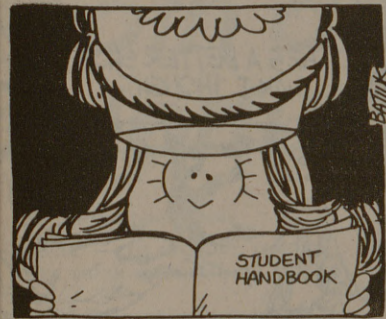


**WORLD AND NATION**

**Funky Winkerbean**

by Tom Batiuk



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News America Syndicate & News Group Chicago, Inc. 1985

2-13

**Soviet officials confirm illness**

**Chernenko cancels talk**

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Soviet officials today confirmed President Konstantin U. Chernenko is ill and said he canceled a scheduled meeting with Greek Premier Andreas Papandreu, a Greek government spokesman said.

Chernenko has not made a public appearance in nearly seven weeks.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry official said Chernenko, who came to power a year ago Wednesday following the death of Yuri V. Andropov, was out of town "on vacation" and that there would be no meeting.

Greek government spokesman Dimitrios Maroudas later told a news conference a planned Tuesday meeting between Papandreu and the 73-year-old Soviet leader had been canceled by Soviet officials who said Chernenko was sick.

"The planned meeting of the premier of Greece with the general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party could not take place due to the

illness of Mr. Chernenko," Maroudas said.

He declined to say how much advance notice was given.

Asked if the delegation was given any details about Chernenko, Maroudas said: "We have no such curiosity."

Earlier, the Foreign Ministry official told The Associated Press: "Mr. Chernenko is not in Moscow. He is in the country. He is on vacation."

Asked about the Greek Embassy statements on Monday that Papandreu had the "impression" there would be a meeting, the official said he could not speak for the Greek Embassy.

Other Western correspondents in Moscow said they were given similar statements by Foreign Ministry representatives.

Reporters at the news conference did not mention these statements, but Maroudas himself addressed the apparent contradiction.

"These two things do not necessarily contradict each other," he said. "He could be ill and out of town at the same time."

Soviet Foreign Ministry officials could not be reached for comment following the Greek announcement.

Chernenko's health has been the subject of persistent speculation since he took office on Feb. 13, 1984, including reports that he has emphysema.

Chernenko has displayed obvious breathing difficulties when speaking in public.

The official Soviet news media was silent Tuesday about Chernenko's condition.

The lead item on the national evening news program "Vremya" (Time) was an announcement that a new book by Chernenko has been published in the Soviet Union.

The book "On the Way to Completing Developed Socialism," is a compilation of speeches and writings by the Soviet leader in 1984.

**President waiting for Arabs to make first move for peace**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House offered a cautious greeting Tuesday to reports of an Arab "framework" for negotiations with Israel as President Reagan and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd held a second round of talks on chances for a Mideast peace.

"We would hope that the meeting between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and King Hussein is a first step that will lead toward discussions" with Israel, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said.

The president and the Saudi monarch talked for 75 minutes over breakfast and discussed the peace process "in some detail," said Speakes. It was the second session for the two leaders during Fahd's five-day state visit.

Although Speakes refused to say whether the recent reported agreement between the Jordanian king and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, was discussed, he said the administration viewed the talks in Amman as a positive development.

"Any declared intention to pursue a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict would be a constructive step," Speakes said. "It is crucial, however, that the settlement be pursued at the table in direct negotiations, based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 242."

While Fahd has urged the president to take a more vigorous role in the Mideast peace process, the admin-

istration wants to hold back until Jordan and the PLO, with the backing from such moderate Arabs as the Saudis, arrange for direct negotiations with Israel.

The United States has emphasized that a lasting peace must be based on the United Nation's resolution calling on Israel to return lands it captured in the 1967 war in return for Arab recognition of its sovereignty and borders.

Speakes emphasized the United States had not seen all the details of the agreement reached by Hussein and Arafat and could not comment on whether it touches on the U.N. resolution.

Every Israeli government has ruled out any negotiations with the PLO. Previous talks between the Jordanian king and the embattled PLO leader, who is being challenged by more radical Palestinians, have come to naught.

Speakes said the United States will not appoint a Mideast trouble-shooter or envoy, and refused to detail any other possible action.

He said the administration would like to see the Arab parties involved in the peace process take the first step, which would be for the Palestinians and Hussein to work out some details and then come to the negotiating table with the Israelis.

**Dissident's return helps new party finish strongly in Korean elections**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — President Chun Doo-hwan's Democratic Justice Party retained its firm majority in the National Assembly, but a month-old opposition party scored a spectacular surprise Wednesday by running a strong second.

With ballot-counting from Tuesday's election nearly completed, Chun's party was expected to win 88 of the elected seats, a loss of three, and the New Democratic Party 50 seats. The New Democrats outpolled two established and less outspoken opposition parties, exceeding even its own expectations.

