





## INTERNATIONAL

## East-West talks hint at progress

NEW YORK (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union were unable Wednesday to iron out their differences on unfinished treaties to reduce conventional and long-range nuclear weapons.

But the Soviets hinted at progress and another round of high-level talks was set tentatively for Thursday afternoon.

Failure to reach agreement on the accords could force postponement of a 34-nation summit meeting in Paris in mid-November, interrupt the easing of East-West tensions in Europe and delay a trip to Moscow in December by President Bush.

The pivotal talks were held by Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze in a mid-town hotel about a mile from the United Nations where they voted on Tuesday to impose an embargo on cargo shipments by air to Iraq and occupied Kuwait

The aim is to force Iraq to withdraw from the oil-rich emirate in the Persian Gulf, which it seized Aug. 2, sending tremors through world oil markets and touching off hoarding and price rises.

"On quite a few questions there is progress." Shevardnadze said at the conclusion of the meeting, which took nearly four hours. He did not specify which questions he had in mind.

"But in order to carry these thru to the end we'll have to meet again," he said.

The senior U.S. official who briefed reporters later under rules that shielded his identity said Baker and Shevardnadze had recommitted themselves to completing the two treaties by the end of the year.

He said they "laid out some ideas," which he declined to describe, and would take them up again at their second meeting.

Asked if any of the remaining issues had been resolved, the official replied: "They are still

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In a drive to complete the treaties, U.S. and Soviet negotiators met separately from Baker and Shevardnadze, continuing discussions they began last week in Washington.

The Soviet group is headed by Viktor P. Karpov, a deputy prime minister and veteran arms specialist; and the U.S. delegation by Under Secretary of State Reginald Bartholomew.

Shevardnadze suggested a lot of work remains to be done. "There are so many problems," he told reporters through a Russian translator.

Baker said they also dealt "a good bit with cooperation" at the United Nations and added, "We ran out of time, quite frankly."

At the United Nations the two superpowers are working in tandem to tighten the economic screws on Iraq by denying the President Saddam Hussein's government all trade except for humanitarian food supplies.

A senior U.S. official briefing reporters on condition of anonymity said the Soviets had backed away from any attempt to link the Persian Gulf crisis to other area problems such as the Arab-Israeli dispute and the future of the Israeli-occupied territories.

Also, he said the Soviets "want to give a new impetus to the proliferation issue" and agreed to work more closely with the United States, once the Gulf crisis is over, to halt the proliferation of nuclear and chemical warfare technologies in the region.

Baker began the meeting thanking Shevardnadze for a strong speech at the United Nations on Tuesday condemning Saddam and for the way the Soviet foreign minister chaired the Security Council session.

Shevardnadze said he was operating under a "directive" from Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to break the deadlock in the negotiations over reducing non-nuclear arsenals in Europe.



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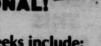
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