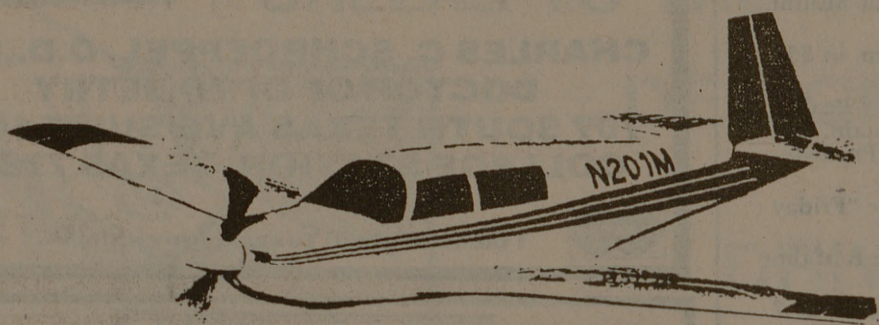


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World and Nation

Kremlin won't sign arms agreement without Star Wars

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin is willing to discuss medium-range missiles separately at the Geneva arms talks, but will not sign an accord that doesn't settle the space weapons dispute, a Soviet spokesman said Thursday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Gennady Gerasimov, discussed the Soviet Union's arms control policy after a Soviet emissary in London appeared to contradict Mikhail S. Gorbachev's assessment of the Reykjavik summit and the future of U.S.-Soviet arms talks.

There have been some conflicting signals from the Soviets about whether they are willing to make separate agreements on medium-range missiles or whether they would insist on a link between any arms agreements and "Star Wars," the American plan for a space-based defense shield.

The Politburo's No. 2 secretary heated up the post-summit campaign against President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative at a gathering Thursday of top Soviet scientists.

"It has been most clearly established that the Washington administration does not wish a real agreement, but is out to ensure military superiority over the U.S.S.R.," said Yegor K. Ligachev.

"That is why it is important today as never before that scientists should take an active part in the fight for peace, for strengthening the country's defense capacity," he said.

The dispute over space weapons is at the center of the U.S.-Soviet stalemate at the summit in Iceland, which broke up Sunday when the two leaders could not agree on the future of the U.S. space-based program.

Before that, Gorbachev and Reagan reported they reached virtual agreement on eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe, limiting those weapons in Asia, and slashing strategic arsenals by 50 percent in each of the three categories — land-based ICBMs, submarine-launched missiles, and bomber-carried weapons.

After the summit, Gorbachev told a news conference that the Soviet proposals on those issues and Star Wars were a package deal.

But the issue became confused on Tuesday, when Viktor Karpov, the chief Soviet negotiator at the Geneva arms talks, told a news conference in London that a separate "solution" on medium-range nuclear missiles was possible.

Then on Wednesday, Gorbachev was quoted as suggesting to President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina that the arms control proposals outlined in Reykjavik were an inseparable parcel.

In response to repeated questions from Western reporters Thursday, Gerasimov made it clear that the Soviets were drawing a distinction between what can be discussed by negotiators in Geneva and what Gorbachev would be willing to sign as a formal treaty.

Peres, Shamir finalize plans for job swap

JERUSALEM (AP) — Cautious Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir reached a compromise on political appointments Thursday, ending a three-day deadlock and paving the way for their historic job swap.

The compromise calls for former Justice Minister Yitzhak Modai, a member of Shamir's Likud bloc, to be named minister without portfolio in the new Cabinet, government officials said.

In exchange, a Peres-designated candidate will be appointed ambassador to Washington.

Shamir's top political aide Yossi Ahimeir, told reporters after a 70-minute meeting between Peres and Shamir "had a positive end. Most matters are settled."

Labor Party ministers then met with Herzog to recommend that Shamir be named prime minister in the final step in setting in motion the job swap.

President Chaim Herzog, who is charged with nominating Peres' successor, was expected to name Shamir today and designate him as Israel's ninth prime minister.

Peres' spokesman, Barak Askarov, said it was unlikely Shamir would be sworn into office before Monday.

Peres resigned last Friday under a 1984 power-sharing agreement forged between Shamir's rightist Likud bloc and Peres' leftist Labor Party after neither party won enough votes to govern alone.

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