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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Reagan takes action against South Africa

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan abandoned his opposition to sanctions against South Africa Monday and ordered implementation of most of the anti-apartheid provisions in a bill that congressional leaders said would have passed even over his veto.

Attempting to avoid the embarrassment of a foreign policy defeat in Congress, Reagan issued an executive order that he said was "aimed against the machinery of apartheid without indiscriminately punishing the people who are victims of that system."

A year of racial violence in South Africa in which more than 650 people had been killed, most of them

black, had brought sharp attack in the United States and in Congress against Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with that country — quiet diplomacy to persuade the governing whites to share power with the voteless black majority.

Until now, Reagan had justified his opposition to sanctions on the grounds that economic penalties would hurt blacks more than anyone else.

Reagan's order would prohibit U.S. banks from lending money to the South African government unless the funds are used to help the disenfranchised black majority as well as whites; ban computer exports to South African military and law enforcement agencies; and block the

### Botha says South Africa won't bow to pressure

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — President P.W. Botha said Congress forced President Reagan to adopt sanctions Monday against South Africa, but that Reagan's plan "is less harmful" than what U.S. legislators proposed.

Botha did not criticize Reagan, but said Congress coerced the president to move on economic sanctions "in disregard of the welfare and interests of our region."

Botha said South Africa would not bow to foreign pressure, but vowed the country would push "See Botha, page 8"

sale of nuclear technology to South Africa unless it is "necessary for hu-

manitarian reasons to protect health and safety."

In the order, signed in the Oval Office during a nationally broadcast ceremony, Reagan also proposed to ban importation of the Krugerrand, South Africa's gold coin, subject to consultations with America's major trading partners.

Reagan sent U.S. Ambassador Herman Nickel back to Pretoria with a letter that the president said expressed his "grave view of the current crisis and our assessment of what is needed."

"The American people are impatient," Reagan said. "We all feel very strongly about the changes needed."

As a practical matter, most of the steps contained in Reagan's executive order won't have a substantial impact on the South African govern-

ment or economy, administration officials said.

"There are prohibitions on sales of computers; there are prohibitions on sale of nuclear materials since South Africa has not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty," Secretary of State George P. Shultz said.

Another senior administration official, briefing reporters at the White House on condition he not be identified, said banning imports of Krugerrands was the only penalty that marked a genuine change in existing policy.

The president insisted he was not abandoning his policy of "constructive engagement."

### Faculty Senate OKs curriculum for genetics

By MARYBETH ROHSNER  
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate approved the curriculum for an undergraduate degree in genetics in the first meeting of the 1985-86 academic year Monday.

The Senate also resolved that the body would consider taking legal action against the state of Texas in response to the elimination of accrued sick leave for some faculty members.

More than an hour of discussion on the Senate floor resulted in the approval for a B.S. degree in genetics. The University currently offers graduate degrees in genetics, and the undergraduate curriculum has been in the planning stage for several years.

Sen. Jane Magill, a professor in the biochemistry department, said the demand for undergraduates with extensive training in genetics is increasing.

"Genetics majors would be employable," Magill said. "Students have asked why there isn't a genetics degree offered at Texas A&M."

Dr. Jim Wild, a major proponent of the degree plan, answered senators' queries about the new program.

If President Frank E. Vandiver approves the curriculum, the new department will be administered by the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics in the College of Agriculture.

And, even if approved, the new degree plan may take several years to materialize.

"The earliest possible date (for beginning the degree program) would be September of '87," Magill said.

In other business, Sen. John McDermott submitted an emergency resolution suggesting that the Faculty Senate "take legal steps to redress the grievances" of faculty that are affected by the Texas legislature's decision to eliminate sick leave accrual.

President Frank Vandiver said in his State of the University address that recent budget cuts have been a setback for Texas A&M, but he does not foresee a major crisis in finding funds.



### Solemn Shine

Jamie Newberry, a senior management major from Dallas, polishes his trumpet in preparation for the Silver Taps ceremony to be held in front of the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross tonight at 10:30.

Photo by KYLE HAWKINS

### Coup crushed

#### Loyalist Thai troops stop takeover attempt by rebels

Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — Loyalist troops crushed a coup attempt Monday by 400 to 500 soldiers led by former top military men. Prime Minister Prem Tinsulandona, who had been out of the country, returned hours after the tank-led rebel insurrection and pleaded for unity.

Four people were reported killed and 59 wounded in nine hours of fighting. The acting army chief said three alleged coup leaders had been arrested.

Among the dead were NBC News Bangkok bureau chief Neil Davis, and his soundman, Bill Latch. The two men were shot in front of the army compound as rebel-operated M-41 and M-48 tanks opened fire on the army radio station.

At 6 a.m. rebel soldiers seized the official Radio Thailand and government television Channel Nine. The rebels, calling themselves the "Revolutionary Party," announced they had seized power and dissolved the Parliament and Cabinet.

The rebels moved tanks to the compounds of the Supreme Command, Government House, the First Army Division headquarters and the Public Relations Department, the national media center, all located within a one-square-mile radius.

