

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Summit planning may start Soviets seek talk renewal

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union, which had canceled preparations for another Reagan-Gorbachev summit, has proposed that they be resumed, a senior official said Tuesday.

It was the first public step by the Soviets toward scheduling the next summit since they called off a preparatory meeting between Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Secretary of State George P. Shultz after the April 15 U.S. bombing raids on Libya.

Vladimir F. Petrovsky, deputy foreign minister, told a news conference that diplomatic contacts were under way for a new meeting between Shevardnadze and Shultz, but he made clear that the two sides were far from setting a date for a second summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

At their first summit last November in Geneva, Reagan and Gorbachev agreed to meet again this year in the United States.

In Washington, White House spokesman Larry Speakes welcomed Petrovsky's statement and said the United States hopes it indicates "a willingness on (the part of) the Soviet Union to move forward to preparations for a summit, which we would like to have."

"We are certainly ready for such a meeting between the secretary and the foreign minister, but there has been no specific date set for such a meeting," he said.

Petrovsky said the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting hinges on chances of "tangible" progress in arms control.

## South African mineworkers plan protest

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A bomb blast injured six women and two girls at a downtown bus stop Tuesday. Elsewhere in Johannesburg, leaders of the black mineworkers' union voted to protest the detentions of colleagues by staging disruptive actions.

The mineworkers' move could affect the output of the world's largest gold-producing nation.

The nation's largest labor federation, the mostly black Congress of South African Trade Unions, said Tuesday its executive committee drafted a plan for a nationwide action to protest the detentions and

other effects of the state of emergency.

The federation includes the miners' union. A spokesman said local affiliates would be consulted about the plan. He said the proposed protest might be scheduled for July 14, but no final decision on details had been made.

Tuesday's bomb explosion, across from 50-story Carlton Center office tower, the nation's tallest building, was the 10th in South Africa since a state of emergency was imposed June 12. The blasts killed three people and injured 98.

Injured Tuesday were five white women, a black woman and two

white children — a 2-week-old baby, reported badly hurt, and a 3-year-old, slightly injured.

The government blamed the bombing on the outlawed African National Congress. The black guerrilla organization has refused to confirm or deny responsibility for any recent explosions.

Also Tuesday, police commanders in four regions banned several anti-apartheid groups from holding meetings. The orders extend an existing ban on outdoor rallies to include indoor meetings and affect such groups as the United Democratic Front, the country's largest anti-apartheid coalition.

The ban affects districts of eastern Cape Province, southwest Cape Province, northern Orange Free State, and the Eas Rand area directly east of Johannesburg.

The latest bombing came a week after explosions at a fast food restaurant and a hotel in Johannesburg injured 19 people.

Bureau for Information spokesman Leon Mellet said the blast was "in line with the adopted policy of the ANC of indiscriminate attacks."

Police said the bomb was placed in a garbage can. A motorcycle shop was wrecked, and windows were shattered.

Witnesses said one woman was sit-

ting at the stop, her baby next to her in a stroller. She leaped up, blood pouring down her face, a witness said.

Early Tuesday in Johannesburg, at the close of a five-hour meeting, leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers voted to launch disruptive actions to protest the state-of-emergency detentions of 10 senior union officials.

The action followed detention of a mineworkers' union vice president who also is president of the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The union represents nearly half the country's 550,000 black miners.

## Team of engineers suggests escape system for shuttle

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — A team of engineers has recommended that NASA install a space shuttle bail-out system so astronauts can escape during a low-altitude emergency. But the group found no way to save lives in an accident like the one that destroyed Challenger.

A crew wearing special suits and breathing oxygen could use parachutes when the spacecraft is moving at low velocity below 100,000 feet in gliding flight, Al Louviere, head of the team that studied possible astronaut escape systems, said in an interview Tuesday.

But Louviere, a Johnson Space Center engineer, said the team's six-week study discovered no system that would have provided an escape for the seven crew members who died when Challenger exploded and broke apart 73 seconds after launch on Jan. 28.

