

Russian satellite takes a great fall

YELLOWKNIFE, Canada (AP) — A nuclear-powered Soviet spy satellite fell from orbit into the atmosphere above this remote region of northwest Canada Tuesday, streaking vividly and soundlessly across the pre-dawn sky and raising some fears of radioactive contamination.

Canadian and U.S. officials said there was probably no serious danger. But five American military airplanes, to be joined later by four Canadian planes, flew to the scene, 850 miles north of the U.S. border, to check for radioactivity and possible remnants of the fallen spacecraft.

"When it came overhead and we could get a good look at it, I could see dozens and dozens of parts," said Yellowknife resident Marie Ruman. "Each part had long, bright tail.... As it was disappear-

ing the main piece turned bright red. It was just fantastic."

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency said the Cosmos 954 satellite had been designed to self-destruct in the event of such a fall. It has "ceased to exist," the agency said.

Canadian officials said any pieces of the satellite would have slammed into the earth in a sparsely settled area 60 miles east of Yellowknife, a frontier town of 8,000 on Great Slave Lake.

Canadian Defense Minister Barney Danson said he was "98 percent or more" certain the satellite, carrying 100 pounds of highly radioactive enriched uranium 235, had burned up in the atmosphere.

"I don't think there is any cause for hysteria," he said at an Ottawa news conference.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Police demand proof of kidnap

PARIS — Police demanded Tuesday that the kidnapers of Belgian industrialist Baron Edouard-Jean Empain deliver any of his personal possessions "to prove they are indeed holding him hostage."

The message was issued following anonymous telephone calls claiming leftist groups were responsible for the abduction of the 40-year-old nobleman.

One caller demanded release of two imprisoned members of the notorious Baader-Meinhof gang in what was believed to be the first information linking the abduction to the West German terrorists.

Mitchell goes under knife

WASHINGTON — John Mitchell had surgery Tuesday for repair of an artery in his abdomen and his doctor said the 64-year-old former attorney general came through the operation in good shape.

Mitchell was reported resting "relatively comfortably" in the surgical intensive care unit at Georgetown University Hospital.

In the three-hour operation, Dr. Charles Hufnagel removed a large abdominal aortic aneurism extending from below the navel to the breastbone.

Army moves deadly chemicals

BANGOR, Wash. — Nearly two quarts of deadly chemicals once used in military training exercises will be transported Thursday from local installations to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Denver, a Navy spokesman says.

The Army says the packages contain sets of various chemicals, usually in vials of 3½ ounces each. In addition to lethal nerve gas, there are chemicals that cause death by blistering, choking or affecting the victim's bloodstream.

Economy Sadat's biggest foe

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Most Egyptians blame Israel rather than Anwar Sadat for the abrupt halt in peace negotiations and analysts say the limping economy, rather than the Mideast crisis, continues to be the president's chief problem at home.

"I believe Sadat can rule Egypt as long as he wants. There is no organized opposition in Egypt and

Egyptians tend to worship their leader," a leading leftist politics professor said Tuesday.

"He would not be toppled by the handling of the negotiations with Israel but by the economy."

As long as Sadat continues to receive the support of the Egyptian army, analysts say, and as long as the economy continues to make "dramatic improvement," in the words of World Bank Presi-

Carter orders shake-up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter ordered a major reorganization of the U.S. intelligence community Tuesday, terming his action a "major step forward" in safeguarding both the national interest and civil liberties.

At a White House ceremony Carter signed a bulky executive order designed not only to streamline the intelligence set-up but also to put strict new curbs on covert activities that drew fire from congressional investigators. The restrictions include an outright ban on attempted political assassinations.

The president took the occasion to express his "sincere and complete confidence" in Adm. Stansfield Turner, an Annapolis classmate he named as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Turner emerges from the reorganization with enhanced authority, particularly over the preparation of budgets not only for CIA but also for the Pentagon's National Security Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency. However, administration officials acknowledged Turner did not get all the expanded powers he sought.

dent Robert McNamara, Sadat seems assured of maintaining a free negotiating hand.

The Egyptian public greeted with jubilation Sadat's Nov. 19-21 fence-mending visit to Jerusalem and his subsequent declaration of "No more war." Many saw it as a solution to Egypt's economic depression and hoped more money could be diverted from defense spending into social programs aimed at improving the standard of living.

The relentless rise in Egypt's cost of living has been blamed for the bloody riots of January 1977 when nearly 1,000 persons were killed or injured in violence that Sadat claimed was Soviet-inspired.

The steady increase in population puts pressure on housing and job markets, but economists say significant progress has been made recently.

Exxon reports profit loss

NEW YORK (AP) — Exxon Corp., the world's largest industrial firm, reported Tuesday its second decline in annual earnings in the past 10 years. The firm cited the recent weakness of the U.S. dollar as a prime reason.

Exxon, with operations in more than 100 countries, said its estimated net income for 1977 was

\$2.41 billion, or \$5.38 a share, down 8.7 percent.

Among other oil companies reporting earnings Tuesday:

- Standard Oil Co. Indiana, the nation's sixth-largest oil firm, reported net earnings for 1977 of \$1.011 billion, or \$6.90 a share, compared to \$88.2 million, or \$6.05 per share, in 1976.

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