

World and Nation

New shuttle design 'will correct' flaws

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — A new booster rocket design for the space shuttle will correct the problems that caused Challenger to blow up and such an accident will not happen again, the leader of a NASA team said Wednesday.

"This design will preclude this disaster from happening again," John Thomas said at a Marshall Space Flight Center news conference. "It will be a system that will be extremely resistant to any failure. . . . We are designing a joint that will be safe."

Thomas said his team has developed two candidate designs to replace the faulty joint between two sections of the booster that failed on

Challenger. He said the new joint will seal rigidly, resist the effects of low temperatures and will be protected from rain water.

The candidate designs will be evaluated again in two weeks by the Marshall team and by a group at Morton Thiokol, the rocket manufacturer. A final NASA review will be in September, he said. After that, an independent panel will evaluate the design.

Thomas said his team also is redesigning other critical parts of the booster, correcting any element that gave problems in the 24 successful shuttle launches and strengthening other areas.

The presidential commission con-

cluded that the cause of the Jan. 28 blast, which killed seven crew members, was that the joint failed to seal, allowing rocket exhaust to burn into the shuttle's huge external fuel tank. The tank burst and its fuel ignited, shattering the spacecraft.

The commission concluded that the joints routinely bulged opened slightly as the rocket fired, moving O-ring gaskets that seal the joints out of position.

Thomas said both of the candidate joint designs have a metal lip that will keep the joint from opening. He said one of the designs includes a third O-ring positioned so that the seal tightens, instead of opens, as the rocket is fired.

Additionally, Thomas said, the new design calls for insulation and water sealing to protect the joint from the weather. If necessary, he said, heating coils could be installed.

"The joint will not be sensitive to those (weather) variations," said Thomas. "If the specifications call for 30 degrees, we're going to design to 20" to add a margin of safety.

The engineer said there will be four full-scale tests of the new booster rocket. The first could be early as November or December.

The commission recommended that tests be conducted in conditions that closely resemble a launch, which would mean firing the rockets in vertical position.

European Community, US call trade war truce

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the 12-member European Community on Wednesday called a six-month cease-fire in a trans-Atlantic trade war that U.S. officials say is threatening up to \$1 billion a year in American farm sales.

Both sides agreed to back off recently announced retaliatory tariffs and counter steps through Dec. 31 to give negotiators a chance to finish their work, U.S. officials said.

Trade officials said the agreement should help bring about a slight increase in U.S. farm sales in Europe.

Under the truce, the Reagan administration agreed to hold off on threatened restrictions on European white wine, beer and certain food products that might have taken effect this week.

In return, the European trading bloc agreed to compensate U.S. farmers with other agricultural purchases for sales lost because of an increase in Spanish tariffs on U.S. corn and sorghum that took effect March 1.

But Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige cautioned that the United States was prepared to move ahead with trade retaliation next year if the negotiations fail to produce an accord that would compensate U.S. farmers for lost markets.

The new Portuguese restrictions are not expected to harm U.S. farmers until at least next year and were not included in the steps announced Wednesday.

Trade tensions between the United States and the European Community intensified earlier this year with the entrance of Spain and Portugal into the trading bloc.

In joining the community, the two countries had to abide by a set of regulations that give trade preferences to European farmers.

The result was what U.S. officials said could be a loss of up to \$1 billion a year in sales in Spain and Portugal. In retaliation for the new Portuguese and Spanish restrictions, the administration announced in May that it would impose restrictions on white wines, brandy, beer and various other European products.

It was doubtful that the U.S. restrictions on European imports — now suspended — would have had any immediate effect on consumer prices. They were deliberately set slightly above 1985 levels of imports for these products to soften the impact.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The stock market nudged ahead Wednesday, setting record highs for the third straight session.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks, which closed above 1,900 Tuesday for the first time, gained 5.49 to 1,909.03.

Analysts said the market's rise past the 1,900 level, while certainly welcomed on Wall Street, did not create any powerful new surge of buying interest.

Many market participants were awaiting the government's report today on the employment situation for June.

Activity in the stock market is expected to begin slackening on Thursday as traders turn their thoughts to the long July 4 holiday weekend.

In the daily tally on the Big Board, about eight stocks rose in price for every seven that lost ground.

3-year-old Texas boy dies after 2nd heart transplant

LOMA LINDA, Calif. (AP) — A Texas child who underwent two heart transplants in 25 hours died Wednesday after spending nearly two weeks in critical condition, a hospital official said.

Nicky Carrizales, 3, died about 8:30 or 9 a.m., said Dick Weismeyer, a spokesman for Loma Linda University Medical Center.

Weismeyer said he had no information about the cause of the death.

The San Antonio boy's own heart had been replaced because he suffered cardiomyopathy, a fatal degeneration of the heart muscle.

Nicky underwent an operation that ended at 1:45 a.m. June 18 and a second operation that ended at 1:05 a.m. June 19.

Philadelphia (AP) — Trash piled up on streets as 14,000 municipal workers struck for a second day Wednesday, and one union leader vowed to turn the city's Fourth of July festivities into "an unpleasant situation."

Most libraries and recreation centers were closed, and other city services were curtailed. Police, firefighters and non-union supervisors performed essential services as garbage cans overflowed and police received reports of strike-related vandalism.

Strikes representing municipal employees went on strike after contract talks collapsed Monday night.

Court to hear appeal in 2 months

Bundy gets stay of execution

STARKE, Fla. (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday indefinitely blocked the execution of convicted serial killer Theodore R. Bundy, who had been scheduled to die this morning in the electric chair.

The three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals issued the stay without comment. Court clerk Miguel Cortez said the Atlanta-based court would hear Bundy's appeal in at least two months.

Bundy also was convicted of killing a 12-year-old girl in Florida and of a 1975 kidnapping in Utah, and was awaiting trial in Colorado on charges of killing a nurse when he escaped and made his way to Florida.

The FBI said when it put Bundy on its Ten Most Wanted List that he was wanted for questioning in 30 slayings.

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