

state/nation/world

Space relations on hold

By ROBERT FURLOW Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Worries about losing secrets or political advantage will make it hard to revive the U.S.-Soviet space cooperation that has plummeted since spacecraft from the two nations docked high above the Earth a decade ago, a congressional advisory panel said yesterday.

Still, three senators who requested the panel's report said it also offered "convincing evidence of the scientific benefits to be gained from renewing the U.S.-U.S.S.R. space-cooperation agreement, which lapsed in 1982."

These senators, led by Democrat Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, have been pushing for at least a modest revival in the once-thriving cooperative effort that has declined along with a general deterioration in U.S.-Soviet relations since the late 1970s.

Taking no position on whether such a renewal is advisable, the congressional Office of Technology Assessment laid out the deeply felt arguments of both proponents and opponents in its 115-page "technical memorandum."

It noted that critics contend the Soviets would attempt to use space cooperation with the United States for international political advantage —

claiming, for example, that joint projects showed they are the technological equals of the Americans.

"And the scientific and economic benefits, some argue — although real and at times substantial — are not great enough to offset the technology transfer and national security concerns which would accompany any cooperative venture in space," the report said.

Overcoming that last hurdle, especially in light of an undoubtedly "aggressive campaign" by the Soviets to obtain U.S. technological secrets, could be "a difficult and controversial challenge," it said.

But there could be reasons to seek more cooperation anyway, it added.

"Soviet scientists are also conducting innovative and high-caliber work in certain areas of space research and applications ... complementary to, but not always addressed in, the U.S. space program," the report said.

Nancy Lubin, project director for the memorandum, titled "U.S.-Soviet Cooperation in Space," said at a news briefing that "there are some areas where the Soviets are very strong and we can learn a lot."

In particular, she mentioned the Soviets' emphasis on extended manned space flights and the resulting information they have accumulated on effects of such prolonged stays in space on vital body functions.

U.S. may remain in Honduras for years

By NORMAN BLACK AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An internal memorandum written by an Air Force civil engineer in Honduras suggests the United States is planning to maintain a major military presence in that country for at least the next three to five years.

Reagan administration and Pentagon officials have repeatedly asserted that the U.S. presence in the Central American country is maintained only on an annual basis and is designed to support military exercises.

Both the Defense and State departments dispute those assertions yesterday, saying the memo written by Lt. Col. Philip G. Stowell involved "contingency planning" and only represented "his perceived needs and his interpretation of assumptions and planning factors."

"As such, it does not necessarily articulate or represent the guidance of the U.S. Southern Command, nor does it necessarily reflect U.S. or Honduran policy," a Pentagon statement said.

But Stowell's three-page memo, provided by a defense official who declined to be identified, clearly cites "guidance" provided by the U.S. Southern Command in Panama in outlining a series of staffing problems facing his engineering unit in Honduras if it is to provide long-range support for American-built airfields in the country.

Stowell's letter began by noting the "24th Civil Engineering Mission in Honduras has expanded by an agreement recently signed in the bilateral negotiations with the government of Honduras."

"That agreement 'addresses shared maintenance and repair costs of runways, taxiways and parking aprons used by the United States' at five airfields — Palmarola, Goloson, La Mesa, Toncontin and Trujillo, the memo continued.

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Meese: limit press coverage

By MARK S. SMITH Associated Press Writer

LONDON — The U.S. Justice Department is considering asking news organizations to limit voluntarily their coverage of terrorist incidents, Attorney General Edwin Meese III said yesterday.

His statement, at a news conference before he addressed the American Bar Association conference in London, followed a call by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday for the news media to deny terrorists "the oxygen of publicity" on which they thrive.

She suggested a voluntary code of practice dealing with such stories.

Meese told reporters that Mrs. Thatcher "was right when she said that all of society, including the government, the news media and the public, has a responsibility to plan in advance how you would respond to terrorist incidents. They are unfortunately a part of our way of life."

He said the Justice Department was considering taking the initiative in this field by arranging talks with news organizations. Asked if it might seek written guidelines on coverage of terrorism, Meese replied.

"The men, who were questioned after police received an anonymous phone call, have admitted slaying the animal but did not offer a motive, said Winebrenner.

The 16-year-old alligator was killed Monday in his longtime home at the Dreher Park Zoo. He had been stoned, his skull smashed and his tail partially hacked off.

