

State and Local

Nixon urges caution in summit between United States, Soviets

DALLAS (AP) — Former President Richard M. Nixon declared Monday that the United States must remain a world foreign policy leader, but the Reagan administration should proceed cautiously in attending Soviet summit talks.

Presenting a positive perspective on American economic and foreign policies, Nixon told the Dallas Council on World Affairs that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is a tough-minded statesman who still embraces the Communist philosophy.

"But Gorbachev needs a deal" in summit talks, Nixon told about 1,200 people at the Loews Anatole Hotel. "We must help make one, but not a deal in which our own foreign

policy" would suffer, he said.

Nixon discounted recent opinions by economists, politicians and others that America is in decline, reeling under the weight of a massive trade deficit and a shaky economy.

Instead, the threat facing the United States is not from Japanese imports, but from Russian military might, he said.

"The economic power of Japan is not a threat but rather a challenge to American business," he said. "However, the Soviet Union is a threat" militarily, he said.

Nixon said the next president's challenge is to deal with Gorbachev, who "has a bachelor's in law and was

born with a master's degree in public relations."

"The job is a tough one for the next president," Nixon said. "Can he get in the ring with Gorbachev? When they get in the ring, they're not going to be using 16-ounce gloves. It will be no holds barred."

In response to a question from the audience, Nixon said the trade deficit is the single biggest problem facing the United States. He added that none of the presidential candidates has addressed the crisis adequately.

"It (the deficit) has to be dealt with frontally on three areas," Nixon said. "First, revenue; second, entitlements, and third, defense."

Entitlements are funds that help bolster pensions, Social Security and

other items. "No one wants to have to (deal with)" cuts in this area, he said.

Nixon cautioned against making defense a "scapegoat" in overhauling America's trade policy.

"Defense should be last on the list (for cuts)," he said. "It is a terribly difficult area."

The former president's appearance was part of a tour of cities and network television programs that began in April. The tour coincided with the release of his book "1999: Victory Without War."

Nixon, who was elected in 1968 and 1972, resigned in disgrace in 1974 in the face of a Senate impeachment trial.

Police say they need more firepower to deal with criminal's guns

AUSTIN (AP) — With drug dealers carrying semiautomatics and other sophisticated weapons, law enforcement officers say they are being forced to switch from their traditional handguns to weapons with more firepower.

To even the odds, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has begun issuing 9mm sub-machine guns and 9mm semiautomatic pistols to every one of its 2,800 agents.

By late May, Austin police patrol officers will be given the option of carrying 9mm semiautomatic pistols instead of the standard .357-caliber Magnum revolvers. Austin police narcotics agents, organized-crime officers and plainclothes detectives already have that option.

The decision to bolster firepower for federal drug agents came after the agents continually found themselves outgunned by the criminals, said Don Ashton, DEA chief of domestic training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

"It's important for us to have the additional firepower," Ashton said. "The crooks are carrying this type of firearms."

Fred Smith, supervisory agent in charge of the DEA office in Austin, said the increased firepower is "really a necessity for the overall protection of the agents."

Smith said his agents have confiscated hundreds of weapons, including machine guns, in Central Texas.

A DEA firearms officer in the Austin office, who asked that his name not be used because of undercover work, said, "Dopers get this huge income. They don't pay tax on it. They have all that cash, and a lot of it is finding its way to buying guns to protect their investment."

Texas Department of Public Safety spokesman David Wells

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— Capt. Cecil Huff, director of the Austin Police Department training academy

said DPS narcotics agents are considering boosting their firepower. Currently, DPS drug agents use .357-caliber Magnum revolvers, .222-caliber semiautomatic rifles and 12-gauge shotguns.

Capt. Cecil Huff, director of the Austin Police training academy, said patrol officers will be given the option of carrying 9mm semiautomatic pistols as early as mid to late May.

"Austin is growing," Huff said. "Crime rate is up. The criminals are carrying more sophisticated weapons. We're going to be needing more firepower."

Lt. Dick Jennings of the Greater Austin Area Organized Crime Unit said although he prefers his five-shot .38-caliber handgun and his APD-issued .357-caliber Magnum to the 9mm semiautomatic pistol, some of his officers carry the semiautomatics.

"Sometimes in your career, a gunfight might break out where you are outmanned or outpowered — then you'd probably lose," Jennings said. "You want to have at least equal advantage or better advantage over the crooks."

Lt. Pete Taylor of the APD narcotics unit agreed, saying "speed freaks are our most dangerous people we are dealing with right now."

Bentsen calls war on drugs top priority

HOUSTON (AP) — U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen said he's been fighting the Reagan Administration's proposed cuts in funding for U.S. Customs Agents and drug education, and said the war on drugs should be a top national priority.

Bentsen spoke Sunday to the Metropolitan Organization, a coalition of community activists from Houston-area churches.

Bentsen said he supports shifting more federal resources to battle the flow of drugs across the Mexican border.

Other issues raised during Bentsen's appearance were the depressed economy along the Texas-Mexico border, health care and education. Bentsen pledged to work toward improving the quality of life in the region, improving health care and keeping students in school.

Hance says trip will improve connection with oil producers

AUSTIN (AP) — Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance, back in his Austin office Monday after attending the OPEC meeting in Vienna last week, said he is pleased with that journey and thinks Texas should stay in touch with those oil-producing nations.

"I thought it was very worthwhile," Hance said. "I think a communication was established for a dialogue that will promote (oil price) stability."

Hance said he agrees with Monday's prediction by the oil ministers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who said they expected world oil prices to stabilize near current levels despite the breakdown of the OPEC meeting.

"I am disappointed that today they did not reach an agreement," Hance said. "I figured that if they didn't, prices would slide a little temporarily and then they would come back..."

This latest Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries meeting ended with no agreement on a proposed 2 percent cut in the group's oil production, a move aimed at stabilizing prices that have undergone big fluctuations since late 1985.

Besides predicting stability, Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said he was optimistic about gaining more cooperation from non-OPEC oil exporters, including American oil-producing states.

"The oil states in the United States are very, very much interested in the stabilization of the market," he said.

Hance said he hoped his visit opened lines of communication with OPEC that are vital to Texas.

"We're not trying to join OPEC, and we're not always going to agree with them," Hance said. "But when President Reagan tried to get nuclear arms stability, he had to deal

with the Russians, who are our enemies."

"The critical thing is — we're living in a world where someone else sets the price for our commodity."

The Railroad Commission has monitored oil output since an oil price crash in the 1930s, and under state law the agency has authority to restrict production to avoid waste and to protect reserves.

Hance, who was criticized by the Reagan administration for making the trip, makes no apologies and said Texas officials should attend the next OPEC session.

"I plan to," he said. "If I can't, I'll try to get someone else from Texas. It's imperative that Texas have somebody there. What happens in Vienna at the OPEC meetings will have more impact on our economy than anything that will happen in Austin or in Washington."

?? QUESTIONS BUT NO ANSWERS ??

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