

U.S. returns to talks with modified proposal

United Press International
GENEVA — The United States returned to strategic arms talks with Moscow Wednesday with a modified proposal aimed at limiting nuclear warheads on long-range intercontinental missiles.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) were resuming later in the day (10:30 a.m. EDT) after a 10 week recess so both sides could reassess their bargaining positions.

Chief U.S. negotiator Edward Rowny, on his arrival from Washington Wednesday, confirmed that President Reagan had modified the basic U.S. proposal.

"Our START proposal is being modified," Rowny said, to "incorporate fundamentals" of the Scowcroft Commission report on strategic nuclear weapons.

Rowny said he was "a little more optimistic" that the modified U.S. proposal would break the Soviet-U.S. deadlock at the talks.

"Hope springs eternal," the retired general said. "I am a cockeyed optimist."

President Reagan was expected to make a statement in Washington Wednesday on the U.S. proposal, but Rowny said the proposal did not represent any softening of Washington's

position. "I don't characterize it as any softening," he said. "It has been modified."

The Scowcroft Commission recommended emphasizing warhead numbers rather than long-range missiles seeking a balance between U.S. and Soviet strategic weapons.

Rowny said the United States wants an agreement that provides "substantial reductions (and) enhances deterrence" and that "results in equality." It also "must be verifiable," he said. "We are prepared to be flexible and innovative," he said in a prepared arrival statement.



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Form one line please!

It could be a scene from Houston, but it's not. Traffic formed one line on Texas Avenue as the Texas Highway Department workers made repairs Wednesday. The line stretched from New Main Drive to University Drive, a traffic jam unusual for summer in College Station.

Addiction kills, maims

Doctor warns of drug use

United Press International
NEW YORK — Forget what you may have heard about cocaine being a benign drug, says Dr. Mark S. Gold, consultant to the substance abuse unit of the United Nations' World Health Organization.

"Substance abuse" is what doctors and social workers say makes those addicted to alcohol or other drugs sick. Or dead.

Rather than living up to its street billing as a safe drug that enhances social activities, cocaine kills, maims and has caused addiction to more than 5 million of the 22 million Americans who have tried it, Gold says.

Support for Gold's case against cocaine is found in figures from the Drug Abuse Warning Network of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. NIDA recorded 335 cocaine re-arrests in 1981. Last year, around 6,000 trips to emergency rooms were tied to cocaine-related problems, up 25 percent from the previous year.

"Death from cocaine use can be fairly rapid," Gold said, usually through convulsions coupled with cardio-respiratory

failure. These deaths occur in epileptics in non-epileptics, snorters, smokers and injectors.

Cocaine users, he said, can also die as a result of:

- An acute heart attack, abnormal heart rhythm or stroke.
- Drowning or suffocation.

He said a chronic lack of sleep and anesthetizing of the back of the throat may interact to cause a deep sleep, accompanied by a flaccid jaw-induced obstruction of the airway (suffocation) or failure to move the body's own secretions in the airway.

"Typically, people who see a friend die report that the victim took the drug orally or snorted it and was symptom free for 30-to-60 minutes," Gold said.

"They had no apparent problem, and then without warning, they had grand mal seizures and convulsions, followed very rapidly (within a minute or so) by respiratory collapse and death," he said.

Gold said death can and does occur in young people who drink and use cocaine. An individual may snort cocaine and drink whiskey, he said. The cocaine keeps the person awake

enough to keep drinking and try to drive home.

"The cocaine wears off before the alcohol, and since he has a very high blood level of alcohol, he will pass out and have a car accident."

"Usually in a traffic situation, only the blood alcohol is analyzed. But our patients who survive regularly report these stories. A very high blood alcohol is frequently a consequence of an all night use of cocaine in a recreational setting to prolong the evening," Gold said.

There are also cocaine related suicides.

"The cocaine dependent individuals commit suicide when they feel hopeless and helpless," Gold said.

"Suicide may be seen as the only solution to deteriorating health, personal, domestic, financial and work situations from the cocaine use which the users believe they cannot stop," he said.

Gold also said chronic cocaine users become impotent. Nutrition deteriorates and multiple vitamin and essential nutrition deficiencies also occur. Gold said cocaine affects vision, too.

Gold, 1982 winner of the American Psychiatric Association Foundation's Fund Prize for his research in opiate withdrawal, is director of research at Fair Oaks Hospital, in Summit, N.J. The private psychiatric hospital recently launched a national toll-free cocaine hotline (800-c-o-c-a-i-n-e) to refer cocaine addicts to help.

Anticipated loss lessened by discovery of computer error

United Press International
AUSTIN — A previously anticipated \$110 million loss to local school districts because of the Texas Legislature's failure to change a school financing law will amount to \$45 million because of a computer error, State Education Commissioner Raymond Bynum said Wednesday.

The loss in minimum aid funds to mostly urban and suburban school districts will total

about \$2 million in 1983-84 and \$23 million the following school year.

Bynum said a computer print-out given to lawmakers in the closing days of the legislative session had failed to take into account previous teacher salary increases and, therefore, erroneously listed the expected losses at \$110 million for the biennium.

"We are pleased that, if we made an error, we made it that

way," Bynum said at a Capitol news conference. "But it doesn't mean there still aren't problems."

The reduced minimum aid money was the result of the Legislature's failure to consider a proposal to alter the minimum aid formula, which guarantees that state funding for school districts does not fall below per-pupil aid plus pay raises in the 1980-1981 school year.

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