

world beat

Support given for missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan and Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried

Martens pledged solid support Monday for the NATO decision to base new nuclear missiles in Western Europe, while seeking to reduce superpower arms.

But the Belgian prime minister stopped short of

publicly declaring that his nation plans to go ahead with a scheduled March deployment of its share of the U.S.-built missiles.

Reagan, declaring the two hours of talks "friendly and productive," said the two men focused on "alliance resolve" and that the NATO deployment was a "special concern" of the discussions.

The president had planned to advise Martens to reject the advice of his own political party and to stand up for the deployment of the new missiles.

"I reaffirm our attachment to the (NATO) dual-track decision, which is an expression of firmness in defense and of openness for dialogue," Martens said in his departure statement.

Martens' government has agreed in principle to deploy 48 cruise missiles on Belgian soil unless the Soviet Union reduces the numbers of its SS-20 intermediate-range nuclear missiles aimed at Western Europe. Construction is under way at a Belgian air base in Florennes, 40 miles south of Brussels, in preparation for the missiles' arrival.

Child center calls for action

WASHINGTON (AP) — An organization concerned with missing and exploited children announced Monday that it would mount a nationwide campaign to strengthen state

laws dealing with child abuse, molestation and kidnapping.

"1985 is the year to begin to consider and implement effective measures to protect children," said Jay Howell, executive director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The aim is to prevent crimes against children and to better handle such cases when they're uncovered, Howell said.

The center, which opened last June and receives money from the Justice Department, will work with state and local officials who want to improve their statutes by advising them and making recommendations.

Howell said his staff will be involved particularly closely with officials from 15 states that have expressed interest in toughening child protection laws.

Those states are: Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

As a start, the center will distribute thousands of copies of a new legislative guide to lawmakers in every state. The handbook highlights some of the most effective state laws that concern child victimization.

Child legislation varies widely from state to state, center officials said, and it has not been a top priority. Often, bills die in committee before reaching a vote.

"Often the legislation doesn't get heard," said John Walsh, who helped spawn a nationwide movement after his son, Adam, was abducted and murdered in Florida several years ago. "Children don't vote...they don't have political action committees."

King reaffirms father's dream

WASHINGTON (AP) — Declaring that "the dream lives on," the youngest child of the late Martin Luther King exhorted listeners at a memorial service Monday to pursue her father's goals.

"There are those who believed that if they killed the dreamer, that they would kill the dream," said Bernice King, the late civil rights leader's daughter.

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