

World and Nation

Reagan: U.S. needs star wars; Soviets could break arms treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Monday the Soviet Union may be planning "a breakout" from the anti-ballistic missile treaty that the United States would be "totally and dangerously unprepared for" without his "star wars" missile defense plan.

Reagan made his statement in a speech to conservatives a week before his summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Washington. His remarks underscored Reagan's determination to push ahead with the star wars program

despite objections from Moscow and congressional attempts to restrict it.

Administration officials have defended spending billions of dollars on star wars to offset what they say are comparable amounts the Soviets have spent in secret on their own missile defenses. U.S. officials fear that the Soviets might suddenly "break out" of the ABM treaty by deploying all over their nation large numbers of the type of anti-ballistic missiles the pact allows them to station near Moscow.

Gorbachev, in an interview broad-

cast by NBC News, acknowledged that the Soviets are engaged "in research, basic research" similar to the star wars program, also known as the Strategic Defense Initiative. He said the Soviet Union "is doing all that the United States is doing" to defend against nuclear attack.

However, he said, "We will not build an SDI. We will not deploy SDI and we call upon the United States to act likewise. If the Americans fail to heed that call, we will find a response."

The White House had no com-

ment on Gorbachev's interview. However, tentative plans are being made for Reagan to be interviewed by network anchormen, perhaps as early as Thursday but possibly later.

Gorbachev is expected to end the summit with a news conference. Reagan will not hold a news conference, Fitzwater said, but is expected to give a speech.

Meanwhile, the White House said it was unlikely the summit will produce any breakthrough in U.S.-Soviet negotiations for a 50 percent reduction in strategic nuclear arms.

Offshore earthquake shakes Alaska; thousands flee low-lying coastal areas

PALMER, Alaska (AP) — A major offshore earthquake rocked south-central Alaska on Monday, prompting thousands of people to flee low-lying coastal areas for the second time in two weeks.

There were no reports of major damage or injuries in the quake, which measured at least 7.4 on the Richter scale. It shook the ground for a full minute and was felt more than 300 miles from the epicenter, in Anchorage and the Yukon Territory.

The Alaska Tsunami Warning Center issued a warning of a tsunami, or giant sea wave, but canceled it after 90 minutes when a 3.3-foot wave was recorded at Yakutat, the community closest to the epicenter.

"The wave was just insignificant," Tom Sokolowski, geophysicist in charge of the warning center, said.

People began returning to their homes after the tsunami warning was canceled.

While center officials reported the

preliminary magnitude at 7.4, University of California seismographs measured the quake at 7.7 on the Richter scale.

The center issued a tsunami warning for Gulf of Alaska communities and British Columbia and issued a tsunami watch for Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii.

Emergency sirens and police loudspeakers roused coastal Alaska residents from their homes and busi-

nesses and started them toward high ground.

Residents of some Canadian communities were warned not to take out boats and airplanes because of strong winds and high waves.

Rosemary Ryman, a secretary at community high school, said in Yakutat the lights went out and about 300 people jammed into the school. The crowd at the school included nervous parents who rushed to be with their children.

Minority of inmates block hostage release

ATLANTA (AP) — A "small but aggressive minority" of Cuban inmates blocked the release of 90 hostages from a federal penitentiary Monday, officials said, while hundreds of Cubans who surrendered in Louisiana were sent to other federal prisons.

The same 100 Cubans, out of a total population of 1,118, earlier blocked the release of 50 hostages in Atlanta, Patrick Korten, deputy di-

rector of the public affairs for the U.S. Justice Department said.

"Unfortunately, a small but aggressive minority appears to be able to intimidate this majority into dragging out the incident and avoiding a settlement," Korten said. "Had it been up to those who have been negotiating on behalf of the apparent majority, they (the hostages) would probably be out."

The prison was quiet Monday, and there was no inmate reaction to the Louisiana settlement. The riots by Cuban detainees in both states followed a government announcement that 2,500 Cubans — mostly criminals or mentally ill — would be returned to their homeland. The inmates have demanded that they be allowed to remain in the United States. Cubans seized the Oakdale, La., prison Nov. 21 and the Atlanta penitentiary two days later.

