

# Carter halts neutron bomb

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Carter has tentatively decided against production of the neutron bomb, the controversial nuclear weapon designed to defeat a massive Soviet tank attack on Western Europe.

Carter conferred Tuesday with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who arrived earlier in the day to press his government's support for production of neutron weapons.

"All these questions are subject to consultation within the alliance," Genscher told reporters after a prior meeting with Vance.

When asked directly whether Carter had made up his mind, Vance said the president "has not decided that question."

It was understood, however, that Carter's tentative decision was relayed to Bonn late last week through Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Genscher's visit was hurriedly arranged in a

final effort by the West Germans to persuade Carter to modify his decision.

State Department officials said privately that Carter probably would make a final decision after his meeting with Genscher but that it would not be announced for several days.

White House spokesman Ed Penney said no final decision had been made as of Tuesday. Asked whether a tentative decision had been reached, Penney repeated

that no final decision had been made.

Supporters of the weapon have said they would prefer that Carter defer any decision rather than rule against production.

The New York Times, quoting unidentified administration officials, reported Tuesday that Carter had decided against production of the weapon despite contrary advice from most of his senior foreign policy advisers.

The newspaper said Carter hoped the Soviet Union would respond by showing restraint in developing new nuclear weapons.

The neutron warhead has a relatively small explosive force, confined to a radius of 200 to 300 yards, but yields twice the radiation of a regular nuclear weapon. Defense strategists consider it an effective weapon against an invading tank force in a European war.

## Palestinians to get death for killings

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A court Tuesday sentenced two Palestinians to hang for the assassination of a prominent Egyptian editor that led to a bloody gun battle between Cypriot troops and Egyptian commandos.

The three-judge tribunal convicted Samir Mohammed Khadar, 28, and Zayed Hussein al-Ali, 26, of premeditated murder and, over their protestations of innocence, set their execution for June 1.

Defense attorney Lefcos Cierides announced he would appeal, arguing that the death sentence had not been carried out on this Mediterranean island for 10 years and therefore had been abolished "de facto."

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Mine builders may ratify pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Striking mine construction workers are voting on a new contract to end their nearly four-month walkout as mine operators report that the coalfields have resumed normal production.

United Mine Workers union officials predict the 10,000 construction workers, who walked off their job last Dec. 6 along with 160,000 miners, would ratify their contract in balloting today.

"We expect it would pass rather handily based on what we hear from the districts," said one official at union headquarters here. The official, who asked not to be identified, said results of the vote probably would be known tonight.

### Officials hopeful of restoration

LONDON — Officials at the National Gallery say they are confident Nicholas Poussin's "Adoration of the Golden Calf" can be restored despite a three-foot hole slashed in the 17th century French painting.

### Wayne listed in 'good spirits'

BOSTON (AP) — John Wayne, who had a quarter-sized circle snipped from his heart and replaced with a valve from a pig, was reported in good spirits today with a 90 percent chance to recover and return to the two-fisted adventure films he's made for 50 years, doctors say.

"He is comfortable, fully awake and in good spirits," Martin Bander, a hospital spokesman, said this morning. Doctors removed a breathing tube from Wayne's windpipe, but he remained in intensive care today.

### Energy chief asks for help on nuclear bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Energy Secretary James Schlesinger appealed to Congress Tuesday to keep the Carter administration's nuclear licensing bill from becoming a battleground "on the merits of nuclear power in general."

But the measure, aimed at cutting in half the 10 to 12 years it now takes for government approval of a new nuclear power plant, appeared headed for some rough going on Capitol Hill.

Congressional sources said they doubted final action on the measure would come this year.

Rep. Jonathan Bingham, D-N.Y., who chaired a House Interior subcommittee hearing on the legislation, noted that both environmental groups and the nuclear industry seemed unhappy with it.

The bill would give states prime responsibility for selecting sites of nuclear power plants and deciding environmental issues. It also would permit early federal approval of standardized plant design.

House views  
social security  
tax decrease

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Budget Committee is considering a \$7.5 billion roll-back in Social Security taxes accompanied by a \$5 billion reduction in Pres. Carter's proposed general tax cut.



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