

World and Nation

Soviets reveal new responses

Anti-Star Wars plan outlined

Associated Press
MOSCOW — A Soviet military specialist outlined possible countersteps Monday to render U.S. space defense systems into "useless junk."
 The outline — including dummy missiles, "space mines" and specially coated rockets — spelled out publicly for the first time what the Kremlin has in mind in response to "Star Wars" deployments. It was in one of two lengthy commentaries Monday on the Geneva nuclear arms talks that resume in a month.

The articles constituted the opening salvo in what appears to be a new round of Soviet arguments against the Strategic Defense Initiative before negotiations resume on Jan. 16.
 On Wednesday, two top Soviet space research scientists, Roald Sagdeev and Yevgeny Velikhov, and Georgy Arbatov, a top Kremlin adviser on the United States, are scheduled to hold a news conference.
 Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev said after his Nov. 19-20 summit meetings with President Reagan that he told Reagan not to have any

illusions about Soviet capabilities to respond to Star Wars, as the Strategic Defense Initiative is popularly called.
 Gorbachev said Soviet scientists have come up with plans for countersteps that would be cheaper and more effective than any space-based anti-missile systems, and they could be implemented fairly rapidly. However, he did not say what they were.
 Retired army Col. Vasily Morozov, now a military writer for the press agency Novosti, said Monday that the Soviets could deploy space

mines and other objects in orbit to destroy or interfere with U.S. systems.
 Morozov also said the Soviets could launch dummy missiles to distract U.S. anti-missile satellites, and use special coatings on Soviet missiles that would deflect laser beams.
 Morozov said the Soviets already have the technology for these countermeasures, and that they could cost "1 or 2 percent" of any SDI systems. The Reagan administration is proposing a \$26-billion SDI research program.

2 killed in gas tank explosion

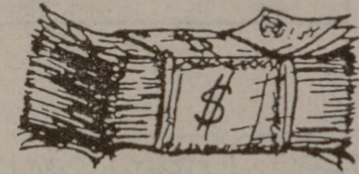
Associated Press
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, Colo. — A propane gas tank exploded in a gas company repair garage today, and at least two people were killed and 10 people were unaccounted for, a company vice president said.
 Only one wall of the two-story building remained standing. "It's all the way to the ground," said State Patrol Trooper Gary Eshelman.
 Les Sitter, vice president of Rocky Mountain Natural Gas Co., said two bodies had been recovered and firefighters were searching for 10 other people who may have been trapped.
 "We understand now it was a small, 1,000-gallon propane tank with just a small amount of propane in it," Sitter said. "It was on a flatbed truck. Apparently it had just been pulled into a mechanical maintenance area. We don't know what the ignition was, but that was the source of the explosion."

Sitter estimated 30 people were working in the company's billing and repair departments at the time.
 Thirteen people were taken to Valley View Hospital for treatment, said spokeswoman Catherine Evans. She said most were treated in the emergency room but did not discuss their injuries.
 Fire departments from throughout Garfield County were sent to the site.

Congressional conferees OK \$370 billion in spending

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Congressional negotiators voted Monday to allow senators to earn an extra \$7,510 a year in speaking fees and opened the door to a 1987 pay raise for all lawmakers as they agreed on a \$370 billion bill to finance many federal agencies through the end of the fiscal year.
 Critics immediately attacked the increase in senators' speaking income, particularly at a time when spending for many programs is being cut to reduce federal deficits. "For us to sneak it in or for us to appear to have snuck it in does us a disservice," said Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz.

Negotiators worked out the final sticking points of the catchall spending bill as Reagan administration officials claimed victory in their drive to resuscitate the president's tax overhaul plan.
 "We've got 50 votes," said Treasury Secretary James Baker a few hours after Reagan appealed privately to House GOP lawmakers to advance the legislation.
 The 50 votes was the minimum level of Republican support that House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., said was necessary to force a second vote. The measure was sidetracked last



week on a vote of 223-202, a defeat engineered by disaffected GOP lawmakers.
 "I cannot believe that a president who won the votes of 54 million Americans cannot gain the support of his own Republican caucus for his No. 1 second-term initiative," O'Neill said earlier in a statement. But other officials cautioned that Democratic support for the measure may have tapered off since last week, further threatening the measure.
 The honoraria and pay provisions were attached to "must-pass" year-end legislation that would permit defense spending to rise to at least \$282.5 billion next year while freezing or cutting many domestic programs.
 Lawmakers said they hoped Reagan would sign the measure and allow the House and Senate to conclude their business for the year without a nasty veto confrontation. There was no immediate comment from administration officials, who have

complained previously about several of the provisions in the bill, including a ban on further funding for anti-satellite weapons.
 Work on the spending measure proceeded against a theoretical deadline of 6 p.m. EST, when an existing stopgap bill was to expire.
 Most of the details of the long-term spending bill were worked out last week, but one last-minute compromise would phase out the Synthetic Fuels Corp. over four months, and permanently block expenditure of any of the agency's \$6.6 billion in unobligated funds.
 In exchange, the two sides agreed to provide \$100 million this year and \$400 million over three years for clean coal technology, money the administration opposes.
 Overall, the spending measure would provide an estimated \$370 billion for departments not yet covered by regular appropriations bills, including Defense, Agriculture, Treasury, Transportation and the Postal Service.
 The Pentagon would receive nearly \$282.5 billion in new spending authority, but negotiators also agreed to make another \$5 billion to \$7 billion available in transfers from previous years in case it is needed.