"It would have been very difficult to understand that you had a problem and then react to it," Louviere said. "It was very, very quick. We're talking about a second or two. I

don't know what you would have done."

He said a bail-out system could be designed to give astronauts a chance to survive an emergency that occurred during gliding flight, after the solid fuel booster rockets were separated from the spacecraft.

The system could be as simple as having the astronauts jump from the shuttle with parachutes at a low altitude, or as complex as using rockets to extract crew members who wear fireproof, pressure suits, breathe oxygen and ride down on heat-resistant parachutes.

Louviere said none of the concepts studied provided perfect solutions.

"There's not a good answer," he said. "The system we had, if we can get it to work right, is probably the right one — to let people go back and fly like a passenger airline."

Whether astronauts could survive a water landing was uncertain, so the group recommended some type of bail-out system, said Louviere.

None of the systems would be

practical for escaping while the launch rockets are thrusting, meaning the astronauts would have to wait for the solid rockets to burn out and separate, said the engineer. The shuttle then would descend to a lower altitude and slower speed before the astronauts bailed out.

The bail-out system, depending on its complexity, would cost "tens of millions," said Louviere, and could be ready within 18 months.

Louviere said the group studied and rejected expensive plans such as ejection seats; a system that would separate the entire crew cabin from the shuttle; and a mixed system using a pressurized tank in the cargo bay and ejection seats.

The pressurized tank would be ejected and descend by parachute.

These systems, he said, would cost "hundreds of millions" and would add weight and penalize spacecraft performance. They also would take about two years to design and build into the shuttle, he said.

## Police cite economy as cause

# B-CS crime increases sharply

By Olivier Uytendaele  
Staff Writer

Bryan and College Station police statistics show that 1986 has seen sharp increases in a number of criminal activities and police cite the failing economy and increased prisoner releases by the Texas Department of Corrections as possible causes.

Texas A&M has avoided this increase in criminal activity to a large extent, with University Police records showing only small increases in most theft and burglary categories. For example, misdemeanor theft rose from 652 for the 1984-1985 academic year to 666 for 1985-1986.

Felonious theft and motor vehicle break-ins actually declined slightly from the 1984-1985 academic year to the 1985-1986 year.

Sgt. Choya Walling of the Bryan Police Department attributes the higher crime rates to the unusually large numbers of convicts the Texas Department of Corrections has re-

### Local crime statistic comparison

Comparing statistics for January through May of 1985 to the same period in 1986, the following increases were noteworthy:

COLLEGE STATION —  
• A 33 percent increase in thefts. Reported thefts in College Station rose from 693 to 920.  
• A 24 percent increase in motor vehicle thefts. Reported motor vehicle thefts rose from 37 to 46.

BRYAN —  
• Robberies rose 73 percent from 19 to 33.  
• Residential burglaries rose 48 percent from 235 to 347.

• Motor vehicle break-ins rose 45 percent from 142 to 206.  
• Thefts rose 12 percent from 878 to 989.  
• Aggravated assault rose 31 percent from 108 to 140.

Theft — removal of property without breaking and entering a building.

Burglary — unlawful entry and removal of property from an unoccupied building or motor vehicle.

Robbery — unlawful entry and removal of property from an occupied building.

leased from prison in recent months on parole or early release.

Charles Brown, Assistant Director for Public Information at the Texas Department of Corrections in Hunt-

sville reports that the number of convicts released by the TDC has increased from 15,632 for January through May of 1985 to 18,421 for the same period this year.

The number of paroled convicts and prisoners under mandatory supervision now living in Brazos County has shown a modest increase over last year, rising from 164 in August 1985 to 199 in April of this year, says Robert Papscott, Information Officer of the Board of Pardons and Paroles in Austin.

A prisoner released early for good behavior remains under mandatory supervision for the remainder of his original sentence, Papscott says.

Cpl. David Luedke of the College Station Police Department attributes the increases in theft and burglary in good part to the downturn in the local economy and higher unemployment in the area.

Luedke says most thefts and burglaries are "opportunistic" crimes, meaning that an unlocked door or unguarded property invites someone on the lookout for such opportunities to commit the crime.