The prison was quiet Monday, and there was no inmate reaction to the Louisiana settlement. The riots by Cuban detainees in both states followed a government announcement that 2,500 Cubans — mostly criminals or mentally ill — would be returned to their homeland. The inmates have demanded that they be allowed to remain in the United States. Cubans seized the Oakdale, La., prison Nov. 21 and the Atlanta penitentiary two days later.

France, Iran end standoff by trading diplomats

PARIS (AP) — France and Iran ended their 4½-month embassy standoff by trading a pair of diplomats on Monday, days after pro-Iranian captors in Lebanon freed two Frenchmen.

Officials called the events a coordi-

ated effort to mend a rift between the two nations.

President Francois Mitterrand said the process should lead to freedom soon for the three remaining French hostages in Lebanon, but advised pursuing it carefully, "with respect for the dignity of our country."

Paul Torri, first secretary of the French Embassy in Tehran, and Wahid Gordji, listed as an interpreter at the Iranian Embassy in Paris, were flown to Karachi, Pakistan.

They were frisked on the runway at Karachi airport and turned over to officials of their own countries.

Each flew home in the plane that had delivered the other.

Police pulled down barricades around the Iranian Embassy in Paris, which they surrounded for five months, and the Foreign Ministry said staff members were free to leave.

FAA plans tougher rules for airplane maintenance

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration is planning tighter rules on when airlines may postpone maintenance amid findings that work at Eastern Airlines — and possibly other carriers — often has been delayed to keep planes to their schedules, FAA officials said Monday.

They said the agency has been looking at 10 airlines to determine whether federal maintenance requirements are being abused. Except for Eastern, none of the other airlines were named, but sources said the review included virtually all the major carriers.

The broader investigation was prompted by the findings last summer at Eastern. An FAA report made public this week concluded that Eastern had interpreted FAA maintenance requirements so broadly that it amounted to a "misuse" of the latitude given to air carriers on repairing items that do not themselves pose a danger to flight.

Such items are allowed to go unrepaired until a proper repair facility is available because their failure nor-

mally does not affect the airworthiness of the aircraft. But aviation safety experts have said an accumulation of a large number of such un-repaired items on a plane could pose a hazard.

FAA regulations require such repairs be made when an adequate repair station is available. In the case of Eastern, the repairs routinely were delayed because airline officials said the airport did not have enough "ground time" to make the repairs.

By postponing repairs on the basis of not having enough ground time, Eastern has "extremely liberalized" the FAA maintenance requirements amounting to a "misuse" of the regulation, the FAA report said.

Eastern officials said the airline, at the request of the FAA, changed its maintenance policy last August.

Stephen Kolski, Eastern's counsel for regulatory compliance, said the airline no longer allows a maintenance delay on major "minimum equipment list" items unless parts are not available. Then, the item must be fixed at the next stop, he said in an interview.

News Briefs

Poles reject economic, political reforms

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Voters on Sunday rejected economic and political reforms, including painful price increases, that Poland's communist leaders said were needed to revitalize an ailing, debt-ridden economy, the government said Monday.

The government has, however, previously said that if it lost the referendum, reforms would continue, but at a slower rate. It has already made moves to streamline its economic planning.

Court denies couple custody of son

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday rejected an attempt by a mentally retarded Illinois couple to regain the 3-year-old son taken from them.

The court, without comment, let stand rulings that Paul and Patti Ensign were unfit parents even though they loved their son and never intentionally neglected him. Lawyers for the couple had argued that state court rulings against the Ensigns demonstrate "inherent prejudice against persons with mental retardation."

Chicago mayor honored at funeral

CHICAGO (AP) — The city bade a tearful farewell Monday to Mayor Harold Washington with prayers and praise as dignitaries, family and friends gathered at his funeral and thousands mourned outside under wet, gray skies.

Ministers, politicians and relatives eulogized the city's first black mayor before his flag-draped casket as a scrappy political fighter with a warm sense of humor. He died Wednesday of a heart attack at age 65.

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