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BALTIMORE SUN

3 December 1982

Pg. 1

# Reagan scores a narrow victory as House panel backs MX funds

By Charles W. Corddry  
Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—President Reagan won the narrowest of victories for the MX missile yesterday as the House Appropriations Committee upheld his request for money to produce the weapon and put off a day of reckoning for the "dense pack" scheme for basing it.

The key vote came when the committee defeated by a 26-26 tie an amendment by Representative Joseph P. Addabbo (D.N.Y.) to strike out \$988 million in the bill for production of the first five of the intercontinental rockets. Mr. Reagan's lobbying made the difference, Representative Jack Edwards (R, Ala.), leader of the pro-MX forces, said later.

Moments after the crucial vote, the panel approved without debate two amendments by Representative Ralph S. Regula (R, Ohio) that would forbid spending either the production money or \$600 million for research on basing methods until March 15.

The Regula measures effectively would fence off both basing and production money until Congress has time to study Mr. Reagan's controversial plan for stationing 100 missiles in superhardened silos near Cheyenne, Wyo. They would not slow the program, according to the administration.

From Sao Paulo, Brazil, the president immediately hailed his victory, claiming "right is on our side," but recognizing that an equally tough battle now will be waged on the House floor.

The committee action came in approving a \$231.6 billion defense appropriation bill for fiscal 1983, which began October 1. The amount, the panel noted, is "the largest sum ever included in one bill for military purposes" in U.S. history.

The figure approved was \$26.3 billion more than the 1982 defense appropriation but \$18 billion less than the administration had requested. A similar amount is in a pending Senate version of the bill. But differences in content are such that a sum larger than either chamber's may eventually emerge when Senate-House negotiators re-

MX FUNDS...Pg. 2

WASHINGTON TIMES 3 December 1982 Pg. 7

# NATO adopts costly 6-year defense plan

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — NATO adopted a six-year defense plan yesterday that may be too expensive to implement.

It also expressed guarded hope for better East-West relations under the new Soviet leadership.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and defense chiefs of 14 allied countries approved North Atlantic Treaty Organization force plans that call for major weapons purchases, modernization of equipment and better deployment of forces to meet what a declaration termed "the continuing buildup of armaments" by the Soviet bloc.

The six-year plan is a codification of all the pledges NATO nations have made over the past few months to buy thousands of tanks and anti-tank weapons, new warships and hundreds of jet fighters.

The full plan is secret, but most of the major details, such as a U.S. pledge to deploy modern M1 battle tanks in Europe and plans by Europeans to buy more U.S. F-16 fighter planes, have been announced.

"I think there's a recognition of the need to do all we possibly can," Weinberger said after ministers approved the plan at an alliance strategy session. "There's a recognition also that the economic situation is difficult and different in each country."

In a campaign to get the plan approved, U.S. Gen. Bernard Rogers, supreme commander of allied forces, has estimated it may require governments to make 4 percent-a-year increases beyond inflation in their defense budgets. Several NATO nations already have failed to meet a 1978 commitment to increase defense spending 3 percent a year.

"Quite a few countries have so many NATO...Pg. 2

WASHINGTON POST  
3 December 82 Pg. 1

# Bush Links Economics, A-Arms Pact

By David Hoffman  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Vice President Bush said yesterday that both the United States and the Soviet Union face "enormous" economic problems that could affect military spending and hasten an agreement to limit the nuclear arms race.

But Bush also told reporters over lunch at the vice president's mansion that the United States still can better afford to build up its defenses. And he expressed concern that congressional attempts to scale down President Reagan's ambitious rearmament program would "send a signal" to the Soviets "that we're not going to be able to follow through."

Bush, who talked with new Soviet leader Yuri V. Andropov in Moscow last month after attending the funeral of Leonid I. Brezhnev, was questioned about whether the change in leadership in Moscow can be ex-A-ARMS...Pg. 6

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WALL STREET JOURNAL 3 December 82 Pg. 34

## U.N. Report on Chemical-Warfare Probe Calls Proof of Soviet Use 'Circumstantial'

By STEVE MUFSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

NEW YORK—A nine-month United Nations inquiry into charges that the Soviet Union used chemical weapons in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan found that certain allegations were "well supported" by "circumstantial evidence," but didn't reach any definite conclusion.

In a report to be released today, a three-man team of scientists appointed by the secretary general points to two allegations as "well supported." These were the suspected use of "harassing agents" in underground water canals in Afghanistan and the use of "some toxic material" in the area of Laos where the Hmong people live.

The scientists found toxic chemicals on plants, in a gas mask and in blood and urine samples from the alleged victims.

But they said they were "unable to decide . . . whether such exposure was due to a chemical attack or could be attributed to natural causes." The group said distortions by certain alleged witnesses, delays in the reporting of incidents and lack of cooperation by some governments hindered the investigation.

The report is likely to leave unsatisfied both sides of the bitter "yellow rain" controversy. Those who are convinced that Soviet and Soviet-aided forces are using chemical weapons will say it doesn't pursue evidence or draw logical conclusions. But neither does the report confirm accusations of others that the "yellow rain" controversy is an inaccurate propaganda ploy of the Reagan administration.

