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U.S. agrees to discuss space arms curbs

By BARRY SCHWEID
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration has agreed unconditionally to talks with the Soviet Union in September about curbing weapons in outer space, U.S. officials said Monday.

The administration asserted its unconditional readiness to meet with the Soviets after Moscow rejected as "totally unsatisfactory" a U.S. proposal to broaden the talks to include other nuclear weapons.

It was not immediately clear whether the Soviets would take the administration up on its latest approach.

Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, underscored U.S. readiness to meet with the Soviets. But referring to the nuclear weapons, he stressed that "we will also raise these other issues."

Even if Moscow maintains its position that it does not want to talk about them, Speakes said, "we plan to raise it."

"We think INF [Intermediate

nuclear force talks] and START [strategic arms reduction talks] and nuclear weapons in Europe is too important of an issue not to raise at these talks and we will do it," he said.

But in a speech in Moscow, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko repeated his government's rejection of the earlier U.S. proposal to merge talks on space weapons and nuclear missiles, calling it a "stacked deck" against the Soviets.

Gromyko said the nuclear missiles issue has "no relation to the problem" of space weapons.

"We regret that Washington gave a negative reply, permeated with the spirit of stepping up the arms race and spreading it to outer space. As a precondition, a demand is made to merge negotiations on outer space with talks on (nuclear weapons)," he said.

A U.S. official, who spoke only on condition he not be identified, said the negotiations would be held in Vienna, "any mutually agreeable location."

He said U.S. arms control specialists were under instruction to

have an analysis of antisatellite weapons ready for President Reagan's consideration in August.

The principal point of the study is to determine which weapons might be difficult to verify under an agreement.

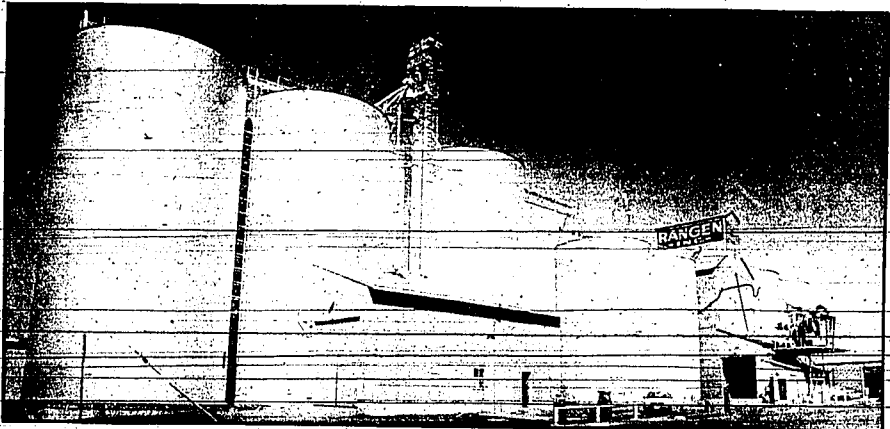
Soviet President Konstantin U. Chernenko formally proposed the negotiations by him and his predecessor, Yuri V. Andropov, were rejected by the administration.

Two reasons were given: that it would be virtually impossible to

guard against cheating and that the Soviets were trying to maintain an edge in space weapons by negotiating a halt to U.S. research efforts.

The administration responded to the latest Soviet proposal last week by saying it was prepared to negotiate, but wanted to broaden the talks to cover other arms issues as well.

U.S.-Soviet negotiations over intermediate-range and strategic nuclear weapons were halted last year as Moscow protested NATO's deployment of new American missiles in Western Europe.



Rangen Inc. is a feed processing company based in Buhl with \$20 million in annual sales and employing about 100 persons

Rangen, Inc., employee plans lost \$350,000

Lawsuit names pension fund trustee

By HAL BERNTON
Times-News writer

BUHL — A California investment firm engaged in "wrongful and fraudulent" financial transactions that lost nearly 50 percent of the assets of two Rangen Inc. employee pension funds, a lawsuit alleges.

The suit charges the Los Angeles-based A.G. Becker Paribas Inc. with violating federal pension-plan, securities and racketeering laws while serving as a trustee for the two Rangen pension plans.

Rangen is a Buhl-based feed processor with \$20 million in annual sales and about 100 workers.

A co-defendant in the suit is Stephen Rangen, a Becker employee who is also the son of Rangen's principal owner Thorleif Rangen.

The suit was filed by Jeffrey Clayton, a former Labor Department investigator who was appointed by Thorleif Rangen in February as an independent trustee for the two pension plans.

"From what we know, it's one of the worst cases of pension mismanagement I've ever seen," Clayton said Monday.

Stephen Rangen declined Monday to comment on the suit, referring questions to a New York attorney who could not be reached Monday.