According to Winebrenner, Jones and Feldkamp told police they climbed a fence to get into the zoo, where they hit the alligator on the head with a pick used to break up concrete.

Fredry, an American alligator, had been the most popular attraction at the zoo for 14 years. He also was the official mascot of the South Florida Water Management District for 16 years, and his birth in 1969 was captured on film and included in a movie about Everglades ecology produced by the district.

Beacon Hill sinking BOSTON (AP) — Historic, high-priced Beacon Hill is sinking as wooden pilings supporting the neighborhood crumble, and city officials said yesterday the governor should have it declared a federal disaster area.

Seventeen homes on one street were recently condemned as unsafe for habitation, and engineers are watching 285 others.

"In the worst case, virtually every building could come down. It would be a catastrophe," city Councilor David Scoville said Wednesday. "Everyone is hoping it's not their building first."

Created by filling in part of Boston Harbor around an existing hill between 1825 and 1870, the Beacon Hill and neighboring Back Bay areas are home to stately Federal and Victorian residences that sit on thousands of wooden pilings pounded into mud. Today, the homes cost up to \$6 million each.

But many of the pilings beneath them are rotting. City engineers blame the problem on Boston's water level, which has mysteriously dropped over 50 years and exposed the wood to air.

state news briefs

State unions losing members

HARRISBURG (AP) — State employees resigned from union membership in record numbers several weeks ago when a strike threatened, a union leader said.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees lost 3,000 of its 45,000 dues paying members during the last two weeks in June, said Edward Keller, executive director of the union's Council 15.

Union members are permitted to resign only during the last two weeks of the contract with the state. The AFSCME contract expired June 30 and union leaders had said a strike would be called if there was no agreement. A strike was averted shortly before the midnight deadline and rank and file filed a new two-year pact.

Since the agreement, AFSCME has regained about 700 members, half of whom had left during the resignation period, Keller said. He expects the membership rolls to grow by 1,000 when the final count is in.

Keller told The Patriot newspaper here that the union is considering life insurance policies for family members and a lead aid program as incentives to keep members and gain new ones.

nation news briefs

NASA prepares for Jupiter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While NASA focuses on preparations to launch the Galileo spacecraft toward Jupiter next May, scientists met here yesterday to start planning another unmanned mission to the giant planet in the 1990s.

The mission's two orbiters would study Jupiter's poles, its huge magnetic field, its dust ring and its moons Europa and Io, the latter of which has volcanoes that spew plumes 120 miles high, said George Slagov, atmospheric sciences chairman at the University of California at Los Angeles.

The orbiters would scrape the planet's upper atmosphere, approaching three times closer than Galileo, said Torrence Johnson, Galileo project scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

Slagov said about 30 scientists plan to attend the two-day workshop, sponsored by NASA.

They will discuss whether the orbiters' electronic equipment can be built to survive intense radiation from high-energy particles in the region they would explore: the magnetosphere, or magnetic field, surrounding Jupiter. The Jovian magnetosphere, Slagov noted, is the solar system's largest object, five times the size of the sun.

Slagov said the scientists likely will end the workshop with a recommendation for NASA to formally consider mounting the mission, which would be launched in the mid to late 1990s, with the orbiters coupled together for the two-year trip to Jupiter.

Freddie the Alligator killed

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Two men have been charged with killing Freddie the Alligator, the mascot and star zoo attraction who was stoned and hacked to death with an ax, police said yesterday.

James D. Jones, 19, of Lake Worth, and Thomas Feldkamp, 20, of Boynton Beach, were arrested Tuesday and taken to the Palm Beach County Jail, where they were charged with burglary, grand theft and the killing of an alligator, said police Lt. Jerry Winebrenner.

The men, who were questioned after police received an anonymous phone call, have admitted slaying the animal but did not offer a motive, said Winebrenner.

The 16-year-old alligator was killed Monday in his longtime home at the Dreher Park Zoo. He had been stoned, his skull smashed and his tail partially hacked off.

According to Winebrenner, Jones and Feldkamp told police they climbed a fence to get into the zoo, where they hit the alligator on the head with a pick used to break up concrete.

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world news briefs

Explosion caused Air-India crash

BOMBAY, India (AP) — A news agency reported yesterday that analysis of the flight data recorder indicates an explosion aboard the Indian jetliner that crashed last month, but an aviation expert said such conclusions are premature.