The rebels, with machine guns and 22 tanks, stormed the army radio station at 9:55 a.m., but gave up five hours later when the government threatened to move in and crush them.

The leaders of the coup announced over Radio Thailand that they had seized power, "to correct the seriously deteriorating situation of the economy."

White smoke rose from the badly damaged compound and the area resounded with bursts of machine gun and pistol fire and exploding grenades. The compound was seriously damaged by tank fire, but held out.

Radio Thailand said Prime Minister Prem hurried back from Indonesia and had an audience with King Bhumipol Adulyadej, who is the single greatest unifying symbol in Thailand and has figured prominently in the success or failure of previous attempts to change power.

In a brief television broadcast, Prem, who appeared on the verge of tears, said, "I want to stress that unity is the most important thing for our country. I want everyone to realize this importance."

Gen. Tienchai Sirisumphun, acting armed forces commander, speaking at a news conference, identified the key leaders of the coup attempt as Kriangsak Chomanand, former prime minister and supreme commander; Manoon Rubkachorn, a former battalion commander involved in an abortive 1981 coup; and his brother, Manat Rubkachorn, commander of the air force's security force.

Tienchai identified other plotters

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### MSC Council discusses computer problems

By MEG CADIGAN  
Staff Writer

Computer problems were the main topic of discussions at the MSC Council meeting Monday.

Robert Hawkins, executive vice president for administration, noted several problems with the present MSC computer system.

"People don't realize the capacity of the system," said Hawkins.

He said the system, which is operating at more than 90 percent of its capacity, has problems with quality control and training of those who use the computers.

The council unanimously approved a task force to set guidelines for solving immediate computer problems, and to set long-range computer plans for the MSC.

The long-range plans are to assess computer needs in all areas of the MSC and to develop an integrated computer plan.

"Basically, what we need is a systemized plan for our computers," Hawkins said.

Jim Reynolds, MSC director, explained that the MSC hasn't needed many computer usage guidelines in the past because there was no danger of exceeding the computer system's capacity.

A "new and improved" process for approving MSC programs was presented by David Klosterboer, executive vice president of programs.

In the new process, all programs will be presented to the Program Review Committee. Programs which involve more than \$2500 or ten percent of a committee's budget will be studied in greater detail.

The purpose of review committee is to study the overall programming of the MSC, said Klosterboer. He said he hopes this will prevent scheduling conflicts between programs and give experienced MSC personnel a chance to evaluate programs before they happen.

Klosterboer said a program study committee will review the programs after they have taken place and look to see if the monetary and student development goals have been met.

In other areas, Open House Chairman Chris Bowers reported that Open House was successful and only went \$150 over its budget.

Bryan Tanten, director of fund raising for Fall Leadership, reported that the committee's fundraising efforts resulted in a budget surplus of over \$2000.

MSC adviser assignments were approved and a new organizational flow chart was presented.

MSC Council President Denis Davis announced two council position openings, executive vice president for marketing and personnel and vice president of finance. She said interviews for these positions will be held Sept. 15.

### Scientists refusing 'Star Wars' grants

Associated Press

BOSTON — University scientists who claim the "Star Wars" defense system is "science fiction" and a "colossal waste of money" are asking colleagues to join them in refusing millions of dollars in research grants.

Hundreds of engineers, chemists and physicists on more than two dozen campuses have pledged not to accept money for work on the Strategic Defense Initiative, President Reagan's proposal for deflecting missiles in space.

Congress has tentatively set aside \$2.7 billion next year for research on the anti-missile system that proposes to create an enormous defensive shield of lasers and other weapons that could automatically shoot down Soviet missiles in the event of attack.

"As far as we know, this is the first time on a national basis that any group of scientists and engineers has refused to work on a particular weapons system," said Sanford Gottlieb, director of United Campuses to Prevent Nuclear War.

Reagan has proposed a five-year budget for the program of \$26 billion.

"Our major emphasis is not to make a political statement but to point out that the bulk of the scientists who would be working on it think it is technically infeasible and at the level of science fiction," said John Kogut, a physics professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana, one of two campuses where petitions have been circulating since June.

The movement, which began in June at Cornell University, spread during the summer to at least 31 campuses, where professors, graduate students and research students joined the boycott, said Sanford Gottlieb, executive director of United Campuses to Prevent Nuclear War, which is helping to coordinate the petition drive.

As of two weeks ago, 360 people had signed the pledge, but organizers said many more had signed as

schools returned to session.

"As far as we know, this is the first time on a national basis that any group of scientists and engineers has refused to work on a particular weapons system," Gottlieb said.

The petition states that scientists "pledge neither to accept Strategic Defense Initiative support or work on projects funded by SDI, and encourage others to join in this refusal."

"For a long time there has been an incorrect belief that you could separate science and politics," said David Wright, a physicist who helped start the drive at Cornell.

"What we're trying to tell people," he said, "is that the reality of the situation is that they can no longer ignore the political implications of their research."