

President does not expect far-reaching weapons treaty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Tuesday he hopes his summit next week with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will produce "a signal" from the superpowers to guide nuclear arms control negotiators.

Reagan ruled out any chance of reaching a far-reaching arms treaty at the summit and suggested the meeting will not even produce a joint communique. "I'm not a great fan of communiqués — the sort of settling on a statement in advance," the president said.

While arms control will be a subject of the two-day session beginning next Tuesday in Geneva, Reagan said, "I don't envision this meeting as being one where we will get down to specific numbers and so forth."

Reagan, in an interview with West European television reporters, said, "I would think that what we should be dealing with at the summit is... the elimination of suspicion and mistrust to the point that we could turn the

specific numbers (of nuclear weapons) over to those other negotiators, but that they could have a signal from both sides, from their government and ours from us, have a knowledge that we want them to continue and to arrive at an agreement."

The interview came against the backdrop of Secretary of State George Shultz' assessment that his trip to Moscow last week failed to narrow differences between the United States and Soviet Union on arms control and other issues.

"Well, I'm not as pessimistic as that," Reagan said. "I understand, of course, that it's not going to be easy. There's a long history of meetings between our two countries and, many times, without much result."

Reagan pledged, "I'm going to make every effort to try and reduce the mistrust and suspicion that seems to exist between our, well, not only our two nations but sort of the East and the West."

Suicide bomber crashes into Beirut monastery

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A suicide bomber crashed a pickup truck loaded with explosives into a monastery where six senior Christian politicians were meeting Tuesday. The bomber, two army guards and a woman were killed and 26 other people were injured, police said.

They said a 2½-foot-thick stone wall shielded the politicians from the main force of the blast, which gouged out a 20-foot-wide crater.

Three bombs exploded overnight in various parts of Moslem west Beirut, killing four civilians and wounding eight, police reported earlier in the day.

The meeting in the Christian suburb of Aukar in east Beirut was to discuss opposition to a draft Syrian-sponsored ar-

mistice agreement reached last month by Lebanon's three strongest militias in an effort to end the 10-year-old civil war.

The six politicians gathered at the monastery belonging to the Lebanese Front, a Christian political coalition that was excluded from the negotiations.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the previously unknown "Vanguard of Arab Christians" told a Western news agency in Beirut: "We have staged this bombing and we shall carry out more sacrifices."

Speaking in Lebanese-accented Arabic, the caller accused Christian leaders of seeking to align Lebanon's Christian community with Israel and said "This (the bombing) is the end of everyone who is in Israel's lap."

All six senior members of the Lebanese Front were injured, but only one, former Defense Minister George Skaff, 55, was hurt seriously, police said.

They said those slightly hurt included former President Camille Chamoun, 85, and his son, Dany, 51, leader of the National Liberal Party.

Others wounded included bodyguards, passersby and four soldiers, police said.


In the attack on the Christian leaders, the driver of the red and blue Dodge pickup was blown to pieces in the explosion. Police said all they could find was a toe. Officers said the pickup truck carried 660 pounds of explosives.

The bombing occurred at 10:10 a.m. moments after the Chamouns entered the sandstone, brick-roofed St. Georges Monastery. Camille Chamoun, who survived two bomb assassination attempts in 1980, suffered minor facial cuts and his son was wounded in the hand, police said. Neither man was hospitalized.

A corporal and a sergeant jumped into a jeep and raced behind the truck, shooting at the driver in an effort to stop the vehicle. But the driver crashed the truck into the southeast wall of the one-story monastery. The monks left the monastery nine years ago, and the Lebanese Front took it over as its headquarters.

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