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Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Let Your Hair Down

Ed Radford of Squadron 7 undergoes a transformation while receiving his freshman Corps of Cadets haircut. Radford plans to study aerospace engineering while at Texas A&M.

U.S. proposes simpler checks on disarmament

GENEVA (AP) — The United States presented new proposals on Tuesday that it said would simplify verification procedures under a U.S.-Soviet agreement to do away with all intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Members of the American delegation submitted the proposals in a meeting of the negotiating teams dealing with Intermediate Nuclear Forces — medium- and shorter-range weapons with ranges from 500 to 3,000 miles.

U.S. spokesman Terry Schroeder said that Soviet acceptance in July of eliminating all intermediate weapons, called the double-zero option, had enabled the United States to change its verification requirements.

Before the Soviet announcement, the

plan had been for each superpower to keep 100 medium-range weapons on its own territory.

"Today we are laying out how this simplification could be achieved," Schroeder said, adding that the U.S. proposals, "although simplified, will still be the most stringent ever proposed in any U.S.-Soviet negotiations and will include on-site inspection."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley was asked whether the new U.S. position drops some intrusive measures, including inspection of factories and intelligence monitoring sites.

She replied: "There are two major changes in this. One is we have changed our 'suspect site' inspection proposal because the opportunities for illegal missile activities are significantly reduced when an entire

class of missiles and its infrastructure has been eliminated.

"Also, we have dropped our requirement for perimeter-portal monitoring. This was done because the perimeter-portal monitoring system was designed to monitor the flow of missiles from production and final assembly facilities.

"With the production ban and the elimination of all INF (Intermediate Nuclear Forces) missiles within three years this would be unnecessary."

Shroeder would not give details of the proposals, citing the confidentiality rule the two sides have adopted in the talks.

He said the U.S. delegation "sharply rejected suggestions in U.S. media reports that we are backing off or softening our proposals."

On Monday in Washington, a U.S. official told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the new American proposals would scale back demands for on-site inspection of nuclear missile facilities.

He said they would lessen requirements for surprise inspection of Soviet facilities and exclude highly sensitive areas.

According to the official, Washington wants to be able to send U.S. monitors to Soviet sites with little advance notice, which apparently would be more acceptable to the Soviets than complete surprise visits.

Attention has focused on intermediate weapons as the most likely area for quick accord at the Geneva arms talks. The other two negotiating groups deal with strategic, or intercontinental, nuclear forces and the combined field of space and defense.

Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev proposed Tuesday that a meeting of leaders of the U.N. Security Council's 15 member nations be held to discuss how money saved through disarmament could be spent on economic development. His ideas were expressed in a message delivered to the United Nations in New York.

Agreements on strategic arms and on space and defense have been blocked by Soviet demands for limits on the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative, the space-based defense system commonly called "Star Wars." The United States has rejected the demands.

Both sides say agreement on intermediate arms may be close, but difficult issues remain.

U.S. officials reject Soviet proposal for U.N. arms talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev would be willing to come to New York this year if the Security Council agreed to his proposal for a summit on disarmament and economic development, a Soviet official said Tuesday.

The U.S. State Department rejected the proposal Tuesday night, saying the idea was "flawed and untenable."

It had been considered unlikely that the United States, one of the 15 members on the council, would agree to such a summit. In its rejection, the State Department reiterated the U.S. position that there is no link between disarmament and economic development.

Vladimir F. Petrovsky, a deputy Soviet foreign minister, had said Gorbachev might also meet with President Reagan during a U.S. visit, but that would depend on whether more progress is made in U.S.-Soviet arms control talks.

"He would like to come to the United Nations to attend a summit of the Security Council but the other members would have to agree," Petrovsky said in an interview. "He could also meet with President Reagan if there's something for him to sign."

Asked about the timing of such meetings, Petrovsky said Gorbachev would be "willing to come

tomorrow" if the Security Council agreed to his proposal.

Rumors have persisted for months that Gorbachev might visit the United Nations to address the U.N. General Assembly's 42nd session, which convenes Sept. 15 for meetings that run until mid-December.

Petrovsky and other Soviet officials have said a visit for that purpose was not planned, but the report of Gorbachev's offer to come to New York for a Security Council summit was a new opportunity for a U.S. visit.

