World

Chernenko becomes Soviet president — Krasnoyarsk U. Chernenko, 72, leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, completed his consolidation of power Wednesday by assuming the office of president, which gives him formal authority as the head of state. Chernenko was nominated by the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Union’s 1500-member parliament, which unanimously confirmed a decision of the Communist Party’s Politburo.

Nation

Nicaragua harbor mining causes furor — The Reagan Administration’s admission that the CIA has been placing mines in Nicaragua’s harbors aroused strong opposition in Congress, as both the Senate and the House of Representatives approved non-binding resolutions calling for an end to the action. Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, sent a letter to CIA director William J. Casey calling the mining “an act of war” and saying he was “pissed off” that he had not been given the information earlier. Kenneth W. Dann, Deputy Secretary of State, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee Wednesday the mining was justified by “collective self-defense.”

Official claims US advisers involved in combat — A United States military official told a reporter Wednesday that American advisers based in El Salvador had accompanied Salvadorean planes on missions in which they had occasionally targeted or bombed guerrilla positions. Donald Hamilton, a spokesman for the US Embassy, denied any knowledge of such activity, which he said would be “contrary to US policy and contrary to orders.” The 55 American advisers in the country are prohibited from working in areas where combat is likely to occur.

Farrakhan defends statements — Louis Farrakhan, leader of Nation of Islam, the black Muslim organization, and a prominent supporter of the Rev. Jesse Jackson’s presidential campaign, Wednesday defended remarks he made in which he threatened Washington Post reporter Milton Coleman, “someday we will punish you with death,” and called Adolf Hitler a “great man.” Coleman, who is black, reported Jackson’s reference to Jews as “Wynners” and to New York as “Wynister.” Farrakhan said Wednesday he intended no threat to Coleman and that Hitler was “wicked. Wickedly great.” He also criticized singer Michael Jackson, saying his “female-acting, sissified” image is “not wholesome for our young boys nor our young girls.”

Local

Newspaper spoof scandal at Babson — The editors of Babson College’s weekly student newspaper set off an uproar by publishing a spoof issue containing explicit sexual references, some identifying Babson women by name or photo. The paper was distributed the day 500 prospective freshmen and their parents visited the college in Wellesley. Geoffrey Spillane, one of the editors responsible, said “We had no idea what we were creating.”

Weather

Dreary, dreary days — Today will be cloudy, with a chance of occasional sun. High temperatures will be in the 40s. Tonight will be partly to mostly cloudy, with lows of 40-44. Saturday will be cloudy and cool, with highs of 48-52.

Janice M. Eisen