



Study pooch  
Sweetpea the dog stands guard while Debbie Vanderweide, a senior special education major, studies on a campus bench.

# After walkout Wednesday Soviets resume arms talks

**United Press International**  
GENEVA, Switzerland — The United States and Soviet Union resumed talks Tuesday on long-range nuclear weapons despite the Soviet walkout last week from talks on medium-range missiles in Europe. U.S. and Soviet delegations at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks, START, met for three hours and 15 minutes and agreed to meet again Thursday. Last Wednesday Moscow had broken off talks on Intermediate Nuclear Forces, or Euromissiles, after the West German parliament approved the NATO deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe. There had been speculation that the Soviets would also break

off the long-range talks but the delegation turned up for the scheduled session. "There is no progress up to now," Karpov told reporters in English. "As I have explained many times, the position of the American side is not for an agreement." Despite the Soviet Union's threats to break off "Geneva arms talks," it never made fully clear whether it meant only the INF negotiations or START as well. The latest session had been watched as an indicator of Moscow's willingness to continue nuclear arms control talks with the United States. Western observers said they "do not anticipate any breakdown" in the START talks, although the Soviet news agency

Novosti said the arrival of U.S. missiles in Europe jeopardized START. Novosti said the missiles made the INF talks pointless and are changing the situation at START, presumably because the missiles can reach Soviet territory. Western observers said they expected the Soviets to recess the talks and schedule a resumption. A recess would most likely come next week, according to the regular pattern of each round lasting two months with two months in between for consultations at home. The basic U.S. position centers on one-third reduction in strategic warheads to 5,000 for each side and scrapping two old

delivery systems for each new one deployed. Moscow has stuck to its original proposal to limit each side to 1,800 delivery systems — heavy bombers and intercontinental ballistic missiles. In London, U.S. arms negotiator Paul Nitze said he expected the Soviets to return to the intermediate-range missile talks, although he said the two sides were still far apart. Nitze, on a tour of NATO governments, said the stumbling block was over the central issue — whether Moscow should have a monopoly on modern nuclear missiles in Europe. "We hope and expect they will continue the negotiations," Nitze said.

## Action delayed on waste site

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The target date for final selection of a site in Texas for a low-level nuclear waste disposal facility has been pushed back to at least mid-February, officials said Tuesday. Tom Blackburn, spokesman for the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, said the agency has been ordered by its board of directors to consider public comment on proposed sites in Hudspeth and Dimmit counties. The agency must wait for another 90 days. The authority had originally hoped to make a decision by the end of the year. But Blackburn said the authority is still evaluating all or parts of 16 counties for prospective sites for the 300-acre, \$12 million facility. Counties still under consideration are Garza, Mitchell, Scurry, Howard, Borden, Baylor, Throckmorton, Knox, Haskell, Hudspeth, Maverick, Zavalla,

Dimmit, Frio, LaSalle and Webb. None of the potential sites are within 20 miles of a major city, he said. The authority has already obtained an option to buy a 456-acre tract of privately-held land in Dimmit County in South Texas. It is also studying two tracts of state-owned property in the far West Texas county of Hudspeth. Texas has no operating commercial nuclear power plants, but four are expected to be running by 1990. About 30,000 cubic feet of low-level waste was generated in Texas in 1982 and that amount is expected to more than triple in seven years.

## Air Force launches investigation of suspected fraud by contractor

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The Air Force has launched the first criminal investigation against a major defense contractor involving the sale of spare parts to the Air Force and congressional sources said Tuesday. The investigation focuses on possible fraud in pricing tools supplied by the General Dynamics Corp. of Fort Worth for use maintaining the F-16 fighter, which is built by the contractor. General Dynamics, which manufactures weapons ranging from the M-1 tank to the Tomahawk ground-launched cruise missile, received \$5.9 billion worth of defense contracts during fiscal year 1982 to make it the nation's No. 1 ranked defense supplier. Figures for fiscal 1983, which ended Sept. 30, are not available. Pentagon auditors charged during the summer that the military services were wasting billions of taxpayer dollars because of inefficient spare parts pricing practices. The Navy spent \$110 to purchase a diode with 4 cents, as one example. The investigation, which also involves the Westinghouse Electric Co. with headquarters in Pittsburgh, arose from an examination by the staff of the Senate Government Affairs Committee of Air Force spare parts purchasing practices. The Air Force acknowledged it is investigating "possible fraudulent activities" by General Dynamics. But an Air Force spokesman declined to go into details "to protect the integrity of the investigation and the rights of any individuals." Committee investigators found that General Dynamics allegedly offered to sell a 4-inch hexagonal wrench to the Air

Force for \$9,600 after having received a price of \$5,600 for the same tool from a subcontractor, the Westinghouse Co. of Baltimore, Md., committee sources said. The wrench was to be part of a package of 22 tools ordered by the Air Force for \$1.2 million for maintenance on its F-16s, the sources said. The Air Force did not buy the package after the committee exposed the proposed deal. "We don't know if there was fraud, but we thought the prices were outrageous," said a committee source, who requested anonymity. "The Air Force asked General Dynamics to withdraw the proposal. But our feeling is it would have gone through if someone hadn't looked at it." In another instance, the sources said, General Dynamics offered to sell the Air Force a reverse back spotface cutter, a two-part tool for boring into metal, that cost a total of \$2,043 — \$943 for the drill bit and \$1,100 for an axle. Committee investigators called the manufacturer of the part, ATI Industries of California, and found it cost \$13 for both parts. "They sent us one free, so it can't be worth \$2,000," one source said. "The Air Force is trying to find out how General Dynamics can justify these things." A spokesman for General Dynamics at its Washington-area office said it is conducting its own investigation. "General Dynamics is cooperating fully with the Air Force investigation team and the company is conducting an intensive investigation of its own," the spokesman said. "We will have

no additional comment until these investigations are completed."

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## Explosion closes wells

**United Press International**  
PORT ARANSAS — An explosion and fire on an unmanned natural gas production platform in the Gulf of Mexico caused Texaco to shut down 12 offshore wells that were feeding the facility, a company spokesman said Tuesday. Ken Reneau, district manager of the energy company's Corpus Christi office, said investigators were trying to determine what caused the fire to start just before 9 p.m. Monday. The Texaco platform is two miles offshore and three miles north of Port Aransas. The fire on the platform was reported to the Coast Guard by the operator of a private boat who said he heard an explosion. Reneau said the 12 wells would be shut down until it is safe to resume operations.

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