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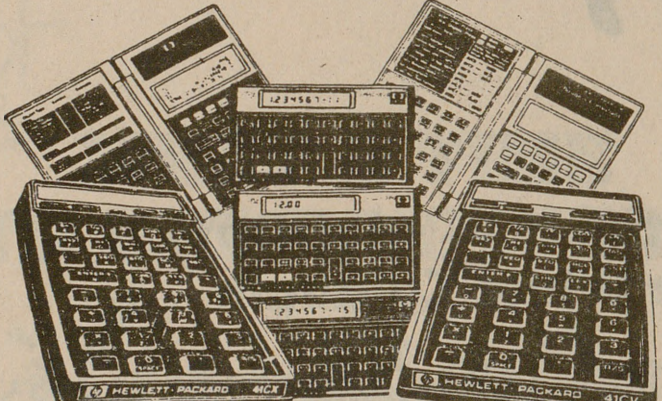
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**World and Nation**

**Trial may find Kremlin crooks**

MOSCOW (AP) — Leonid I. Brezhnev's son-in-law went on trial Monday charged with taking \$1.1 million in bribes in a case expected to bare corruption in the highest Kremlin circles. If convicted, he could face a firing squad.

The trial of Yuri M. Churbanov, 51, an ex-first deputy interior minister, is clearly in line with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's drive to break with the cronyism and corruption now seen as endemic under Brezhnev, who ran the Soviet Union as Communist Party chief from 1964 until his death in 1982.

Churbanov, who is charged with bribe-taking and abuse of office, is an example of the 'stagnation period,' when a person reached high position not because of his merits but due to his family connections, the party daily Pravda said last week.

"Glasnost and democracy will help to avoid Churbanovism and anything similar to it," Pravda said.

The case against Churbanov and eight co-defendants, being heard by the three-member military tribunal of the Soviet Supreme Court, may also have a political aim — to discredit remaining members of the Kremlin Old Guard who flourished under Brezhnev.

The trial began with Churbanov and the oth-

ers sitting in the dock guarded by five young soldiers. The dark-haired Churbanov, dressed in a gray jacket and collarless black shirt, stared defiantly ahead, his head held high.

Asked by the presiding judge, Army Maj. Gen. Mikhail Marov, to stand and identify himself, Churbanov spoke in a barely audible voice. When he said he was a former Communist Party member, Marov asked him if he had been expelled, and Churbanov answered, "In connection with the present case."

The trial is expected to last at least six weeks. Churbanov, who married Brezhnev's daughter Galina in 1971 after a previous marriage ended in divorce, is a central figure in a colossal embezzlement and bribery scheme authorities say was centered on the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan.

According to Pravda, beginning in the 1970s cotton harvests in Uzbekistan were padded by almost 1 million tons annually, with the government made to pay for the non-existent crop by corrupt officials including Uzbek party boss Sharaf Rashidov, who died in 1983.

"Today it has been proven that the cotton barons stole more than 4 billion rubles (\$6.34 billion) from the state, half of which they stuffed into their own pockets," Pravda reported earlier this

year in a sensational expose on the fraud.

Churbanov, who held the rank of colonel in the Moscow-based ministry responsible for police and law enforcement, was a hungry epicure who became a key actor in running the racket, Pravda said.

"Having such a 'friend' was not only an advantage for Rashidov and his group — it was important," the paper said.

Churbanov, who was a mechanic before a low-level Interior Ministry job in 1960, accused of accepting bribes totaling \$1.1 million. That sum is the equivalent of 270 years of the average Soviet factory worker.

Officials announced Churbanov's arrest in February 1987. He was fired from his Interior Ministry job in 1984, but reportedly employed as deputy chief of political administration for the ministry's uniformed security until September 1986.

Along with Churbanov, eight former Interior Ministry officials are going on trial, including Interior Minister Khaidar Yakhyaev, two deputies and three ex-regional police chiefs.

The evidence against the accused fills 11 volumes, and five volumes were needed to open the indictment. A total of 501 witnesses mentioned in the indictment.

**Mentor's death could slow Islamic law**

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The death of President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq could slow the spread of Islamic law in Pakistan, a cause he fervently advanced during 11 years as his Moslem country's leader.

Zia, an army general who died Aug. 17 in a plane crash, had made the "Islamization" of Pakistani society a pillar of his policy.

