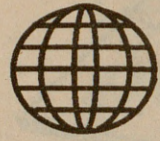


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**World and Nation**

**Mexican president-elect faces troubled economy, opposition**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who faces continued economic crisis and a vocal opposition that questions his mandate, was confirmed as president-elect of Mexico by a bitterly divided Chamber of Deputies.

See related story, page 10

The 263-85 vote came abruptly at the end of an all-night session Saturday after leftist deputies walked out tossing invalidated ballots in the air and chanting "Electoral fraud, electoral fraud."

Virtually all the votes to certify the results of the July 6 election came from members of Salinas' ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

"In no way is he the president of the Mexicans," Moreno Octavio, a democratic Front delegate, said.

"He is the president of the cabinet, of the International Monetary Fund or of the technocracy, but he's not the president of the Mexicans."

Salinas was the architect of an austere economic policy that successfully fought inflation and helped the nation recover from near bankruptcy, but also devastated the average Mexican's buying power.

"Mexico has to grow again and will grow again, because it's the only way to raise our countrymen's standard of living," he told reporters.

Salinas takes the presidency on Dec. 1 from Miguel de la Madrid for a six-year term.

Mexican presidents cannot succeed themselves.

The raucous scene in the Chamber capped over three weeks of stormy debate over the election results, during which the PRI brushed aside claims of fraud.

The opposition, made up of the leftist Democratic Front and the rightist National Action Party, made its strongest gains ever in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate but claims that only massive cheating allowed the PRI to retain its 59-year grip on power.

Democratic Front candidate

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas and National Action candidate Manuel Clouthier plan to lead further demonstrations next week, when Mexico celebrates the anniversary of its independence from Spain.

At the Saturday morning session of the Chamber, Democratic Front delegates walked out before PRI delegates rammed through a vote to cut off debate while many were still waiting to speak.

A roll call vote to certify the election results as valid quickly followed.

PRI supporters shouted "Salinas, Salinas" as they took the National Action delegates out one-by-one after voting.

The PRI and the government have consistently rejected opposition charges, and the party accused opposition of trying to derail orderly presidential transition.

Cardenas, leader of a democratic reform movement, said the information session was the last for the PRI and the government set a fraud-tainted election right.

**Artists, intellectuals discuss Solidarity**

GDANSK, Poland (AP) — A group of intellectuals and artists met Sunday with Lech Walesa to endorse his participation in upcoming talks with the government and called for immediate legalization of Solidarity.

Walesa, the leader of the banned independent union movement, convened the Council on Poland, a group of about 60 advisers, to prepare for talks between representatives of the union and the government.

"The most important condition for the beginning of a true dialogue between the civil opposition and the authorities (is) the legalization of Solidarity and the immediate implementation of pluralism," a resolution adopted by the group, read.

A wave of Solidarity-led strikes at Polish enterprises that began in mid-August posed the most serious threat to the government since Solidarity was suppressed in 1981.

Walesa called an end to the strikes after the government on Aug. 31 promised to discuss the country's future with workers' representatives, who demanded higher pay as well as free and legal trade unions.

"We are extending our full support in negotiations concerning this issue to the founder of Solidarity," Sunday's resolution said, referring to Walesa.

No date has been set for the talks with authorities, but Andrzej Stelmachowski, the law professor who has been acting as a mediator in arranging the meetings, said they could begin this week.

Sunday's session was part of a two-day Solidarity conference in the northern port of Gdansk.

About 100 people gathered after Sunday Mass in a room at St. Brygida's Catholic Church, which serves as the headquarters of the Solidarity leadership. Walesa joined intellectuals, workers and regional Solidarity leaders for the session, chaired by Bronislaw Geremek, a historian and one of Walesa's closest advisers.

Included in the group of writers, actors and scholars — all strongly linked to the Polish opposition — were filmmaker Andrzej Wajda, Catholic newspaper editor Jerzy Turowicz, former head of the journalists' union Stefan Bratkowski, and Dr. Marek Edelman, a physician strongly critical of the official health system.

At the Mass earlier, the Rev. Henryk Jankowski spoke to a congrega-

tion of 5,000 Solidarity supporters, stressing the need for unity in Polish society as the talks begin.

"Today there is a chance for round-table (talks) and we cannot waste it," he said in his sermon.

Zbigniew Romaszewski, a Solidarity activist from Warsaw who monitors human rights abuses in Poland for the union, said before Sunday's meeting that the mood was optimistic. He said Solidarity was more active and better organized than it has been in years.

**Bangladesh bears losses repeatedly**

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The floods that inundate this poor, overpopulated nation with deadly regularity are a combination of man-made and natural phenomena.

This year's deluge — the most devastating in memory — has claimed more than 600 lives by government count and more than 1,400 according to newspapers. It has submerged three-quarters of the country, spawning disease and destroying homes, roads, bridges, schools and food warehouses.

