

# Election coverage in the Soviet Union

by Art Buchwald

As I predicted six months ago, Yuri Andropov became the new General Secretary of the Communist Party. But last Thursday was still one of the most exciting election nights in Russian history.

"Good evening.  
"Welcome to Soviet Broadcasting System's election night coverage. I'm Dan Ratevich, and we have tonight Lesley Stahlingrad, Dmitri Brinksley, Igor Brokaw, and Ilyich Moyers, giving you latest results on exciting election for successor to Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, who just went to that great Politburo in the sky.

"Lesley, we hear you have early report from Odessa."

"I do, Dan. Odessa polls closed just two minutes ago, and the 'SBS Exit Poll' indicates big victory for Communist Party there. Odessa has always been bellwether for how rest of country will go. The big turnout for Communists in Odessa means encouraging sign for Communist Party in other parts of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

"Igor, how are we doing in Minsk and Smolensk?"

"Our exit polls closed in Minsk and Smolensk indicate possible landslide for Kremlin."

"How do you explain this?"

"Exit pollsters found voters very unhappy with no food in shops, shoddy consumer goods, no housing, and rotten winter. They say they voted Communist to send a message to Moscow."

"Dmitri Brinksley, how do you read these results so far?"

"Is sign Soviet people are fed up with system and want change. Our SBS breakdown shows old people are worried about social security, women don't like nuclear arms race, young people want Soviets out of Afghanistan, and factory bosses are against government regula-

tions. It always happens in off-year election."

"Let's go to Ilyich Moyers for in-depth commentary on what this means for presidential candidates."

"We shouldn't read too much into early election results, Dan. Although it is now predicted Yuri Andropov, former head of KGB, got 99 percent of votes in his district, he still has an image problem. Andropov is household name in Soviet Union, and while everyone is still scared silly of him, he is dull speaker and has no television appeal.

"Konstantin Chernenko was hand-picked successor by Brezhnev but is 71 years old and may be considered too young for the job. Moscow party boss Viktor Grishin is dark horse, and Defense Minister Ustinov has built up war chest from military which puts other candidates at big disadvantage when it come to buying television time. At the moment head of Soviet Union is still up for grabs."

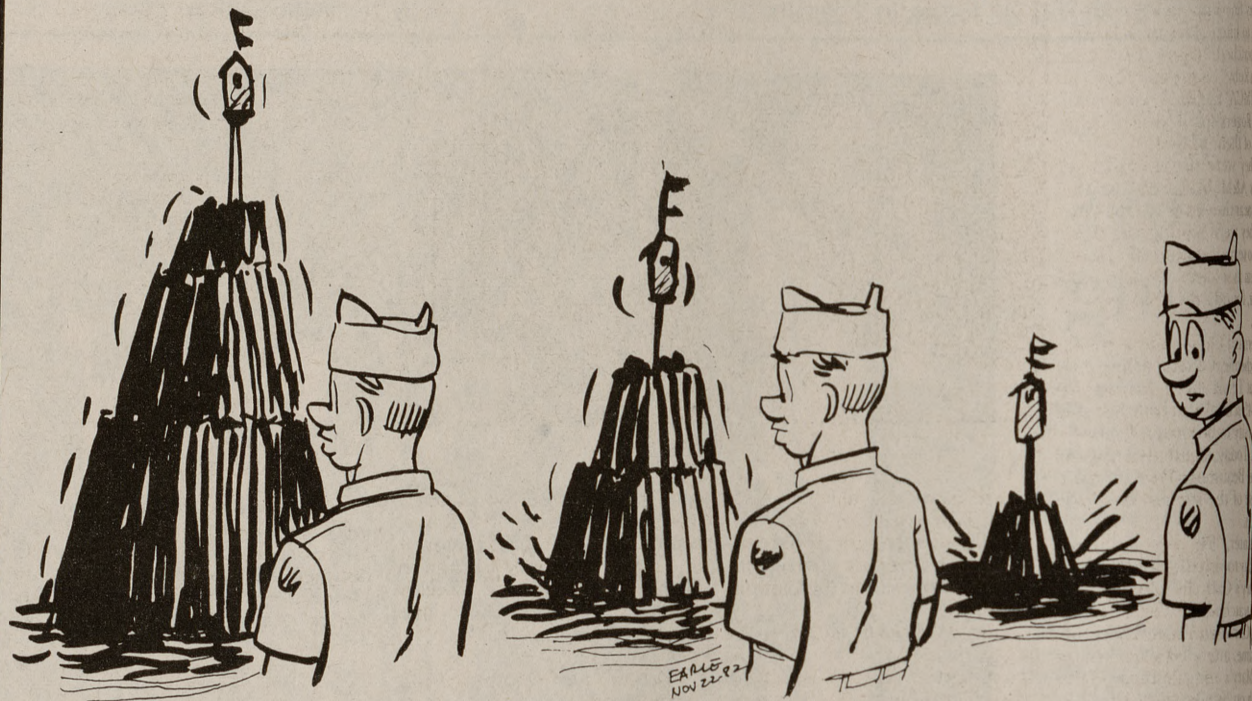
"Lesley, you have new results from Ukraine."

