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World and Nation

Senator informs Meese of members' concerns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republi-an Sen. Strom Thurmond met hursday with Attorney General dwin Meese III and expressed deep concern" on behalf of Con-ress about problems at the Justice epartment in the wake of the resig-ations of two of Meese's top aides.

Meese's meeting with Thurmond, e ranking Republican on the Sen-e Judiciary Committee, was the ongest signal of growing biparti-n concern in Congress over hether the attorney general, the fos of an 11-month criminal investiion, can continue to run the Juse Department

"A number of people on Capitol ill have expressed deep concern bout the problems at the Justice De-artment," Thurmond said in a ement after the meeting. "I went day to talk to the attorney general onvey these concerns to him."

Minutes after the meeting, Meese fused to answer reporters' quesins about the resignations when he nded a news conference at FBI adquarters on a drug bust.

"there's no reason" for him to resign, said he would answer questions on the resignations of his aides "within the next several days" when "the next several days" when "I hope and I fully expect . . . to be announcing various appointments to fill those vacancies.'

"The business of law enforcement is going forward energetically and without interrupton," Meese said. "Our strong management team is on the job.

The attorney general, a longtime confidant of President Reagan, stood somberly next to FBI Director William Sessions as the FBI chief praised Deputy Attorney General Arnold Burns and Assistant Attorney General William Weld, who quit Tuesday because they felt Meese's

continuing legal troubles were hurt-ing Justice Department operations. "I think they're very fine gen-tlemen, (who) served their govern-ment well (and) are to be commended for the service that they performed," Sessions said when isked about Burns and Weld, who

Meese, who said Wednesday oversaw all federal criminal investigations.

day, neglecting to mention that he had done so already.

After the news conference and after Thurmond already had issued his statement, Justice Department spokesman Terry Eastland issued a clarifying statement confirming that the meeting had occurred before the news conference.

Thurmond said at a Senate Judiciary subcommittee meeting in the morning that he wouldn't "countenance any corruption in any way, shape or form in the Justice Department or any other department.

The Washington Post reported Thursday, and Justice Department sources subsequently confirmed, that Weld had told Meese during a meeting Tuesday that the criminal investigation of the attorney general was a close call in terms of whether the attorney general should be pros-

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Exiled Soviet stage director seeks to return to homeland

MOSCOW (AP) - Exiled stage rector Yuri Lyubimov expressed s desire to return to the Soviet nion in an unusual newspaper in-rview that could signal official willness to allow him to come back.

Lyubimov was interviewed by the vernment newspaper Izvestia in ladrid, where he viewed four per-wife, Kata mances by Moscow's Taganka most neve heater of Maxim Gorky's cial press. fother.

Lyubimov, 70, founded the Tanka Theater and more than 20 ars turned it into Moscow's most pular modern theater with his avgarde productions.

The director struggled constantly ith censors. In July 1983 he was al-wed to travel to London to stage odor Dostoyevsky's "Crime and unishment" amid speculation au-porities did not want him to return.

In March 1984 he was thrown out of the Communist Party, and four months later his Soviet citizenship was revoked.

Lyubimov has staged productions around the world since then. He took Israeli citizenship this year and has moved to Jerusalem with his wife, Katalin, and son, Peter. He almost never is mentioned in the offi-

In its article on Tuesday, Izvestia stressed that Soviet writers and artists have more freedom under Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms, in a possible effort to show the differences between Lyubimov and authorities have narrowed enough to allow him to return.

Lyubimov reiterated his previous statement that he would like to return to work in the Soviet Union if

Spokesman: Roberts

did not ask for return

of Swaggart to pulpit

he were guaranteed artistic free-dom, but that he was making no political demands.

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"We are talking only about the creative side of my life," he was quoted as saying.

After more than four years abroad, "in order to once again gain strength, survive, one needs to stand on his native land, on which he was raised, where his fathers and grand-fathers lived," Lyubimov said.

Even while he has been exiled, he told the newspaper, he has concen-trated on staging productions that aquaint the world with Russian cul-

He praised the more open litera-ture that is being published under Gorbachev's policy of glasnost, and said, "it is necessary to come, to see and to work in the theater

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Official favors test to fight cholesterol

WASHINGTON (AP) - The

overnment s I alth chie urged Americans on Wednesday get their cholesterol level thecked to learn whether they are among the 50 percent of the popalation at unnecessary risk for neart disease.

