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National/International

Third World nations able to build missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Proliferation of ballistic missiles is a growing threat as more Third World nations develop the capability to build the weapons, according to a congressional study.

The report by the Congressional Research Service predicted "substantial numbers (of the missiles) could be deployed in most regions of the world in the not-too-distant future."

Many of the nations with a potential to build the weapons are doing so as an offshoot of space programs, and often the technology has been provided either by the United States or the Soviet Union.

Many of the countries also have nuclear research programs, raising the specter of Third World nations armed with nuclear-tipped missiles.

The nations involved include Israel, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, India, Pakistan, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, Brazil and Argentina, the study said.

For purposes of the study, ballistic missiles are defined as self-propelled, guided weapons that have a range "of many kilometers." That separates them from shorter-range missiles such as shoulder-fired anti-aircraft weapons or plane-launched air-to-air missiles, which are widely available on the global arms market.

The study predicted that "U.S. armed forces and those of our allies will, in the future, be confronted by hostile military forces increasingly armed with ballistic missiles."

The study was prepared for the Senate Armed Services strategic and theater nuclear forces subcommittee, which has been studying U.S. efforts to develop defenses against non-nuclear ballistic missiles.

The study noted that "some countries are on the verge of achieving high accuracy and large warheads with great destructive force, which would afford an ability to eliminate pre-emptively key military forces of an opponent. This new-found capability can alter a regional balance of power."

It warned that "the trend toward ballistic missile proliferation in the Third World will probably present the United States with difficult policy questions."





Americans in Libya maintain low profiles

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — For hundreds of Americans working in Libya, life has become a shadow existence. They are shielded by nervous businesses and a host government that needs their services while issuing daily threats against the United States.

Now, after the U.S. air attack on Libya on April 15, Washington is raising the stakes with a threat of indictment once the U.S. citizens return home. Americans remaining here could be imprisoned for up to 10 years and fined on their return.

Despite the air strikes — made, Washington says, because of purported Libyan support of terrorist attacks against Americans — Libya still officially welcomes Americans who work in businesses and the vital oil industry.

An estimated 800 Americans live in Libya. About 100 of them, women married to Libyans, are in the country legally.

The Americans' employers and the government have erected a protective wall of silence around them.

"We don't stamp Americans' passports if they don't want it. This is a favor we do for them," said Information Department official Mustafa Ahmed.

Keeping the visa stamp out of the passport is considered a way to avoid detection upon return to the United States.

Businesses believed to be employing Americans told reporters no such workers were there. A Western diplomat, who insisted on anonymity, complained that he couldn't reach old friends because of such protective policies.

Libyan officials refuse to take journalists hundreds of miles into the desert to see Americans, many of whom work in rotating month-long shifts, leaving their families outside the country. Some Americans reportedly earn as much as \$100,000 a year and enjoy tax breaks.

Head of Budget Committee rejects conservatives' plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Pete V. Domenici, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Sunday rejected a plan that conservative senators are drafting to bring a pending \$1 trillion fiscal 1987 budget more in line with what President Reagan wants.

At the same time, Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said time is running out on the president's tax overhaul initiative. Packwood said it is uncertain whether a majority of the panel will support his dramatic plan — no itemized deductions and a top personal rate of 25 percent — to revive the effort.

"Can I get a majority of my committee to go along? I don't know because it means cutting off some of the favorite loopholes that, frankly, some of the very, very rich in this country utilize." Packwood said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

So far, the White House and the Senate have been at odds over a budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. Reagan's budget proposals — submitted to Congress in February — were turned down while a package drafted by a bipartisan majority on the Senate Budget Committee has been rejected by the administration.

The committee plan, which the Senate is considering, includes \$18.7 billion in tax increases and cuts the president's military spending request by \$25 billion to meet a required \$144 billion deficit target.

Domenici, R-N.M., also appearing on the NBC program, said there is only one way to avoid stalemate and automatic spending cuts under a balanced-budget plan adopted last year: "There will have to be major compromises between the president and the United States Congress."



