

# inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

## Solidarity may call for strike

### WARSAW, Poland

Solidarity's presidium on Monday threatened a national warning strike if the Communist government does not settle with the union on ways to deal with the food crisis by Oct. 22, union officials reported.

The Polish government accused the independent labor federation congress of being a "negative" influence on the country by questioning the foundations of its Communist system.

Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, told a nationwide television audience Monday that the government "has assessed the influence of the Solidarity congress on the situation in the country and it has been negative."

Nevertheless, Urban said officials had not yet studied all the congress actions, including its program calling for greater worker control over factories, free elections and economic reforms.

## Workers say job mismanaged

### ELMA, Wash.

Some construction workers assigned to the Satsop nuclear plants being built by Washington Public Power Supply System are told to "stretch out" simple jobs to fill their work days, a veteran builder claims.

"I have worked here as part of a three-man crew for a total of 24 days. Along with another

fellow, I could have done all the work I've been asked to do in seven days," said Karl Braskerud, who earns \$164 a day installing fire protection equipment at the WPPSS site.

He claims supervisors at the Satsop job have told him to take a small job and "make it last all day."

Asked about Braskerud's complaints, WPPSS Satsop project engineer Orville Trapp said the charges are "deplorable if true."

## U.S. bolsters moderate Arabs

### WASHINGTON

The Reagan administration is moving swiftly, both militarily and diplomatically, to bolster moderate Arab nations to prevent them from being engulfed by chaos after Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat's assassination.

The nightmarish fear for the administration is that Egypt, weakened by Sadat's death, could be plunged into Iranian-type chaos because of internal dissension or outside interference — or both.

While the administration already had been seeking to build a diplomatic and security network for the Middle East, partly to protect the region's oil resources, that effort has been sharply accelerated since Sadat was assassinated last Tuesday.

Among the measures:

- A large-scale joint U.S.-Egyptian military exercise next month that will involve a large number of American troops and

possibly a practice bombing run by American B-52s over an Egyptian target range. Troops from Oman, another Arab nation, also may be included.

- The probable return of Pres. Reagan's special Mideast peace envoy, Philip Habib, to the region next month to try to strengthen and expand the 3-month-old cease-fire in Lebanon between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

## Chinese first discovered U.S.

### SAN DIEGO

The Chinese may have sailed to California at least 2,000 years before Christopher Columbus "discovered" America 489 years ago Monday, two scientists say.

After studying 11 large stones found off Southern California six years ago, Prof. James Moriarity III and Larry Pierson said the rocks "certainly" came off a Chinese ship that may have wrecked more than 500 years ago.

"It could be from 500 years to 2,500 years old," said Pierson in

a telephone interview Monday. "Or it could be much older."

"We're fairly sure the Chinese were here before Columbus," added Moriarity, who works at the University of San Diego.

## Killer receives life plus 90

### SALEM, Ore.

A judge on Monday called Randall Woodfield a menace to society and sentenced the former college football star to life plus 90 years in prison for crimes of murder, attempted murder and sodomy attributed

to the so-called I-5 bandit.

"I still stand before you in complete innocence," Woodfield, 30, told Marion County Circuit Judge Clarke Brown before the sentence was announced. Woodfield thanked the court for its fairness during his trial and said he wanted to "extend my heartfelt feelings" to the people who "still believe in me."

Woodfield was convicted on June 26 of murder, attempted murder and two counts of sodomy stemming from attacks on two 20-year-old women cleaning an office near Salem last Jan. 18.



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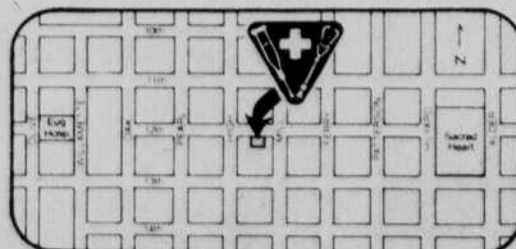
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