Gorbachev proposed the council summit in a message Petrovsky read earlier Tuesday to the 140-nation International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development.

"It would be useful to discuss in principle the problems of disarmament and development at a special meeting of top leaders of member states of the U.N. Security Council," Gorbachev said. He did not say in his message when he wanted the summit to be held.

The United States and the Soviet Union, as permanent members of the Security Council, have veto power.

In his message, Gorbachev also proposed that the United Nations create an international fund into which the savings from reduced armaments would be distributed to developing countries.

U.S. administration leaders consider options for policy moves in gulf area

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dilemma confronts the Reagan administration as it plots its next diplomatic moves in the Persian Gulf war.

It can mark time, hoping that U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar can persuade Iran to stop fighting and to start negotiating with Iraq. But the delay could provoke Baghdad to resume the dangerous "tanker war" in the Gulf.

Or the administration could seize the initiative and try to push an arms embargo on Iran through the U.N. Security Council. The risk there is

improving Soviet relations with Tehran and seeing the resolution blocked by the Soviets or China.

As permanent members of the council, they both have veto powers. While Moscow and Beijing joined the United States in voting for the cease-fire resolution July 20, punishing Tehran for not complying would require them to take a strong stand against Iran.

The Soviets, historically eager to gain influence in the oil-rich, strategic country, may be reluctant to go

along. Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said Monday it was premature to consider sanctions while Perez de Cuellar holds talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Jawad Larjani.

The radical fundamentalist regime in Tehran has condemned both the United States and the Soviet Union. Neither has much influence in Iran.

Recently, however, the Iraqis have seemed apprehensive about their long-time Moscow ally and drawn closer to the United States.

A diplomat who demanded anonymity suggested the Soviets were seeking "short-range benefits" by hesitating on sanctions.

The State Department is publicly impatient with Iran, which has not accepted the cease-fire order but also not rejected it entirely.

As U.S. warships escort Kuwaiti oil through the Gulf, the Reagan administration does not want to see the tanker war resumed.

The U.S. frigate Stark was hit May 17 by an Iraqi missile, and 37 crewmen were killed.

Saudi Arabia vows to 'deal firmly' with Iran

JIDDA, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia called Iran's government a "group of terrorists" Tuesday and said its forces would deal firmly with any Iranian attempts to attack this nation's Moslem holy places or its vast oil fields.

In Tunis, meanwhile, Arab League foreign ministers decided to give Iran until Sept. 20 to accept a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire in its 7-year-old war with Iraq.

"Saudi Arabia has enough defense capabilities to repulse any Iranian aggression," Interior Minister Prince Nayef warned Tuesday.

"In the past the Iranians tried to attack eastern Saudi Arabia and had one of their warplanes shot down," he said. "We will not hesitate to deal similarly with any aggression."

Nayef, a brother of King Fahd, announced a get-tough policy to head off any demonstrations

by Iranian pilgrims in the Saudi holy city of Mecca, where hundreds died in clashes with police last month.

His comments came hours after a senior Iranian cleric, Mahdi Karoubi, said pilgrims from Iran would continue to stage political rallies in Mecca. Karoubi was quoted by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, as saying such rallies were a political obligation for all Moslems in addition to the religious rituals.

Iran's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Mustafa Haeri, dismissed the impact of a possible U.N. arms embargo as trivial and said Iran was testing new missiles and was capable of blocking the Strait of Hormuz.

Haeri said in an interview in Abu Dhabi that Iran continued to buy weapons on the free market despite a loose Western embargo imposed

since the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980.

A government official in Tehran, the capital of Iran, meanwhile denied accounts by reporters and U.S. sources of an encounter Monday between U.S. warships and an Iranian warship, saying the reports were designed to show off military power. IRNA did not identify the official.

Kuwaiti tankers flying the American flag have been navigating the gulf under U.S. naval protection.

There were conflicting reports on movements of Kuwaiti tanker movements. Shipping sources said a new convoy sailed into the gulf Monday, but the others denied it.

Nayef warned Tuesday that Saudi Arabia would not hesitate to shoot down any Iranian plane that attacked the kingdom's Eastern Province, site of the world's largest oil fields.