

News briefs

U.S. seeks allies commitment

BRUSSELS, Belgium (UPI) — The United States sought a commitment yesterday from its European allies that Soviet intervention in Poland would automatically trigger political, economic and diplomatic sanctions, U.S. officials said.

"The more agreement we can reach here, the greater the deterrence," one senior official said referring to possible sanctions allied foreign ministers, including Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, will discuss today and tomorrow.

Secretary of Defense Harold Brown warned that a Soviet invasion of Poland also would spur the arms race. He was addressing NATO defense ministers who ended their two-day meeting by stepping up the watch on Poland.

The precautionary measures they adopted included deployment of four U.S. Airborne Warning and Control aircraft along the East-West frontier

to eavesdrop on Soviet troop movements.

A U.S. spokesman in West Berlin said the Soviet Union had lifted restrictions for Western military observers along the Polish-East German border, closed to them since Nov. 29.

The ban expired yesterday and has not been renewed, the spokesman said, refusing to give further details.

The NATO ministers were careful to avoid any military action that might inflame the tension. However, Muskie said NATO must not ignore the possibility of an invasion of Poland by the Soviet Union.

"Poland is 200 miles from NATO territory. NATO is created to defend the territory and there is the possibility of the use of force," Muskie told reporters aboard the plane that took him to Brussels.

"NATO cannot be insensitive to the use of military force. NATO cannot prudently ignore the use of force."

Lennon fans commit suicide

By United Press International

A 16-year-old Florida girl and a 30-year-old Utah man — both despondent over the murder of John Lennon — killed themselves in separate incidents, authorities said yesterday.

Jean Costello, of Brooksville, Fla., said Lennon's death was the "straw that broke the camel's back" and led to her 16-year-old daughter's suicide. She found Colleen Costello dead on the floor of her bedroom when she

came home for lunch Tuesday afternoon.

In Salt Lake City, a 30-year-old man despondent over the murder of Lennon placed a pistol in his mouth and pulled the trigger, police said.

They said Michael E. Craig died about 11:35 p.m. Tuesday from a 23-caliber bullet wound in the head. Witnesses told police Craig became upset after learning Lennon had been shot to death.

Leaders want Hua out soon

PEKING (UPI) — Impatient reformers in China's Communist Party leadership appear to have accelerated their drive to remove Chairman Hua Guofeng, who was handpicked by the late Mao Tse-tung, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The reformers led by Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping apparently are aiming to oust Hua from the party boss position earlier than expected, possibly before the end of the year, the sources said.

If successful, the drive would effectively complete the placement of Deng's proteges and intimate allies at the top of China's party government leadership and signal an end to the reign of top leaders identified with Mao.

"The plan appears to entail having Hua replaced by Hu Yaobang, a Deng associate for some 40 years and currently mentor of daily party affairs as secretary general of the secretariat.

Hua would be shunted to the side,

Jenrette submits resignation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rep. John Jenrette, D-S.C., convicted on an Absecon bribery charge, announced his immediate resignation from Congress yesterday, thus preventing an expected House vote to expel him during the final days of his term.

The third-term congressman announced his resignation in a choked voice at the end of 45 minutes of testimony in his own defense to the House ethics committee, which was trying to rush House action before Congress adjourns.

"I am submitting my resignation to the speaker," Jenrette said. Jenrette, speaking almost inaudibly, added the words: "Pain . . . more than you will ever know . . . Wish you goodness."

But Jenrette's letter of resignation did not get to the speaker's office before it closed for the night yesterday. Aides said the letter had not been completed in time.

A prolonged ethics investigation, which had already resulted in a com-

mittee finding of guilt, will end today at a meeting called to decide what to report to the House.

Jenrette said he is resigning to devote full time to preparation for a hearing next Wednesday before U.S. District Judge William B. Bryant on his motion to set aside his conviction.

Seated with elbows on the witness table, frequently appearing to be close to tears, Jenrette predicted Bryant will set aside the verdict on grounds the prosecution violated his due process rights in staging the sting.

But that will be too late to salvage his final days in Congress, as Jenrette pointed out. He was defeated for reelection, an event he blames on the Absecon conviction.

Jenrette and John Stowe, a former South Carolina millionaire whom Jenrette described as now "not worth two nickels," were convicted in October of accepting a \$25,000 bribe from undercover FBI agents in their Absecon sting.

Solidarity risks more tension

WARSAW, Poland (UPI) — In a move that could sharply increase the tension between Polish workers and the government, the nation's independent union leadership yesterday called for the release of political prisoners and accused authorities of "continuing acts of oppression."

Meeting in Gdansk, leaders of the 10-million member labor coalition Solidarity said they would set up a commission to defend political prisoners, whose imprisonment it called "unacceptable."

The Solidarity statement was issued just hours after the official newspaper of the Polish army warned the unions to confine themselves to labor matters and not associate with "anti-socialist forces," the government's euphemism for political dissenters.

It was one of a number of similar warnings issued recently by the Polish army newspaper, by the government and by Poland's Warsaw Pact neighbors.

In Moscow, Soviet Union Defense Minister Dmitry Ustinov also issued a fresh warning on Poland, saying the Kremlin would never allow "imperialist forces" to undermine "the positions of the socialist countries, specifically of socialist Poland, the Soviet Tass news agency reported.

