or only slightly slower than usual but ITA national president Mike Parkhurst said he had reports of drivers heading home right after the midnight EST starting time.

"A lot of guys have started," Parkhurst said from Washington, D.C. "It's not going to be jelling right away. Normally it takes a couple of days to jell while everybody finishes their final run."

Ralph Raymond, spokesman for the New York ITA, said 90 percent of the state's independent drivers would join the protest.

In Pennsylvania, where state police beefed up patrols and an ITA spokesman said the association has asked members to "take their trucks home and park them" for the duration of the strike, but some violence is expected.

### almanac

**United Press International**  
Today is Monday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 1983 with 334 to follow.

Austrian composer Franz Schubert was born Jan. 31, 1797. Also born on this date were Western novelist Zane Grey, in 1872, and Norman Mailer, in 1923.

On this date in history:  
In 1929, the Soviet Union expelled Leon Trotsky. He went into exile and was later assassinated in Mexico.

In 1950, President Harry Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

In 1958, Explorer 1, the first U.S. earth satellite, was launched from the Cape Canaveral missile test center.

A thought for the day: In a 1945 message to Congress on atomic energy, President Truman said, "The release of atomic energy constitutes a new force too revolutionary to consider in the framework of old ideas."

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### forecast

Excessive cloudiness today with a 60 percent chance of showers and rain. Winter thunderstorms are possible. The high will be about 64. Southeast winds at 10 to 15 mph, and becoming stronger near thunderstorms. Continued cloudy tonight with a 70 percent chance of rain. The low will be near 40. Cloudy on Tuesday with a high of 51 and a 40 percent chance of showers.

Why is this even here?

What is this?

And I've got

He said that secretary would have variety status for a full year and would have all the pri-

Paper plates were Russell Sanders answer to modern art.