

Soviets rebuff U.S. bomber, missile ceiling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States recently proposed mutual ceilings on long-range bombers and air-launched cruise missiles, but was rebuffed by a "caustic and acerbic" Soviet Union response, Reagan administration officials said Thursday.

"To date the Soviet response in this round has been dilatory and disappointing," Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said in confirming that a new U.S. proposal was tabled last month in Geneva, Switzerland.

It was the first time the administration formally offered in the talks to impose numerical ceilings on strategic bombers and air-launched cruise missiles. The United States has an edge in both types of ocean-spanning weapons.

An official close to the talks who declined to have his name disclosed said the Soviets insisted that a ban be imposed on all kinds of cruise missiles. He said the U.S. offer to limit strategic bombers on each side to 400 and devise a formula limiting air-borne cruise mis-

siles was turned down by Soviet officials who said they viewed it as nothing more than another move by the United States to seek nuclear superiority.

The latest tabulation by the Joint Chiefs of Staff shows a U.S. lead in strategic bombers of 328 to 250. The United States is in the process of developing the new B-1 bomber and advanced cruise missiles, in which it already has a large technological lead.

The Defense Department, however, says the Soviets are striving to catch up on cruise

missiles and intelligence sources say they have developed a land-launched version with a range of 1,900 miles.

Cruise missiles fly much like pilotless airplanes and are designed to change course in flight as opposed to long-range ballistic missiles whose courses cannot be changed once they are launched.

Speakes confirmed that U.S. negotiator Edward Rowny had presented a new proposal, but did not divulge the details.

The talks are to resume in early June. Separate talks in the Swiss city on limiting intermediate-range U.S. and Soviet missiles will reopen May 17. Progress on both fronts has been slow.

The proposal marked another major U.S. tactical shift in negotiations to harness nuclear weapons. Last month, Pres. Ronald Reagan called for an interim agreement cutting back U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear missiles. Initially he sought a total ban.

Watt lifts ban on Beach Boys

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary James Watt hurriedly replaced the capital's welcome mat for the Beach Boys on Thursday after being set straight by one of their favorite "California Girls." And when Nancy Reagan got done, the president himself put a heavy foot to him.

Reagan, it seems, is a fan of the surfin' sound as much as his wife. So after learning that Watt had banned the Beach Boys and other rock groups from the capital's July 4 celebration, he handed the Interior Secretary a stark reminder of what not to do any more.

A plaster of paris foot with a hole in it.

Watt, who earlier complained that "hard rock" music had attracted the "wrong element" to the traditional fireworks extravaganza on the Mall, proclaimed himself a likely fan of the Beach Boys, whose performances had drawn hundreds of thousands of people in years past.

"The president is a friend of

the Beach Boys and he likes them, and I'm sure when I get to meet them I'll like them."

He said he still would go ahead with his decision to bring in Las Vegas crooner Wayne Newton for this year's main event. As for the Beach Boys, "We'll look forward to having them here to entertain us again, as soon as we can get that worked out."

Reagan's chief spokesman, Willie Nelson fan Larry Speakes, suggested a more specific timetable: inviting them back for this July 4.

Watt, who has managed to stand off environmentalists, Indians, congressmen and other critics, raised the white flag just hours after it was apparent, in the wake of a flood of protest calls from around the nation, that the Beach Boys still enjoyed Good Vibrations elsewhere in the administration.

Presidential aide Michael Deaver was the first to send Watt the White House message. "Anybody who thinks the Beach Boys are hard rock must think

Mantovani plays jazz," he declared.

Next came word from Mrs. Reagan: "I like the Beach Boys." And Speakes said he wouldn't be a bit surprised if Reagan did, too.

According to the interior secretary, he then got a call from the first lady. "She said that the Beach Boys were fans of hers, and her children had grown up with them, and they're fine outstanding people, and there should be no intention to indicate that they cause problems."

Asked whether he would apologize to the Beach Boys, Watt said, "I don't know that I owe them an apology, but I apologize to anybody that thinks they need one."

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