

Reagan sends Soviets plan to break missile deadlock

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pres. Ronald Reagan today sent a compromise arms proposal to Soviet negotiators to take back to Moscow in hopes of breaking the deadlock on limiting medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, a senior administration official said.

Reagan personally refused to comment on the development, but promised he would have an announcement on the subject Wednesday.

The president said he deliberately has made it clear in the past that "we would negotiate in good faith on any legitimate proposal" and that his "zero-zero" plan to eliminate all medium-range missiles in Europe should "not be taken as a complete, take-it-or-leave-it proposition."

In an interview with six journalists, Reagan said the zero-zero formula remains his ultimate goal. As to the planned deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe at the end of this year, Reagan said, "We've never retreated from our position that we are going to deploy on schedule."

Refusing to discuss developments in the arms talks, Reagan said, "We've made no change in our own goal, but beyond that I can't speak until tomorrow."

Reagan's proposal was outlined in Geneva, Switzerland, by chief U.S. negotiator Paul Nitze on the last day of the talks before the recess, according to a senior administration official who refused to be identified. The compromise calls for an interim agreement that falls short of Reagan's "zero-zero" plan.

War hampers oil spill cleanup

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Patches of a growing, 100-square-mile oil slick from Iran floated closer to the island-nation of Bahrain and other Persian Gulf countries Tuesday, threatening "untold environmental and ecological damage," experts said.

Fears were expressed in Bahrain that the 6-week-old slick — which could not be cleaned up immediately because of the Iraq-Iran war — was capable of "engulfing the whole island" of 360,000 inhabitants. The crude from two bombed oil fields, continued to gush into the widening slick.

In the neighboring state of Qatar, second in the line of the slick's main area, the government issued a statement urging youth to "be ready to respond to the call of duty when asked."

Experts from 19 oil companies met in Bahrain and issued a warning that unless a partial cease-fire was arranged between Iraq and Iran in the blazing and leaking area of the Nowruz oilfield, the entire Persian Gulf would "become one vast oil-lake."

Iraq and Iran were not represented at the Bahrain meeting. But Iran has declared its readiness to cooperate in capping the bombed oilfields.

Iraq has made no firm response so far, and the Iraqi Embassy in Manama refused any comment.

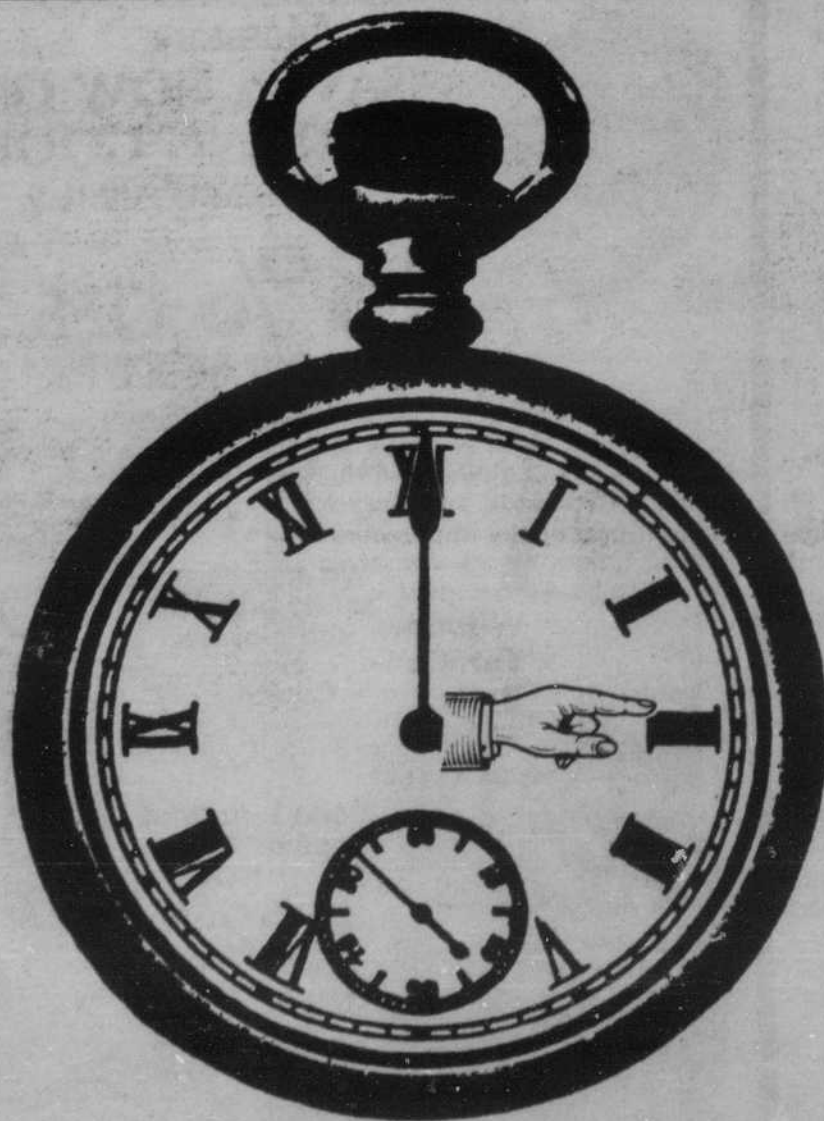
The statement by the 19 oil companies warned that the damaged wells "have the potential for untold environmental and ecological damage, and the total combined anti-pollution equipment available would be of little use unless top priority is given to the repair and capping of the wells — the source of the continuing pollution."

The statement urged the two warring nations to declare the Nowruz field zone, south of the main Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island, "an operationally safe area for as long as it takes for repairs to be effected by international experts, who are on continuous standby waiting for the go-ahead."

Kharg has been a favorite target of Iraqi bombings. The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait has accused Iraq of preventing colleagues of American firefighting expert Red Adair from operating at Nowruz.

The envoy also charged that the Iraqis were using the threat of the slick to exert pressure for a cease-fire in the 31-month-old gulf war but asserted the Iranians were ready only for a partial truce in the affected area.

Bahrain's newspapers said the islands may have to fight "a sacrificial" battle against the advancing spill — maneuvering the slick into areas with the least inhabitants and to economic installations so as to spare fishing waters.



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Oh Prince Andy, they should have called you Randy

LONDON (AP) — A woman who said she recently cavorted with Prince Andrew in the Caribbean told a newspaper the prince "couldn't keep his hands off us, but it was all good clean fun."

Lucy Wisdom's comments were carried Monday by the Daily Mirror, which also ran three pages of photographs of the prince on shore leave. Andrew, a helicopter pilot, is with the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible.

A front-page picture showed the prince standing on a poolside patio in Barbados while blond ex-model Vicki Hodge, 36, lounged in the sun beside him in a bikini. A photo on an inside page showed the prince in the sea being carried on Hodge's shoulders.

The pictures were taken by Hodge and her companions, Wisdom, 26, and Tracie Lamb, 21, the report said.

The newspaper said 23-year-old Andrew, second son of Queen Elizabeth II, at one point seized the women and dumped them fully clothed in a swimming pool.

Hodge said: "Whatever anyone thinks, nobody made any sexual conquests. Nobody can claim the crown jewels."

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