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Reagan optimistic about future of talks on arms reductions

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Monday night that the Iceland summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev left the superpowers "closer than ever" to an unprecedented cut in nuclear arsenals but also said he would not trade his futuristic anti-missile plan for an accord.

Experts hope arms talks to continue

The summit almost produced an unprecedented agreement to eliminate all long-range nuclear missiles from the face of the Earth by 1996," Reagan said in a broadcast address from the Oval Office. He said talks ended when the Soviets in-

WASHINGTON (AP) — A variety of Soviet affairs experts said Monday they hope the failure of the Iceland summit will not lead to a suspension of arms control efforts or an extended period of superpower hostility.

Experts normally sympathetic to President Reagan's strategic arms reductions raised questions about the wisdom of his decision to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev without prior assurances of a constructive outcome.

Princeton University Professor Stephen F. Cohen said he was concerned about whether Gorbachev would persist with his policy of "conciliation and conciliation" with the United States, given the setback at Reykjavik.

"I think historians may look back on yesterday, Sunday, Oct. 12, as a day of turning point and a very sad one," Cohen said on NBC's "Today" show.

Former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. said he saw "a veiled great" by the Soviets "to stretch their muscles" in West Berlin, Europe or some other trouble spot around the world.

However, Haig told the Cable News Network he is not too concerned that such a scenario will happen "because it was the Russians that needed this summit, the Russians that wanted it and the Russians that would have achieved the most benefit from it."

Helmut Sonnenfeldt, who served as a top aide to then-Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in the 1970s, and now an associate fellow at the Brookings Institution here, said he does not believe the Soviets "are prepared to let the entire relationship sour."

isted on confining Star Wars research to the laboratory.

Reagan, in putting an optimistic face on the Iceland impasse, said,

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"We are ready to pick up where we left off."

The next step is up to the Soviets, he said. "There was no indication from Mr. Gorbachev as to when or whether he plans to travel to the United States" for a follow-up summit, the president said, adding:

"Our invitation stands. We continue to believe additional meetings would be useful. But that's a decision the Soviets must make."

Near the conclusion of his 20-minute address, Reagan said, "if there is one impression that I carry away with me from these October talks, it is that, unlike the past, we are dealing now from a position of strength."

Reagan painted a more optimistic picture than Secretary of State George P. Shultz, who announced the collapse of the summit talks in Iceland 28 hours earlier, saying there were no plans for resumption of bargaining.

Gennadi Gerasimov, a spokesman for the Soviet foreign ministry interviewed in Moscow by ABC News after Reagan's speech, said the Soviets still hoped for compromise on SDI.

"We want some kind of insurance, which you also want," he said. "What worries us is, if you have the possibility of this research in space, then maybe you can come out with some kind of technological breakthrough which will disbalance the whole situation."

Reagan's spokesmen hurried to announce the initial telephoned response to Reagan's speech, reporting that a half hour after the address some 1,214 calls had been received by the White House switchboard. White House deputy press secretary

Peter Roussel said that of those calls, 1,022 were positive and 192 were negative.

Reagan's national security adviser, Vice Adm. John M. Poindexter, told reporters Monday that U.S. arms negotiators in Geneva will try to salvage elements of the accord that won tentative approval at the summit.

Meanwhile, an official traveling with Secretary of State George P. Shultz en route home from Brussels, Belgium said that Shultz will attend an international human rights conference in Vienna in early November, and may at that time meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

In his speech, Reagan said, "Our ideas are out there on the table."

He was referring to the two superpowers' unfinished agreements to phase out medium and long-range nuclear missiles by 1996.

"They won't go away," he said. "We are ready to pick up where we left off... So there is reason — good reason — for hope."

Reagan said, "We made progress in Iceland, and we will continue to make progress if we pursue a prudent, deliberate and, above all, realistic approach with the Soviets."

Vice President George Bush said Monday he feels the Soviets must be convinced that "... SDI is not a threat to Soviet missiles on the ground. SDI is not a threat to the Russian population. It is simply a defense against weapons that have been launched. It is more important to put weapons at risk, not people."

The president said, "The implications of these talks are enormous and only just beginning to be understood. We proposed the most sweeping and generous arms control proposal in history... While we parted company with this American offer still on the table, we are closer than ever before to agreements that could lead to a safer world without nuclear weapons."



Spinning Wheel

Karen Glenn shows students in her University Plus class how to throw clay on the potter's wheel at the

MSC Craft Center. Glenn has been teaching pottery for six years.

Photo by Tom Ownbey

Congressional reaction to summit mixed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional reaction to the failure of the U.S.-Soviet summit to agree on nuclear arms cuts generally fell along partisan lines Monday, with Democrats saying President Reagan missed a historic chance and Republicans applauding him for refusing to compromise on "Star Wars" research.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., said, "I am puzzled by the decision to pass up the real opportunity to destroy a large portion of the Soviet nuclear arsenal through arms control."

"Instead," said Biden, "the administration insists on spending vast sums of money on the development of untested, unproven defensive systems that are alleged to address the same objective — the destruction of offensive nuclear weapons."

