

World and Nation

Inauguration ends military regime

Cerezo takes presidential oath

Associated Press
GUATEMALA CITY — Vinicio Cerezo became Guatemala's first civilian president in 16 years Tuesday, facing ruinous inflation and the delicate task of dealing with human rights abuses without alienating the powerful military.

Gen. Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, the retiring chief of state who seized power in a 1983 coup, administered the oath of office to the 43-year-old lawyer from the centrist Christian Democratic Party.

Vice President George Bush, who

led the U.S. delegation to the inaugural, said soon after arrival that it was "a most historic occasion. We view this as a turning point not just in Guatemala's history but also a milestone in this hemisphere."

The 100 members of Congress, 51 of them from Cerezo's party, were sworn in earlier Tuesday.

About 400 demonstrators engaged in a pushing match with police outside the theater. They were from the International Peace March in Central America that left Panama on a journey to Mexico in December

and the Mutual Support Group, relatives of people who have disappeared in the military campaign against leftists.

Cerezo was elected to serve a five-year term. His inauguration ends four years of rule by decree begun by a coup March 23, 1982, that brought Gen. Efraim Rios Montt to power. Mejia Victores replaced him in a coup Aug. 8, 1983.

The new president faces tough challenges even with a congressional majority and the initial cooperation

of those anxious to solve economic problems and glad for an end to military rule.

He must balance the interests of workers impoverished by high inflation, which is put officially at 50 percent and estimated by some economists at double that, against those of a powerful private sector that guards its own interests and resists higher taxes.

Inflation was in single digits in 1982 and rose only to 11 percent by 1984.

Researcher builds new blood pumps with muscle tissue

Associated Press
SARASOTA, Fla. — Spare muscle from elsewhere in the body may soon be used to build new blood pumps for victims of severe congestive heart failure, sparing them from heart transplants or artificial hearts, a researcher said Tuesday.

The experimental technique would call for doctors to remove the muscle, treat it with electric shocks to strengthen it, then form it into a cone and attach it to a major artery anywhere in the body. They would then attach a pacemaker to make the muscle contract like a healthy heart.

Dr. Larry Stephenson, a surgeon from the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, said he believes the strategy could be tried in humans within two years.

"It would be an extra pump," he said. "It would be used as an assist device to pump additional blood to somebody who was in fairly profound heart failure."

About 10,000 people in the United States are diagnosed each year as having irreversible congestive heart failure. Half of these people die within a year.

Because of damage to their heart muscle, their hearts don't beat strongly enough.

Stephenson, who began working on the idea of fashioning pumps from muscle about seven years ago, described the research at a science writers' forum sponsored by the American Heart Association.

He says he believes the pumps could assist the failing heart by pumping two liters of blood a minute.

Stephenson has identified four muscles that he said could be used to make the pumps: the diaphragm muscle, which is used in breathing; the latissimus dorsi, the large muscles in the back; the pectoralis, the muscles in the upper chest, and the rectus abdominus, the muscles in the abdomen.

Since the body has two of each of these muscles, he said, one could be removed without causing serious disability.

He said his technique would be safer than heart transplants, and it also could be more widely used, since not enough hearts are available for all the people who need heart transplants.

Group reveals unannounced nuclear tests

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The United States conducted at least 12 and possibly as many as 19 unannounced underground nuclear weapons tests between 1980 and 1984, an environmental group asserted Tuesday.

Citing research based on public sources of information, the Natural Resources Defense Council said the tests showed the Reagan administration had stepped up the pace of nuclear weapons research, despite government figures indicating a stable rate of testing from the Carter administration.

Eight of the unannounced tests could be confirmed based on information obtained from the U.S. Geo-

logical Survey or the Hagfors Observatory in Sweden, which detected them in 1983 and 1984, the report said.

"At least four — and possibly as many as 11 — (other) tests apparently escaped detection," suggesting experiments with very small nuclear devices, the report added.

Robert S. Norris, a political scientist and one of four researchers who collaborated on the study, said, "This is indicative of an accelerated pattern that goes directly contrary to many of the things that Mr. Reagan and (Defense Secretary Caspar) Weinberger publicly state.

"They speak of their desire to get

rid of nuclear weapons, but they're building more of them and they are spending more on nuclear testing. And they are operating under a policy of keeping some tests secret on a theory, I believe, that announcing all tests would draw attention to the weapons buildup that they would like to avoid."

While no concrete evidence was available, Norris suggested the smallest tests could be related to President Reagan's "Star Wars" research effort. Published scientific papers also suggest that scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California have worked on "low-yield fission warheads" for use on anti-satellite weapons, he said.

The Natural Resources Defense Council has frequently been critical of Reagan administration policies.

The Pentagon declined immediate comment on the report, citing a standard policy not to discuss any details of nuclear testing.

Norris, in an interview, said the Reagan administration was not the first to keep nuclear tests secret. He said evidence indicated three unannounced tests had been conducted during the Carter administration.

During the Carter years of 1977 through 1980, 58 nuclear tests were publicly announced, he said. During the first four years of the Reagan administration, 65 such tests were publicly announced.

KKK to hold march against King's birthday observance

Associated Press
PULASKI, Tenn. — Many whites in this southern Tennessee town of 7,500 are proud their forefathers organized the Ku Klux Klan 120 years ago to stop blacks and Northerners from seizing political power after the Civil War.

But those were different times and a different Klan, and residents say they are unenthusiastic about plans by the Klan to parade this weekend in protest of the first national observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Stacey Aymett Garner, who's served as mayor for 21 years, said, "I

The original Ku Klux Klan... was formed by community leaders concerned about lawlessness and the rise to power of northern whites and former slaves...

think the general reaction is that (residents) would prefer it not to happen. But I don't think anybody is real, real excited about the thing," Mitchell Birdsong Jr., who two

years ago became the first black alderman in the city that is about 20 percent black, said the town's image is the main worry.

"Everybody's concerned and they'd rather for them not to come," he said. "If they (townspeople) had a choice in the matter, they (Klansmen) wouldn't be here. But this is something, unfortunately, we don't have a choice about."

The six-block march by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan is set for Saturday.

A man officials identified as Grand Wizard Stanley McCullom applied for the parade permit on Dec. 17. City Attorney Jack Henry

said the Klan had a right to march as long as members wore no hoods and did not litter or obstruct traffic.

City Recorder Bob Abernathy said McCullom lives in Tuscumbia, Ala., although initial news reports listed his home as Tuscaloosa.

The Klan is scheduled to assemble just off the town square in front of a modest brick building where the first KKK meeting took place.

Townsfolk say today's Klan does not resemble the 19th Century organization.

The original Ku Klux Klan, whose name stems from the Greek word

"I think the general reaction is that (residents) would prefer it not to happen."

— Stacey Aymett Garner, mayor of Pulaski.

for circle, was formed by community leaders concerned about lawlessness and the rise to power of northern whites and former slaves in the Reconstruction South.

It developed into a vigilante

group that used disguises such as colorful hoods and robes and midnight rides to play on the fears and superstitions of those former slaves.

The Klan spread and in 1867 former Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest became Grand Wizard. The Tennessee Legislature passed an anti-Klan law in 1869, and Forrest ordered the group disbanded, saying it had accomplished its goal by protecting the lifestyles of southern whites.

In 1915, a second Ku Klux Klan was formed in Georgia by ex-minister William J. Simmons, incorporating anti-Semitism and anti-Catholicism.

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