U.S. relaxes restrictions on exports to China

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration announced Monday it is relaxing restrictions on a wide variety of goods exported to China. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said easier trade relations can be had with the Soviet Union, too, but that much still depends on Soviet progress on human rights.
 The secretary said licensing changes would expand from seven to 27 the number of categories of products that can be shipped to China without special review. He

called the action "a major step ahead" in trade relations between the two nations.
 Up to 75 percent of all products now awaiting Commerce Department approval for shipment to China will benefit from the easing of restrictions, Baldrige said. Items eligible for the speeded-up processing include computers, machine tools, semiconductors, robotics and electronic instruments.
 "The backlog on China cases, which now runs to as much as six months to a year, will be reduced to

less than 30 days," Baldrige said in an interview with news service reporters.
 Two-way trade with China amounted to roughly \$6 billion this year, according to Commerce Department figures. Baldrige said it hadn't been calculated yet what the action would mean in terms of additional trade with China.
 He said that to qualify for the special speeded-up treatment, exporters would have to get a certificate from the Chinese government stating what the product's "end use" will

be, Baldrige said. He said China had already agreed to set up a program for issuing the certificates.
 The ban on export of strategic materials to China that could have military applications will be continued, Baldrige said.
 Just back from a Moscow conference on trade attended by U.S. businessmen and Soviet trade officials, Baldrige also said he saw enhanced prospects for increased trade with the Soviets — but to a lesser degree than with China.

Jury finds Gov. Edwards' brother innocent of fraud

Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS — A federal jury found Marion Edwards, brother of Gov. Edwin Edwards, innocent of 41 fraud charges Monday, but deadlocked on whether the governor, his brother and three co-defendants were guilty of racketeering.
 After the partial verdict was read, U.S. District Judge Marcel Livaudais noted the time and expense of the 13-week-old trial and told the jurors to strive to reach a verdict.
 The jury, in its fifth day of deliberations, acquitted Marion Edwards on 41 of the 49 fraud counts against him.

They each faced one count of violating the conspiracy section of the complicated federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization act.
 All but Mijalis also faced 49 counts of mail and wire fraud. He was charged with three counts of mail fraud.
 The judge gave no specific reasons for rejecting a defense motion to remove juror Clifford West, who made the thumbs-down gesture as a van carrying the jurors left the hotel where they have been sequestered at night.
 William Jeffress, Falgout's attorney, agreed but argued that West was trying to communicate with the public, a violation of the court's order that jurors speak with no one other than each other about the case.
 Defense lawyers said they were willing to accept a verdict from the 11 other jurors, and suggested Volz was afraid the 11 want to acquit the defendants.
 Volz said it was idle speculation to guess how the jury was voting. And he said disrupting deliberations by removing a juror would be "outrageous."

The jury was apparently unaware of the controversy.
 The indictment accused the defendants of scheming to illegally obtain state certification for hospital and nursing home projects in which they held interests. They sold five of the projects for \$10 million.
 Edwards acknowledged that before he took office in March 1984 for his third term he made almost \$2 million on the deals. He said the deals were legal and that he broke ties with the venture when he took office.
 Prosecutors showed that after Ed-

wards took office he approved or had a role in approving projects owned by Wyllie and Falgout. Defense attorneys said the facilities were approved because they were needed — not because of Edwards' previous business relationship with the two men.
 Each RICO count carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$25,000 fine and forfeiture of all property acquired in the criminal enterprise. Each mail and wire fraud count carries a maximum punishment of five years in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

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Old clock may be returned to House
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives is putting back the clock — or at least thinking seriously about it.
 The clock in question, a gold and bronze Victorian extravaganza, stood over the main entrance to the House for 92 years — from 1858 to 1950 — before falling victim to modern ideas of interior decor.
 In 1950 the East Front of the Capitol was extended, the House and Senate chambers modernized, the Victorian age expelled and the clock sent into storage.
 Earlier this year it was brought back into the light, dusted off, regilded, put back into working order and set up on display in a niche in the Crypt of the Capitol.
 There it gained such favorable attention that a recall drive was initiated.
 "Put it back? That's what we'd like to do," said Elliott Carroll, a spokesman for the architect of the Capitol. "We are studying whether it is feasible."
 But then he added, "It is feasible. It's just a matter of how to do it."
 Also where to place it.

The clock originally was placed over the North or main entrance to the House. Consideration is being given to giving it a new most over the Speaker's rostrum, the central position in the chamber.
 But the clock is larger than the timepiece currently in place and its installation would mean cutting into the chamber wall to avoid blocking sight lines from the galleries above.
 The return of the clock would mean replacing a 1920s electric time-keeping mechanism with an up-to-date system.
 "It's a magnificent, handsome thing," Carroll said. "Why keep it out of sight?"
 The handsome thing features a large central circular dial and clockface surrounded by gilded garlands of oak leaves and acorns and apples and pears and grapes and topped with a shield bearing 13 stars and the motto, "E Pluribus Unum," on a flowing ribbon of gold leaf.
 On top of that is a bronze eagle flapping its wings.
 On the left is a bronze and somewhat weary-looking pioneer in moccasins leaning on a musket, a powder horn on his belt.

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