"Yes, Dan. The Ukraine, with three percent of the votes in, is going heavily for Andropov. This is one of the places the KGB Political Action Committee concentrated on because farmers were very unhappy with Chernenko's refusal to buy enough grain from the United States."

"Dmitri, you wanted to say something?"

"I would just like to say the large dissident vote in Siberia that the Pravda News Poll had predicted didn't materialize. Despite appeals from the 'Voice of America' the dissidents stayed home, and that could account for the overwhelming sweep of the Communist Party in Dudinka, where Viktor Grishin counted on a low turnout."

## Slouch



"I knew it had to happen."

By Jim Earle

# Letter: Reagan must free credit

Editor:

Dear President Reagan:  
I request to know why your administration has not sought to work with the Third World Nations to reorganize the debt along the Hamiltonian lines, espoused by Lyndon LaRouche.

This reorganization would free all lines of credit for the large scale industrial development projects required to lift whole sections of the developing sector out of poverty, while creating 10 to 15 million new jobs through an export boom.

There is enough demand for American technology to provide markets of up to \$100 billion annually, more than 1977 to 1978 levels of export sales. This is more than enough to put America back to work, provided that the international economic system can be reorganized to provide the credit needed to develop these markets to their fullest potential.

Right now your State Department is doing everything in its power to prevent the Latin American Nations from forming a debt cartel to reorganize their debt and get the credit needed to finance large-scale development projects. Your State Department is opposing the very policies that can provide millions of American jobs through producing and exporting our way out of the current depression.

I implore you to, for once, fight to create American jobs by developing and expanding our markets by supporting global economic development.

When you meet the heads of state of Columbia, Brazil and Mexico, please follow the policy outlined by Lyndon LaRouche and come back with commit-

ments from these Latin-American leaders that will add up to a minimum of \$250 billion in orders for U.S. industry. This will break down to 2 million permanent, productive jobs for U.S. workers.

The biggest obstacle to this U.S. capital exports and jobs boom is Latin America's \$250 billion outstanding debt. Thanks to three years of Paul Volckers outrageous interest rates, which pyramided the debt while shutting down the

short-term IOU's to the banks, turned into long-term bonds at lower interest rates. These bonds are "as good as gold." Backed by productive Latin American industry and agricultural capacity, provided the United States takes the second step.

Second; The moment you re-form Latin America, you must announce that the days of the "independent" Federal Reserve are over, and dictate

*You have the choice between a \$250 billion hole in the international banking system ... and \$250 billion in jobs and exports for the United States and global industrialization.*

factories and farms that produce real wealth, this debt cannot be paid. The only way it can ever be paid is to finish the wealth-creating giant development projects like Grande Carajas. Yet the IMF and their U.S. banker allies are demanding that these development projects be shut down "to pay the debt".

The following is what I, and most of the unemployed blue collar workers want you to do.

First; When you meet President Figueiredo of Brazil and President Betancur of Columbia, you must propose the joint renegotiation of the entire debt of Latin America, on terms that will open Latin American markets to American exports again. That means the worthless

# 'Useful, informative' leaders conversation

by Dick West

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Over the years, the U.S. government has developed a special code to characterize private talks between world leaders.

If, for example, the secretary of state's discussion with a visiting foreign minister is officially described as "a candid exchange of views," you can bet they didn't agree on anything.

As a long-term student of diplomatic cryptography, I was interested in the delineation put on the chat that Vice President George Bush had with Yuri Andropov, the new general secretary of the Communist party, in Moscow.

The two met after the funeral of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, and it was reported they had a "frank, cordial and substantive" conversation.

The general secretary asked whether the vice president was enjoying his visit to the Soviet capital and whether the city was generally what he had expected.

The vice president replied that he was enjoying the visit very much considering the somber nature of the occasion. He said there had been no major surprises although Moscow weather was a bit colder than he had imagined at this time of year.

The general secretary asked whether the vice president would like to borrow one of those fur caps that Russians wear in winter. The general secretary said he had several fur caps that he had never worn in his closet at home. He said he was pretty sure one of them would fit the vice president.

The vice president thanked the general secretary for his solicitude. As yet, however, his head had not become unbearably cold, the vice president said.

The general secretary commented that he was happy to hear that. He then asked what it was that a vice president did exactly besides attend state funerals.

The vice president gave the general secretary a complete rundown of his duties and responsibilities. This part of the discussion took approximately five seconds.

The general secretary noted there seemed to be some remarkable similarities between the U.S. vice presidency and the lifestyle of Soviet dissidents sent to Siberia.

The vice president replied that comparisons of this type had been made before.

The general secretary nodded his appreciation. He thanked the vice president for having attended the funeral as head of the U.S. delegation and wished him well in the future.

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Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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