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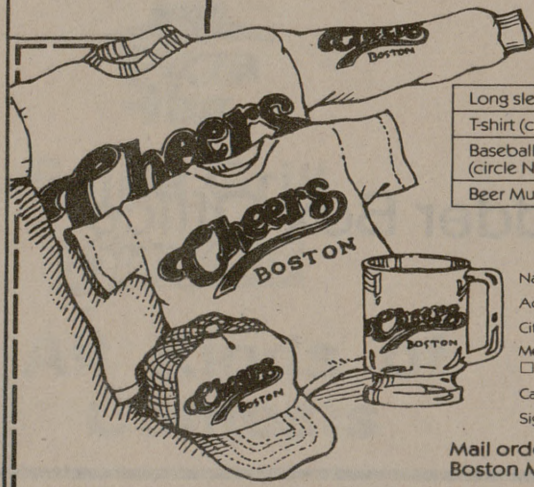
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Arms Deal

(Continued from page 1)

described by a spokesman as, "tight-lipped, no words."
Sen. Patrick Leahy, vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who was not included in the White House briefing, told reporters he felt administration officials were "groping for a retroactive justification" for the reported dealings with Iran.

The White House, which has never confirmed any such dealings, said Reagan was joined by Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger, Attorney General Edwin Meese, CIA Director William Casey, White House chief of staff Donald Regan and Adm. John Poindexter, Reagan's national security adviser.

In New York, Said Rajaie-Khorasani, Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, strongly denied an arms-for-hostages deal with the United States.

He did, however, confirm that his government was receiving U.S.-made military hardware.

"We did not have any arms deal or any other kind of deal with regard to the release of the hostages — with the United States or anyone else," he told a news conference. And he insisted that the "two issues are absolutely separate."

"It is not our affair to set any conditions for the release of the hostages in Lebanon," Rajaie-Khorasani said. But he conceded his Islamic fundamentalist government wields influence among Moslem groups in that Arab country.

White House spokesmen declined to comment on the ambassador's statements.

Congressional leaders attending the White House briefing were Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas, Senate Democratic leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, House Democratic leader Jim Wright of Texas and Rep. Dick Cheney of Wyoming, chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee.

Meanwhile, former national security adviser Robert C. McFarlane, reportedly the key architect of a policy to seek U.S. contacts with Iran, reissued a statement he had made in Atlanta earlier in the week, in which he talked of America's "vital security interest in the independence of Iran."

"The corollary to this conclusion," McFarlane said in the statement, "is that as a long-term proposition, we ought to try to engender a stable relationship with the Iranian government."

However, McFarlane said, the United States will not make concessions to terrorists, "nor in any way contribute to the continuation of terrorism."

According to reports, McFarlane initiated, while still in the White House, secret contacts with Iran, despite its presence on the State Department's list of countries that support terrorism. The reports said he traveled to Tehran on several occasions while arrangements were made for the delivery of U.S. and Israeli military equipment to Iran, which is at war with Iraq.

Administration seeks to protect unclassified data

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department is studying ways to limit access to unclassified computerized government and commercial data banks in an effort to make it difficult for the Soviet bloc to gather such information.

The data banks contain items ranging from news stories to highly technical scientific research papers.

One Pentagon official, discussing the project on condition he not be identified, said the study is focusing initially on two government-run services, the Defense Technical Information Center and the National Technical Information Service.

But executives with private electronic data banks say they have been approached in recent months by officials from the Pentagon, Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation, asking how controls might be placed on subscribers to their systems.

"They were all asking questions about whether we can deny access," said Jack W. Simpson, president of Mead Data Central Inc., a major commercial operator of computerized data banks such as

Nexis, which catalogs news stories from a variety of publications.

"We don't believe they have a right to put a muzzle on us, and we don't believe these are the right folks to make such decisions," he said.

"They are apparently suggesting monitors and controls on electronic distribution systems in the private sector to control information going to the Soviets."

The issue of controlled access to data banks has simmered within the administration for several years. In September, 1981, President Reagan directed the Pentagon to study the ways the Soviets gain access to information in the West and what might be done to impede them.

The issue came to a head Tuesday night in New York at a convention of the Information Industry Association. Panelist Diane Fountaine, director for information systems in the office of Assistant Defense Secretary Donald C. Latham, told her audience:

"The question is not will there be restrictions or controls on the use of commercially available on-line data bases — the question is how will such restrictions or controls be applied?"

South Korean arrested in sexual assault case

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — U.S. marshals on Wednesday arrested a South Korean fishing boat master after a magistrate signed a warrant accusing him of assaulting an American fisheries observer in international waters.

Lee Jung Sik had been charged Monday with verbally harassing and assaulting a 26-year-old Washington state woman while his 260-foot vessel, the Shin Yang Ho, was fishing in the Bering Sea.

