

## s to halt French pipeline sale

land, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Reagan, in his first public comment on the decision, told a television interviewer Thursday that the help the allies are asking for the pipeline would pump \$1 billion to \$12 billion a year "in cold, hard cash" into the hard-pressed Soviet economy.

Reagan, who returns to Washington today, revealed to a television interview panel that Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the Council on Economic Advisers, had recommended that the administration's options were limited on how to deal with France's announcement. He added that French relations are at their lowest since Reagan took office 18 months ago. He ordered Alstom-Atlantique, a French manufacturer, go ahead with delivery of Moscow of pipeline rotors developed

by the General Electric Co. The rotor blades will be used in compressors to drive gas through the pipeline stretching from Siberia to Western Europe.

Discussing his plans, Reagan said in an interview with KMOX-TV, "What I have asked our Commerce Department to do is do a study, and come back to me with a report on what our situation is."

He said he wants to know "our legal position with regard to subsidiary companies in France and in the other European countries owned by American firms, and whether they are legally bound, possibly, by contracts that were made before."

Reagan said he had spoken with French President Francois Mitterrand about the U.S. opposition to allied assistance for the pipeline. Those talks were during the president's trip to Europe last month, the official said.

The president said Mitterrand explained that upon taking office in May 1981, he discovered that the pipeline contracts had been agreed to by the previous French administration. "And they (the French) feel legally bound by those," Reagan said.

Reagan began his campaign against the pipeline last December in response to the Soviet role in the military crackdown in Poland. The president announced on June 18 an expanded ban on exports of U.S.-licensed technology to the Soviets.

Reagan also said the United States has been looking into developing energy sources in the North Sea, Norway and the Netherlands. These areas would not leave Western Europe "in a position to be blackmailed by the Soviet Union if they decide to cut off the gas," he said.

White House official said the administration's options were limited on how to deal with France's announcement. He added that French relations are at their lowest since Reagan took office 18 months ago. He ordered Alstom-Atlantique, a French manufacturer, go ahead with delivery of Moscow of pipeline rotors developed

## Pipeline flap strains relations

By R. GREGORY NOKES  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An unraveling of American foreign policy that Alexander M. Haig Jr. blamed for his resignation as secretary of state appears now to be haunting the Reagan administration in Europe.

The decision by the French government Thursday to ignore President Reagan's attempt to block European participation in construction of a natural gas pipeline from the Soviet Union to Europe has cast a pall over U.S.-European relations.

"The government cannot accept the unilateral measures taken by the United States on June 18," said a brief statement from the office of Premier Pierre Mauroy.

French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said the United States and Europe are undergoing a "progressive divorce."

"There is a remarkable incomprehension between the United States and Europe," he said. "The United States seems totally indifferent to our problems."

Haig resigned partly because Reagan overruled him on the pipeline issue. Haig felt it would be too damaging to U.S.-European relations and that Washington probably couldn't stop it anyway.

He also believed the administration's decision to lift the grain embargo against the Soviets last year, which he also opposed, undermined the credibility of U.S. arguments for the Europeans to stop the pipeline.

About 20 European firms have contracts worth an estimated \$11 billion to help build the pipeline, which is scheduled for completion in 1984. Thousands of jobs are at stake in Europe at a time when unemployment is at a post-war high.

Reagan's action, which was announced on June 18, would prevent European companies from using U.S.-licensed equipment in the pipeline. It was one of the penalties he imposed against the Soviet Union because of the martial law crackdown in Poland.

Reagan also said he was worried that the Europeans would become too dependent on Soviet gas and the Soviets would benefit too much from the deal.

### ANALYSIS

But some senior U.S. officials are convinced Reagan didn't know how important the project is to the depressed economies of Western Europe — as well as a source of future energy.

"The president is in sort of a box," one official said in a recent interview. "I don't think he realized the implications of this for the Europeans." He said the staff of the National Security Council may not have told Reagan everything he needed to know.

Several officials and experts think the administration is frantically looking for an excuse to reverse the decision without acknowledging it made a mistake. But another said he thinks the action stemmed from Reagan's instinctive anti-Communist, anti-Soviet bias and he wouldn't easily change it.

Haig had charged in his June 25 resignation statement that the administration was wandering from the "careful course" that was needed for a clear and consistent American foreign policy.

Reagan not surprisingly disagreed at a news conference five days later. And in a statement, he declared the administration had "largely eliminated" the disarray that had plagued U.S.-European relations under President Carter and that the Europeans "have confidence in us once again."

