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**World and Nation**

**U.S. removes rockets from bases in accordance with treaty signing**

FRANKFURT, West Germany (AP) — Five years after West Europeans took to the streets in massive anti-missile protests, the United States on Thursday began removing its intermediate-range rockets in accordance with a superpower treaty signed last year.

A truck convoy hauled nine Pershing 2 missiles from a base near Stuttgart, and U.S. officials said they would remove the remaining 420 medium- and shorter-range missiles from Western Europe in the next 36 months.

"This is an important event in post-war history," West German government spokesman Friedhelm Ost said during a news conference in Bonn.

The stationing of the missiles had sparked huge protests in Western Europe, including a coordinated

demonstration in several cities that drew hundreds of thousands of people in October 1983. Deployment of the missiles began the following month.

But the anti-missile fervor waned, and by the time President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed their treaty banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles in December, only a handful of protesters was still active in West Germany.

A group of anti-missile activists who came to witness the removal applauded as the 15 U.S. Army trucks carrying the missiles left the Heilbronn site in southern Germany, about 35 miles north of Stuttgart.

A rocket motor explosion at Heilbronn in January 1985 killed three U.S. soldiers and injured 16 others. West German news reports said the accident led then-Defense Minister

Manfred Woerner to promise residents that Heilbronn would be the first site from which missiles would be removed.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Gerry Ryan of European Command Headquarters in Stuttgart told the Associated Press: "It's the first time that U.S. intermediate-range missiles have been withdrawn in Europe."

"The remainder of the U.S. Army European-based, intermediate-range nuclear missiles are scheduled to be removed over a 36-month period," he said.

The Soviet Union began removing its missiles from Czechoslovakia and East Germany in February, before the U.S. Senate had ratified the treaty.

East Germany's official news agency ADN said in March that the Soviets had completed the removal

of all 54 shorter-range SS-20 missiles, but said nothing about SS-23 missiles also covered by the treaty.

The official Czechoslovak agency CTK reported in July that the 39 SS-12 shorter-range missiles based in that country had been removed in February and March.

Original NATO plans called for 572 intermediate-range nuclear missiles in five West European countries to counter the Soviet rockets at the West.

But the United States had deployed only 429 missiles in Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium after plans to station the rockets in the Netherlands were scrapped.

Of those deployed, 108 Pershing 2 missiles and 96 cruise missiles were stationed at four bases in West Germany.

**Moslem guerrillas strike Pakistanis in violent attack**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Moslem guerrillas launched rockets at Kabul and its airport Thursday, and Afghan fighter planes struck deep into Pakistani territory in one of the most violent days of Afghanistan's 10-year-old civil war.

Western diplomats, quoting dispatches from missions in the Afghan capital, said the airport was shrouded in thick black and gray smoke from the rocket attack.

Earlier in the day, Pakistani authorities said seven Afghan fighter-bombers struck the deepest to date into Pakistani territory, killing one person and injuring seven.

Kabul all afternoon," a U.S. diplomat said on condition of anonymity. "The force of the explosion indicates it may have been an ammunition dump," he said.

"Opposition units today were subjected to massive bombardment with ground-to-ground rockets the Kabul international airport area," the official Soviet news agency Tass said in a report from Kabul. "The rockets damaged depots and transport aircraft."

**World briefs**

**State ends deficit with positive balance**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas should end the new fiscal year on Aug. 31, 1989, with its biggest cash balance since 1984 — \$600 million, State Treasurer Ann Richards said Thursday.

Richards closed the books Thursday on fiscal year 1988 with the state posting a cash balance of \$113 million, which was the first positive balance in two years, she said.

"This is further evidence of an improved Texas economy," Richards said. "Sales taxes have been

higher than expected, which when combined with the \$5.7 billion tax bill passed in the last legislature, have erased the \$5.8 million deficit the state saw with 12 months ago."

