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# World and Nation

## Soviets say silence of range proves nuclear test ban

IN THE GEGELEN HILLS, Kazakhstan, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Army generals opened their secret nuclear test range here for a group of Soviet and foreign journalists, showing a silent, rusted site that they said proved the Kremlin had banned nuclear tests.

Two Soviet generals on hand for the tour Saturday made it clear the visit was arranged to reinforce Moscow's appeals to the United States to join the moratorium on nuclear tests begun by the Kremlin in August 1985.

"The aim of our journey is to show you that our test site is silent," said Gen. Yuri V. Lebedev, who flew with the group to the Central Asian site. "We would like it to remain that way forever."

The journalists and official escorts left Moscow Friday in a special Aeroflot Tu-134 jet to the city of Semipalatinsk in the northeast corner of Kazakhstan, about 370 miles from the border with China.

A smaller plane ferried the group from Semipalatinsk to the garrison for the test area, an unnamed and

uncharted town along the Irtysh River.

From there the visitors traveled by Mi6 helicopter over salt lakes and herds of wildlife to the foothills of the Gegelen range.

Rusted piles of abandoned machinery and huge natural granite formations crumbled by the force of earlier nuclear blasts give the steppes the look of an open-pit mine, and rusted rail tracks run to corroded iron doors closing off unused tunnels bored for tests.

The moratorium was declared on the 40th anniversary of the Aug. 6, 1945 nuclear attack on Hiroshima, Japan, by the United States toward the end of World War II.

Before the moratorium, all Soviet tests on the site were carried out in shafts bored horizontally into the granite, said Gen. Arkady D. Ilyenko, commander of the test zone area.


A new tunnel was built for each test, with the length depending on the strength of the blast, Ilyenko said.

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## World Briefs

### Senate close to action on drug bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate is nearing passage of a \$1.4 billion measure to combat drug abuse after backing off the stiffest features of a counterpart bill passed by the House — ordering the military to seal U.S. borders against smugglers and establishing the death penalty in major drug cases.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Sunday that the House's demand that the military intercept all drug shipments from abroad was absurd.

Interviewed on CBS' "Face the Nation," Weinberger said the military is already doing a great deal to fight drugs, including sharing intelligence data with law enforcement agencies and providing logistical help to other nations for drug raids, as was the case recently in Bolivia.

He noted that 76,000 airplanes cross the U.S. borders every day and, to meet the mandate of the House bill, he said the United States would have to start shooting down planes.

The Senate plowed through a series of amendments to its bill by early Sunday before ending a marathon day that also saw the Republican-controlled chamber pass a landmark tax-overhaul bill.

Senate passage would send the bill to a House-Senate conference committee to reconcile the differences between the two versions. That panel will try to work quickly so it can be sent to President Reagan before adjournment.

Many senators declared their constituents are deeply worried about the drug issue and are demanding strong action.

### Impact of tax overhaul still debated

WASHINGTON (AP) — There were gloomy predictions Sunday that the new tax code awaiting President Reagan's signature will be an economic disaster, but supporters of the package dismissed such talk as sour grapes from special interests.

"As the special interests have been unable to retain their special preferences and deductions and so forth, they've moved to this argument that this is going to mean the end of Western civilization as we know it," Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III said on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley." "Let me tell you something, it is not."

A day after the Senate gave final congressional approval to the broadest overhaul of the federal

tax code in a generation, politicians and economists still argued over the impact of the changes on the nation's economy.

Concerns for the economy have been raised because the bill would repeal the investment tax credit and shift \$120 billion in taxes from individuals to corporations over the next five years.

"I believe that this is a down tax bill," said Murray Weidenbaum, a former chairman of Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers. "We're going to see fewer new jobs created, a weaker economy, less revenues into the Treasury, more unemployment compensation and bigger budget deficits. It may be good politics, but I think it's bad economics."

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## Space station

(Continued from page 1)

uids and vapors separate naturally, into predictable configurations, due to buoyancy — like the foam rises on your beer.

"What we want to know is what happens in zero-gravity. Where does the liquid go? Top? Bottom? Where? We need to know this because if you are going to design power conversion and transfer equipment you must know where the liquid and vapor are in the system."

Best's experiment package consists of three smaller packages: the free-float package (the actual experiment site); the bolt-down package (which houses the materials and equipment for the experiment); and the computer console unit (where the test data is recorded).

The free-floating package is made up of a boiler where water is heated and steam is produced. The steam then is piped into a clear glass tube called the "test section" where the steam is condensed into water. The "test section" is connected to a device called a "gamma densitometer."

This device measures the void fraction, the fraction of vapor and liquid relative to their positions in the tube. Thermo-couplings are used to gather temperature and

pressure data and a high-speed camera photographs the experiment.

Best said that zero-gravity will be simulated in the same manner in which it is produced for astronaut training.

"The experiment package will be loaded onto one of NASA's KG-135 aircraft (the plane used to train astronauts in weightlessness)," Best said. "The plane then flies a series of parabolas (climbs and dives). This climbing and diving produces reduced gravity (zero-gravity) for short periods of time."

Kachnik, who will accompany Best on the flight, said that while he is excited about the flight itself, the experiment has top priority.

"I'm excited about the flight, but my main concern is the performance of the equipment," Kachnik said. "That's really why I'm going, to make sure all the equipment works properly."

Best said the project, which was funded by NASA for \$98,000 and has taken nearly two years to complete, was given to A&M primarily because of the University's space research center.

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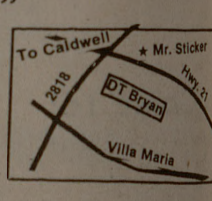
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