Japanese prime minister resigns

Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita has resigned. A government official made the announcement on national television — saying Takeshita wanted to take responsibility for a stock scandal that has forced the resignation of several government ministers. Takeshita has been prime minister since 1987. He's seen his support in public opinion polls sink to single digits due to the stock scandal and an unpopular sales tax.

Soviet poison gas confirmed to have killed demonstrators

A Communist Party official in Soviet Georgia confirmed yesterday that some of the 20 people killed when soldiers broke up a pro-democracy demonstration earlier this month died from gas used by the troops. Many of the 120 people still hospitalized following the protest are asking the Soviet government for an antidote for the unnamed poison. Soviet officials in Moscow deny that troops used poisonous chemicals in the confrontation.

Ohio bookie reports Rose bets

Although nothing in a 13-page federal transcript indici- pates Rose wagered on baseball games, Ohio book- maker Ron Peters has told authorities he took upwards of one million dollars in bets from the Cincinnati Reds mana- ger. Meanwhile, a letter from Baseball Commissioner Bart Giamatti to the court states Giamatti believes Pe- terson's testimony. Giamatti is probing Rose's personal con- duct, which reportedly includes gambling. It's not known when the commissioner will complete the investigation. His office has no comment on today's developments.

Peters faces 23 years in prison on drug and tax evasion charges.

If Giamatti determines Rose bet on baseball, he could receive a one-year suspension. If he bet on the Reds, he could get banished from the game for life.

North jury continues deliberations

Reading, but not talking: that's how the fourmen de- scending the jury's activity since the deliberations in Oliver North's Iran-contra trial. In a note to Judge Edward Coit, Defense Counsel Duane added that the jurors were studying documents that pertain to the 12 charges facing North. Deliberations continue today.

Speculations on cause of USS Iowa blast continue

About 3000 people, some of whom were wearing black armbands, gathered in Norfolk, VA, to welcome the bat- tlehip USS Iowa as it pulled into its home port on Mon- day. Forty-seven sailors died in an explosion in one of the 16-inch gun turrets of the ship on Wednesday. The New York Times reported Sunday that Navy teams who entered the turret after the explosion found the gun's breech open and undamaged. The paper's sources say that this finding indicates the blast occurred while bags of powder were being loaded. The Navy, however, has re- fused to comment on the probable cause of the explosion. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said that the Navy will continue to use World War II-vintage ships.

Exxon claims progress in cleanup

Exxon said that 70 percent of the Alaskan oil spill has evaporated or been recovered. That, the oil giant says, puts them ahead of the pace set in a federally-planned cleanup plan. But the state's top environmental official said Ex- xon's figures could be off by as much as 30 percent.

Atlantis set for Friday launch

The countdown for the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis is scheduled to commence Tuesday morning. Atlantis is due to go up Friday.

New heart operation successful

A Pittsburgh-area man who underwent experimental heart surgery last month says he feels marvelous, and docto- rs say he's up to a third of those needing heart operations may be candidates for this new type of heart surgery. In the procedure, doctors say they wrap muscle taken from the patient's back around the patient's ailing heart to help it pump.

Wright's ethics investigation moves to Texas

House Speaker Jim Wright's Ethics Committee investi- gating moves to San Antonio, TX, where members plan to interview Mallick, the businessman involved in an oil- well investment that reaped large profits for a blind trust held for the speaker. Wright continues to deny the 69 vi- olations of House rules with which the ethics panel has re- cently charged him.

Weather

Cool and dry on a scale of zero to pi

Sunny mild days and clear cool nights will be the weather phrase for the next several days. A large low pressure center located over southeastern Canada will slowly exit to the northeast over the next few days keeping New England in a northwesterly flow of relatively dry air. On Wednesday, high pressure located over central Canada building southeastward will usher in slightly cooler weather.

As the weather is relatively quiet, let me introduce you to a rather "arid"-like scale to rate the weather. "Bad" weather (lots of rain and clouds) rates a zero, while "excellent" weather (sunny, warm, but "not too warm) rates a pi. This week's weather I'll rate an "e." Today: Mostly sunny...with a few fair weather cumulus clouds developing, in the afternoon. Light wind. High 65°F (18°C). Winds northwest to 10 mph (16-16 km/h).

Thursday: Partly cloudy and cool. Low 43°F (6°C). Winds northwest to 10-10 mph (16-16 km/h).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Josh Hartmann and Innis C. Kuo