

# inter/national news

From Associated Press reports

## North-South summit opens in Mexico

### CANCUN, Mexico

Pres. Reagan gave conditional approval Thursday to negotiations aimed at narrowing the gap between the world's richest and poorest nations but also defended the U.S. "track record of success" in international economics. He said it was achieved without "flashy new gimmicks."

Reagan's remarks at the opening of the North-South summit conference of 22 nations in this Yucatan Peninsula resort were the first indication since he arrived here Wednesday that his administration would take part in "global negotiations" favored by many of the participants.

based on "four essential understandings."

The historic two-day conference was opened by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, the host, who criticized the current world economic order as "unjust and unfair."

Reagan, saying "words are cheap," and "cooperative action is needed — and needed now," urged low-income countries to develop their markets and exports not by weakening "the very system that has served us so well," but by improving it.

The conference's first session ran nearly five hours, with speeches by the leader of each delegation. Asked the reaction of other participants to his remarks, Reagan said, "A number of people were very kind and came up and said nice things."

Jean Pierre Cot, French minister for cooperation and development, accompanying President Francois Mitterrand, said Reagan's address was "a move forward from previous

U.S. statements on the issue" of global negotiations.

Carlos Fuentes, a close advisor to Lopez Portillo, said it was "positive because it gives leeway to the other world leaders to pursue the issue of global negotiations."

Reagan's highly-qualified backing for global negotiations ran counter to the virtually unanimous support for such talks by other delegations.

## Former Eugene man convicted of murder

### SEATTLE

A King County Superior Court jury Thursday decided on life in prison without possibility of parole for a man who raped and strangled his 7-year-old niece at the family home.

The verdict came after the girl's parents pleaded with the jury to spare Arnold Brown's life. Sentencing will be Friday.

"His death would accomplish no good. All it would do would be to cause more pain, more sorrow and more grieving. And we've had all the pain, sorrow and grieving we can handle," said Christina VanderPlaat, mother of the victim and the sister of Brown, 24, who formerly lived in Eugene.

The jury last week found Brown guilty of aggravated first-degree murder in the killing of Lisa VanderPlaat at the family home in Seattle's Magnolia neighborhood.

Then the jury began the trial's "penalty phase," hearing new testimony to determine if Brown should spend the rest of his life in prison or be put to death.

## Reagan budget cuts for 1982 may sink

### WASHINGTON

Pres. Reagan will not get the \$16 billion budget austerity

package he has requested for 1982, and may not get the balanced budget he wants by 1984, congressional Republicans said Thursday.

GOP leaders said they are looking at raising federal excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco and will probably cut 1982 defense spending by more than the \$2 billion Pres. Reagan is recommending.

"The package to be presented has not yet been described to the president," Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker of Tennessee said in refusing to specify further what steps the GOP would propose.

But Baker indicated that Reagan will get less than the \$16 billion in spending cuts and higher taxes he wanted for 1982, meaning the bulk of the \$115 billion savings Reagan has requested over the next three years will have to come in 1983 or 1984.

"There's not that much you can do in 1982," he said.

Asked if the budget could be balanced by 1984, he said, "I don't rule out that possibility... Things are going to have to improve and we're working on it."

The administration is considering asking Congress for an increase of as much as four cents per gallon in the federal gasoline tax as part of its search for ways to narrow the budget deficit, administration sources said Thursday.

The sources said the size of

the proposed increase has not been worked out, but that it probably would be no larger than a 4-cent hike. A doubling of the tax would account for \$7.2 billion in added revenue over the next three years, a Treasury Department official said.

There was more bad news for the administration in the latest developments in its proposal to sell \$8.5 billion in arms to Saudi Arabia.

Senate Democratic Whip Alan Cranston predicted that the Senate will veto the proposal by a large margin, and added that even new Saudi concessions may not save it.

The Senate lineup against the sale remained 53-37, according to the latest Associated Press count.

## New British party wins election

### LONDON

Britain's new centrist political alliance won its first parliamentary election early Friday, defeating both the ruling Conservatives and opposition Labor in a special ballot in a London suburb.

William Pitt, running for the alliance of the 7-month-old Social Democratic Party and the Liberal Party won by 3,254 votes in the middle-class Croydon Northwest district, held by the Conservatives since 1955.

"We have split the old (two-) party system wide open. Our

momentum is unstoppable now," Pitt declared.

The result represented a 24.2 percent swing against Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government.

It was a major boost for the new alliance, which is pledged to break the grip the the Conservatives and Labor have had on British politics since World War II.

Thursday's election was called to fill a vacancy left by the death of Conservative legislator Robert Taylor. John Butterfill was the Conservative candidate and Stan Boden ran for Labor.

## WPPSS nuke plants won't be scrapped

### SEATTLE

A plan to rescue two partially built nuclear power plants in Washington state from the scrap heap was forged late Thursday by 88 utilities participating in the project, officials said.

The board of directors of the Washington Public Power Supply System will meet Friday morning to take final action. Details of the \$150 million plan to mothball the two plants for the next 20 months were ironed out during a four-hour meeting of the participants behind locked doors.

But there were no signatures yet on the agreement, which took a flurry of last-minute negotiations to complete.



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