"In this situation," Ustinov said, "the CPSU (Communist Party) is

conducting a consistent and firm policy of peace, combining it with the strengthening of the defense potential of the Soviet state . . . perfecting the armed forces and supplying them with everything necessary."

In Brussels, Belgium, NATO defense ministers met to draft economic and political sanctions that could be imposed on the Soviet Union should it decide to send its troops into Poland.

Fears that the Soviets would intervene militarily last week prompted Solidarity, the nation's largest labor coalition, to counsel its member unions against "unauthorized" strikes. Since then, the labor situation has become more tense.

However, Solidarity appeared to have again put itself on a collision course with the government by issuing a statement with clear political overtones.

The statement signed by Lech Walesa and other national labor leaders accused the government of "continuing acts of oppression" but stopped short of making a strike threat.

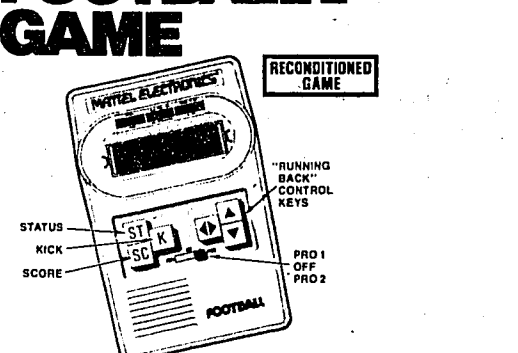
"Releasing political prisoners and stopping repression for convictions is a necessary condition for restoring the climate of confidence between the authorities and society and this will serve to deepen the process of democracy in Poland," the statement said.

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Paul Gore, an amateur photographer, took this picture Monday night of John Lennon signing a copy of his latest album, "Double Fantasy," for Mark David Chapman. He man accused of shooting Lennon to death outside his apartment building last night. Gore said Chapman urged him to stay at the Dakota a fortune of up to \$25 million.

Chapman 'couldn't help' himself

NEW YORK (UPI) — Authorities yesterday tried to piece together the conflicting identities of the man who reportedly told police he shot and killed rock idol John Lennon because "I couldn't help myself."

Mark David Chapman, 25, an unemployed security guard from Honolulu and ardent fan of the Beatles, was escorted by psychiatrists in his second-floor cell at Bellevue Hospital, where he was confined for 30 days of court-ordered observation to determine his competency to stand trial.

A small group of mourners stood outside the Manhattan funeral home where Lennon's body was taken, but two policemen told UPI the body was moved from the funeral home at mid-afternoon in extreme secrecy for cremation in suburban Hartsdale, N.Y.

Friends and acquaintances described Chapman, who faces 15 years to life in prison if convicted of the second-degree murder charge against him, as a drug-user, "born-again" Christian, jilted lover and child of a broken home.

"I couldn't help myself," a police source quoted Chapman as saying immediately after Lennon was shot to death Monday night. "Most of me didn't want to do it, but a little of me did."

Lennon's wife, Yoko Ono, said she was asked about the killer by her 5-year-old son, Sean, and told him "he was probably a confused person."

"I told Sean what happened," she said. "I showed him the picture of his father on the cover of the paper and explained the situation. I took Sean to the spot where John lay after he was shot."

"Sean wanted to know why the person shot John if he liked John. I explained that he was probably a confused person."

Ono announced a 10-minute silent prayer vigil for the slain rock star at 2 p.m. Sunday "wherever you are." There will be no funeral.

Lennon's body was taken from the city medical examiner's office about noon yesterday to the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Chapel in Manhattan and later moved again for cremation.

A prison guard — one of four assigned to a continuous suicide watch on Chapman — said he had not heard the accused killer say "two words since this morning" when he was screened by hospital psychiatrists.

The television in the day room near Chapman's room was turned down so Chapman could not hear news reports of Lennon's death.

"We're being really careful because of the nature of this," Bellevue Hospital spokeswoman Sandy Smith said.

"He's not a screaming crazy," Smith said. "It was an uneventful night. Everything is really normal."

Dr. Henry Weinstein, of the Forensic Psychiatric Unit at Bellevue, was expected to head the psychiatric examination of Chapman, but the hospital said it would have no comment on the results until they were presented in court.

Dr. Marvin Stone, a ward doctor at Bellevue, said Chapman seemed "a little bit depressed. He would like to know how his family is doing. He has asked about his wife and his mother."

Chapman allegedly pulled a gun out of his jacket and shot Lennon five times in the head, chest and arm.

Lennon's fortune estimated at \$235 million

NEW YORK (UPI) — John Lennon, who considered himself a socialist and a "working-class hero," amassed a fortune of up to \$235 million.

Lennon owned luxury apartments, mansions, estates, farms, pure-bred cattle, a twin-engine plane and a 62-foot yacht.

He also owned 25 percent of Apple Records, which holds copyrights to the Beatles' music, and received \$12 million a year in royalties.

In an interview in the current edition of Playboy magazine, Lennon called himself "an instinctive socialist."

"That means I think people should get their false teeth and their health looked after," he said. "But apart from that, I worked for the money and I wanted to be rich."

When the Beatles were at the height of their popularity, the Rev. David Noel, a right-wing Christian crusader, described them as a Communist plot "to make a generation of American youth mentally ill and emotionally unstable."

To that, Beatle Paul McCartney replied: "Us Communists? Why, we can't be Communists. We're the world's number one capitalists."

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