"It is frustrating," said Dr. Esmat A. Ezz, chairman of the investigating team and head of the scientific research branch of the Egyptian armed forces. "We did the best we could do, given the conditions." Dr. Ezz, speaking by phone from Cairo, said the scientists had trouble finding laboratories in neutral countries that would analyze samples collected in Thailand and Pakistan. "It was a hell of a job, finding laboratories to cooperate," Dr. Ezz complained. "It was as if I was begging a personal favor." He urged that the U.N. set up "continuous machinery" to investigate future allegations of chemical warfare and to make advance laboratory and security arrangements.

### Two-Year Study

The U.N. team of experts was named following a December 1980 General Assembly resolution urging an impartial investigation of reports of chemical warfare.

The group was unable to finish its work in a year, and the General Assembly urged a continuation of the inquiry in December 1981.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is expected to present the report to the General Assembly next week. He wouldn't comment on it yesterday, saying he wasn't "in a position to pass judgment."

The report takes a skeptical view of written evidence supplied by both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. The U.S. gave testimony from many alleged witnesses and victims, but wouldn't identify them for the U.N. team.

### NATO...Continued

difficulties in the economic field," said NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns. "Too often these plans have been adopted and then in reality some countries have done less than they have pledged."

British Defense Minister John Nott said, "There are no signs European NATO countries can put more money into conventional weapons."

According to new NATO figures, only the United States this year will spend as much as 7 percent of its Gross National Product on defense, half the percentage the Soviet Union reportedly spends.

Despite the funding problems expressed by the Europeans, Weinberger said the pledges to increase defenses and other measures announced at the meeting would provide ammunition in the Reagan administration's attempt to defeat legislative amendments calling for recall of some U.S. troops in Europe.

Legislation introduced by Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, calls for withdrawal of up to 23,000 troops unless the Europeans improve their own defenses.

The other measures include a renewal of a commitment by the Europeans to provide support for U.S. military operations outside NATO's boundaries and a reaffirmation of decisions to deploy 572 new U.S. Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe, beginning next year.

"One of the very few sources of information explicitly identified by name in the submission of the U.S. is a Dutch journalist, who allegedly not only filmed a part of a chemical attack in Afghanistan but also developed some symptoms which were attributed to exposure to chemical agents," the report says. But when the group pursued the matter, it found that the journalist's symptoms had vanished and that the film "didn't convey any relevant information."

The report takes issue with Soviet claims, too. A Soviet statement argued that trichothecenes, a poisonous chemical, occurs in nature from the dispersion of spores from certain elephant grasses in Vietnam. But the U.N. team said this "would require the occurrence of a series of events, each of which is of a low probability, and thus . . . is unlikely to be valid."

### No Symptoms Found

The U.N. group said it interviewed dozens of refugees in Pakistan and Thailand who complained of chemical attacks, but most showed no symptoms because of the time elapsed. Others were found to be suffering from unrelated ailments.

The group also examined a gas mask supplied by Afghan leader Maulvi M. Younus Khalis. The mask was said to have

### MX FUNDS...Continued

solve their differences.

As for the MX, President Reagan urged the full House "to show similar wisdom by upholding the committee position."

Current plans call for the House to take up the bill next week, with a hope of passage by Thursday, followed by Senate action and conference committee decisions the next week. This, if it works out, would mean the Defense Department, almost three months into the fiscal year, would have an appropriation and would not have to continue operating under a congressional resolution giving it temporary spending authority.

Mr. Addabbo, chairman of the House panel's defense subcommittee, also failed yesterday in efforts to delete money in the bill for MX research, the B-1 bomber and one of the two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

He fell victim, Mr. Addabbo told reporters, to "a full-blown effort" by the administration.

Mr. Edwards, the MX backer, supported that view. He said he had been able to count only 20 pro-MX votes earlier in the week, and held his breath yesterday when Representative Bill Alexander (D. Ark.) at first passed during the roll-call vote. Mr. Alexander ultimately cast the No. 26 vote that defeated Mr. Addabbo.

The New Yorker, by no means downcast after the voting, claimed great general success with an \$18 billion reduction in the administration request. He predicted he would "do well" on the House floor but did not say outright that he could beat the MX there.

Mr. Edwards said the panel's battle would be repeated on the floor and "heavy lobbying" would be the order of the day.

President Reagan had phoned several committee members from Brazil, as had Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger from a NATO meeting in Belgium and Vice President Bush in Washington.

In the MX voting, 16 Republicans and 10 Democrats (mostly from the South) supported the president. Five Republicans and 21 Democrats opposed the missile.

Democrats voting to cut production money included Maryland's only member on the committee, Clarence D. Long (2d). His arguments summarize those of many MX opponents: experts disagree on the basing method's effectiveness; the rocket has not been tested (tests are to start next month); it is too expensive; it could upset the nuclear balance, and it could be seen as a first-strike weapon because of the potency of its 10 warheads against Soviet missile sites.

Mr. Addabbo contended it would be well into 1984 before the basing matter could be settled, environmental impact studied and land acquired, so missile-production money was not needed this year. The target date for having missiles emplaced—late 1986—could be met if production money is provided next year, he said.

The administration disagrees with that contention.

been taken in September 1981 from a dead Afghan soldier. Analysis of the mask's filter found it was contaminated with two chemical-warfare agents.

U. N. REPORT...Pg. 6