The suit accuses the 36-year-old Stephen Rangen of trying to cover up \$350,000 in net losses that reduced the pension plans' financial worth to \$400,000.

"These losses were allegedly the result of high-risk, speculative investments in stocks. One of these stock purchases resulted in a three-day loss of \$350,000 to the plan, the suit claims.

The pension plans' losses mean reduced benefits

for most Rangen Inc. employees when they retire, Clayton said. The main company pension operates under a profit-sharing plan, in which employees lose out when the plan does poorly. In the other plan, covering a minority of the firm's employees, Rangen Inc. will have to make good on the plan's losses, Clayton said.

The suit also charges Stephen Rangen with a tactic known as "account churning" — the repeated sale and repurchase of new stocks — to generate excessive brokerage fees. This account churning resulted in the purchases of \$9 million worth of stocks for the two pension plans that had total average assets of only \$400,000, the suit said.

The suit charges Becker with using the pension plan funds to invest in stocks that it was also promoting, which would be a violation of federal law. If true, this may constitute a conflict of interest prohibited under a 1974 pension fund regulation act.

"Stephen Rangen and Becker knowingly concealed the risks to which the Rangen account was exposed and the grossly excessive trading in the account by refusing to provide information, despite specific requests, and by touting the Company with misleading and inaccurate descriptions of the investment strategy and performance of the Plans," the complaint alleges.

The suit alleges the two employee-benefit plans first came under Stephen Rangen's management in November 1980, after he persuaded his father that his firm could generate higher returns for the plans than its then-current trustee, Idaho First Trust Corp.

Stephen Rangen, working through Becker and a Denver-based bank known as First Trust Corp., then took over complete control of investments for the two employee benefit firms, the suit says.

Rangen Inc. officials became alarmed about the status of the plans in late 1981 when they learned of a \$100,000 net loss for the year, according to the suit.

From late 1981 until Rangen Inc. fired Becker in February of this year, the suit alleges a pattern of fraud and deception on the part of Stephen Rangen, when his father, Thorleif Rangen and his brother, Chris Rangen — a Rangen Inc. executive — attempted to learn the fate of their employees' pension funds.

Monthly statements, confirmation slips, summaries of commissions and other fees were all withheld from the Rangen management during this period, the suit charges.

In February "as the full extent of the plans' losses became known to Rangen Inc.," Thorleif Rangen hired Clayton as trustee.

"They (Rangen) gave me the authority to be independent and then they agreed to finance the investigation," Rangen said.

The results of Clayton's investigation are contained in the suit, which also lists Rangen Inc. as a co-defendant, along with Stephen Rangen and Becker.

Clayton, acting as the employees' trustee, said he had to include Rangen Inc. as a co-defendant because corporate officials failed to "adequately supervise" the plans' investments.

However, Stanford Owen, a Salt Lake City-based attorney representing Rangen Inc., said his client is innocent of any pension law violations, because company officials were not aware of Becker's mismanagement.

Clayton said that Labor Department investigators are also interested in the case, and could eventually file criminal charges against Becker employees.

Jerome man ordered held until hearing

By BONNIE BAIRD JONES
Times-News writer

JEROME — A 24-year-old Jerome man, alleged to have fired 15 rifle bullets into the body of his former wife Sunday, was ordered held in the Jerome County Jail without bond Monday pending a preliminary hearing on first-degree murder charges.

Jamie Dean Charbonneau is charged with killing Marilyn Arbaugh, 36, at her rural home Sunday morning.

Fifth District Magistrate Roger Burdick ordered a preliminary hearing and refused bond. He appointed Jerome County Public Defender Randy Stoker to represent Charbonneau after the suspect said he had no money to hire an attorney. At the same time Charbonneau was arraigned in a second criminal case charging first-degree kidnapping of his former wife and the theft of her automobile.

Bond was left at \$50,000 on that case. At the time of his arrest Sunday near the scene of the murder, officers

had issued a warrant charging him with the kidnapping and grand theft.

Burdick said the death penalty is the maximum sentence for both the first-degree murder and first-degree kidnapping charges.

The defendant's mother attended the arraignment, a weeping during much of the proceedings and hugging him and crying when he was brought to the court room.

Jerome County Prosecutor Daniels Adamson recommended a bond, stating the suspect is charged with kidnapping the victim, then persisting in his attack on her by returning later and killing her.

Court documents allege the suspect went to the Arbaughs' rented house on the El Rancho 53 ranch, northeast of Jerome, and let the woman's horses out of the corral. Her two teenage daughters, who were at the home at the time, said their mother left the house to put the horses back in the corral.

