Swiss voters strongly rejected a government-sponsored proposal to join the United Nations as a full member. The tally in the Sunday ballot was 71.7 percent against seeking UN membership, with an above-average voter turnout of 79.4 percent, the highest in 44 years. The failure was agreed to by both a majority of the popular vote and a majority of the cantons.

Reagan speaks out for contras
President Reagan attacked the Sandinista government of Nicaragua on national television last night, calling it a "cancer" that posed a direct threat to the United States. The 20-minute speech was designed to help rally support for military aid to the counterrevolutionaries. (The New York Times) Reagan said, in part, "I am speaking of Nicaragua, a Soviet ally on the American mainland only two hours' flying time from our own borders. (The Boston Globe)

Talks resume at General Electric
Striking workers at three General Electric plants in Massachusetts continued negotiations with GE yesterday after a four-day strike. Approximately 7400 workers at plants in Lynn, Medford, and Everett went on strike three weeks ago over the company's grievance procedures.

Train explosion injures ten
A bomb explosion injured ten passengers on a high-speed trail between Paris and Lyon yesterday. The injured passengers suffered from smoke inhalation, and three of the ten injured were hospitalized. The French authorities have made no arrests and have not claimed responsibility for the incident. (AP)

Swiss opt to remain out of UN
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Reagan rebutted on drug charges
In a 90-minute interview yesterday, he charged top Nicaraguan government officials with drug trafficking. US drug officials say they have no evidence against any official. Meanwhile, there is a report that the contras, the Nicaraguan rebels Reagan supports, are using proceeds from cocaine sales to finance their battle. Yesterday's San Francisco Examiner quoted two convicted drug dealers as saying they donated profits to the contras. (AP)

Japan unveils humanist research plan
Japan plans to use May's economic summit in Tokyo to launch a giant research program into "human science" to rival the US space defense project. Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's "Human Frontier Program" would be the second biggest international research project ever launched, after SRI. The idea behind the project is that the United States, which is second only the human race in the world.

The research is expected to cover subjects such as the depletion of resources, ageing, overpopulation and pollution. It will study the human body and use its systems as a model of efficiency to be emulated by technology. (The Observer of London)

Navy tries to rescue solid booster
The Navy tried to lift a 500-pound chunk of the space shuttle Challenger from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. Strong currents forced Navy workers to stop shortly after they started. NASA suspects that the piece is from the Challenger's right-hand solid rocket booster, the key suspect in the Jan. 28 of the shuttle. (AP)

US judge opens Marcos records
A New York federal judge yesterday ruled that the new Philippine government can access the financial records of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos. Two Marcos aides had attempted to stop the release of Marcos' personal financial records. (AP)

Steam rises from chlorine gas tank
Chemical gas rises from a chlorine tank yesterday at the Kamloops regional water treatment plant near Kamloops, B.C. The gas is being released into the atmosphere to prevent an explosion. (AP)

Spring for a day
With a high pressure system situated right over our region, we can expect a very nice day today, weather-wise. But it will be shortlived. A low pressure system over the Great Lakes will bring a fair amount of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico as it moves Northeast- ward during the next day or so. This could mean a lot of rain Wednesday.

Tuesday: A beauty. Skies will be mostly sunny as temperatures rise to the upper 70's (24-25°C) with a gentle breeze.

Wednesday: Increasing cloudiness with rain begin- ning by morning. Lows in the upper 30's (2-3°C) will make it very chilly.

Thursday: A day of increasing cloudiness with rain begin- ning by morning. Lows in the upper 30's (2-3°C) will make it very chilly.

Forecast by Robert X. Black

NOAA "Sweet Sixteen" to clash on Thursday, Friday
The 16 surviving teams in the NCAA basketball tournament continue their march today on Thursday and Friday. DePaul (11-12) faces top-ranked Drake (34-2) Friday in the first East regional semi-final game. Second-ranked Kansas (33-3), king of the Big Eight, plays against sharpshooting Michigan State (23-7), the lone survivor from the Big Ten in the Midwest regional.

Second-ranked Kansas (33-3), king of the Big Eight, plays against sharpshooting Michigan State (23-7), the lone survivor from the Big Ten in the Midwest regional. North Carolina State (20-12) faces Johnny Orr's Iowa State (28-3) in the Southeast regional game in Atlanta. In the West regional at Houston, Auburn (21-10) faces top-ranked Duke (34-2) Friday in the other game at Kansas City.

Oil ministers to discuss depleting of resources, ageing, overpopulation and pollution. It will study the human body and use its systems as a model of efficiency to be emulated by technology. (The Observer of London)

Train explosion injures ten
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Ulster unionists plan to contest 10 seats on the British mainland at the next general election. They will base their campaigns on opposition to the recent Anglo-Irish ac- cord, John Taylor, M.P., a staunch opponent of the accord, said Saturday that "we will get publicity and the Ulster issue will become a matter of public debate in Britain." The ten seats include five in Scotland and five in England. Most of the seats are in areas with large Northern Irish popula- tions, but the new Northern Ireland Secretory, Tom King, the new Northern Ireland Secretory. (The Observer)

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) yesterday failed to agree on a plan to halt oil prices after a three-hour morning session. OPEC President Arturo Hernandez Gradanti said he expects the oil ministers to continue discussions. (AP) A report from a panel of oil market experts. The Dow Jones News Service said the cartel is nearing an agreement de- signed to keep oil prices at 15 to 20 dollars-per-barrel. Exxon Chairman Clifton Garvin said falling world oil prices will force oil producers to fastigate changes. (AP)

The chief prosecutor of Sweden yesterday requested permission to continue holding a suspect in the assassina- tion of Prime Minister Olof Palme. The prosecutor's request, who was arrested last week, was behaving suspic- iously at the scene of the murder. (AP)

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