But he faced opposition from some politicians, members of the middle class and others. With his death, the fate of a further expansion of Islamic law in Pakistan is in doubt.

Islamic law is interpreted with different stringency from one Islamic nation to another. Zia's Islamic laws included a ban on the consumption of alcohol, the provision of flogging and stoning as punishment for such crimes as drinking and adultery, and a 2.5 percent tax on the rich to help the poor.

Zia failed, however, to codify into Pakistani law Islam's opposition to collecting interest payments on loans. Punishment by flogging was

rare, despite its presence in the legal code, and there were no stonings.

Zia was the most enthusiastic of all of Pakistan's recent rulers in applying Islamic law, said Professor Mahmood Ahmad Ghazi, a leading scholar at the International Islamic University in Islamabad and the man who led prayers at Zia's funeral.

If "someone not as enthusiastic as Zia" takes over, Ghazi said, the pace of Islamization will be slow in this 98 percent Moslem nation.

Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the new president of Pakistan, and his caretaker Cabinet met a week after Zia's death and pledged to continue Islamization. But nationwide elections are scheduled for Nov. 16, and that could strongly affect government policy.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, who could become prime minister if her party wins the elections, has spoken out strongly against Zia's brand of Islamization, saying no one should impose personal religious views on the country.

"There are some parties that are enthusiastic, and there are some parties that are lukewarm," Ghazi said.

In May, Zia dissolved parliament, citing corruption, laxity and lawmakers' failure to promote Islamic law over a three-year period as justification for his move.

He then issued a presidential order in June that decreed the legal code of Islam to be the supreme law of Pakistan and expanded court powers to review laws for conformity with the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

Bhutto was quoted at time as saying that "Islam, like in the past, is again being used to perpetuate a repressive rule."

Zia said the decree would affect the rights of non-Moslems, the country's business community and other nations.

The order expires later unless reaffirmed by the parliament.

Defining the relationship between Islam and the country's legal system has been a central question since 1947, when Pakistan was created as a home for Moslems on the subcontinent.

Many Islamic principles enshrined in law before Zia's power.

**System douses fire at nuclear reactor**

MOSCOW (AP) — Fire broke out early Monday at a Lithuanian nuclear power plant but no radiation was released and automatic safety systems extinguished the flames, Tass reported.

The official news agency said the blaze began at 12:50 a.m. in a control cable of the second reactor of the Ignalina power plant in Lithuania, a Soviet republic on the Baltic Sea.

Erik Pozdyshev, chief dispatcher of the Soviet Atomic Power Ministry, told Tass the reactor's safety systems automatically kicked in, and that the fire had already been extinguished by the time firefighters arrived.

No radiation escaped and there were no injuries among the public or plant employees, Pozdyshev said. The reactor, one of two at the plant, was shut down after the accident, Tass said.

The news agency's prompt re-

porting of the fire reflected the new official policy under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's drive for glasnost, of keeping the public better informed of accidents.

"Considering the heightened public interest in nuclear reactor operations, which is quite understandable after the Chernobyl accident, we decided to inform the public about what has happened at the Ignalina station at once," Pozdyshev said.

The Soviet Union waited days before informing the world of the April 26, 1986, explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. That accident killed 31 people and led to a major re-evaluation of the safety of nuclear power in the Soviet Union, and in many other countries.

On Thursday, the government newspaper Izvestia reported that Lithuania's Cabinet had ordered construction stopped on a third reactor at Ignalina.

**World briefs**

**Boat fire overwhelms 25 firefighters**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A fire in the hold of a 500-foot freighter caused 24 firefighters to seek treatment for heat exhaustion and sent one other to a hospital because of chest pains, officials said Sunday.

The fire, which took 1½ hours to extinguish, was blamed on an electrical malfunction in the docked container ship Waardrecht, city Fire Department spokesman Jim Wells said.

Twenty-four of 80 firefighters who battled the blaze were treated at the scene for heat exhaustion as record-high temperatures above 100 degrees pounded the heat of the flames.

One firefighter was taken to a hospital in stable condition after an evaluation of chest pains, Wells said.

A damage estimate wasn't immediately available, Wells said.

**USS Vincennes begins voyage home**

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The missile cruiser that mistakenly shot down an Iranian jetliner in the Persian Gulf is on its way home in the first U.S. force reduction in the region since the Iran-Iraq cease-fire took hold.

