

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

Leaders agree on modernizing weapons during NATO summit

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO leaders pledged Thursday to modernize nuclear weapons in Europe to deter war and intimidation, glossing over a dispute that had threatened to mar solidarity at the first alliance summit in two years.

Summing up two days of talks by leaders of the 16-member organization, President Reagan said, "The state of the alliance is excellent. We're strong, we're united, we're prosperous and we're free."

"All of us understand the absolute necessity of maintaining the credibility of our deterrent," he said, underscoring NATO's commitment to keep nuclear weapons in Europe.

"We will never trade that credibility away at the negotiating table and we won't give it away through neglect," Reagan said.

With the exception of a brief opening session, the summit was

held behind closed doors at NATO's heavily guarded headquarters.

As intended, the meeting closed with proclamations of Western unity intended to strengthen Reagan's hand in arms-control negotiations with the Soviet Union.

"The alliance has agreed on its arms control priorities and is ready to get down to business," Reagan said. "NATO fully supports my effort to negotiate deep reductions in strategic weapons."

In a minor embarrassment about two hours after the summit's close, Reagan told reporters he had not seen the final communiqué from the meeting.

However, White House chief of staff Howard Baker quickly interjected, "No. We saw it last night. No problems and it's very good."

Taking his cue from Baker, Reagan said, "Yes, very good, no problems."

Secretary of State George P. Shultz flew to London to meet with Jordan's King Hussein in a continuation of Shultz's Middle East peace-making mission.

Reagan's national security adviser, Lt. Gen. Colin Powell, said in an ABC-TV interview that the allies "gave the president a rousing send-off" for negotiations to halve the number of U.S. and Soviet long-range missiles.

NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington said he was heartened that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has recognized the East-West imbalance in European conventional forces that favors the Eastern bloc and "is willing to do something about them."

The allied leaders reaffirmed their determination to defend the West "for the foreseeable future" under a strategy of deterring a Soviet

attack with nuclear weapons. The aid a key goal of the alliance was to seek to "gradually overcome the natural division of the European continent."

While noting "the encouraging signs of change" in the policies of the Soviet Union and some of its East European allies, the NATO leaders cautiously referred to suggestions of fundamental reforms in the Soviet system.

"We look beyond the promises for tangible and lasting policy changes addressing directly the issues dividing East and West," Carrington said.

"However, we have to date witnessed no relaxation of the military effort pursued for years by the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union persists in deploying far greater military forces than are required for its defense."

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Jewish teen-ager assaulted by Arab in West Bank city

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Arab man stabbed a teen-age Jewish settler in the back Thursday as he shopped for the Jewish Purim holiday in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron, the army and witnesses said.

Minutes later, angry Jewish settlers attacked photographers taking pictures there, witnesses said. Elsewhere in the West Bank, Israeli troops wounded four Palestinians in violent protests.

On the diplomatic front, U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz arrived in Israel Thursday night for a last-ditch effort to sell his peace proposal. He was met by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, but no statements were made.

Legislators of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc have rejected the U.S. proposal, saying they will not agree to an international conference or to the exchange of land for peace.

The scuffle in Hebron, 20 miles south of Jerusalem, began shortly after 16-year-old settler Aharon Peretz was stabbed.

The army said later Peretz was treated for slight injuries at a Jerusalem hospital and released.

A photographer on assignment for Time magazine was struck with her camera by enraged Jewish settlers. She fell to the ground unconscious, with a one-inch gash in her forehead that required five stitches.

The attack reflected the growing anger of settlers and much of the Israeli public at the news media, which they blame for tarnishing Israel's image abroad and for inflaming unrest.

In the Arab village of Idna on Thursday, riot police fired on dozens of Palestinians who stoned their jeep. An army spokesman said three Arabs were wounded in the legs.

Troops shot a fourth Arab youth in the neck after Palestinian in Beita, a village eight miles east of Nablus, hurled rocks at soldiers, according to hospital officials and the Arab-run Palestine Press Service.

Congressmen draft bill for 'dramatic' embargo toward Noriega regime

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six Republican and Democratic congressmen introduced a bill Thursday to impose an "immediate, dramatic and devastating" trade, air travel and currency embargo against the regime of Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The lawmakers said they would seek speedy congressional approval of the embargo bill.