At 11:38 a.m., one of the woman's

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Burford to head environment panel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Monday named Anne M. Burford to head a national advisory committee on the environment, more than a year after she quit under fire after two stormy years as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

In a routine announcement, the White House said Mrs. Burford, who had been Anne M. Gorsuch until her marriage three weeks before resigning, would be designated chairman of the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere, a panel attached to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Commerce Department.

Mrs. Burford resigned March 9, 1983, climaxing months of turbulent relations between the EPA, Congress,

the Justice Department and the White House.

The previous December, she had been cited for contempt of Congress for her refusal, under orders from Reagan, to give a House subcommittee documents concerning the management of a \$1.6 billion Superfund that was established to clean up hazardous waste dump sites.

Word of the appointment caught Washington environmental lobbyists by surprise.

"I'm flabbergasted," said John McComb, chief lobbyist for the Sierra Club.

Liberalists, the lobbyist-handling ocean issues for Friends of the Earth, said: "It's incomprehensible that a person who left in disgrace over her

• See ANNE on Page A2

Mondale search barely under control

By DONALD M. ROTHBERG
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON — Three women, two blacks, a Hispanic and a white male — that's the lineup so far for Walter F. Mondale's vice presidential search, a process suddenly showing signs of careening out of control.

At its best, the Mondale search opened the door for the first time to people other than white males as serious prospects for a spot on the national ticket.

"Never again will a nominee make headlines by considering a woman," Mondale told the National Organization for Women on Saturday. "Next time headlines will be made only if women are not considered."

But Mondale quickly found out that the women delegates to the NOW convention want more than an open door. They want to be invited in. And if they are not, they are threatening to kick down the door.

The negative side of Mondale's search and his determination to



MAYOR WILSON GOODE
Among the prospects

exclude no one has been to endow the process with the air of an effort designed to satisfy the demands of the special interest groups the candidate feels he needs.

The NOW delegates threatened Sunday that if Mondale doesn't choose a woman, feminist delegates

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at the Democratic National Convention will challenge his decision by proposing a woman as an alternative.

NOW is playing old fashioned, tough interest politics. More than 53 percent of the electorate this year will be women. NOW broke precedent to endorse Mondale for the nomination and the group feels it's time to collect on that obligation.

At the NOW convention, Mondale said he was considering women "not because they are women, but because they are among the best."

Would Mayor Dianne Feinstein of San Francisco have been invited to Minnesota for a vice presidential interview if she were a man?

For that matter, would black Mayors Tom Bradley of Los Angeles or Wilson Goode of Philadelphia have been interviewed if they were white males?

Or Mayor Henry Cisneros of San

Antonio, the Hispanic on the Mondale list?

Only Sen. Lloyd Benken of Texas, the white male on the Mondale list, appeared to represent traditional considerations for a running mate.

Sen. Gary Hart also is assumed to be high on Mondale's list of running mates. He, too, would fit traditional political molds. Hart ran a strong race against Mondale in the battle for the presidential nomination and, more important, appeared to be a constituency markedly different from Mondale's and holding the prospect of broadening the Democratic Party's base for the fall campaign.

Mondale's effort might have greater credibility if, after his meeting Monday with Rep. Geraldine Ferraro of New York, he gave as much emphasis to the fact that she is an Italian Catholic from New York — three tickle-balancing virtues — as to her sex.

Donald M. Rothberg is the chief political writer for The Associated Press.

Memorial honors Declaration signers

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The courage of 56 men who risked everything to start America on the journey to freedom was commemorated Monday by the dedication of a new memorial to the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Granite blocks, like the foundation stones of a building, recall each of the men who helped lay the foundation of the United States.

"It is a grand occasion in which we recognize these 56 individuals who rose above personal concerns to unite — as the colonies themselves would unite — to achieve a common goal based in untested principles of liberty, equality and justice to all," said Mary Lou Grier, deputy director of the National Park Service.

"These men lived up to their promise and many suffered the consequences in loss of fortune, loss of health and loss of life, but never in loss of honor," added Sen. John

Warner, R-Va.

The pink granite blocks from Minnesota are arranged in a semi-circle on a small island, in a pond about halfway between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

The signatures from the Declaration are reproduced — one cut into the surface of each granite block, highlighted with gold leaf.

The blocks curve in an arc facing the water, surrounded by lawn and shrubs and "heavily invisible from nearby streets."

Designer Joseph Brown said his aim was to create a contemplative setting where people could rest and reflect on history — a memorial that would be fitting, but which would not intrude on the pastoral Constitution Gardens where it is located.

"The Signers of the Declaration Memorial is a special reminder that there is strength in unity," said Ms. Grier at the dedication ceremonies.

"Most people think of the Declaration in terms of Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock," she commented.