

World beat

International Removal offered

MOSCOW (AP) - Mikhail Gorbachev offered Tuesday to eliminate Soviet short-range nuclear weapons in Europe. which the official news agency Tass said went beyond arms control proposals he made last week. It quoted the Soviet leader as saying to Secretary of State George Shultz: "We are for a reliable agreement with the most stringent and all-embracing control."

Gorbachev said last week that the Soviets would be willing to discuss reductions in tactical. or short-range, nuclear weapons apart from negotiations on eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe. NATO allies in Europe have expressed concern about vulnerability to Soviet superiority in tactical weapons and conventional forces if medium-range missiles are withdrawn.

Levels questioned

BONN, West Germany (AP) West Germany, which was in the path of Chernobyl radiation, said Tuesday it is asking Moscow whether higher radioactivity levels detected in Europe last month were caused by another Soviet nuclear accident. West Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and France confirmed Tuesday that varying increases in atmospheric radiation were recorded in March, but reported no damage or injuries. Kremlin officials denied the Soviet Union was the source.

The Soviets were criticized for a delay of nearly three days in reporting the explosion and fire last April at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine. It killed 31 people and spewed an invisible cloud of radiation over Europe that eventually worked its way around the world.

National Inmates write

WASHINGTON (AP) Presidential assailant John Hinckley Jr. wrote convicted killer Theodore Bundy three or four letters after initiating the correspondence last spring, prosecutors said today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Roger Adelman told a federal judge that Bundy. on death row in Florida for three 1978 killings, told Secret

Service agents he first received a letter from Hinckley last May.

Secret Service agents talked with Bundy today after prosecutors obtained two letters he had written to Hinckley. Adelman said. The letters found in Hinckley's room at St. Elizabeths Hospital here, indicated a more extensive correspondence between the two. Adelman said.

Household size drops

WASHINGTON (AP) - The number of people living in the average American household has dipped to its lowest level ever, as the nation's maturing population is setting up new homes faster than it is growing overall. The typical household included only 2.67 people as of last July 1, a number that has been declining steadily over the years, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. The average was 2.76 in 1980.

The major reason for the decline is the fact that America is aging - the share of adults in the population is growing in contrast to younger people, said Campbell Gibson of the bureau. The number of people per household fell as household growth outstripped the population increase by 10.5 percent to 6.4 percent between 1980 and 1986, the agency reported.

Dealer believed killed

KOKOMO, Ind. (AP) man on trial for dealing drugs was believed killed Tuesday when a briefcase he was carrying exploded in the Howard County courthouse, and at least 15 other people were injured. including the sheriff, officers said. The defendant, Robert Gray of Marion, was "believed to be dead" in the blast, prosecutor James Andrews said.

Sheriff John Beatty was seriously injured by the blast. Gray's attorney and two other law officers were hospitalized. and 11 people were treated and released from hospitals. Police said the courthouse was sealed off because they feared more explosives might be inside. Authorities also feared that the building had received severe structural damage that could endanger searchers.

Regional Textbook goes on trial

SALEM (AP) — The controversy over "Get Oregoniz-

ed," the fourth-grade social studies textbook that critics say is pro-industry, gets its first airing in court Wednesday. More than a year after the book made the state's approved-text list, the Oregon Court of Appeals will hear arguments in an appeal brought by two environmental groups. They claim the book has

mistakes and is slanted toward exploiting the state's natural resources. Amid heated controversy, the state Board of Education in March 1986 approved the book for use as a fourth-grade social studies text, going along with a recommendation by the state Textbook Commission. The Oregon Environmental Council and the Portland Audubon Society argue the book shouldn't have the state's seal of approval.

Panel OKs plan

SALEM (AP) - Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's plan to spend \$1.1 million to try to attract the federal government's "super collider" to Oregon was endorsed Tuesday by a legislative budget panel. Goldschmidt wants to use \$1 million in state lottery money to bankroll the operations of a task force that's to submit Oregon's bid for the federal particle accelerator.

The task force is to prepare proposals for two Oregon sites that earlier were identified by another super collider task force. The sites are near Lebanon and Hermiston. Goldschmidt's \$1 million plan was unanimously endorsed by a subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means committee. It now goes to the full budget-writing panel for consideration.





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