## Festival Bound

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Cindi Foster, a member of the Texas A&M women's softball team, trains for her tryout for the Olympic Games Festival women's softball team. Foster's training regimen includes running the bleachers at Kyle Field, bicycling, running and swimming.

# Comanche Peak safety record questioned

DALLAS (AP) — A federal licensing panel has ordered officials at the Comanche Peak nuclear plant to answer questions about the history of safety problems at the plant, indicating the construction permit may be suspended if the answers are not provided promptly.

In a separate memorandum, the board, which oversees construction

at the plant, raised concerns about a \$120 million reinspection of the plant in progress.

The U.S. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board made public the documents Monday.

Texas Utilities spokesman Dick Ramsey said, "Certainly, we're trying to determine what we need to do in

terms of time and resources to comply with the order."

The memorandum says, "We are not at this time assured that (the utility) will examine in the proper depth the design, design control and technical difficulties that have affected their plant and their conduct in these proceedings," the board said.

Ramsey said, "We're just in the

middle of that program. Certainly the concerns that the board expresses at this point give us an opportunity to look at the program and see if any adjustments need to be made."

The order demanding responses to safety history is part of a legal exchange of information required for preparation of a hearing on whether

the utility had good cause for not completing construction of Unit 1 of the twin reactor nuclear project by Aug. 1, 1985, when the construction permit expired.

Construction continued on the reactor for six months after the permit expired. Because the unit is almost complete, a federal licensing panel is

trying to decide the issue before the plant is finished.

Peter Bloch, chairman of the U.S. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, wrote in the order, "Our only tool for preventing the case from becoming moot will be to suspend the construction license for failure to comply promptly with discovery needs."

## Smithsonian to get winner of largest roach contest

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas roach contest has piqued the interest of officials at the Smithsonian Institution, who have requested first shot at the burly champion for an entomological exhibit.

"He's going to loan it to us for a while," said Sally Love, curator of the insect zoo at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.

The winner of the "Largest Cockroach" contest, which carries

a \$1,000 grand prize, will have to size up to more than 200 of its kind entered before the deadline Monday, said sponsor Michael Bohdan of The Pest Shop-Bizzy Bees Pest Control Co. in Dallas.

Love said the zoo already has about four species of cockroaches, but she was interested in the contest winner because of Texas' reputation for producing bigger and better breeds.

## Crash of experimental airship kills 1

LAKEHURST, N.J. (AP) — An experimental 343-foot-long airship made from a blimp and parts of four helicopters caught fire and crashed Tuesday while on a test flight at a Naval center here, killing one of five crew members aboard.

The aircraft, known as the Heli-Stat, crashed at 7 p.m. at the U.S. Naval Air Engineering Center, three-quarters of a mile from where the Hindenburg disaster occurred 49 years ago, said Nick Grand, public information officer at the center.

The four survivors were not se-

riously hurt, said Grand, who confirmed the death.

The Heli-Stat was hovering and tilted backward when the rear helicopter caught fire, said Mike DeStanko, a civilian member of the Lakehurst Navy Flying Club.

"Two back helicopters looked like they were totally on fire and there's a crewman in every one," DeStanko said.

"It was just hovering for one of their test flights and it looked like it

just tilted and caught on fire," he said.

The Heli-Stat was designed to be used for timber harvesting in remote areas, but a congressional report in 1982 questioned its practical applications, said its costs could top \$40 million, and cited structural problems with the aircraft.

Chuck Peterson, who witnessed the crash, said the ship appeared to have just taken off and was about 10 feet in the air when it burst into flames.

"It just burst right in the air," said Peterson, a Navy petty officer stationed at the center. "I couldn't believe it. Flames flew."

"The next thing I knew, there was fire trucks and ambulances running out there," said Peterson, who about 200 yards from the aircraft. "There was black smoke flying off it. I saw pieces of it on fire, flying all over."

The crash occurred near the site where the German dirigible Hindenburg caught fire and burned in May 1937, killing 36 people.