

making the news

From Associated Press reports

MOSCOW — A Soviet-Bulgarian space team landed safely in the steppes of Soviet Central Asia Thursday night after aborting an attempted landing with an orbiting space laboratory, Moscow radio reported.

The broadcast said the Soyuz 33 space capsule, which failed Wednesday night to dock with the orbiting Salyut 6 space laboratory, parachuted to a soft landing. It reported that despite darkness the craft was located quickly and said Bulgarian Georgy Ivanov and Soviet commander Nikolai Rukavishnikov were feeling fine.

It was the first failure in four Intercosmos operations and dampened Thursday's celebrations here of the 18th anniversary of the first manned space — that of Russia's Yuri Gagarin.

PORTLAND — The CIA is less than happy with an account of spy activities in Uganda scheduled to be published in Oregon Magazine by a former agent who once shared a swimming pool with all-but-ousted President Idi Amin and coached his basketball team.

"I was Idi Amin's Basketball Czar," is an account of spy activities by Jay Mullen of Medford, Ore., who spied on Uganda — and other nation's spies — for the agency in the early 1970s.

Editor Tom Bates said CIA Associate General Counsel John Greany was flying to Portland from Washington Thursday night to negotiate deletion of certain material from the story.

"I asked him to state what his objections were, but he declined to do so," Bates said. "He said he didn't consider the telephone to be secure transmission."

Bates said Greany said something about protecting identities of persons still in Uganda, but he figures the spy agency's real objections might be over an account of "a certain spy mission."

"I told him we would consider their objections on their merits. We suspect their real objections might be our relations with another country," Bates said without suggesting which country it might be.

KAMPALA, Uganda — A frenzy of looting swept Kampala Thursday and thousands of joyous Ugandans rallied in a city square to cheer the fall of Idi Amin. But the defeated dictator, broadcasting from somewhere in eastern Uganda, insisted the country was still his.

"We have got our soldiers controlling the country," Amin declared. His troops were reported streaming toward the Kenyan border in a chaotic rout, however, fleeing the Tanzanian forces and Uganda rebels who captured Kampala late Tuesday.

Residents of towns east of the capital said the ragged soldiers were looting, harassing local residents at gunpoint, stealing cars and retreating beyond Jinja — the city 50 miles east of here said to be Amin's new headquarters — to Mbale and Rororo near Kenya.

A gunfight at a Jinja bus station reportedly left 15 soldiers dead.

"All Ugandans who love their motherland must from now on help find Idi Amin wherever he is. He deserves the gallows," the victorious exiles in command of Kampala radio declared Thursday.

LUSAKA Zambia (AP) — Rhodesian commandos dropped into this Zambian capital before dawn Friday and destroyed the headquarters, residence of Rhodesian guerrilla leader Joshua Nkomo, a Zambian government spokesman said.

The spokesman said there were casualties but gave no other details.

Nuclear regulators issue warning to 34 U.S. plants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission told operators of 34 atomic power plants Thursday to beware of the kinds of mistakes and breakdowns that plunged the Three Mile Island plant to the brink of disaster.

The NRC had already issued new orders — shortly after the March 28 accident near Harrisburg, Pa. — to the operators of the nine nuclear plants designed by Three Mile Island's builder Babcock and Wilcox. The new directive went to 34 plants designed by Westinghouse Corp. and Combustion Engineering Corp.

The NRC made clear for the first time that all 43 of the "pressurized water reactors" in the nation might be vulnerable to the same kinds of mishaps that damaged the nuclear core of Three Mile Island's Unit 2 and raised the danger of a melt-down that could have released large amounts of radioactivity.

"Several aspects of the incident" apply to all of these pressurized water reactors the commission said.

The NRC ordered the operators of the 34 plants to take steps to either avoid or learn how to cope with the kind of problems that plagued Three Mile Island.

At the Three Mile Island installation, the NRC found valves in an auxiliary water circulation system were incorrectly left closed, preventing

the system from cooling the reactor after the main circulation system failed.

The new directive told plant operators to study "the extreme seriousness and consequences" of that kind of mistake and to adopt procedures to make sure vital safety systems are restored to operation after testing and maintenance.

The NRC also told operators not to override automatic safety features before they understand fully whatever problem may be confronting them.

The commission had learned that operators at Three Mile Island manually turned off an emergency cooling system when no other cooling system was working.

The operators were told to be alert to the previously discounted possibility that a gas bubble could form — one large enough to hamper the circulation of cooling water. And they were told to figure out in advance what steps to take to cope with such a situation.

At Three Mile Island, the unexpected formation of a hydrogen bubble complicated efforts to completely and safely shut down the stricken reactor.

