

# World and Nation

## NASA delays Delta launch for 48 hours

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA on Thursday postponed for 48 hours the first space launch here since the Challenger disaster, after a small fuel leak raised concern that the Delta rocket carrying a weather satellite would not reach orbit.

The leak of about a quarter-cup of kerosene-type fuel past a valve in the main engine was found a little more than three hours before the rocket was to blast off. The launch was rescheduled for 6:18 p.m. Saturday.

NASA spokesman George Dillard said, "There was no chance of an explosion... There was concern that the rocket could lose thrust and not have a full-duration burn," preventing it from going into orbit.

It is not uncommon to have a small amount of leakage in the engine system, which is at the bottom stage of the three-stage rocket, officials said.

The rocket's payload this trip is GOES-7, the seventh in a series of geostationary operational environmental satellites. It cost \$57.5 million to build and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is paying NASA \$42 million to launch it.

## McAuliffe's funeral service held Thursday

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Christa McAuliffe, who sacrificed her life for the dream of becoming the first ordinary citizen in space, was laid to rest Thursday in a hillside cemetery overlooking the city where she taught school.

In a brief statement, the family announced that the 37-year-old Concord High School teacher had become the first of the seven Challenger astronauts to be buried.

Family spokesman Michael Callahan said, "A private Roman Catholic interment service was held at 11 a.m. for S. Christa McAuliffe. The service was conducted by McAuliffe's cousin, the Rev. James Leary.

"The family conveys its deep gratitude to all who respected its privacy in these moments."

Immediately after the ceremony, workers removed flowers from the bare gravesite, presumably to direct attention away from it.

There is no marker and there was no indication from Callahan as to when one might be erected.

The grave is near the top of a gentle slope, in front of a large evergreen surrounded by other trees just beginning to bud.

The spot overlooks the hills that surround northern Concord.

It is about two miles from McAuliffe's house and the high school where she taught how history affected everyday people.

## Soviet nuclear accident

### Soviet official defends accident reporting

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Soviet official, in an extraordinary appearance before a House subcommittee, said Thursday his country delayed telling the world about the Chernobyl accident because officials wanted to know "what the consequences were before making an announcement."

And Vitaly Churkin, a second secretary of the Soviet Embassy, calmly responding to sometimes testy questions of House members, insisted: "We have been very forthcoming."

Churkin's testimony did not deviate from the official accounts put out by the Soviet government in the wake of the April 26 accident at the Chernobyl nuclear complex.

The embassy representative insisted that only two people were killed in the April 26 accident and 197 injured, 18 of them seriously.

He also maintained the Soviet Union had met its responsibilities

*"If they have any problems, they will not have medical bills to pay."*

— Vitaly Churkin, second secretary of the Soviet Embassy.

to notify other countries of the accident.

"Definitely there has been an accident which has not been liquidated yet and theoretically poses a threat to people outside the Soviet Union," Churkin said. "We are still trying to manage the situation. We have not told other countries yet that everything is OK and that they can relax."

Subcommittee chairman Ed Markey, D-Mass., told Churkin that instead of celebrating May Day, the Soviets should have been

sending a "Mayday (warning signal)" to the residents of the Soviet Union who lived near the Chernobyl fallout.

"It would not be correct on my part to accept any advice from you," Churkin replied. He added, "If they have any problems, they will not have medical bills to pay."

At another point, Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., pressed the Soviet official at one point to say in laymen's terms how the accident happened.

"Can you tell me in those same laymen's terms how the Challenger accident happened," replied Churkin, adding that, like the shuttle explosion, the nuclear accident was "something no one thought could happen."

U.S. officials continued to offer a more severe assessment of the accident Thursday, citing the likelihood of numerous radiation deaths, contaminated farmland and continuing radiation releases at the damaged plant.

## Soviets ask marrow transplant group for aid

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Soviet Union agreed Thursday to accept help for victims of a nuclear accident near Kiev from an international bone-marrow transplant organization, the group's chairman said.

Dr. Robert P. Gale of the International Bone Marrow Transplant Registry, which represents 128 centers that do bone marrow transplants, said he received a telephone call today from the Soviet Embassy in Washington. Soviet officials told him they were "anxious for me to come, confer with my counterparts in the Soviet Union and, if necessary, take whatever steps are necessary," he said.

Those steps would include determining the number of people suffering from radiation sickness, then overseeing massive international efforts to locate suitable bone marrow donors and perform transplants, Gale said.

The registry has access to lists of 50,000 to 100,000 people who have offered to donate bone marrow. Marrow transplants are the only way to treat otherwise fatal doses of radiation. Radiation destroys the marrow, where vital components of the blood and the immune system are produced.

## Texas plant could be asked to aid Soviets

AMARILLO (AP) — The Pantex nuclear weapons plant here is reportedly one of several facilities the Department of Energy is sounding out for help if the Soviet Union asks for aid in quelling its nuclear power plant accident.

But the Amarillo Globe-News reported in a copyright story Thursday that officials at Pantex, the final assembly point for all the nation's nuclear weapons, said they couldn't do much to help.

"All Department of Energy facilities around the country that have the capability of responding to an accident or incident involving radiation were pulsed to see what was available in case we were

asked," David Jackson, a spokesman for the DOE in Albuquerque, N.M., said Wednesday night.

"There are no plants at this particular point to deploy any DOE people. That could change, and if it does, I'm sure there would be some kind of announcement."

Charles Poole, manager at the Pantex plant, said DOE officials have asked Pantex officials about its equipment and personnel for possible deployment to the Soviet Union.

Poole said the plant has an 18-member team trained to deal with nuclear weapons accidents, but it has no personnel with expertise in nuclear power plant accidents.

Jackson said, "Pantex is just one of our many, many facilities that was asked the same kinds of questions."

Sandia National Laboratories, the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Albuquerque, Pantex and 41 other places were queried about their resources, Jackson said.

He said Pantex is not being singled out in any special way.

U.S. intelligence reports maintain that the nuclear disaster in the Ukraine is still out of control. The United States has offered technical and humanitarian assistance, but the Soviets have not replied.

## Shultz says Marcos a free man

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz said Thursday the Reagan administration considers deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos a free man entitled to call supporters in his homeland and to move from the United States if he wishes.

In blunt language exposing tension between the administration and the government of Marcos successor Corazon Aquino, Shultz also said "we don't have infinite capacity to provide money" to Manila.

He said that Philippine Vice President Salvador Laurel, in a meeting with President Reagan, was told the

administration believes the courts — not the U.S. government's executive branch — must resolve claims by the Aquino government that Marcos stole billions in money and other valuables belonging to the Filipinos.

Asked whether Reagan had provided to Laurel sufficient assurances of U.S. support for the Aquino government, Shultz snapped to reporters, "You will have to ask Mr. Laurel if he is satisfied. Let me remind you the president is not on trial here."


In his last full day on this tropical island before heading on to Tokyo and the seven-nation international economic summit, Reagan met with

Laurel, conferred separately with Indonesian President Suharto and spoke to the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

In a toast at a state dinner thrown by Suharto, Reagan noted strong differences between the two nations despite differing methods of government.

Earlier in the week, Indonesian denied entry to two Australian journalists traveling with Reagan's entourage because of a ban on Australian reporters stemming from a story in a Sydney newspaper suggesting corruption in Suharto's government.


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