But they said they also hoped to prod President Reagan to act independently to adopt a far stronger series of punitive sanctions against the Noriega regime than he has approved to date.

The proposed embargo would bar all imports from Panama, prohibit all U.S. exports to that nation, bar all air travel between the two countries

and prohibit U.S. banks from transferring any funds to Panama and its banking system.

"By stopping the transfer of funds from U.S. banks to Panama, we go for the jugular," said Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., a principal sponsor of the embargo plan.

"Because of Panama's heavy reliance on its economic ties with the United States, the impact of a U.S. trade embargo would be immediate, dramatic and devastating to Noriega and his cohorts," D'Amato said.

Panamanian opposition leader Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party, told reporters later that a trade embargo would be "strong medicine" but that such a remedy is sometimes needed for people to regain their health.

World Briefs

Hopefuls given endorsements in South

From the Associated Press
Democrat Michael Dukakis blasted Richard Gephardt Thursday for backing "a \$50 billion burden" with his call for an oil import fee, while Republican Bob Dole and Democrat Albert Gore Jr. touted endorsements for their Southern campaigns.

Dole won backing from a favorite of the Republican right, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, and Gore got support from Charles Robb, the former governor of Virginia, and Gov.-elect Buddy Roemer of Louisiana.

Republican front-runner George Bush and rivals Pat Robertson and Jack Kemp were all in South Carolina, where Republicans vote Saturday in what Bush

hopes will be a victory that propels him toward far more delegates in the rest of the South on Super Tuesday.

Dukakis, the Massachusetts governor, defended his opposition to a fee on imported oil in Tuesday, the big prize of Super Tuesday primaries and a state where local sentiment runs in favor of the tax.

He said an oil import fee "will put a \$50 billion burden on this nation's economy."

Gephardt, the Missouri congressman, was back in his home state after picking up \$425,000 at two fund-raisers there a day before — money that is critical for getting his message on television ads in the South.

House defeats package for Contra aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday killed a \$30 million package of purely "humanitarian" aid for Nicaragua's Contras that had been pushed by Democrats as a way to ease pressure for future military aid for the rebels.

The final vote of 216-208 against the plan came minutes after the lawmakers had voted 215-210 to accept a Democratic version of the aid package that also included sharp restrictions on how the rebels could use the money and a new fund to aid children who are victims of the Nicaraguan civil war.

Defeat of the aid package meant the rebels, whose last U.S. aid ran out on Tuesday, would be left without new supplies until Congress could make another try

at passing an aid bill.

Liberal Democrats, who have steadfastly opposed aid to the rebels in the past, teamed with Republicans, for whom the package was too weak, to defeat it.

As the House debated the Democratic plan, Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, charged that it would have placed control of a \$14 million fund to aid children who are victims of the civil war in the hands of the leftist Nicaraguan government, prompting an angry response from House Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas.

Earlier, the speaker had called the dispute over the aid package "a battle for peace in Nicaragua, and for a constructive role for the United States in Central America as opposed to a destructive role."

Macy's acquires department store chain

NEW YORK (AP) — Federated Department Stores Inc. agreed Wednesday to be acquired by R.H. Macy & Co., but an undaunted Campeau Corp. proceeded with its rival bid for the nation's fifth largest retailer.

A Federated spokesman said in a joint statement with Macy, the nation's 10th largest general retailer, that the two companies had signed a definitive agreement to create a new company, Macy's-Federated Inc.

Macy operates 96 stores in 14 states, while Federated has 650 stores — including such department stores as Bloomingdale's, Foley's, Filene's and Bullock's — in 36 states.

The agreement provides for Macy to begin a cash tender offer of \$74.50 a share for about 80 percent of Federated's 89.6 million outstanding shares, or a total of \$5.25 billion, the companies said. The remaining Federated shares would be exchanged for stock in the new company.

Campeau, a Toronto-based real estate developer and retailer, had offered \$68 a share in cash outright for all Federated shares, or a total of \$6.1 billion.

Late Wednesday, Campeau said it was amending its previously announced \$68 cash tender offer for Federated.

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