

Soviets push Kremlin disarmament plan

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Soviet Parliament urged the U.S. Congress on Sunday to accept the new Kremlin disarmament plan as "the only reasonable and feasible alternative to nuclear weapons" and renewed a plea that the United States halt nuclear tests.

The Soviet press Sunday said early U.S. reaction did not raise hopes for quick progress and stressed that a space weapons ban is essential to the plan.

Most national dailies printed letters from readers praising the disarmament proposal unveiled by Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev Thursday. They also ran positive commentary from officials and news media abroad.

Soviet commentaries portrayed Gorbachev's proposal as the best way to achieve disarmament and sug-

gested that opposition could come only from "militarist circles" in the West who they said benefit from arms production.

Gorbachev's plan, billed as a way to rid mankind of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, would begin with a 50 percent cut in superpowers' strategic missiles and removal of all U.S. and Soviet medium-range rockets from Europe.

Gorbachev also extended the Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing for three months, to the end of March.

President Reagan and others in his administration have said they welcomed the proposal. U.S. officials in Washington said they were encouraged by Gorbachev's call for eliminating European missile forces.

But they expressed reservations about how the 50 percent strategic arms cut would be achieved and the Kremlin's continued insistence that the United States renounce space weapons research, popularly known as "Star Wars," as a condition for disarmament.

Peres' experiment with Arab mayor working

Associated Press

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank — A parade of Palestinians troops through Mayor Zafer al-Masri's office: a robed man whose thumbprint signature must be validated, a woman with worry beads whose son has been arrested by Israeli soldiers, a tearful woman seeking welfare.

Al-Masri, a moderate pro-Jordanian Palestinian, was appointed recently by Israeli authorities to replace the Israeli military officer who ran the West Bank's largest city.

The 44-year-old mayor is the most tangible manifestation of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' pledge to improve the quality of life under Israel's 18-year-old military occupation. Military officers run 17 of the 25 cities and towns in the West Bank. If al-Masri succeeds, Peres has pledged to replace three other military administrators with Arab politicians.

But Peres has also said that while elections were "a good idea" they

"I don't socialize with them (Israeli officers of the West Bank's military administration) or make jokes. We deal with my people's business, and I can't ignore them."

— Zafer al-Masri, Nablus mayor.

would not be held in the near future because of possible disruptions by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"There is tremendous pressure on the PLO right now to increase terror inside the territories" occupied by Israel, Peres said at a recent briefing.

Peres also said Israel had acceded to a long list of Palestinian requests, including more industries, two new hospitals and less book censorship.

But the pace of change has been slow and the peace process itself is stalled over who will represent the Palestinians, moderate West Bank leaders as Israel wants or officials of Yasser Arafat's PLO.

The mayor demurs at the sugges-

tion he plays a larger role: "I want to improve life for my people through normal municipal services. . . . I don't want to be mixed up with the overall political aspects."

Al-Masri said in an interview in his office that it was unfortunate that his appointment came while Israel and the Americans were considering peace talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The mayor said he sees his role as transitional until the Israeli authorities allow new elections. Balloting was last held in the West Bank in 1976.

"I'm the closest thing to an elected official. But this (appointment) is not

instead of elections," said al-Masri, who walks a fine line even though he is believed to have assumed office with tacit approval from Jordan's King Hussein and the PLO. For example, he meets weekly with Israeli officers of the West Bank's military administration to discuss municipal projects which they must approve.

"I don't socialize with them or make jokes," al-Masri said. "We deal with my people's business, and I can't ignore them."

Some Palestinian intellectuals say they are not impressed by the Israeli gestures.

And an Israeli journalist who covers the West Bank, Yehuda Litani of the independent daily Haaretz, wrote recently that in the absence of effective government policy, West Bankers "will continue to see mainly the big stick that beats so well, and will forget the carrot, which is small, stunted, and unfortunately, symbolic at this stage."

Tutu participates in event remembering King's birth

(continued from page 1)

NAACP national President William F. Gibson and other officials were to gather on the grounds of the Statehouse in Columbia for speeches and songs honoring King.

Some people protested the idea of a national holiday for King.

Members of North Carolina's White Patriot Party and other white supremacist groups marched in front of the state Capitol in Raleigh on Saturday and held a rally in front of a Confederate monument.

Ku Klux Klansmen held a parade and cross-burning Saturday at Pulaski, Tenn., where the original Klan was formed in 1865.

A&M has state's best record for retaining its minorities

(continued from page 1)

1984—only 30 fewer than UT-Austin.

The total number of minority undergraduate students at A&M was not as large as that for some institutions, but it ranked in the upper echelons of both categories—and have increased significantly in recent years, University officials say.

A&M had 406 black students enrolled at the undergraduate level in the fall of 1983 and 331 returned to school the following year. The corresponding figures for Hispanic students were 1,302 and 1,081.

The University of Houston—University Park had the largest number of black students with 2,205 enrolling in 1983 and 1,349 returning. Pan American University had the largest number of Hispanic students with 6,512 enrolling in 1983 and 3,880 returning for start of 1984-85 classes.

A&M's ability to attract and retain minority students has been en-

hanced significantly in recent years, assistant to Vandiver Grace Chisolm says. Her responsibilities include coordination of programs to encourage more minority students, faculty and staff to come to the College Station campus.

The University had its largest retention increases this year, she says. A total of 413 black students returned for the classes last fall, compared to 331 the previous year and 273 in 1983. The retention rate for black students went up to 83.4 percent this year.

Chisolm says 1,254 Hispanic students returned for the start of the present school year. That compares to 1,081 in 1984 and 971 the previous year. The retention rate is now 84.4 percent.

"The retention rates for black and Hispanic students at Texas A&M are now essentially the same as for the student body as a whole, and that's the best in Texas in all respects in public institutions," she says.

Remember December?

Remember LOUPOT'S!

Remember December? Loupot's gave you cash for your used books and a certificate for cash off your spring semester books.

Now, for the New Year and semester, Loupot's resolves to give you:

- ▶ largest selection of used textbooks serving Texas A&M students
- ▶ less hassle because Loupot's does your book hunting for you
- ▶ shorter lines
- ▶ two weeks to exchange textbooks
- ▶ a free MYSTERY GIFT for wearing your Loupot's A&M t-shirt when you buy books

LOUPOT'S

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING BEHIND THE STORE

335 University Drive ▲ In Northgate

\$5.00 OFF
WITH THIS COUPON
(on \$10 or more purchase)
at
FASHION CLEANERS
315 B Dominik
College Station, TX 77840
Coupon must come in with the clothing
On Dry Cleaning Only
Coupon Valid through Jan 25, 1986

Texas A&M University
Aggie Special
The Houston Post
1/2 Price Subscription
Spring Semester
\$17.50

Pace-setting world and national news
 In-depth coverage of sports action
 Entertainment
 Hard hitting editorials
 Top of the chart comics
 USA Today

To begin delivery, call: Brazos News Service, 846-2911 or 1-800-392-9736, ext. 6744

NO SECURITY DEPOSIT

Lease Now and Save \$\$

5 Packages Tailored to Your Tastes, Needs and Comfort.

Freshman Package	\$39.00
Sophomore Package	\$49.00
Junior Package	\$59.00
Senior Package	\$75.00
Graduate Package	\$85.00

(Add \$15-\$25 for each additional bedroom)
All Packages consist of a complete Living Room, Dining Room and Bedroom.
(Individual Pieces Also Available)
DEPENDS ON AVAILABILITY/STYLES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CERTIFIED FURNITURE RENTAL

913-D Harvey Road
Woodstone Shopping Center
College Station, Texas 77840
(409) 764-0721