"We started fiscal year '88 with the largest deficit in the state's history, and we have ended with \$113 million to the good. That's an \$858 million catch-up, which should signal the rest of the country that Texas is moving again," she said in a statement.

**Florida plans hunt to control alligator**

CLEWISTON, Fla. (AP) — Like tiny beacons at night, alligators' eyes reflect a brilliant red when struck by a beam of light.

So flashlights, along with such items as harpoons and sharpened knives, were among key pieces of equipment being checked Thursday as more than 200 hunters, many of them novices, waited for the sunset opening of the first statewide gator hunt in 26 years.

"It's time to get some gators," John Swindle, 34, of Clewiston, on the south shore of Lake Okechobee, said before the hunt began. "I'm not talking much about

it, though. I don't want anything following me out there."

With gator hides selling for \$42 a foot and meat running \$6 a pound, profits are attracting hunters as adventure. The state planned the 30-day hunt as one means of controlling the population of the once-endangered alligator.

"The money is the big factor," said Rodney Crawford, a 19-year-old cook from Lake Worth. "I will seek gators with his father, Lake George in Central Florida."

**Investigators search for clues about crash**

GRAPEVINE (AP) — Speculation centered on engine trouble as investigators and manufacturers' representatives today tried to determine the cause of a Delta Air Lines jetliner crash that killed 13 people.

Nearly 100 people, many leaping through thick smoke and blazing jet fuel, survived the crash of the Boeing 727 that broke open and burned during takeoff Wednesday morning at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

The same flight today taxied out for takeoff but then turned back to the terminal, Delta officials said from Atlanta.

"1141 did not take off from Dallas today and it has not at this point," Cindy Mullennix said at 9:51 a.m. CDT. The flight was scheduled to depart at 8:31 a.m.

"I do know that they did taxi out, and for whatever reason they turned back," Mullennix said. "I do not know what the problem was, and I

do not know what the resolution was. Whether it will (depart) later, I do not know," she said.

Survivors of Wednesday's flight, many suffering burns, crawled or jumped through gaping holes in the fuselage and clambered over red-hot wings to safety as black smoke billowed three stories high, witnesses said.

"You heard the thing crumple, so you knew you were going to crash the whole time," passenger Penn Waugh, a lawyer from Dallas, said. "You were just looking for a way to get out of the plane. You're hoping you weren't going to die."

Ninety-seven passengers and a crew of seven were listed aboard the aircraft, Flight 1141 en route to Salt Lake City, but the exact count was uncertain because babies were not included on passenger lists. The flight originated in Jackson, Miss.

Nearly two dozen investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board converged on the crash site.

**High death toll foreseen on long weekend**

CHICAGO (AP) — At least 420 people will die in traffic accidents during the three-day Labor Day weekend that traditionally marks the end of summer, experts said Thursday.

The National Safety Council estimates 420 to 520 people will die on the nation's roads during the long weekend.

For counting purposes the weekend begins Friday at 6 p.m. local time and ends at midnight Monday.

Last year, 441 people died during the Labor Day weekend.

The highest toll for the holiday was logged in 1968, when 690 people were killed in traffic accidents.

The average toll for a non-holiday three-day period at this time of year is about 410, safety council spokesman Terry Miller said.

On average, the number of traffic deaths increases about 10 percent during holiday periods, council officials said.

**Helicopter crash kills 6 in California**

BARSTOW, Calif. (AP) — A California Air National Guard helicopter crashed in a Mojave Desert mountain range Thursday, killing all six people aboard, authorities said.

The helicopter from Moffett Naval Air Station went down at 10:55 a.m., Tech. Sgt. Rick Corral at George Air Force Base said.

The bodies were discovered by a rescue team, Capt. Kent Knight

of the California Highway Patrol said.

The rescue team dispatched a helicopter to the scene.

The crash occurred about 10 miles southeast of Barstow in the Cinder Cone region of the Mojave Mountains, San Bernardino County sheriff's spokesman Jim Bryant said.

Army medical personnel were dispatched from Fort Irwin to the scene.

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