

## Reagan to propose nuclear 'build-down'

By BARRY SCHWEID  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is preparing to propose to the Soviet Union that each side remove two strategic nuclear warheads from their arsenals for every new one deployed, a senior U.S. official said yesterday.

The move to integrate the "build-down" concept into the U.S. negotiating position at the Geneva arms control talks is certain to improve prospects for congressional approval of the MX missile program.

A number of key senators, including Democrat Sam Nunn of Georgia and Republican William Cohen of Maine, have urged Reagan's shift to the build-down approach. He indicated last spring he might be receptive, but did not officially embrace the idea in a subsequent round of changes in the U.S. position in the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks.

Since the administration already has proposed a cut of some 2,200 warheads — the Soviets would have to destroy about 2,900 to reach Reagan's proposed ceiling of 5,000 on each side — the "build-down" idea could be easily incorporated into the U.S. stand, said the official, who spoke only on condition he not be named.

How the Soviets will react is not clear. They have resisted other U.S. efforts to set the terms for reducing strategic nuclear weapons, and "in general, they say that's your problem," said the official.

The negotiations are due to resume Oct. 5 in Geneva, Switzerland, despite the chill in U.S.-Soviet relations over the shooting down of a South Korean commercial jetliner, killing all 269 people, including 61 Americans, aboard.

Edward Rowny, the chief U.S. negotiator to the talks, told a small group of reporters yesterday "we certainly are aware of the Korean airline incident. You can't brush it away."

But, Rowny said, "we feel it is in our interest to continue arms control, and we are going to go back to negotiate and do it."

Separate talks with the Soviets on intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe resumed Sept. 5. While progress on both fronts has been slow, Reagan has assured allied leaders that he intends to pursue arms control and is prepared to take a flexible approach.

Richard Burt, the assistant secretary of state for European affairs, met secretly in Brussels on Monday with the disarmament chiefs of the NATO governments, it was learned.

West German sources in Bonn said the allies had given Burt the go-ahead for a new U.S. initiative at the intermediate-range talks.

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said it would involve three points:

- The United States was prepared to discuss with the Soviets imposing limitations on American bombers, based in Europe, that can

carry either conventional or nuclear bombs.

- The United States would consider reducing both the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles to be deployed in Europe if an agreement is reached with the Soviets setting equal limits on the missiles they have targeted on the NATO countries.

- Without yielding on its right to maintain the 109 Soviet missiles tar-

geted on Asia, the United States might not insist on counting them against the American total.

The revisions may be announced by the White House or they could be included in the speech Reagan will make to the U.N. General Assembly next Monday.

Reagan's instructions to Rowny late next week are expected to reflect a willingness to make further

changes in the U.S. bargaining position.

One already broached with the Soviets is to offer to limit the number of American long-range bombers equipped to carry air-launched cruise missiles. There are 400 in the U.S. force, each capable of carrying 20 of these missiles.

As a "negotiating tactic," the official said, the United States has hinted it would accept a ceiling on such bombers. These without cruise missiles would carry identification markers so the Soviets could tell if the agreement was being observed.

Still, the talks are unlikely to "come down to the bottom line" before the end of the year, said the U.S. official who discussed the situation on condition he not be named.

Contracts may become easy reading

HARRISBURG (AP) — The House Consumer Affairs Committee yesterday approved a bill requiring plain language in all consumer contracts except insurance policies.

The bill would affect any written agreements in which a consumer borrows money, obtains credit or buys, leases or rents an item, real estate or services. The state attorney general would have power to reject contracts that fail to meet state standards.

- Short words, sentences and paragraphs must be used as much as possible.

- No Latin, French or archaic English words or words with obsolete meanings can be used.

- No sentences can include double negatives or exceptions.

Experiments using interferon begin

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Doctors have begun human experiments with a kind of interferon made by genetically rearranged bacteria that scientists believe is far more powerful against cancer than other forms of the germ killer yet tested.

Biogen Inc. said yesterday that doctors at a hospital in the Netherlands gave injections of the substance, called gamma interferon, to a lung cancer patient last week.

"The evidence going into the trials is as encouraging as evidence could be," said Dr. Walter Gilbert, a Nobel Prize winner who is Biogen's chairman.

Gamma interferon is made in extremely small amounts by the body's immune system. Another form called alpha interferon is produced by white blood cells, while beta interferon is made by connective tissue.

During the 1970s, interferon was widely touted as a potential cancer cure, but it was too hard to extract the substance from human blood to test it widely. However, with genetic engineering, researchers have been able to insert human interferon genes into bacteria, which then make the protein in limitless quantities.

USDA recalls school lunch meat

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Secretary John R. Block yesterday ordered an immediate halt to all school distribution of ground beef produced by two plants in Colorado and Nebraska.

The meat was processed by Cattle King of Denver and Nebraska Beef Packers Inc., Greeley, Neb. A spokesman for both firms, independent corporations with joint ownership, said the government's action was based on "false and slanderous" information.

Block said the action was prompted by reports indicating "the ground beef may have come from substandard cattle and may have been processed under less than sanitary" plant conditions. The impounded meat is being checked for "foreign matter, chemical residues and spoilage," he said.

The Agriculture Department estimated that about 6.4 million pounds of the meat is still in distribution channels. John McClung, of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, said Cattle King provided about 14 percent of the ground beef used in the school lunch program last year, and Nebraska Beef about 7 percent.

"Commodities approved for the school lunch program have always been of the highest quality and it is imperative to take these steps as another indication of the government's commitment to maintain such standards."

Block said that USDA's inspectors are already analyzing samples of the meat from 14 locations across the country and that the results would be ready in a few days.

Priest, rebel chief killed in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest from Chicago and a leftist guerrilla leader were killed during an operation by government forces against rebels in the eastern highlands, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Col. Cesar Elvir Sierra identified the American as James Francis Carney Handley, 58, but gave no details about his death other than saying it occurred in the jungles of eastern Olancho province. He said the guerrilla chief, Jose Maria Reyes Mata, was killed Sunday in a gunfight with soldiers and police.

U.S. Embassy officials declined comment on Handley's death. Sierra, in his report, said both Handley and Reyes Mata had received guerrilla training in Cuban and Nicaragua.

There were reports here that Handley had left the priesthood. Acquaintances described him as a former Jesuit and said he was expelled from Honduras in November 1979 after being accused of trying to organize a peasant revolt.

Pro-Marcos rally turns into melee

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A suburban rally for President Ferdinand E. Marcos disintegrated yesterday when thousands of counter-demonstrators burned the stage and pelted Marcos supporters with mops, garbage and urine-filled cans.

At the same time, about 7,000 students screaming "Marcos resign!" and "Marcos Hitler!" staged the biggest protest march by students in the capital in years, demanding that the right-wing president quit.

The melee in suburban Makati, metropolitan Manila's financial center, and the march in the capital were the latest anti-government demonstrations to protest the assassination of Benigno Aquino, Marcos' main rival.

Record high set; 3rd straight gain

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Other, broader measures of stock price trends turned in less dramatic performances, however, and remained below the highs they established in late June and early July.

Volume Shares 120,422,240  
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Unchanged 378  
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