

**WORLD AND NATION**

**SHOE**

by Jeff MacNelly



Step One: Locate your Computer.



**Middle East**

*U.S., Soviet Union to discuss troubled area*

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Soviet Union will sit down to discuss the Middle East next week, but U.S. officials tried Wednesday to dampen expectations in advance by insisting they expect no change in Soviet policies.

Nevertheless, the two-day session in Vienna beginning Tuesday represents an increase in the dialogue on such troublespots as Afghanistan, southern Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"These talks should not be seen as negotiations," State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb cautioned after announcing the discussions.

"They are merely an exchange of views," he said. "They do not represent any change in the U.S. position regarding issues affecting the region, nor do we expect them to result in changes in Soviet positions."

The U.S. delegation will be led by Richard W. Murphy, assistant secretary of state for the Near East. The Soviet team will be led by Vladimir P. Polyakov, who is Murphy's counterpart in the Soviet foreign ministry.

"The discussions are to contribute to our own mutual understanding of those problems and are part of our ongoing effort to engage the Soviets in the full agenda of issues, including regional questions, human rights, and bilateral issues as well as arms control," said Kalb.

Kalb said the objective of the session was to "help avoid miscalculation and to reduce the potential risk of U.S.-Soviet confrontation."

President Reagan, asked about the reported agreement between PLO chief Yasser Arafat and Jordan's King Hussein on a so-called "framework for peace," replied: "it seems as if some progress has been made... so, we're being optimistic about it."

But he said the administration was "definitely not in support" of holding an international conference on the Middle East, which Israel also opposes. Some reports say such a conference is part of the "framework" Hussein and Arafat devised for dealing with the Palestinian problem.

The Soviets generally side with the Arabs against Israel and have no diplomatic relations with Jerusalem.

**Retail sales rose slightly in January**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Retail sales rose 0.7 percent in January as a big spurt in auto buying overcame sales declines at clothing and department stores, the government said Wednesday.

While the Reagan administration hailed the increase as a signal of further economic expansion, many private analysts said the gain was not nearly as strong as the overall number would indicate.

The Commerce Department report said sales by U.S. retailers climbed to a seasonally adjusted \$110.7 billion in January despite record cold weather in many parts of the country.

The increase compared with a 0.5 percent decline in December and a 1.5 percent gain in November.

Sales by auto dealers rose a sharp 4 percent in January, a gain attributed in part to consumers satisfying demand for popular models which were in short supply before. Without the big auto gain, retail sales would have actually edged down 0.1 percent during January.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, dismissing the lopsided nature of the report, proclaimed January sales "very good" and said prospects for coming months looked even better because of recent gains in income, continued high levels of consumer confidence and lower interest rates.

But Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman-American Express, said the January sales figure suggests that the retail side of the economy is only in a mild upturn.

"This points to a continuing advance in consumer spending, but only at a modest pace," he said.

Sandra Shaber, director of consumer economics for Chase Econometrics, a private forecasting firm, termed the non-auto sales performance "anemic" but said it was not a signal of an impending slump in spending.

"Consumer demand is not going to grow like it did last year, but there is still room for moderate expansion," she said.

She predicted consumer spending, after adjusting for inflation, would rise by about 3.5 percent this year, compared with a 5 percent increase in 1984.

**Cartoonist uses Doonesbury to comment on Garn's flight**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cartoonist Garry Trudeau calls it "the most extraordinary junket in the history of Congress," but Sen. Jake Garn isn't offended by the down-to-earth humor about his impending space shuttle trip.

"That (criticism) was raised almost from the moment he was asked to entertain the possibility of a flight," said Bill Hendrix, Garn's press secretary. "He takes his mission much too seriously to be bothered by that."

The Republican lawmaker from Utah, readying for a four-day mission scheduled for blastoff March 3, was in training in Houston and unavailable to reporters who tried to reach him Tuesday and Wednesday.

But Garn has seen the comics. "We showed him (the strip) and he thought it was pretty funny," Hendrix said, referring to Monday's installment, which noted that one of Garn's main jobs will be to conduct experiments in motion sickness.

In the strip, Garn is interviewed by Doonesbury television correspondent Roland Hedley aboard a KC-135 military aircraft being flown to simulate weightlessness.

Hedley is investigating whether Garn, "no stranger to weightlessness," is qualified for his mission — "to throw up on request."

As a floating Hedley poses that question, an off-frame voice warns, "Heads up!"

In Tuesday's installment of the strip, Hedley tells Garn that "many people feel your trip is the most extraordinary junket in the history of Congress."

The reporter suggests that a poet or essayist would be better able to tell the public about space since Garn, like many members of Congress, would have his staff write the speeches about the flight.

Hendrix said that won't happen. "Anybody who knows Jake Garn knows that he never follows a text," even if his staff has one prepared. "It wouldn't matter what we wrote — Jake Garn speaks for himself," he said.

Wednesday's strip returned to the nausea theme. "Barfin' Jake Garn, a man and his mission," Hedley says as a roll of toilet paper floats by.

**Federal government taking bids for \$4.2 billion telephone contract**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government, the world's largest long-distance telephone customer, started shopping Wednesday for \$4.2 billion worth of service by opening the bidding process for a contract that will go to one — and only one — vendor.

The General Services Administration, the government's procurement officer, asked telephone executives to come up with a plan for replacing the 22-year-old Federal Telecommunications System, essentially provided by the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

What the government wants is a one-stop telecommunications company, operated by a single prime contractor, that can provide and manage a total system service for 1.3 million government workers for 10 years starting in 1989.

Those federal employees and their computers talked long-distance for 1.5 billion minutes last year at a cost of \$424 million.

AT&T, which has 88 percent of the government's long-distance business, is expected to be among those bidding on the contract.

**Solidarity activists held**

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Polish security police detained seven prominent Solidarity activists today after raiding a meeting in a Gdansk apartment that was attended by Lech Walesa, an aide to the Solidarity leader said.

Walesa was released immediately after about 20 plainclothes and uniformed policemen forced their way into an apartment in the Baltic port city to break up the meeting of Solidarity leaders, said Grzegorz Grzelak, a Walesa aide.

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- San Antonio route: 846-5111**
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  - 2.) Bennigan's Restaurant at Loop 410 and San Pedro
  - 3.) Denny's Restaurant at Loop 410 and S.W. Military Dr.
  - 4.) Denny's Restaurant at Loop 410 and S.W. Military Dr.

- Dallas-Fort Worth Route: 846-2253**
- Waco-International Inn Restaurant at I35 and Behren Cr.
- 1.) Burger King at I35E and Loop 12
  - 2.) Jack-in-the-Box at Town East and 635
  - 3.) Jo Jo's Restaurant at Midpark and Central Expressway
  - 4.) McDonald's Hamburgers at Highway 183 and Carl Road
  - 5.) McDonald's Hamburgers at I35W and N.E. 28th St.
  - 6.) McDonald's Hamburgers at I35W and Felix St.

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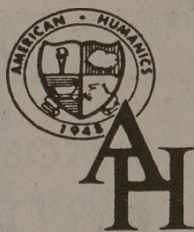
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

DAVID MOORE  
TEXAS A&M

AMERICAN HUMANICS STUDENT ASSOCIATION  
PHONE 845-3837

**SUMMER JOBS**



INTERVIEWS WITH CAMP OWNERS AND DIRECTORS ON

**Monday, February 18, 1985**  
**MSC - Rooms 226 - 230**  
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**CAMP DAY**