

Carter to ink Egyptian arms sale

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter, in a major policy shift announced Tuesday, approved the sale of war planes to Egypt for the first time as part of a \$4.8 billion Middle East weapons package that would send more sophisticated aircraft to Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, declaring that the weapons sales would not upset the balance of power in the region, said Carter will soon seek congressional approval for the sale.

Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan had a lukewarm reaction. He told reporters in Los Angeles that the proposed sale is "premature" and should have been included in any overall peace settlement. He said the sale would shift the balance of power to Egypt.

The proposed sale involves sending Egypt 50 U.S.-made F-5E jet fighters. Sixty of America's most advanced jet fighters, the F-15, would be sold to Saudi Arabia. Israel would get 75 of the F-15s and 15 F-16s.

Both the F-15 and the F-16 are more advanced than the F5-E.

The Carter administration said that if the Egyptian deal is blocked by Congress, it might reconsider the entire Middle East sales package including sales to Israel.

Because Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel all pressed for a prompt decision on their arms requests, "we thought it was important to bite the bullet now," said a top State Department official, who declined to be publicly identified.

Congress will have 50 days to veto any or all of the items in the arms package after receiving what is called "advanced notification" next Wednesday.

Congressional forces sympathetic to Israel and others generally opposed to arms shipments already have signaled their resistance. Rep. Lester Wolff, D-N.Y., immediately announced he will introduce a resolution to veto the sale of F-15s to the Saudis.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Coal talk renewal urged

WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter called Tuesday for striking miners and the coal industry to resume negotiations at the White House "to end the present stalemate." He said if that does not produce a settlement he will take "stronger measures."

"I continue to support the collective bargaining process, however, the welfare of this country must be my overriding concern," said Carter.

LA cloud seeders premature

LOS ANGELES — Hours before a rain storm that devastated the Los Angeles area last week, the county Flood Control Department was seeding clouds to increase rainfall, officials said Tuesday.

County officials denied that seeding caused the floods, but National Weather Service officials said their investigation of the storm would consider the possibility that flooding was intensified by the seeding.

Soviets offer nuke plant

MANILA, Philippines — Pres. Ferdinand Marcos' wife said Tuesday the Soviet Union has offered to replace a planned U.S.-built nuclear plant whose design and financing arrangements are now being questioned by the Americans.

Imelda Marcos, one of her husband's chief advisers, made the disclosure as a U.S. scientists' group leveled the latest blast at the power project, whose main developer is the American firm Westinghouse International.

World fertility rates decline

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rate of the world's population growth has unexpectedly peaked and is now actually declining, according to reports from population experts Tuesday.

The decline was attributed mainly to "a sizable and generally unexpected decline in fertility in the poor countries of the world," according to Nick Eberstadt, an associate at the Harvard Center for Population Studies.

Eberstadt reported the rate of world population growth had reached a peak of 1.9 percent per year "somewhere around 1970" and was down to 1.7 percent in 1977.

"The drop in fertility means that world population will stabilize sooner and at a lower level than previously expected," according to the Eberstadt report.

By the year 2000, Eberstadt said, the world's population may rise from its present 4.1 billion to between 5.5 billion and 5.8 billion. Previous United Nations population projections estimated the world's population for that year of 6.5 billion.

Court denies eviction attempt

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Supreme Court ruled Tuesday against an attempt by federal officials to evict students from Colegio Cesar Chavez in Mount Angel, north of Salem.

The decision reversed an order by Judge Richard Barber of Marion County Circuit Court. Barber had issued a writ of assistance for the county sheriff to evict the students, but stayed the order pending an appeal by the college.

The decision means the 50 students probably will be able to finish out the school year at the Mexican-American oriented college.

A lawyer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has said it might take two years to get the case decided if HUD lost its appeal to the Supreme Court.



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