

## Newborns' syphilis rate lower

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 can be reduced easily by treating pregnant women with penicillin. "Theoretically, it (the rate) should be zero," said Rocco Pelosi, a public health adviser for the Texas Department of Health. The battle is to get a healthy dose of penicillin to the women who need it. Some are women who think they have reason to avoid contact with authorities. Some are illegal aliens. Others are prostitutes or drug abusers. And others can't afford the needed care, a problem Texas lawmakers tried to cure last year with a new infant health care package. "One would think anyone who knows they are pregnant would get prenatal testing," she said. "What prevents people from

seeking care is not so easy to determine." Florida officials believe their 31 congenital syphilis cases in 1985 placed that state second only to Texas. Nationwide figures for 1985 are not yet available from CDC. Jack Wroten, chief of Florida's sexually transmitted disease control program, said Florida's 1985 figures are "fairly accurate." But the Florida health department is seeking a more effective screening law, one that would require a blood test in the final three months of pregnancy or at delivery for women who had no prenatal care. Commissioner Dr. Robert Bernstein said his agency plans to launch a "Mother Care is Baby Care" campaign in April and May.

## Soviet dissident released

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the bridge that marks the border between East and West. When he saw the line, Shcharansky said in English, "Look, no wall," and took a giant step over it. He was met by Richard Burt, U.S. ambassador to West Germany, and they shook hands at 10:57 a.m. on the span West Germans call the "bridge of spies." He brought no personal possessions, "no luggage, nothing," said Ludwig Rehlinger, a West German government official who accompanied Burt and was Bonn's negotiator in the exchange. Shcharansky was not told he would be released until he arrived in

East Berlin Monday, U.S. and West German officials said. He did not complain of health problems, U.S. officials said. Reports have indicated his health suffered during his time in prison and labor camp. In Israel Peres called Shcharansky by his Hebrew name, Natan, and said of him: "He has fought heroically alone against so many tribulations as a proud Jew, as a man with a mission, as a devoted Zionist." "You can arrest a body, but you cannot imprison a spirit," the prime minister said, adding that Mrs. Shcharansky "fought like a lioness" in her struggle for his freedom.

## Philippine election still not resolved

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The National Assembly on Tuesday began the long-awaited official canvass of votes in the presidential election but called it off for lack of a quorum before a single vote could be tabulated. The unofficial count by the government's Commission on Elections showed President Ferdinand E. Marcos ahead with 5,899,873 votes or 52 percent and his rival, Corazon Aquino, with 5,384,368 or 48 percent, with 53 percent of the precincts counted following Friday's presidential elections. However, the count by the independent poll-monitoring group the National Movement for Free Elections, or Namfrel, had Aquino ahead with 6,933,989 or 52 percent against Marcos' 6,281,510 or 48 percent, with votes in 64 percent of the precincts counted. The country has 26 million registered voters.

The National Assembly's count is the only one that is legally binding. Aquino appealed to "my friends abroad" to help protect the victory she claims to have won. She said it would be a mistake to support a "failing dictator." Marcos, 68, who has governed the Philippines for 20 years, accused Aquino Tuesday of making a "childish display of petulance." Election-related violence has killed more than 90 people since the campaign began in early December.

The latest victim was former Gov. Evelio Javier, chairman of Aquino's

campaign in the central Philippine province of Antique, who was shot dead by unidentified men Tuesday outside the Antique provincial capitol building.

In the assembly Tuesday, the number of legislators dwindled to below that required for a quorum as opposition assemblymen slipped out to meet with Aquino to discuss "the legitimacy of Marcos' holding on to power."

Aquino, 53, appearing before foreign correspondents, read a statement in which she repeated that she had beaten Marcos and "we will take power."

She did not say how and did not answer questions.

In a televised interview by a selected group of local reporters and correspondents of three U.S. television networks, Marcos claimed he had won and asked Aquino to "forget all this childish display of petulance just because our figures don't match."

He said he would create a government advisory body called "Council of State" to advance national reconciliation and would invite Aquino and other opposition leaders to join it.

Rene Saguisag, an Aquino spokesman, rejected the idea, saying, "Maybe it's Cory who should do the inviting."

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