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Vol. 79 No. 179 USPS 045360 6 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday July 30, 1985

Soviets invited to monitor U.S. nuclear explosion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration Monday rejected a Soviet proposal for a halt in nuclear weapons testing but issued an unprecedented invitation to Moscow to send experts to Nevada to monitor an underground nuclear explosion.

The extraordinary offers came in the midst of a recess in the stalemated nuclear arms control talks in Geneva and appeared designed to score public relations points for each side.

Both proposals were revealed first by the White House.

The Soviets said they would halt all nuclear testing unilaterally from Aug. 6 — the 40th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima — until next Jan. 1, the White House said.

Soviet officials were quoted by the White House as saying they would consider extending the ban if the

United States joined their country in the decision.

Rejecting the moratorium, a senior administration official said that "given the scope and scale of Soviet modernization programs and U.S. restraint, U.S. testing is necessary to ensure the continued credibility and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear deterrent."

"What history has taught us about this is that these devices invariably are self-serving and designed to lock in areas of Soviet advantage," the official said.

The administration said there was no link between the Soviet offer and the U.S. invitation for Moscow to send a team to Nevada to monitor a single nuclear blast at the government's test site. Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said the Soviets could bring any instruments they wanted with them.

Soviets announce temporary test ban

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union announced Monday it temporarily will ban all nuclear tests beginning Aug. 6, the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and reacted warily to an unprecedented invitation from the United States to send observers to a nuclear test in Nevada.

The official news agency, Tass, said the U.S. invitation was a White House ploy to divert attention from the Soviet calls for a test ban treaty but did not say if the Soviets would reject the offer.

The Soviet ban on nuclear testing, announced by Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and read by Tass over national television, is to

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Monitoring a test near ground zero would allow the Soviets to calibrate their instruments, and thus

more accurately measure future U.S. nuclear explosions from afar, according to the administration official, who declined to be identified.

Speakes said the Soviets had not replied to the American offer.

Describing the U.S. invitation as unprecedented, Speakes said, "This is an effort to demonstrate that we would go the extra mile in order to get some results in arms control discussions."

"We would characterize it as a concrete step that indicates our good faith and seriousness in approaching arms control negotiations."

In Moscow, the official news agency Tass issued a statement quoting Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as calling the arms race an "immense threat to the future of the entire world civilization" and saying the Soviet ban would be a step toward forging a fuller agreement on nuclear disarmament.

The White House first announced its invitation to the Soviet Union, and then waited about two hours before revealing Moscow's proposal for a test moratorium.

The United States was privately informed by the Soviets on Sunday that they would issue a moratorium call, the official said.

The United States did not inform the Soviets of the American invitation until Monday, the same day the White House announced it.

The White House adamantly denied that the U.S. invitation was timed to counter the Soviet proposal, and said the U.S. move would have been announced regardless of what was done by Moscow.

Soviet minister calls for effort to ease tensions

Associated Press

HELSINKI, Finland — The Soviet Union's first new foreign minister in three decades said Monday that the governments of the world must make a joint effort to ease tensions and improve the international political climate.

Eduard A. Shevardnadze, 57, is here for the 10th anniversary observance of the Helsinki accords on European security and cooperation, which were negotiated in two years of meetings and signed in 1975.

He was Communist Party leader in the Soviet republic of Georgia until he was named July 2 to replace Andrei A. Gromyko, who had been foreign minister since 1958. Gromyko became the new Soviet president.

Shevardnadze reserved comment on his scheduled meeting with Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

He said in a statement distributed at the airport: "We are convinced that the current tense situation in the world calls for joint efforts aimed at radically improving the political climate in Europe and in international relations as a whole."

The three-day commemorative conference opens today and is almost certain to be overshadowed by private meetings of the 35 foreign ministers, especially the session Wednesday between Shultz and Shevardnadze.

Soviet and American officials said the two would discuss armaments, human rights and the summit scheduled for November between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Shevardnadze also will hold meetings in Helsinki with foreign ministers of the other members of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet-led counterpart of the NATO defense alliance, Soviet sources reported.

Among Western foreign ministers

with whom Shevardnadze is expected to hold private talks are Sir Geoffrey Howe of Britain, Francisco Fernandez Ordenez of Spain and West Germany's Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Shultz plans several similar meetings.

Foreign ministers of the European Common Market were organizing a special meeting about the situation in South Africa, where the government imposed a state of emergency July 21 to curb black unrest.

Shevardnadze issued a statement in which he said the Soviet Union has a "deep commitment" to the Helsinki agreements and considers them a foundation for better international relations.

"That is why we believe that this foundation should be protected and its erosion prevented," he said in the statement, which avoided remarks directly critical of any other signatory country.

