

Soviets claims U.S. plotting to build 'Star Wars' defense

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union charged Tuesday the Reagan administration is hatching a "truly sinister" plot to equip more than 100 F-15 jet fighters with anti-satellite weapons and deploy them as a large-scale missile shield.

The Communist Party daily Pravda and the military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) said the Pentagon plans to convert the jet fighters to "Star Wars" defense systems — increasing the danger of nuclear war.

Both superpowers agreed under the ABM treaty not to deploy anti-ballistic missile systems so neither side would be encouraged to fire a first nuclear strike in the belief the other side could not retaliate.

Pravda called on the United States to respond "in a business-like manner" to Soviet proposals last fall to ban all weapons, both defensive and tactical, from space.

The new weapon is a missile carried under the F-15 and is the first U.S. satellite "killer." The fighter streaks high in the

atmosphere and fires the missile toward its target in outer space.

The Defense Department test-fired an unarmed version in January and both Soviet newspapers complained the test showed the United States was not paying heed to the Soviet proposal.

"Of a truly sinister character are the plans for the creation by 1987 of more than 100 anti-satellite systems," Red Star said. "Practically any F-15 aircraft can be swiftly turned into an anti-satellite weapon."

The plan, the newspaper said, would create a large-scale anti-missile shield.

"In other words, that shield will create an illusion of impunity and may very well incite the aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism to reckless adventurist actions," Krasnaya Zvezda said.

Pravda urged the United States to join the Soviet Union in reaching an agreement "prohibiting the use of force both in outer space and from outer space against the earth."

Needy can rent infant car seats

By HELEN DE LA ROSA
Reporter

A safety seat can mean the difference between life and death for an infant riding in a car. But many needy families can't afford to buy the seats, so the Brazos County Red Cross is offering a program to help them out.

This month the Brazos County Red Cross became the third Red Cross chapter in Texas to start a program that provides low-rent infant car seats to needy families.

The program, named Operation K.I.S.S. — Keep Infants Safely Seated — was approved by the national American Red Cross last year, said Emily Stiteler, local Red Cross director.

"Our target area is mothers with infants on their laps," she said. "The mother is in the child-crusher position. If an accident occurs the child protects the mother while being crushed against the dash."

"A Bryan police officer told me when we were initiating Operation K.I.S.S. 'If a mother has a child on her lap, she might as

well tie it to the front bumper of her car,'" Stiteler said.

Most needy families can't afford to pay \$30 to \$60 for infant car seats, so their children ride unrestrained, she said.

To begin Operation K.I.S.S. in Brazos County, local physicians and businesses donated 10 car seats to the Red Cross. Stiteler said all money made from Operation K.I.S.S. will be used to buy or repair seats for the program.

Eligibility for the program is determined on an individual basis. To qualify, families must

have lived in Brazos County at least six months and stay in the county another six months, she said.

The car seats can be rented on a six-month basis, Stiteler said. A deposit of \$5 and rental fee of 50 cents a month are required. If the car seat is returned in good condition, the Red Cross will return half of the deposit. The seats also can be rented for \$2.50 a week.

Stiteler said financial assistance is available for families who cannot pay the rental fee.

Iranian blockade would cause price of oil to rise dramatically, experts say

United Press International
HOUSTON — World oil prices would increase dramatically if Iran follows through on its threat to block the straight of Hormuz, industry experts predicted Tuesday.

However, a state department official indicated the Reagan Administration doubted Iran's ability to carry out such a blockade.

Debate about the effects of closing the straight of Hormuz, through which 8 million barrels of crude oil flow daily from Middle East oil producing countries, was renewed following Iran's renewed threat to blockade the straight in retaliation for any Iraqi strikes against its oil fields.

"If they (the Iranians) were able to contain it for any period of time, there would be an effect. There would probably be a shortfall of 3 to 3.5 million barrels a day," said James A. Placke, deputy assistant secretary of state for the bureau of near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

"But the question is could they in fact block the straight and how long could they contain it. I think there is a serious question on both counts of how effectively they could do that," Placke said.

Placke was one of several guest speakers at a two-day conference on the outlook for crude oil supply and prices, sponsored by the New York based Energy Bureau Inc.

"It is not in Iran's interest to close the straight as long as it

can continue to sell oil," Placke told the audience of oil experts.

When asked how the administration might respond to a blockade of the straight of Hormuz, Placke said: "We've maintained a substantial carrier task force in the Indian Ocean and that task force has the necessary capability to do what the president has said we'll do and that is keep the straight open."

R.S. Toohey, general manager of planning for Gulf Oil Products Co. said industry experts have said a disruption in the flow of oil through the straight of Hormuz would trigger an increase ranging from \$8 to \$100 a barrel.

"There have been studies on this and they've got answers all over the place. The Rand Corp. predicts a \$100 per barrel spot price for the week following something like this," Toohey said.

"Everyone seems to agree that no matter what we do to replace that production, if it stays off for any period of time, we're going to be short 4 million barrels of day and that is enough to

increase crude oil prices \$8 to \$10 a barrel," Toohey said.


Toohey said Gulf and other major oil producers in the United States have tried to prepare for any possible disruptions in foreign oil supplies.

"We're seriously considering it, but we need to stock more oil ... but we don't have anywhere to store it. We don't have enough storage," Toohey said.

Toohey said oil suppliers in the United States have about one month's supply of oil in reserves.

However, if there is no disruption in foreign oil supplies, Toohey predicted world oil prices will decline this year unless there is an increase in demand for gasoline in the United States.

VOTE ABSENTEE



Gov. Mark White called this special election during your Spring Break, March 10. If you plan to leave town, you need to vote absentee. The last day to vote absentee is March 6.

Monday through Friday, vote at the College Station City Hall across from Campus or at the Brazos County Courthouse in Bryan.

If You Have Registered To Vote, You Can Vote!
 (With or without Registration Card)

Voter Shuttle Bus Schedule:

Time:	Departs From:
7:45 a.m.	Duncan Dining Hall
10:00 a.m.	MSC
10:10 a.m.	Commons
12:00 Noon	MSC
12:10 p.m.	Commons
2:00 p.m.	MSC
2:10 p.m.	Commons
4:00 p.m.	Duncan Dining Hall

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