From the air, Bangladesh looks like a large brown sea with atolls where the map shows cities, towns and villages. Individual rivers can no longer be discerned.

The deluge comes just one year after a flood covered half the country and claimed about 300 lives by government count and about 1,500 according to newspapers.

Bangladesh, a country for since 1971, is seemingly condemned to repeated disasters.

The 1970-71 war of independence from Pakistan killed 3 million people, government officials said. Since then, floods, cyclones and tidal waves have claimed at least 20,000 lives. Even in the dry season, overcrowded river ferries sink regularly, with losses of life that often exceed 100.

**Chemical warfare spurs new worry**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq's use of poisonous gas against its Kurdish minority, Iran, is prompting concern that other nations bogged down in armed conflict might resort to the "silent killer" in violation of a universally accepted ban on use of chemical weapons.

U.S. officials said there is little question that Iraq's use of mustard gas against Iranian forces influenced Iran's decision to end their eight-year-old Persian Gulf war last month.

Almost immediately after the cease-fire took effect, Iraq launched an offensive against its Kurdish minority as suspected collaborators with Iran. Tens of thousands of Kurds were forced to flee into southern Turkey.

Last week, about nine days after the first reports of Iraqi chemical warfare began to circulate, Secretary of State George P. Shultz said he was convinced the allegations were true.

Shultz accused the Iraqis of "unjustifiable and abhorrent" behavior. The Senate then unanimously approved stringent economic sanctions against Iraq.

Iraq's minister of state for foreign affairs, Saddoun Hammadi, met with Shultz on Thursday and called the charges "absolutely baseless."

But well before the latest Iraq assault on the Kurds, a number of United Nations investigations concluded that Iraq — and to a lesser extent, Iran — had engaged in chemical warfare since 1984.

The State Department has criticized Iraq from time to time, and a unanimous U.N. Security Council resolution has done the same. The international reaction generally has been muted and unsustained, possibly reflecting the lack of sympathy for Iran's fundamentalist Islamic regime.

In May, Iran complained that absence of punitive measures against Iraq was having a "disastrous" effect.

The 1925 Geneva convention banning use of chemical weapons, which was signed by 105 nations, is seen as a major step toward banning armed conflict and assuring that the horrors of poison and gas attacks in World War I never be repeated.

That optimistic view has been changed by the Persian Gulf war and its ghastly aftermath, foreign analysts said. They are now concerned that other war-weary nations may conclude that the benefits of using chemical weapons may outweigh the costs.

**World briefs**

**U.S. Army helicopter crashes, injures**

SCHWABEISCH HALL, West Germany (AP) — A U.S. Army helicopter struck high tension wires and crashed into a field, injuring the two pilots, and four soldiers on the ground, the military said Sunday.

The 5th Corps headquarters in Schwabesich Hall said the helicopter crashed Saturday afternoon near Bad Mergentheim, 95 miles southeast of Frankfurt.

The pilots, from the 3rd Cavalry Regiment stationed in Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, were seriously injured, the statement said. Their names were not released.

Four U.S. soldiers on the ground were injured when they tried to rescue the pilots from the wreckage, the statement said. The four men suffered minor burns from power lines that were pulled down by the helicopter, the statement said.

The helicopter, a Bell OH-58, was taking part in military maneuvers.

**NASA delays Discovery launch date**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the nation's space flight program cautioned Sunday that NASA might not be able to launch space shuttle Discovery on the first attempt late this month.

"I think that when we do get a launch date on the latter part of this month, it wouldn't surprise me at all if it took us two or three times to get airborne," said Rear Adm. Richard Truly, the head of the shuttle program.

Truly, who is NASA associate administrator for space flight, said that if two recent successful simulations of crew and launch systems had been the real thing, a launch would not have taken

place because of weather and winds.

"We're going to wait until we have it right, and then we're going to do it," said Truly, a two-time shuttle astronaut. "I think the American people expect that of us and that's what we're going to do."

Appearing on ABC-TV's "The Week with David Brinkley," Truly shied away from revealing a date for the launch of the first shuttle since the Challenger exploded on liftoff in January 1985, except to say it probably will be late in September.

"It will be the last week in September unless there is a hiccup," he said.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE TO TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

In the past, certain information has been made public by Texas A&M University as a service to students, families, and other interested individuals.

Under the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974", the following directory information may be made public unless the student desires to withhold any or all of this information.

Student's name, address (local and permanent), telephone listing, date and place of birth, sex, nationality, race, major, classification, dates of attendance, class schedule, degrees awarded, awards or honors, class standing, previous institution or educational agency attended by the student, parent's name and address, sports participation, weight and height of athletic team members, parking permit information, and photograph.

Any student wishing to withhold any or all of this information should fill out, in person, the appropriate form, available to all students at the Registrar's Office, Room 112, Records Section, no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday September 16, 1988

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