

International

Troop cuts promised

BEIJING (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday promised Soviet troop reductions in the Far East and urged that the tense Chinese-Soviet frontier be turned into a "border of peace."

Gorbachev, in a speech to Chinese academics in the Great Hall of the People, also called for a collective security network in Asia, saying an "all-Asia process" was needed for solving regional conflicts.

The Soviet leader, in Beijing for the first Chinese-Soviet summit in 30 years, stressed the importance of detente between the Soviet Union and China and said Moscow was taking unilateral actions to reduce tensions on the border.

He said Soviet troops deployed in Asia would be reduced by 200,000 in 1989 and 1990, figures he announced last December as part of Moscow's overall troop cutbacks.

He also specified the troop reductions would include 120,000 in the Soviet Far East bordering China, and that ground forces are to be cut by 12 divisions.

He said 11 air force regiments will be disbanded and 16 battleships will be removed from the Pacific Fleet.

On Tuesday, the leaders of

the world's biggest Communist countries agreed to resume friendly ties after three decades of hostility, and they indicated they would work to dismantle the central controls over their economies.

Deaths probed

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lankan and Indian security forces are responsible for the disappearances of scores of opponents, some of whom were tortured to death, Amnesty International said.

Indian and Sri Lankan officials in Colombo declined comment Tuesday on the report, dated May 1989. In New Delhi, Indian Foreign Ministry officials said they were waiting to see a copy of the 45-page report before commenting.

In the report, the London-based human rights organization expresses concern about arbitrary arrests and detentions without charge or trial, torture of suspected rebels, deaths in custody and disappearances of suspects.

Amnesty issued a similar report a year ago.

The report says 780 people have disappeared in Sri Lanka since emergency regulations were imposed in 1983, when militants from the Tamil minority began fighting for a separate homeland. Eighty-three of them vanished after India and Sri

Lanka signed a 1987 peace agreement to end the insurgency, it says.

Amnesty International says both Indian and Sri Lankan security forces deny knowledge of the arrests of those who disappeared. In some cases, it says, security forces claim they released missing suspects.

"Several people have died in custody both in the north and the south, Amnesty International believes as a result of torture," says the report.

Peace plan signed

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The leaders of eight African nations on Tuesday signed an Angolan government peace plan aimed at ending the country's 14-year civil war, the news agency Lusa reported.

After a one-day summit in Luanda, Angola's capital, the leaders supported the peace plan by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the Portuguese agency said.

Dos Santos did not disclose details of the plan other than to say it includes a "peace zone" along the Benguela railroad, Lusa reported.

The railroad running through central Angola is an important route to the Atlantic Ocean for landlocked Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, but rebel attacks have paralyzed much of the track.

ANGOP, the Angolan news agency, said most of the African leaders support an "African solution" proposed by the Angolan government that would allow rebels to integrate into society through a government amnesty.

Dos Santos has refused to negotiate with Jonas Savimbi's rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and says any solution must accept one-party rule by his Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, a Marxist party.

The rebels have rejected the amnesty and demand negotiations leading to power-sharing in the former Portuguese colony.

carrying infants and small children, entered the terminal in Charleston about 10 minutes later to begin clearance through customs.

There are about 14,000 military dependents in Panama, most of them already on U.S. military bases. The primary objects of the evacuation effort are the roughly 3,100 Americans who have been living in Panamanian neighborhoods outside U.S. military bases, but any of the dependents may leave if they wish.

Gang identified

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) — A loose-knit gang of teen-agers from affluent families may have been responsible for as many as two dozen "gay bashing" attacks in a city park since last summer, police said Tuesday.

The youths, calling themselves the Buffalo Rochester Aryan Skinheads, or B.R.A.S.H., live with their parents in expensive suburbs or wealthy sections of the city, authorities said.

They're also apparently proud of their group, Deputy Police Chief Terrence Rickard said Tuesday.

"We didn't even know this group existed until we arrested them and they told us who they were," Rickard said. "The officers who made the arrests were amazed and disgusted at what they were saying."