Genscher of West Germany arrived later and told journalists at Vantaa Airport that "the course we took 10 years ago with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act was the right course."

The Final Act, which deals largely with human rights, is part of the larger agreement worked out in the Helsinki negotiations.

The conference involved every country in Europe except Albania, plus the United States and Canada. The accords agreed upon contain a wide range of promises involving human rights and security.

In the years since 1975, the United States and other Western signers have charged the Soviet bloc with violating human rights promises in its treatment of dissidents.

Moscow and its allies contend that the Western complaints amount to interference in their internal affairs.

Administration revises economic predictions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration on Monday officially lowered its prediction for 1985 economic growth but insisted that a sharp rebound in economic activity will occur during the second half of the year.

The new administration forecast calls for growth, as measured by the gross national production, of 3 percent this year — down from an April projection of 3.9 percent.

The downward revision has been expected for some time because GNP grew at an annual rate of only 1 percent from January through June, far below expectations last December.

To achieve the new forecast of 3 percent growth from the fourth quarter of 1984 through the fourth

quarter of 1985, the economy will still have to pick up considerably — expanding at an annual rate of 5 percent in coming months, five times the recent growth level.

Many private forecasters, while calling for some rebound in the second half of the year, expect only about half that increase.

The main weakness, as they see it, will be continued strains in the U.S. manufacturing sector, which has lost sales both at home and abroad to foreign competition because of the high value of the dollar.

W. Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisers, defended the administration forecast, contending that such things as recent strong advances in the stock market should bolster optimism about the future.



Photo by Carleton L. Dane

Protest

Cleveland Clarke, a senior forestry major at Texas A&M, participates in a demonstration outside the Texas Coin Exchange at 404 University Drive. Students Against Apartheid, a University group,

sponsored the demonstration Saturday. Students and members of the community were protesting because the store sells South African Krugerrands. The Texas Coin Exchange declined comment.

Funding reduced by \$500,000

MSC budget planned around cut

By BRIAN PEARSON Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center Council plans for 1985-86 will have to be routed around a \$500,000 budget cut.

MSC Director Jim Reynolds, speaking at the MSC Council meeting Saturday, said the budget cut from \$3.4 million in 1984-85 to a proposed \$2.9 million for 1985-86 will affect some of the programs offered by the MSC. The new budget

has been sent to the Texas A&M Board of Regents for approval.

Reynolds said the budget cut will not affect all of the MSC committee programs. He said such committees as MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society and MSC Political Forum will have about the same number of programs as last year.

Although 70 percent of the MSC funding comes from general revenues and donations, budget problems caused three committees to be

cut from the MSC Council's budget last spring, Reynolds said.

And Reynolds said budget problems also mandate that moves by such committees as MSC Town Hall be made with caution for 1985-86, he said. Reynolds said Town Hall lost about \$70,000 during the 1984-85 season.

But the \$500,000 cut in funding is not the only financial problem with which the MSC had to contend. Reynolds said the Legislature's

problems with Texas' pay-as-you-go budget has caused some unforeseen expenses for the MSC.

"Given the state's budget circumstances, every part of Texas A&M University is going to be under increasing scrutiny," Reynolds said.

Because of this budget crunch, the Legislature has decided to let such local agencies as the MSC, assume responsibility for the retirement programs of their employees.

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Tutu calls for meeting with Botha

South African leader too busy for conference

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Bishop Desmond Tutu on Monday requested an urgent meeting with President P.W. Botha to try to defuse nearly a year of black rioting in which nearly 500 blacks were killed, but Botha refused.

Botha's office blamed a "tight schedule" and spoke of a possible meeting in three weeks.

"I have tried and I have failed," said the Anglican bishop of Johannesburg, after Botha rebuffed the rare approach by a recognized black leader for talks on the crisis.

"I am very sad that the state president, who should be above politics, seems to be interested in political point-scoring," Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, told reporters at his Soweto home. "Our country is in a desperate situation and I was seeking to make myself available to assist in seeking a possible way out of the morass."

Botha meanwhile threatened to send home hundreds of thousands of foreign black workers if the United Nations Security Council continued to consider imposing economic sanctions against South Africa, the government-run radio said.

The Security Council on Friday passed a resolution calling for worldwide voluntary economic sanctions to pressure South Africa to dismantle apartheid, the white-minority government's racial discrimination policies.

Botha, speaking to a youth group at Potchefstroom near Johannesburg, said he asked officials to survey all of the estimated 1.5 million foreign workers in the country for possible expulsion, according to the broadcast.

The radio said Botha told the youth group that "he would not allow South Africa to be trampled on and he pointed out that the country had never used its full military potential" to combat "the terrorist onslaught."