The NRC said plant operators should not rely on a single type of instrument to tell the condition of the cooling system but should check one reading against another and turn on emergency cooling if pressure in the reactor gets too low.

Islamic executions alter focus

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Despite Western protests, Iran's Islamic tribunals continue to dispense revolutionary justice in nightly rounds of executions. More and more the victims — who at first tended to be generals and police chiefs — are diplomats, mayors and other politicians.

Perhaps only Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — architect of the revolution — knows how long the trials will go on or how many people eventually will be caught in the nets of Islamic justice. More than 5,000 members of the old regime are believed to be in jail now.

The provisional prime

minister appointed by Khomeini — Mehdi Bazargan — said in an interview Thursday he hoped the revolutionary courts "will stop within a year and... our Justice Ministry will take over this work."

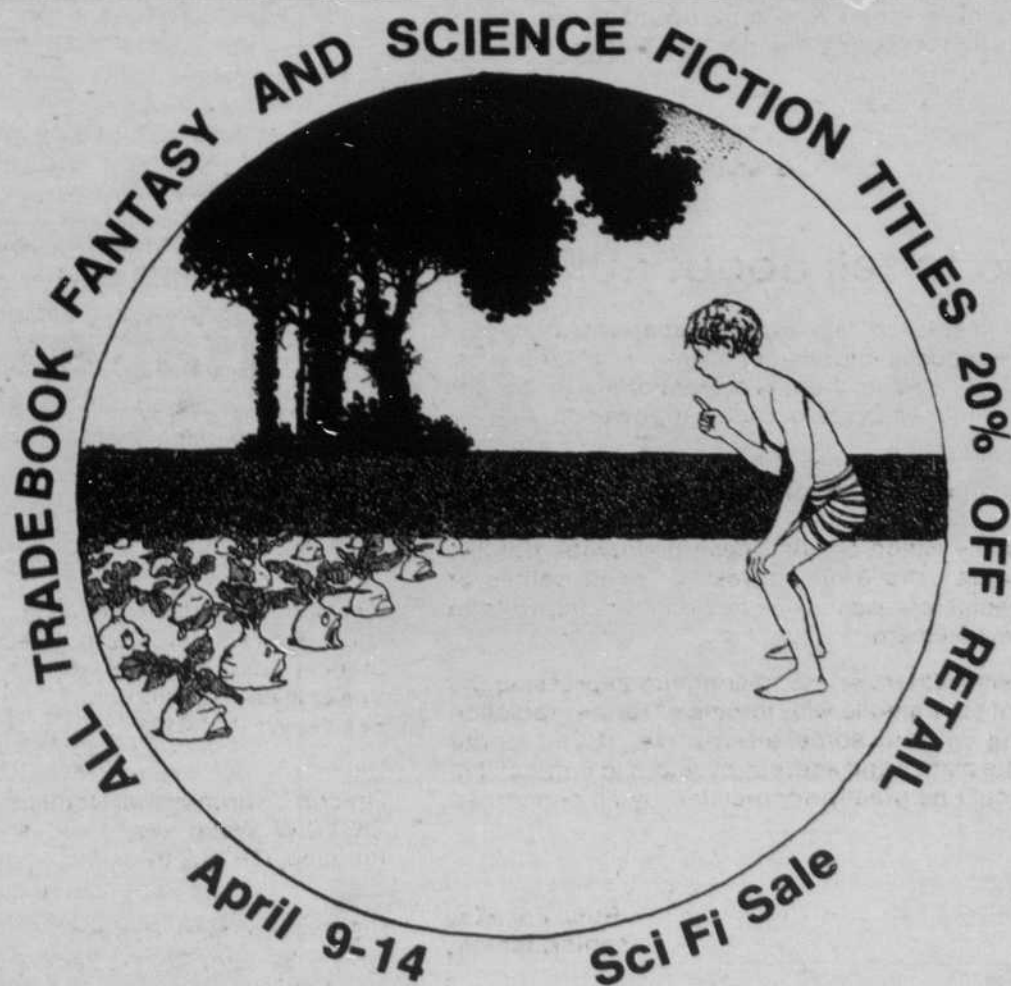
Last month his denunciations of summary revolutionary justice as "irreligious, inhumane and disgraceful" led to the suspension and a supposed review of the system by Khomeini.

As other officials of his government have done, Bazargan in the interview in effect washed his hands of the bloody purge, saying he supports the executions but "that's the

business of the courts. We don't stick our noses in there."

Although ordinary Iranians still appear to approve of killing off police and army men responsible for the past murder and torture under the shah, the deaths this week of prominent civilian officials gave some people pause.

Critics of the executions are still reluctant to speak in public, but increasing numbers of Iranians talk of the need for authorities to tend to other problems — particularly unemployment and unrest among the nation's ethnic minorities.



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