Health and Human Services Secretary Otis R. Bowen said the ink between high cholesterol and heart attacks — the nation's No. 1 killer — has been well established. But he emphasized the good lews that anyone with an elevated cholesterol level can lower and thus reduce their risk of lying a premature death from heart disease.

"Most people can lower their cholesterol level by reducing the mount of cholesterol and saturated fat in their diet," Bowen aid at a news conference kicking off April as National Know Your Cholesterol Month.

"Getting your level checked is he only way to find out," he said. "Cholesterol, like high blood pressure, is a silent killer. There are no signs or symptoms.

TULSA, Okla. (AP) - Oral Roberts prayed with fellow television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart after Swaggart was suspended from his ministry, but Roberts did not recommend Śwaggart's immediate return to the pulpit, a spokesman for the Tulsa evangelist said Thursday.

The Rev. Mike Evans, pastor of the Church on the Move in Euless said Wednesday that while he was visiting Baton Rouge last month, Swaggart told him of Roberts'

prayer. "Oral Roberts called him up and told him that he saw demons with long fingernails digging the flesh into Jimmy Swaggart's body and he cast those demons out of his body,' Evans said.

Swagart, of Baton Rouge, La., stepped down from the pulpit Feb. 21 after admitting a moral lapse. Church officials have said that he admitted meeting prostitutes in motel rooms.

After the conversation with Roberts, the 52-year-old Swaggart felt he was released from sin, Evans said.

He has announced he will return May 22 in defiance of an order from the Assemblies of God General Presbytery on Tuesday that he stay away

for at least a year. The May 22 date coincides with the suspension recommended by the church's Louisiana council.

Oral Roberts' son, Richard Roberts, said Thursday, "I would prefer not to give the details because it was a confidential time together and I don't think it would be appropriate for me to give any of the details.

"If anyone is to report that Oral Roberts is recommending that Jimmy Swaggart defy the Assembly of God ruling from Springfield, that is not accurate. My dad had nothing to do with his decision.

"We believe that that is a matter that Jimmy Swaggart must make his own decision and follow the leading of God.

WFAA television officials in Dallas said a spokesman for Swaggart Ministries declined to comment on the report.

Peace treaty falters on aid decision

GENEVA (AP) - The latest round of U.N.-sponred negotiations on an Afghan peace settlement enred a fifth week Wednesday with the parties split on he question of when outside military aid to the warring ides would be halted.

A report in the New York Times, meanwhile, said keagan administration officials had received indica-ions that the Soviet Union would consider allowing aid the rebels to continue after Soviet troops begin withrawing from Afghanistan.

This issue of continued aid to the two sides is the last stacle to a comprehensive settlement designed to end ore than eight years of fighting in Afghanistan, U.S. d Pakistani officials have said.

Washington has said it will not guarantee a setment unless the Soviet Union agrees to stop funding. e Kabul government at the same time the United ates stops aid to the guerrillas fighting the govern-ent. Moscow has refused to agree to such a cutoff.

The Times, citing unidentified senior U.S. officials, id the administration now is considering an arrangenent under which Pakistan would sign the accord but he United States and the Soviet Union would have a parate understanding on aid to the insurgents.

The new position was discussed by telephone Wednesday by President Ronald Reagan and the presi-

dent of Pakistan, Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, the newspaper reported.

The Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan in 1979, and about 115,000 Soviet troops are believed to be helping the pro-Moscow government there.

No formal meetings were scheduled between the U.N. mediator, Diego Cordovez, and the Afghan or Pa-kistani delegations Wednesday. But Cordovez met separately with the special Soviet envoy, Nikolay Kozyrev, and with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Peck, both of whom have been following the indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan since the latest round started March 2.

Peck told reporters that he was "convinced that the Soviets want to withdraw and want an agreement, and we will stay here until we get an agreement.

He said Reagan "is not going to be easily satisfied," and that an eventual accord "will have to ensure the withdrawal of Soviet troops, self-determination of the Afghan people, return of refugees and non-alignment of Afghanistan.

Kozyrev reiterated the Soviets' opposition to a symmetrical cutoff. "We would like to see (the U.S.) as guarantors, but they refuse, insisting on the cutoff," he told reporters. "It's impossible.

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