But a different view was expressed by Rep. James Courter, R-N.J., one of the staunchest House supporters of Star Wars, known for-

'No place for political wrangling'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political wrangling has no place in the aftermath of President Reagan's unsuccessful attempt to reach an accord on arms control with Mikhail Gorbachev in Iceland, both U.S. senators from Texas said Monday.

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, said the president knew his trip could be politically damaging if an agreement failed to materialize, but decided to go ahead with the talks because the issue of arms control is all-important.

"We have always had a tradition of politics ending at the water's edge," Gramm said. "I hope this fine tradition continues here."

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas said failure of the lead-

ers to reach an accord at the Iceland summit should not become an election issue.

"This is an issue that is above partisan politics," Bentsen said. "We want what is best for this country and what is best for this country is to be free of the threat of nuclear war."

But Bentsen and Gramm openly disagreed over President Reagan's refusal to offer any concessions on the "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative.

"I have always supported using SDI as a bargaining chip to bring the Soviets to the table," Bentsen said.

"It seems we got very close to verifiable reductions... The president decided he wasn't ready to trade SDI away yet. I hope we haven't missed an opportunity."

He should not give up SDI."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said a "grand and historic opportunity was there in Iceland, but it has been sacrificed — at least for the moment — on the uncertain altar of SDI."

Kennedy asked, "Must we sacrifice the certainty of significant and sweeping reductions in nuclear arsenals today for the uncertainty of an unproven and unprovable defense in the distant future?"

Strong support for Reagan came from Rep. Jack Kemp, R-N.Y., and Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chair-

man of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Kemp said he was pleased that the president "walked away from an agreement that violated one of his highest goals, the development of a strategic defense for ourselves and our allies."

Lugar said the Soviet offer "attempted to trap the president and put the United States into perpetual jeopardy." He added, "Their proposal would have prohibited the United States from developing any defensive deterrent while the Soviets would be able to maintain their offensive superior capability."

Rep. Thomas Downey, D-N.Y., campaigning in his district Monday on Long Island, said constituents were disappointed with the results of the summit.

"My sense was from the people that I spoke to, there was a much greater desire to see something," he said.

Class of '90 chooses Gattis as president

By Rodney Rather
Staff Writer

Dan Gattis was elected Class of '90 president in Monday's freshman class run-off elections, according to election results reported by election co-commissioner D.B. Thomas.

Run-off elections were held to fill all five freshman offices because last Tuesday's elections closed with no candidate for any office receiving the majority vote necessary to secure a victory.

According to Monday's election results, Gattis, a business major from Dallas, pulled in 67.1 percent of the votes to defeat Mike Lister, who netted 32.9 percent.

In the run-off race for vice president, Michael Aspinall

emerged victorious over Rachel Powitzky.

Aspinall accumulated 58.6 percent of the votes while Powitzky received 41.4 percent.

The contest for treasurer ended with David Gribble as the winner. Gribble tallied 65.3 percent of the votes while his opponent, Jennifer Sauter, got 34.7 percent.

The run-off election for secretary resulted in Jeff Brennan defeating Sharon Brunner. Brennan drew 61.4 percent of the vote while Brunner received 38.6 percent.

In the runoff for social secretary, Kathleen Broderick defeated Clay Harris. Broderick pulled in 52.9 percent of the votes while Harris finished with 47.1 percent.

CS Council delays action on electricity rate increase

By Craig Renfro
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council Monday voted to get additional confirmation on certain clauses of Gulf States Utility's acceptance of a 7 percent rate increase for its wholesale electric customers.

Mayor Larry Ringer said the council and city staff talked about GSU's latest proposal and decided to "firm up some ideas" before taking action.

One obstacle to approval of the proposal is a clause which allows GSU to back out of the contract within 30 days notice, Ringer said. The current proposal doesn't allow the city the same option, and Ringer said that is not acceptable.

"Once we get things to our satis-

faction we'll sign the contract," Ringer said.

North Bardell, Lone Star Municipal Power Agency executive director, said GSU approved the increase Sept. 29.

The pending confirmation follows more than eight weeks of negotiations with GSU. Negotiations on the contract began Aug. 25 when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted GSU an interim 40 percent rate increase.

If the increase had taken effect, College Station would have had the highest electricity bills in the state, Bardell said.

College Station and three other cities — Caldwell, Newton and Kirbyville — buy electricity wholesale from GSU, then resell it to their residents.

After GSU's wholesale customers complained, GSU proposed a 24 percent rate increase Sept. 8, Bardell said.

Following a special session Sept. 11, the council proposed the 7 percent increase, Bardell said.

If the proposal is approved, the new rates will be retroactive to Aug. 25, but consumers' bills will not reflect the change until October, he said. The contract will run through July 1991, Bardell said.

Under the proposal the city will buy bulk amounts of electricity at reduced rates and pass the savings on to the consumer in the form of a 4 percent increase.

Bardell said the contract still must be approved by the FERC, which regulates wholesale rates.

Aggielands available at English Annex

Students who paid for a copy of Aggielands '86 may pick it up at the English Annex from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Students must show their I.D. cards to get their yearbooks.

Students are encouraged to pick up their yearbooks as soon as possible.

Yearbooks not picked up during the distribution time will be sold at a date to be announced later.