But there has been more dismay than confidence lately. West Germany applauded the French announcement that it has ordered a French manufacturer, Alstom-Atlantique, to go ahead with deliveries of pipeline rotors developed by the General Electric Co. The French company is licensed by GE to make the rotors, which will be used in gas turbine engines that will pump gas through the pipeline.

Britain announced it "sympathizes with the French action" and Italy stood by its position that the sanctions would damage Italian-American relations.

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## Home & Garden

### 'Earthman' notes time of leisure

By PAT LEUCHTMAN  
Recorder Columnist

Henry Mitchell, in his book "The Essential Earthman," says that "There is a brief time in July when the gardener has nothing to do but enjoy his flowers. Oh, there may be a few things, like tying in the dahlias, discreetly staking the chrysanthemums, picking off the dead water lilies, keeping an eye on the roses for blackspot, soaking the azaleas and camellias, cutting the grass, tying in the huge new canes of rose and like that. But by and large it is a time of leisure."

He is right, of course, and it was on such a July weekend when I had no other garden chores to attend to other than transplanting some cole seedlings, watering the garden, checking the raspberries for ripeness, picking the ritual 10 weeds, cutting the grass and the like that I sat down in the shade of my apple tree and began my discovery of Henry Mitchell, who is a garden columnist for the Washington Post.

"The Essential Earthman" is a collection of his essays on gardening, and as I delved into the book I found a soul mate. We have many of the same tastes, though not always the same reasons for these preferences. For example, we both share an enthusiasm for beans. I like their dependability, flavor and wholesomeness. Mitchell feels beans are desirable because you are not supposed to touch them while they are wet because this will cause the spread of disease. However, since the weather is always wet in D.C., he feels he saves himself a lot of unnecessary labor.

He is against unnecessary labor and spends a whole essay complaining about people who find extra work for the gardener to do. Heaven knows there

### BETWEEN THE ROWS

is already too much work for any gardener to get through. I agree with him wholeheartedly as I work in my rag tag garden. I know parients are always fond of saying that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well. For myself I have amended that proverb to state that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well enough. And so my weeds are kept down — if not completely under control — seeds and seedlings get in at approximately the right times and insects are battled when there is the time. As a result, we were still eating our own produce out of the freezer and root cellar in May. I couldn't handle the results of any more efficiency.

Mitchell recommends the keeping of garden records (as I do), but he even likes to keep garden account books and in this he is braver than I. On the other hand, he has devised a more ingenious accounting system than the one I probably would have used. I have shied away from this kind of record keeping because I have the fear that when pressed I might have to admit that it costs me over a dollar to raise a head of broccoli and that it might be more economical to shop at the supermarket. After all, I have to count the cost of seeds, fertilizer, lime and equipment like watering cans, hoses and wheelbarrows.

Mitchell is cleverer than I have been so far. He waits until hoses become necessary to someone else in the family for uses other than the garden so the "garden" hose will get charged to the household account.

"Lawn mowers come under civic bet-  
terment, but if you sell yours, the

money goes into the garden fund, naturally."

"Seeds are a garden expense. I deduct 60 percent in my books as the share the birds eat, but the 40 percent that does not fall under entertainment goes as it must under garden costs."

Using these and other careful accounting practices, Mitchell finds that it does not take a fortune to operate a pleasant and refreshing garden.

Mitchell is a delight. He is knowledgeable, sympathetic, humorous and not only tolerates other gardeners' fancies and enthusiasms — he also encourages them. He tries to chat up the gardener who is cast down because a garden writer or catalog has said that his favorite daylily is "not worth growing" because it is so common or undistinguished or whatever. He urges them to enjoy their own tastes and not worry about what is fashionable or recommended by others.

He says that "a garden is somewhat exalted above ordinary notions of correctness. . . . On the contrary, a garden is (for the gardener) not so much a picture that will please the faint-eyed, but a cycle of wheeling life, encompassing more than trifling designs of color which (if that's what you're after) may so easily be had in pastry tarts. So floreat lilorum, as they say at one of the schools, or (in the vernacular) let the magenta azaleas be everywhere."

The book is filled with solid information about gardening, and his exhortations to dig proper planting holes, have patience and pay attention to the rules are delivered with such charm that I resolved to change all my bad habits at once. (However, if I fail, he will be the first to understand.)