



# Soviet delegation cuts tour short in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A high-ranking Soviet delegation unexpectedly cut short its visit to the United States, and was leaving for Moscow Sunday night, a State Department official in Washington said.

"They have requested that they be able to leave early," said Vivienne Ascher, a State

Department spokeswoman.

Ascher declined to comment on speculation that the delegation's sudden departure, two days before it had planned to leave for the Soviet Union, may have been prompted by death or critical illness of Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko. Chernenko, 73, head of the

Communist Party and the government, is known to have respiratory problems and has dropped from public view for lengthy periods in recent months.

"We confirm that they are leaving, but we have no comment on the reason why they are leaving," Ascher said.

The group of 30 Soviet leaders, led by Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party head Vladimir Shcherbitsky, had been scheduled to take a yacht cruise on San Francisco Bay Sunday afternoon.

But Darcy Fallon, a reporter for the San Francisco Examiner,

said the group eluded the press during a tour of the city and never arrived for the scheduled yacht cruise.

The delegation arrived in San Francisco by air, amid tight security, earlier Sunday. It was the highest-ranking Soviet group to come to the United States in more than a decade.

Through an interpreter who could barely be heard above plane traffic, Shcherbitsky said, "I am hoping to learn more about the American people, and I hope they can learn about us." He added that he was "very happy" to be in San Francisco.

The Soviets had been scheduled to talk with business and political leaders, and take a brief look at Silicon Valley and Stanford University Monday before leaving for New York and the end of their tour.

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## Lawmakers dislike Hanford waste site

SALEM (AP) — Several Oregon legislators say they'll try to block any attempt by the federal government to bury highly radioactive wastes at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state.

Because the Hanford site is in a geographically unstable area, storing high-level radioactive wastes there would pose a potential threat to people in the Northwest for thousands of years, they said.

"It's a terrible site," Sen. Bill Bradbury, D-Bandon, said at a news conference Friday. "There are probably many sites that are more suitable" in other parts of the country.

Bradbury was joined by Democratic Reps. Shirley Gold of Portland, Mike McCracken of Albany and Wayne Fawbush of Hood River, in announcing a legislative effort to try to block the waste site.

At their news conference, the four legislators said they hope to win passage of a non-binding resolution urging Congress to give veto power to Oregon and other bordering states if the federal government decides to bury the wastes at Hanford.

## Israeli soldiers killed by bomb

(AP) — A suicide bomber in a truck detonated his load of explosives as an Israeli army convoy passed by Sunday, killing himself and 12 soldiers and wounding 14 soldiers, the Israeli military command in Tel Aviv reported.

The bombing occurred in southern Lebanon at a military checkpoint just north of the Israeli border town of Metulla at about 2 p.m., the command reported.

It said the official announcement was withheld until relatives of the victims had been notified.

Witnesses said the destroyed army truck was in a convoy transporting soldiers to the north.

Israel television quoted Prime Minister Shimon Peres as expressing "profound horror" at the bombing and saying Israel would not relent in its "war against terror."

In Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, an anonymous caller told the leftist radio station Voice of Arab Lebanon that the pickup truck was driven by a member of the Lebanese National Resistance. It said the attack was in revenge for a car bomb that killed 75 people and injured 250 on Friday near a mosque in predominantly Moslem West Beirut.

Israel has repeatedly denied accusations in Lebanon that it was responsible for Friday's bombing in west Beirut.

## Clark to appear at flasher forum

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland Mayor Bud Clark, whose election boosted sales of his "Expose Yourself to Art" poster, will appear next week at a Portland State University forum put on by a women's group protesting campus incidents of indecent exposure.

The forum on exhibitionism, sponsored by the Women's Studies Certificate Program, is intended to focus attention on a problem the women's group believes is not being taken seriously on campus.

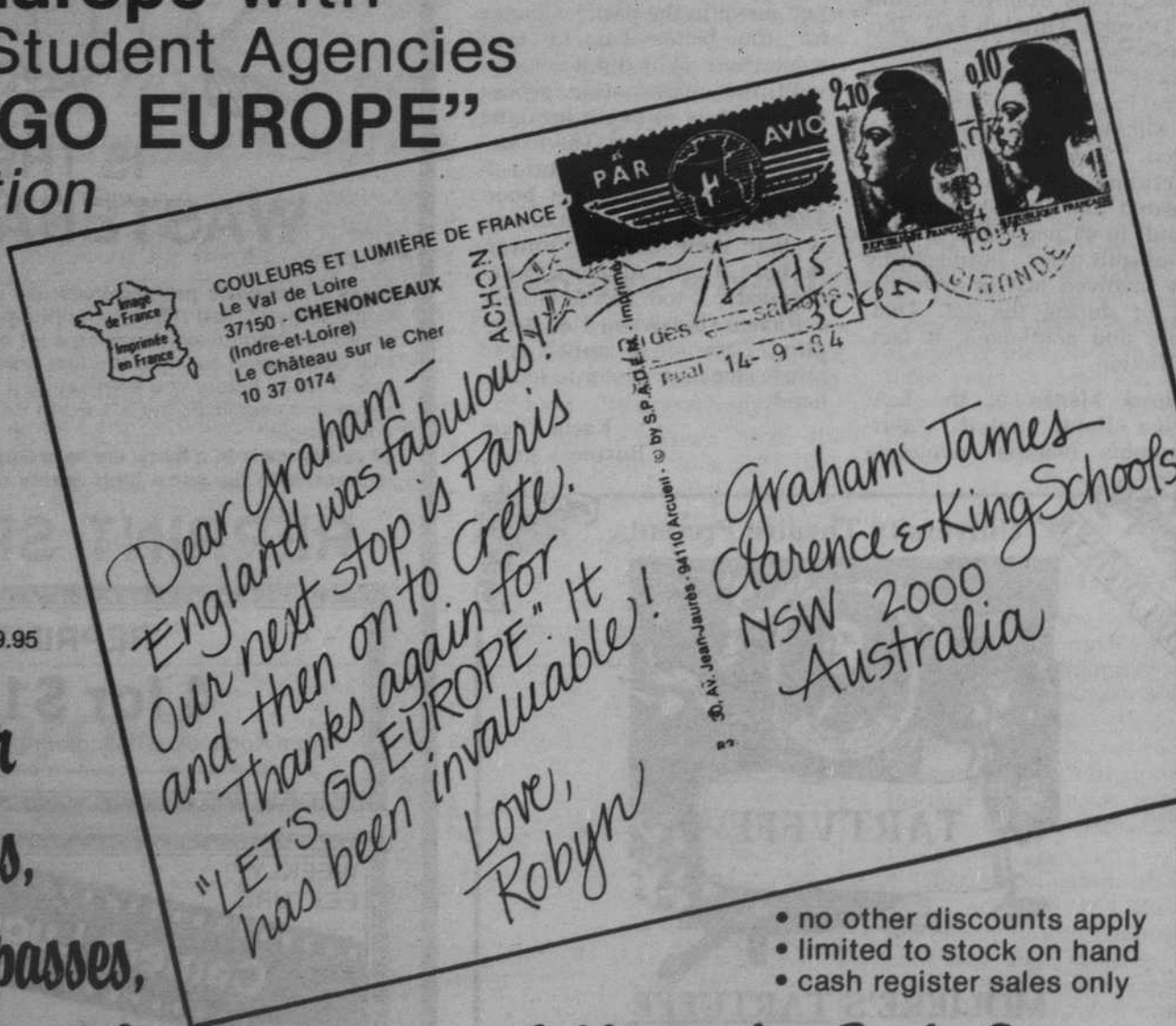
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