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Research: star war possible

United Press International
 LONDON — President Reagan's proposed "Star Wars" defense system could incite an enemy to launch a massive nuclear attack or even lead to a space war, a peace research institute said Thursday.

In "Countdown to Space War," a book published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Dr. Bhupendra Jasani and British journalist Christopher Lee call for a ban on testing and possessing anti-satellite weapons.

"A laser beam aimed at a ballistic missile easily could be turned to attack an enemy satellite," Jasani said. "It's a very attractive idea to defend ourselves by laser weapons, but unfortunately they have this offensive capability."

Lee said Pentagon sources esti-

mated "Star Wars" weapons could stop about 40 percent of incoming ballistic missiles, possibly convincing an enemy the only way to win a nuclear war was to unleash a massive onslaught of missiles.

"Sixty percent of 10,000 is a lot of missiles," he said.

The authors said that a space war could, ironically, begin on the ground because satellites are useless without their ground stations.

"It is certainly understood that Soviet Special Forces, known as 'Spetsnaz,' have reconnoitered many U.S. satellite ground stations," the book said.

Jasani and Lee also said the space weapons could jam the world's computers.

"If a defensive X-ray laser weapon is put up, one of the environmental

consequences is an electro-magnetic pulse that, carried through on earth, could destroy all computer memories and everything that depends on electronics," Jasani said.

But Lee said it would probably be well into the next century before the advanced laser and X-ray beam weapons would be ready for use.

"People I have spoken to at the Pentagon tell me it could be four or five years before the research is even finished and then, if Congress agreed to develop the weapons, it could be another 20 years before they're ready to be deployed," he said.

Reagan, in his "Star Wars" speech last year, announced plans for an anti-missile system to be based on laser, particle beam and satellite technology.

Lee said that Reagan's suggestion to share U.S. space-weapon technology with the Soviet Union as an end to the arms race would be a backfire.

The authors said the United States was well ahead of the Soviet Union in conventional anti-missile weaponry. Early this year the United States tested an anti-satellite missile launched from an F-15 fighter plane. This system is quicker and more flexible than the Soviet ground-launched "hunter-killer" satellite.

Soviet scientists could be helping the United States in beam-weapon research, however, they said.

"The Soviet Union has a large amount of resources allocated to space activities"

Two Texans killed, six still missing in blaze

United Press International
 MANILA, Philippines — A group of American war veterans began a somber trip home Thursday after a sentimental journey to the Philippines ended in a hotel fire that killed 25 people, including a Dallas couple, and injured 67 others.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila said two members of the American Legion delegation were confirmed dead and six were unaccounted for in the Tuesday night blaze.

The embassy identified the American dead as H.M. Cosnahan and his wife, Cindy, of Dallas.

Two of the missing and presumed dead were brothers from Illinois. Eight people of other nationalities also remained unaccounted for in the fire at the historic Pines Hotel in the mountain resort of Baguio, 125 miles north of Manila, officials said.

Firefighters recovered more bodies from the debris Thursday, pushing the death toll to 25. Officials said many bodies were charred beyond recognition, causing confusion in the identification process.

Sixty-seven people — 36 of them American — also were injured in the fire.

The Legion group was at the Pines during a tour of the Philippines to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to liberate the country from Japan, fulfilling his "I shall return" pledge.

"We lost some good friends," said Legionnaire D. Coiner Rosen, 56, of New Market, Va. "And a lot of us who got out lost everything we had with us."

The missing were identified as Charles and June Clark of Tustin, Calif.; Charles and Genevieve Delameter of Vacaville, Calif.; Joseph

Llewellyn of LaGrange, Ill.; and William Llewellyn of Western Springs, Ill.

Nearly all group members were bed when the fire erupted on the fourth floor of the wooden building around 11:30 p.m.

Twenty-five Americans were hospitalized there in various condition, the embassy said.

Baguio Fire Chief Benjamin Nueva said a preliminary investigation blamed the fire on a faulty electrical fixture. Damage to the colonial-style hotel was estimated at \$15 million.

Protesters demand president's resignation

United Press International
 MANILA, Philippines — Thousands of protesters demanded President Ferdinand Marcos' resignation Thursday as special prosecutors drew up charges against top military officials accused in the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Led by Aquino's widow, some 5,000 people marched through Manila to protest a report by a special commission that named the armed forces chief in a wide-ranging mili-

tary conspiracy to kill Aquino, but made no mention of Marcos.

Spectators jammed overpasses and sidewalks to cheer the demonstrators as they marched along a 3-mile route, which ended with several hours of anti-Marcos speeches.

The findings of the five-member civilian commission, reached after a 10-month inquiry, were turned over to a Marcos-appointed investigator, who formed a panel to draw up specific charges.

"We are using the Agrava Board legal panel's familiarity with existing evidence to help us take a short cut in formulating the charges," said former Judge Bernardo Fernandez, who heads a prosecution arm called Tanodbayan or Ombudsman.

He said the three-man panel will decide if evidence justifies filing murder charges in the Sandiganbayan or People's Court, which tries cases involving abuse of official functions.

Murder carries the death penalty.

The majority report was signed by four members said Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fabian Ver, 24 military men and a civilian were "able" for the assassination.

But the findings by its then-retired Justice Corason Agrava, sued separately a day earlier, solved Ver. Agrava blamed the murder and six soldiers for the Marcos' chief political rival.

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