Magistrate John D. Roberts on Wednesday also signed a civil warrant to approve the vessel's impoundment.

The boat and its 56 crew members, which were impounded Monday, will remain in Coast Guard custody in Kodiak until bond is posted, said Michele Luczac, a spokeswoman with the U.S. attorney's office in Anchorage.

U.S. marshals, after flying Wednesday to Kodiak from Anchorage, arrested Lee and planned to return him here for arraignment.

The Shin Yang Ho was seized Friday by a Coast Guard cutter after the woman, on contract with the Na-

tional Marine Fisheries Service, Lee verbally harassed her, assaulted her and denied her access to the ship's radio room.

According to an investigator's report, the woman said Lee started harassing her two days after she boarded the vessel Oct. 18. He tried to kiss her and suggested she shower together, the report said.

On Oct. 22, Lee invited her to the ship's radio room, then took the door, physically restrained her and began kissing her, the report said. Lee knocked her to the floor, pulled her hair from her head, kissed her and tried to disrobe her, the report said.

She told investigators she escaped after kicking Lee, then locked herself in her room.

On Oct. 24, the woman discovered her stateroom had been searched. The next day, she claimed she was sick and asked that a nurse be made to her superiors. She initially refused, then consented Oct. 26, and the woman was ashore at Dutch Harbor on Oct. 26, the report said.

Lee's attorney said he planned to dispute the allegations.

TV drama revives questions over Kennedy assassination

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-three years after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, Lee Harvey Oswald has been put on trial for murder in a British television drama.

The defense says Oswald was framed in what has become a "national lie." The prosecution argues no evidence exists to contradict the Warren Commission finding that Oswald was the lone assassin. The real Oswald was killed by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby two days after Kennedy's assassination.

The TV verdict is in, but it is being kept secret until the program is shown over the weekend of Nov. 21-23 in five countries: Britain, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Denmark.

"The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald," a 5½-hour documentary, is being shown in the United States in two parts Nov. 21-22 by the cable TV network Showtime.

The show attempts to put to an impartial jury some of the contradictory evidence surrounding Kennedy's assassination in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

If Oswald fired three bullets at the president from the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository, why was he found 90 seconds after the shooting in the

building's canteen four floors below? Why did so many spectators insist shots were fired from a grassy knoll ahead of Kennedy's motorcade? How did the remains of Kennedy's brain vanish before an autopsy was done?

The television drama is set in a replica of a federal courtroom in Dallas. The 12 jurors and two alternates were chosen from among Dallas residents on a computer list of Dallas' electoral rolls.

Oswald's defense lawyer is Gerry Spence, who gained fame in winning a big initial jury award from the McGee Corp. in the 1979 Karen Silkwood case.

Opposing Spence is Vincent T. Bugliosi, who prosecuted mass-killer Charles Manson.

Presiding over the mock trial is U.S. District Judge Lucius Desha Bunton III of Dallas.

No actors were used, so no one portrayed Oswald. However, Spence at one point displays a poster-size photograph of Oswald. The case is based on the assumption Oswald would have pleaded innocent to the murder charge lodged against him the day after his arrest. The outcome was left to the jurors, and they spent eight hours deliberating their verdict.

Passenger trains collide in Soviet Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP) — Two passenger trains collided in the dark after the engineer of one train decided to take a nap, and his drowsy assistant missed a red stop light, reports said Wednesday. The collision apparently caused many deaths and injuries.

The collision occurred at 3:02 a.m. last Thursday outside Kirovograd, a town about 150 miles southeast of the Ukrainian capital of Kiev, the government newspaper *Izvestia* said.

Izvestia and the official news agency Tass said there were dead and injured, but they did not give any numbers.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses were called in to help and streams of ambulances went to the crash site from neighboring towns and cities, the newspaper said.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses were called in to help and streams of ambulances went to the crash site. . . .

— *Izvestia*, the government newspaper

The reports did not say how many people were aboard the trains. The crash occurred on the eve of the Revolution Day holiday weekend, a time when the trains probably were full.

Izvestia said an official investigation revealed a pattern of "indiscipline and criminal negligence" at the Ukrainian railway depot where the

engineer and his assistant were employed.

The report clearly was part of the Kremlin's drive to use the more effectively in its campaign of discipline and efficiency.

In recent months, the Soviets have been reporting domestic disasters more quickly and in greater detail than before. But the delay in issuing this report and the lack of information on casualties suggest a lingering sensitivity about domestic accidents.

Tass reported the accident without giving any details and said the cause wasn't known. *Izvestia* blamed the engineer Galushchenko, and his assistant Shishko. The newspaper said the assistant apparently survived, but the fate of the engineer was not known.