news roundup

World

Israel to consider withdrawal from Lebanon — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said Wednesday he would call a cabinet meeting to decide whether to accept the American plan for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. The plan, proposed by US Secretary of State George P. Shultz, outlines the pullout of 30,000 Israeli troops from Lebanon. The plan does not require Syrian troops to leave the country.

Soviets offer to reduce arsenal — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov offered this week to reduce his country's medium-range nuclear forces in Europe to NATO levels and to reduce the number of warheads, missiles, and planes. Andropov's proposal includes British and French nuclear forces in the NATO level, and would prohibit further deployment of US missiles in Europe. President Reagan called the proposal "encouraging."

Nation

House committee votes to cut aid to Nicaragua — The US House of Representatives intelligence committee Wednesday night approved a bill to cease funding of covert military aid to Nicaraguan insurgents. The committee approved $80 million in open aid to Nicaragua. The committee did not debate the action, but called the Nicaraguan recipients "freedom fighters" who were opposing a government which had betrayed the principles under which they fought.

Catholic bishops denounce nuclear weapons — Roman Catholic bishops endorsed a resolution condemning nuclear arms by a vote of 218 to 9. The American bishops ratified a pastoral letter which stated their "opposition, on moral grounds, to any use of nuclear weapons." The Reagan administration had lobbied for softer language in the letter.

House approves arms freeze resolution — The House approved Wednesday a resolution urging President Reagan to negotiate a "mutual and verifiable freeze and reductions in nuclear weapons." The resolution carries an amendment extending the freeze if reductions are not performed in a "reasonable, specified amount of time."

Weinberger criticizes failure to strengthen armed forces — Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger criticized Congress Wednesday night for failing to close the "gap" in the US military arsenal. Weinberger, a former congressman, said that the US is "not even close" to funding the armed forces, and that the military is not enough for even a "world war."

Ruckelhaus promises to reform EPA — William D. Ruckelhaus told a Senate committee that the EPA would have to reform itself. Ruckelhaus also promised to change the agency's priorities.

Army may have known of dioxin threat — The Department of Defense was aware of the dangers of dioxin, a chemical in the anti-defoiling Agent Orange, two years before the army stopped using it, a letter to the Dow Chemical Company said. The letter said that both the government and Dow knew that dioxin was a health risk in 1969, while it was still being used in Vietnam.

Local

Commonwealth to deny registration to parking offenders — Massachusetts' Registry of Motor Vehicles will refuse to renew the registrations on vehicles whose owners have overdue parking fines to the city of Boston. The city said that only those tickets would not be allowed to renew their vehicle's registration. The restriction had previously applied only to those who owed more than $1000.

MBTA loses money — The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority lost about $400,000 in revenue last year from travelers who jumped turnstiles at train stations or failed to deposit the correct fare for bus trips.

MBTA gains money — The Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority gained about $97 million last year from parking fines, according to the Dow Chemical Company. The company, makers of the chemical, stated in court papers that both the government and Dow knew that dioxin was a health risk in 1969, while it was still being used in Vietnam.

Sports

Red Sox are on a tear — The Boston Red Sox sport the best record in the American League after the Oakland A's Wednesday. The Sox now lead Baltimore in the Eastern Division by a half game. Boston's team took five of seven games on a recent road trip and beat the A's twice at home this week.

Weather

Nice weather continues — Sunny today with highs in the middle 60's. Skies will be clear to partly cloudy tonight with lows in the upper 40's. Tomorrow will be partly sunny and warm, reaching the low 70's.