World

South African police quell demonstrations, kill five — At least five blacks were killed and dozens more were wounded Wednesday as South African police, wielding shockguns, whips and tear gas, attempted to control riots in Cape Town and outlying townships. The Cape Town demonstrations were in response to the official prohibition of a planned march to Pwemposi Prison to demand the release of jailed black nationalist Nelson Mandela.

Pretoria suspends financial trading — The South African government shut the country's stock market and called a halt to currency trading Tuesday night as the official currency of the nation, the rand, hit a record low. The moratorium on trading, which ends Monday, was called in response to a "run" on South Africa's financial reserves. Foreign banks, alarmed by unrest in the nation, refused to renew loans to the country's major borrowers. "The political reappraisal of South Africa internationally has caused demand for the redemption of loan facilities denominated in foreign currencies and these facilities are somewhat greater than our available gold and foreign exchange reserves," explained Christopher J. W. Ball, managing director of Barclays National Bank.

Nation

Amidst factory to open — Physicists at the Fermi National Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois expect to complete work on a $34 million antiproton production facility sometime next month. The antiprotons will be injected into a circular atom smasher at the laboratory, where they will meet with and destroy protons traveling in the opposite direction. Researchers hope the resulting burst of energy will provide them with new information about the structure of the atomic nucleus. The Fermilab factory is expected to produce 100 billion antiprotons per hour.

Pentagon shoots down anti-aircraft gun — Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger has halted the purchase of the Army's Sergeant York anti-aircraft gun, calling the weapon "not adequately effective in protecting friendly forces" and "not worth the cost." Weinberger's decision, announced Tuesday, will save the United States approximately $3 billion. The Pentagon has already spent $1.8 million on the weapon.

Union Carbide to close plants, lay off workers — Union Carbide announced yesterday that it would close many unprofitable plants and reduce its domestic workforce by 15 percent. The reductions are part of a wide-ranging program, expected to save the company about $300 million. Union Carbide earmarked $100 million to improve the safety of its operations.

Samantha Smith is mourned in Maine — A memorial service was held in Augusta, Maine Wednesday for Samantha Smith. Smith, who was 13, made headlines in 1983 when a letter she wrote to Soviet leader Yuri Andropov asking for peace resulted in an invitation to visit the Soviet Union as the leader's guest. Smith and her father were killed in a plane crash Sunday night as they returned from a two-week trip to Sweden. Smith, who was well-known for her role in "Harold and Maude," died of a stroke Wednesday at her summer home on Martha's Vineyard. She was 38.

Sports

Sox scalp Indians, 17-2 — The Boston Red Sox vindicated themselves in a big way last night as they walloped the Cleveland Indians with 17 runs on 18 hits. The victory comes after a trying period of losses in 12 games, including two losses to the Indians, Tuesday and Wednesday. Bruce Hurst was the winning pitcher for the Sox, with 11 strikeouts. The run total was Boston's highest of the season.

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