France has also begun its planned naval cutbacks in the gulf region.

British officials said a Royal Navy destroyer was badly damaged when it collided with a British cargo ship it was to escort.

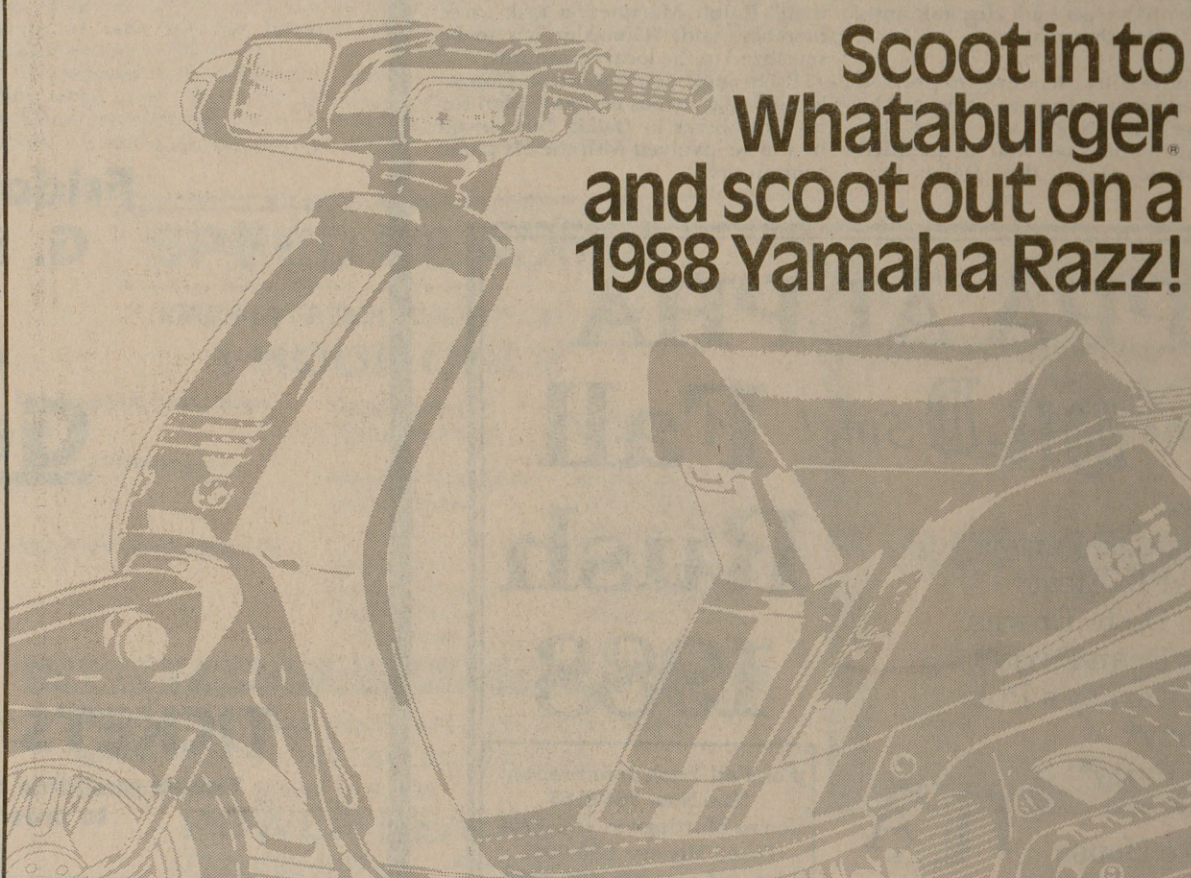
The USS Vincennes was officially detached Sunday from the Navy's Joint Task Force in the Middle East for a 13,000-mile voyage to San Diego, where it had

been based until April, U.S. sources in the gulf said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Vincennes shot down an Iranian A300 Airbus on July 31, killing all 290 people aboard, mistook the jet for an Iranian F-14 fighter. An official U.S. report blamed the tragedy on crew error in a first-time combat situation.

The 9,600-ton warship, the first of the Navy's high-tech "Aegis" cruisers deployed in the gulf, was pulled out of the waters after the disaster and operated the Arabian Sea. Sources said Vincennes would not be replaced in effect reducing the U.S. fleet from 27 to 26 ships.

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