World

Botha to lift martial law
South African President P. W. Botha announced to a specially-convened session of the white, Indian and color-changed chambers of parliament on Tuesday that the state of emergency in effect throughout large areas of his country would be lifted soon.

The measure was imposed over seven months ago in an effort to curb the mounting civil strife in South Africa, and remains in effect in the Johannesburg and Cape Town districts, among others. Although Botha said that the situation had improved to the point to lift the state of emergency, there has been little slackening in violence, with an estimated 200 people killed so far this year, including 23 in a few days of rioting in Alexandra township alone. Botha expected the end of emergency law would help pull the nation out of crisis and lead to negotiations about the future.

Botha also set a date for acceptance of a UN Security Council resolution calling for elections in Namibia, leading to independence within seven months. He said he would implement the resolution on Aug. 1 if Cuban troops withdrew from Angola by that date. (The Times of London)

Japan may join in SDI effort
A leading Japanese newspaper says that Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has decided that Japan will take part in the Strategic Defense Initiative. The Yomoto Keizai Shimbun, quoting a government source, reported Tuesday that Nakasone had made up his mind despite opposition from within his government. Participation would probably be by the private sector, as has been the case in West Germany. (The Times of London)

Soviet leadership rearranged
Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev closed the Communist Party Congress yesterday, making some big changes in the country's ruling apparatus. They included the naming of a woman to the Central Committee Secretariat — the first to rise to the top levels of the Soviet leadership in 25 years. Gorbachev also spoke out against the arms race, saying the Soviets would not bend to those who would "make humanity accept the nuclear status quo." (AP)

Spacecraft fly by Comet Halley
The Soviet spacecraft Vega 1 returned close-up pictures of Comet Halley this week, passing within 10,000 km of the cometary nucleus yesterday morning. Enhanced photos showed the comet glowing with hues of red-brown, yellow and blue. Over 100 foreign scientists gathered in Moscow to watch the data arrive at the Soviet Institute for Space Research. A second craft, Vega II, will encounter Halley on Sunday, providing final course information for the European probe, Giotto. Giotto is expected to pass within 500 km of the 10-km in diameter iceball next Thursday. (AP)

Canada proposes rights reforms
Women may be allowed in combat roles in the Canadian armed forces, as the result of an ERA-type clause in effect as of Apr. 17, 1985. The Canadian government has issued a policy report proposing changes to laws and federal regulations to bring them into line with the requirements of the new Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Some of the more controversial proposals included the showing of mandatory retirement in the public service; opening all roles in the armed forces to women; and eliminating discrimination based on sexual preference in the public sector, effectively opening the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the armed forces to homosexuals. (The Toronto Star)

Nation

Contra aid debated
President Reagan's plan to send $100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan contras ran into stiff opposition in Congress. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum (R-KA) and Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-OK) spoke out against the move yesterday. The House armed services committee approved the aid request yesterday, but the appropriations committee rejected it. Two other committees voted against the package. (AP)

Drug fears aired
A presidential commission called drug abuse a threat to national security, describing the United States as a country slowly being destroyed by drugs, in a report estimating the annual illicit drug trade at $110 billion. Narcotics account for 46 percent of organized crime, according to the 435-page document. (The Times of London)

Weather

Storms threaten
A late winter storm moving in from the Gulf of Maine is set to strike northern New England. Backlash effects may give the Hub some snow Friday, before a sunny weekend. A ripple in the westerly air flow may bring clouds, cooler weather next week. Friday: Cloudy, chance of snow showers. High near freezing, winds northwest, over 20 mph (30 km/h). Friday night: Clearing, breezy, and brutally cold. Low 10° (-12°C). Forecast by Michael C. Morgan. Compiled by Julian West

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MARCH 10 - Film/Info Session, Room 4 - 159, 7400 p.m.
MARCH 11 - Interview, Office of Career Services, Room 12-170, 9:00 - 5:00.