The New Democratic Party, which calls Chun a military dictator, is backed by South Korea's two leading dissidents — Kim Dae-jung, who returned from self-exile last week, and Kim Young-sam. Both are under the equivalent of house arrest and have been blacklisted politically since 1980.

With almost all of the 92 two-seat districts decided, the state-run KBS television network projected that the Chun's party would have 88 seats, the New Democratic Party 50, the Democratic Korea Party 26 and Korea National Party 14, with six others from smaller parties.

An additional 92 seats in the 276-member body are decided proportionally, with 61 going to the party winning the most seats in the direct ballot. A total of 439 candidates ran in the direct-ballot districts.

Democratic Korea went into the election second in strength, but has been identified as too close to the ruling party. It stands to lose the most from the surge by the new opposition faction.

A highly publicized contest was between New Democrat leader Lee Min-woo and government candidate Lee Chong-chan, the current majority floor leader in Seoul's Chongno

district. Lee Min-woo placed a strong second.

Formation of the party, and Kim Dae-jung's return Friday from two years in United States, helped stir interest and 84.2 percent of the 24 million people eligible voted.

The election has been regarded as the first real test for the government party and for President Chun's commitment to democratic plurality.

He rose to power in 1980 following the assassination of President Park Chung-hee in October 1979, dismantled all existing political parties and blacklisted more than 500 politicians, including the two Kims.

Kim Dae-jung was given the death sentence on a sedition conviction, but that was commuted to life in prison and 20 years under strong pressure from abroad. He was permitted to go to the United States for "medical reasons," and Chun's government agreed not to jail him again on his return.

**Reagan won't limit 'Star Wars' research even if nuclear weapons are abolished**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Reagan says he will continue to develop the "Star Wars" space defense program even if the two superpowers came to an agreement to eliminate offensive nuclear weapons.

It was the first time Reagan had explicitly said he would not limit research on the program even if the Soviet Union met his demands on reducing offensive missiles.

In an interview published in Tuesday's editions of The New York Times, Reagan also said for the first time that he believed such defenses would be needed even if the two powers agreed to abolish all nuclear weapons.

The president drew a distinction, however, between research and deployment of a defense system. He said the United States would conduct research even if the Soviet Union agreed to deep cuts in offensive weapons.

If research indicated such a system could be built, Reagan said he would be willing to talk with the Soviets about the possibility of "internationalizing" such defense systems before deploying it.

"In other words, to negotiate then before there would be any deployment or anything to make sure that they understood that we weren't trying to create the ability of a first strike ourselves, that our goal was

still the elimination of nuclear weapons," Reagan said.

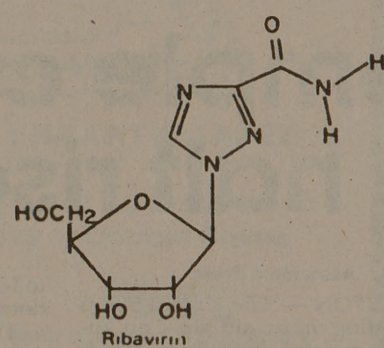
In the interview, Reagan also told The Times:

• New covert aid to the insurgent forces in Nicaragua was "necessary" and "desirable" because "the Sandinista government seized power out of the barrel of a gun."

• The South Korean government and the Americans escorting exiled South Korean opposition leader Kim Dae Jung are both to blame for the airport melee that occurred when Kim return to his homeland. "There was bad judgment on both sides," Reagan said.

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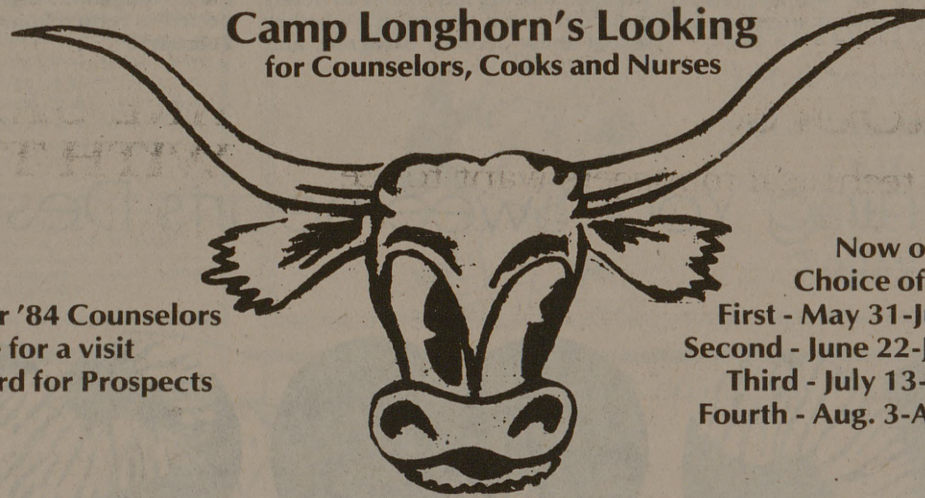
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