



world beat

Summit meeting unlikely this year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite high hopes just a few months ago, a superpower summit between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is now regarded as unlikely for this year, an informed State Department official said Tuesday.

The official, who insisted on anonymity, said summit prospects have foundered on the continuing dismal state of U.S.-Soviet relations, the need for Gorbachev to further solidify his control in the Kremlin, and the Reagan administration's approach to a summit.

The administration "got ahead of itself" by assuming that Gorbachev was as desirous of a summit as Reagan, the official said. He said Reagan may have appeared to the Kremlin as over-eager for a summit.

He also said that Gorbachev, who took office in March, may not feel he yet has sufficient authority to make decisions at a summit without risking getting in trouble at home.

The earliest time for a summit now may be sometime in the first half of next year, the official predicted.

Rebel debate irks Reagan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration and its supporters in Congress voiced new optimism about prospects for aid to Nicaraguan rebels Tuesday, despite congressional obstacles that prompted President Ronald Reagan to pound his desk in impatience.

Reagan also met with President Roberto Suazo Cordova of Honduras, whose government has placed new restrictions on rebels operating from Honduran bases. Reagan promised "appropriate measures" to help that country defend itself in the event of communist aggression.

In a meeting with Republican congressional leaders, the president said, "We have got to get to where we can run a foreign policy without a committee of 535 telling us what to do."

House Minority Leader Robert Michel, R-Ill., said it was the second time in his years of leadership meetings with Reagan that he had seen him "really put his fist down on the table very audibly." The other time was on a tax issue.

Reagan, asked if he pounded the desk, said, "I just kind of slapped it once," and later joked to

reporters that he had "killed a fly."

White House spokesperson Larry Speakes, however, said the president doubled up his fist and brought it down for emphasis while expressing his frustration with Congress.

Reagan originally sought \$14 million in emergency military assistance to rebels fighting Nicaragua's leftist government, but agreed to a compromise providing non-lethal assistance after Congress balked at the original proposal. The Republican-controlled Senate agreed, but the House, led by Democrats, refused to go along.

Michel and Speakes said the administration now plans to go back and seek congressional approval for a \$42 million package of non-lethal aid, consisting of the \$14 million emergency package plus the \$28 million that Reagan is seeking for the 1986 fiscal year.

Senate Republican Leader Robert Dole of Kansas said a bipartisan proposal would probably be put to a vote in the Senate this week, and Michel said House action was expected to follow within a few days.

Navy suspends new contracts with General Dynamics Corp.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy, accusing General Dynamics Corp. of "brazen" and "improper" business conduct, stopped the processing of up to \$1 billion in new contracts Tuesday pending reforms in the company's dealings with the Pentagon.

Navy Secretary John Lehman said at a news conference that he also would cancel two existing contracts worth a total of \$22.5 million and would fine General Dynamics \$676,283 for giving gratuities to retired Adm. Hyman Rickover.

At the same time, Lehman rejected a recommendation by the Pentagon's inspector general that the top officers of General Dynamics be barred from doing work with the Defense Department.

The company's conduct did not warrant such stiff action against the executives, he said.

Lehman said the Navy would "hold off further processing" of pending contracts with General Dynamics' Electric Boat Division, including a planned contract to build the nation's next half-billion-dollar Trident submarine, and with the Pomona Division, which makes missiles for the Navy.

He said the total amount of new contracts be-

ing processed is between \$600 million and \$1 billion. None of the contracts has yet been signed.

To get the process started again, General Dynamics would have to establish a code of ethics for its officers and employees; rework and resubmit millions of dollars in requests for overhead payments that have been questioned by the Navy; and settle those disputes.

Lehman said he hoped the process would take only a few weeks.

For several months, General Dynamics, the third-largest U.S. defense contractor, has been under fire from the Pentagon and the Congress for improper billing practices, gift-giving and other irregularities.

Lehman said he had sent a letter of censure to Rickover, condemning the admiral's acceptance of \$67,628 in gratuities from Electric Boat between 1961 and 1977 when he headed the Navy's nuclear-submarine building program.

The letter, which Lehman said was the sternest action he could take against the admiral, represented "a fall from grace" that should be viewed in the context of a distinguished career.

"I think Admiral Rickover should have acted better," Lehman said.

Senate saves MX

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday rejected yet another attempt to kill the MX missile, and the White House began lobbying against a new effort to limit its deployment.

In the latest skirmish of the long-running fight over the new nuclear weapon, supporters and opponents renewed the arguments they have made during the past three years. Then the Senate voted 56-42 to reject a motion by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., halting Pentagon spending on the weapon.

The chamber then turned to a move by Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., which would limit deployment of MX missiles to 40 instead of the 100 sought by President Ronald Reagan for stationing in existing silos in Nebraska and Wyoming.

But as the Senate began considering Nunn's proposal, the debate was delayed when the Georgia senator was called off the floor to meet with Republican leaders and White House national security adviser Robert McFarlane.

After three hours of talks, Nunn told reporters that "the administration is concerned about the amendment."

Nunn said the White House was talking to him about a compromise because "I'm sure they must feel that their position (against a limit) could be defeated."

He said he had a "negative" reaction to what he described as a White House proposal to deploy 50 MX weapons followed by a "pause." Nunn explained that "they had no definition of what 'pause' meant."

Earlier, Hart argued, "It's not too late to stop this folly, and folly is the right word for the MX."

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