



Ash St. in Kelso, Wash., lives up to its name as a car rolls through it, blowing volcanic ash from the Mount St. Helens eruption into the air, creating a "whiteout." (UPI)

## St. Helens helo search flights end

VANCOUVER, Wash. (UPI) — Officials halted further aerial searching in the devastated Mount St. Helens blast area Thursday and hope faded that any more victims or survivors of its May 18 volcanic eruption will be found.

In 12 days of helicopters crossing and recrossing 600 square miles in 550 missions, crews rescued 197 people including one who later died of burns, recovered 21 bodies and pinpointed at least another dozen death sites where victims were presumed buried under volcanic ash and mud.

At least 35 people were known to have been killed. Authorities said the death toll includes 22 victims whose bodies were recovered and others presumed to be dead and could go as high as 80. At least 13 of 58 still missing were confirmed to have been in the blast area when the mountain erupted with a gigantic explosion May 18.

Coroners were preparing to issue "presumptive certificates of death" for those who were missing and known to have been in the blast area.

Officials said they did not want to add to the death toll with a possible crash of a search crew on the dangerous mountain which still contains the constant threat of more eruptions.

## 7 ships taking Marine arms to Diego Garcia

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The United States plans to send seven cargo ships with equipment for a Marine amphibious brigade to the island of Diego Garcia as part of its military buildup in the Indian Ocean, officials said Thursday.

"Our objective is to have the ships loaded and on their way by the end of June," one Pentagon official said.

The equipment has been moved to Wilmington, N.C., and Port Hueneme, Calif., for loading, the official said.

There is no public indication the United States plans another rescue mission for the U.S. hostages in Iran.

Even less likely are the chances the United States would use Diego Garcia as a staging area for such a

# Pentagon clears path for selling defense-related items to China

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Pentagon announced Thursday it has approved the sale to Peking of battlefield radar, helicopters and transport planes, and will authorize U.S. companies to build electronics and helicopter factories in China.

The sales by private U.S. companies are subject to approval by the American government but in most cases, officials indicated, this would be automatic.

Sale of military weapons will not be permitted.

U.S. officials would not specify the exact items Communist China might purchase, but they acknowledged eventual sales could run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

Defense Secretary Harold Brown announced the U.S. decision after his final meeting Thursday afternoon at the Pentagon with visiting Chinese Vice Premier Geng Biao.

Brown said the United States would permit U.S. firms to make technical presentations in China of military-related equipment and high technology with both civilian and military uses.

Asked if the United States was now moving towards a defense alliance with Peking, Brown replied: "Not at all. The United States and the People's Republic of China are friends. It is possible to be friends without being allies."

Brown repeated U.S. policy against selling lethal

weapons to China.

When Geng was asked if Peking would like to buy arms in the United States, he replied: "I don't think there is such a possibility at present. But I believe there might be such a possibility in the future."

The Pentagon's list of equipment U.S. companies will be allowed to sell to China includes mobile battlefield radar, military-type helicopters and transport aircraft, parts for an early warning radar system, long-distance communication equipment, and jet engine test equipment.

## Hua: Goal is strategic arms

TOKYO (AP) — Chinese Premier Hua Guofeng said in a nationally televised speech here Thursday that his country has committed itself to development of strategic weapons to "break the nuclear stranglehold of the superpowers."

China staged its first successful launchings last week of two intercontinental ballistic missiles.

In a 45-minute speech before the Japan-China Friendship Association, Hua said: "In order to preserve national independence and stability, the Chinese people are now engaged in building and strengthening national defense capabilities to the extent our power permits."



Defense Secretary Harold Brown (right) welcomes Chinese Vice Premier Geng Biao to the Pentagon Thursday for a meeting dealing with the sale of

defense systems. Brown called the meeting "a continued step-by-step strengthening of the ties between our two defense establishments." (AP)

## Russians test 1st nuclear cruiser

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union's first nuclear-powered surface ship, a big and heavily armed cruiser, has put to sea for the first time, U.S. intelligence sources report.

The Navy has been keeping close tabs on construction of the 22,000-ton ship, regarding it as the leading edge of a significant new advance in growing Soviet sea power.

Adm. Thomas Hayward, Chief of

Naval Operations, has called the Kirov a spectacularly impressive warship, twice the size of the latest U.S. nuclear cruisers.

According to intelligence sources, who asked not to be identified, the 800-foot-long Kirov left the Leningrad shipyard May 23 for sea trials in the Gulf of Finland. The cruiser is expected to join the Soviet battle fleet early next year.

A second ship of the Korov class

is reported nearing completion and analysts predict it will become combat-ready by 1983.

Unlike oil-burners, ships that run on nuclear power are not limited by the availability of tankers or shore bases for refueling. Therefore, they can stay at sea for long periods.

The United States, which enjoyed a long head start in construction of nuclear-powered warships, has 11 of them in service.

Little has been said publicly about the specific equipment and weaponry of the Kirov class, except that Hayward has described the cruiser as heavily armed with new generations of surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles.

Its other armament is reported to include 100mm guns, short-range submarine-killing rockets, torpedoes and at least eight Gatling-type anti-aircraft guns.

Two or more helicopters may be carried at the aft end of the ship and experts say it appears that vertical-takeoff-and-landing jet fighters might be able to operate from a flight platform on the stern.

mission because of its distance from the Persian Gulf.

Pentagon spokesman Thomas Ross also told reporters Thursday:

—An Iranian C-130 buzzed the destroyer Mullinnix Wednesday in the Gulf of Oman, making three passes at 1,000 feet and approaching within 500 yards. This is the second such incident in the last week.

—The U.S. has created no permanent headquarters structure for its naval force in the Indian Ocean which is being controlled from Pacific headquarters in Hawaii.

In Tehran, Yadollah Sahabi, the speaker of Iran's new parliament, said Thursday a decision to release the 53 hostages or try them as spies will probably be taken seven weeks from now in late July. He ruled out any action on the hostages crisis before then.