The Press Trust of India, quoting unidentified sources close to an Indian government inquiry into the June 23 crash, said a computer printout of the flight data recorder gave "definite clues" of an explosion aboard the Boeing 747.

Air-India Flight 182 crashed into the North Atlantic about 120 miles southwest of Ireland on a flight from Canada to Bombay via London. All 329 people aboard were killed.

"Analysis of the flight recorder suggests cracking of the aircraft material seconds after the explosion," PTI said. "The sources close to the court of inquiry did not even rule out the possibility of two explosions."

It said the finding "further confirms the theory of sabotage advanced by aviation circles."

Mexico's ruling party remains

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Results from the July 7 elections show the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party received 11.6 million votes to 2.7 million for the opposition National Action Party.

The ruling party, known as the PRI, won 232 of the 300 seats directly elected to the lower house of Congress. National Action, or PAN, won six and the remaining two went to the tiny Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution.

Opposition leaders charged the PRI margin of victory was largely due to electoral fraud and ballot-box stuffing.

The results released Tuesday night by the Federal Electoral Commission show that 17.8 million of the eligible 35.2 million voters cast ballots in the congressional vote.

They show PRI with 65 percent of the total and PAN with 15 percent.

They were trailed by the communist-led coalition Mexican United Socialist Party, 3.2 percent; the conservative Mexican Democratic Party, 2.7 percent; the Socialist Workers Party, 2.4 percent; the Popular Socialist Party, 1.9 percent; the Authentic Party, 1.6 percent; the Mexican Workers Party, 1.5 percent.

30th birthday for Disneyland

By LINDA DEUTSCH Associated Press Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Balloons fluttered in the sunshine, a band struck up the familiar "M-I-C-K-E-Y," and the world's most famous mouse broke into a jig as Disneyland kicked up its heels yesterday on its 30th birthday.

Thousands of families, some from as far as Egypt, India and Korea, made the pilgrimage to the home of Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy.

"It's so fantastic, I can't describe it," said wide-eyed Daliah Beyonni, 13, of Cairo, Egypt, who came with her twin sister, Marwa, to share in the birthday festivities. "I think I'm so lucky to be here."

Mickey's first appearance of the day was a mob scene. Adults and children raced after him as he paraded through the park like a piper. Children hung on his coat, grabbed his hands and nearly bowled him over before he did his little dance and retreated.

Fifty television and radio news crews came from around the world with portable cameras and microphones.

Many youngsters wore Disneyland dresses, T-shirts, hats and T-shirts. At midnight, Tinkerbell from "Peter Pan" glided down from a perch atop the park's Matterhorn to start the party.

Disneyland gave away birthday gifts ranging from free passes to the park to brand new cars. Every 3,000th guest through the first eight hours of the 30-hour party that began at midnight won a Chevrolet Cavalier convertible.

It was a particularly memorable celebration for Michael Schwartzner, 37, of Searchlight, Nev. He and Christine Graes, 36, were the first couple to be married at Disneyland on the 30th anniversary of Mickey Mouse's birth in 1928.

"Today is my 30th birthday," she said, "and this whole vacation is my birthday present. I didn't know that I had the same birthday as Disneyland until a couple of months ago. My mother never told me."

From a first-year crowd of 3.8 million in 1955, Disneyland welcomed 11.5 million in 1980, its peak attendance. Park officials hope that record will fall this year.

Bloodsuckers beaten back in Pa.

By JOEL SIEGEL Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG — State officials say they've finally slayed the blood-sucking black fly, making the capital safe for barbecues, softball games and other outdoor summer fun.

In past years, the maddening flies have forced residents to wear beekeeper hats, rub Vicks VapoRub on their caps and keep lit "bug" sticks at hand to hold the insects at bay. Some even took vitamin B1, thinking it would keep them from their pores and repel the gnats.

The insects have long been the scourge of summer in central Pennsylvania, particularly Harrisburg.

The slow-moving Susquehanna River, with its warm water and numerous rock ledges, makes the region ideal for a species that attacks humans. The flies thrived as acid mine drainage and other pollutants were removed from the river.

Ravenous females need a "blood meal" before they could lay eggs, said Victor McElhattan, head of the state spraying program. The male flies stay near the river and do not bite.

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1984 Mercedes Benz 190E Anthracite grey with a palmino interior, still on factory warranty...\$18,900

1974 240D fully serviced and extremely nice...\$6150

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