He said he knew that skin-head groups had been causing trouble on the West Coast, but was very surprised to find one in Rochester.

Police discovered the group when undercover officers interrupted an attack Friday night at Highland Park. Eight teen-agers, ranging in age from 16 to 19, were arrested and charged with beating Kenneth Bailey, 30, of Rochester.

The alleged attackers were jailed over the weekend. Seven were released on \$250 bail Monday, and the other was released on his own recognizance.

Each was charged with three felonies — second-degree robbery, second-degree assault and fourth-degree grand larceny — and could face up to five to 15 years in jail if convicted.

revealed several former HUD and other government officials were consultants to public housing authorities obtaining grants to renovate and repair subsidized housing for low-income families.

The consultants charged the housing authority or developer between \$500 and \$1,500 per unit, in many cases for doing little more than placing phone calls or writing to former government colleagues.

The inspector general's audit also showed many states received more than their allotted "fair share" of the grants while those most in need were short-changed.

Regional

Senate OKs land bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs on Tuesday unanimously approved the Puyallup Indian land settlement bill.

The bill now has cleared preliminary legislative hurdles in both the House and the Senate. It still must be considered by the full House and Senate.

The federal government is being asked to approve a \$77 million contribution to the \$162 million settlement package.

The settlement, approved by the Puyallup Tribe last summer, provides the tribe with a range of payments in cash and land — including \$20,000 to each of the 1,400 tribal members. It also provides for the possibility of significant economic development that promises the tribe a more prosperous future. In return, the tribe relinquishes its moral and legal claims to thousands of acres of land in Tacoma and Pierce County, Wash., including prime waterfront owned by the Port of Tacoma.

The other jurisdictions involved — Tacoma, Fife and Pierce County — have already agreed to pay their combined \$52 million share of the settlement. Additional money is coming from the Port of Tacoma, and Gov. Booth Gardner has signed a bill that authorizes the state to fund its \$21 million share.

Gas tax progresses

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A proposal to double California's 9-cents-per gallon gasoline tax over the next five years squeaked through its first legislative hearing Tuesday.

The measure, a constitutional amendment by Sen. William Campbell, R-City of Industry, is generally patterned after a plan which Gov. George Deukmejian unveiled, but refused to personally endorse.

The Republican governor described the proposal as the consensus of a blue ribbon panel which he convened to recommend solutions to California's rapidly increasing highway congestion and said it should be submitted to voters.

Campbell's amendment, SCA7, would also increase truck weight fees by 30 percent and exclude all of the new revenue — estimated at \$15 billion over the next decade — from the state's constitutional spending limit.

Wednesday, May 17, 1989

National

Evacuations offered

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States stepped up efforts Tuesday to safeguard relatives of U.S. military personnel in Panama, offering immediate evacuations for any of the 14,000 military dependents who may want to leave that troubled country.

The Defense Department described the escalated effort as a cautionary move in light of recent election-related violence and sought to avoid creating the impression that there was any need for panic.

But Pentagon officials said that while the program is voluntary, some relatives ultimately might be ordered home despite their wishes.

The first group of 276 American evacuees, including State Department and military families, arrived 10:45 p.m. Tuesday in Charleston, S.C., on a chartered commercial airliner. Others will be transported on the military cargo planes that have been ferrying extra troops to Panama.

The first group of tired-looking passengers, several of them

Funding restored

WASHINGTON (AP) — HUD Secretary Jack Kemp said Tuesday he would restore funding beginning June 1 to a subsidized low-income housing program he canceled last month.

Testifying for the second day before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on HUD and independent agencies, Kemp also said the Department of Housing and Urban Development would issue new guidelines to ensure competitiveness and more equitable distribution of funds in the scandal-plagued moderate rehabilitation program.

"I've asked my general counsel to prepare for the Federal Register by June 1 the notification of fund availability," said Kemp. "We want to make sure that the good guys ... are not squeezed out of the system by political influence."

Kemp suspended the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation program on April 26 after an audit by the HUD inspector general



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