

Rumors surround Andropov

United Press International
MOSCOW — For 100 days, the Soviet Union has had no visible leader to guide it through crises over nuclear missiles and the shooting down of a Korean airliner, and yet it has felt disinclined to explain the public absence of President Yuri Andropov.

chief of the military — titles that make him by far the most powerful man in the Soviet Union. But the mystery surrounding his prolonged absence since Aug. 23 has plunged foreign diplomats, Kremlin watchers and Soviet citizens into a guessing game fed by shadowy rumors on the true state of Andropov's health and authority. Officially, Andropov, 69, has a cold. He said so himself in a

letter released by the Soviet news agency Tass on Oct. 29. No ranking Soviet official will comment on Andropov's health and by outward appearances, absolutely nothing unusual has happened or is occurring inside the Kremlin or, indeed, anywhere in the capital. Concern over the Andropov mystery has been made more acute by the fact that East-West relations have plunged to their lowest point since the shooting down of a Korean airliner over Soviet airspace Sept. 1 and the U.S. missile deployment plan for Europe. A senior Western diplomat said that despite the lengthening

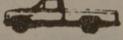
absence, "there is no solid information" available about the true state of Andropov's health. "We don't even know if he's out of town," the diplomat said. "Our main source of information (on Andropov) is rumors," said a spokesman for a West European embassy.

Some Western academicians have said Andropov is through and the battle to succeed him is underway. They may be right, but they cannot be certain. He is said to be recovering in a hospital in Moscow, in a sanatorium outside the city or not confined to bed at all. Despite the rumors, most observers are convinced Andropov is seriously ill. The real questions are when and whether he will recover and who will replace him if he dies or is incapacitated.

What's up

MONDAY

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CENTER: Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the center, 315 N. College Main, for a Bible study.
AGGIE ALLEMANDERS: The square dance class is at 7:30 p.m. and the club meets at 9 p.m. in 226 Memorial Student Center.
STUDENT Y FISH CAMP: Applications for chairman, chairman and recreation coordinator are available until Dec. 1 on second floor Pavilion from Janie Metzger. Applications due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 8.
HILLEL STUDENT FOUNDATION: A table will be set up at the MSC from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday for last minute Christmas shoppers.
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Rod O'Connor will speak about his experiences and plans for the future at 8:30 p.m. in the Rudder.



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Doctor says wrong side backed in El Salvador

by Steve Thomas
Battalion Staff
Charles Clements is a medical doctor that lived among the conflict of El Salvador for a year, trying to help the common people. He saw the rebels and he saw

the government. And he thinks the United States is backing the wrong side. "I believe the greatest obstacle to peace in Central America is U.S. foreign policy. We are contributing to one of the most brutal and corrupt regimes in

Latin America, which is waging war on its own people," Clements said last summer after returning from El Salvador. Clements will speak at the Theater Monday at 8 p.m. on "El Salvador: a view from the front", a free program sponsored by the MSC Student Committee.

Clements is a veteran of the Vietnam war. He was a Force Captain and flew transport until he began to believe the war was wrong. He was relieved of duty and became a civilian again, then later returned to medical school. While working in a California hospital, he came in contact with some Salvadoran refugees who "bore the marks of physical and psychological torture."

The stories they told made him angry, so Clements decided to go to El Salvador as a neutral "healer and witness." He made a deal with the guerrillas which required them to remain neutral, to not use weapons, and to treat civilians as an opposition-controlled area.

What he saw was a government killing innocent civilians indiscriminately while the rebels worked in their behalf. "I've been called a communist," he says. "I'm not. I'm a doctor and I'm involved in El Salvador because our government is responsible for the violence."

juniors—seniors
 grad, vet, med

The end is near!

Yearbook Associates, located at 1700 S. Kyle behind Culpepper Plaza, will be taking pictures Nov. 28-Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 693-6756 or 845-2681.

Last chance! At the Pavilion—Dec. 5-9.
Aggieland yearbook

TV station mourns

United Press International
MIDLAND — KOSA-TV reporters Sunday coped with their own disaster — the loss of six members of a news crew whose chartered airplane crashed on its way home from Odessa, about 2.5 miles from the airport, state police reported.

The Odessa-Midland Channel 7 crew's chartered Beechcraft-100 twin-engine plane crashed and burned out 2 a.m. Saturday in an area between Midland and Odessa, about 2.5 miles from the airport, state police reported.

The victims were identified as Keith Elkin, 29, a Midland pilot and Jay Price, 27, a Paso Products employee. Elkin was a Midland who worked as a spotter at football games. KOSA news director Gary McCall.

KOSA victims included production coordinator Brent Dyer, 26, and assistant news director Gary Hopper, 32, of Midland.

Television crew members from Odessa were Brent Roach, production coordinator; engineer Bob Stephens; assistant chief engineer Ed Monette, 26, and sports director Jeff Schull, 25.

The shock of the loss is working its way through KOSA newsroom Sunday, McCall said.

"We're doing our own share of our own disaster," McCall said. "It's been tough. We've emotionally deal with these things as emotionally as possible, but we can't in a case like this."

The television crew had covered Midland Lee's 23rd victory over Fort Worth Tech and Odessa Permian's 10 victory over Wichita Falls in Fort Worth. Both playoff games were to have been broadcast later this week.

McCall said there were three funerals in Midland Monday for four of the dead. Hopper and Price were brothers-in-law, were buried in a double service. Roach and Stephens would be buried in single services.