

## Soviets to release all political prisoners this year, Kohl says

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union will release all people regarded in the West as political prisoners by the end of the year, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany said Wednesday after talks with President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Such a dramatic move would be one of the boldest signs yet from Gorbachev that he seeks a clear break with past Kremlin human rights practices that have included imprisonment of dissenters from Communist Party policy.

Kohl's announcement was welcomed by Soviet human rights activist Andrei D. Sakharov, the Reagan administration and Amnesty International.

But a leader of a group seeking emigration of Soviet Jews said he remained skeptical.

"Certainly we await the release of all of them (prisoners) and their rehabilitation," Sakharov, the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, said.

In the past three days, Kohl held 10 hours of talks with Gorbachev and also met with other top Kremlin officials.

At a news conference called to sum up his visit, Kohl said: "The Soviets confirmed that they will release before the end of the year all political prisoners as we understand it in the West."

Kohl would not say whether the promise came from Gorbachev, only that it was made during the talks.

Asked how many people may be freed, Kohl's foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, said: "We are not in a position to give final figures."

Neither Kohl nor Genscher identified prisoners who might be released. It was not clear how many Soviets classified in the West as political prisoners might be freed, since some have been sentenced on criminal charges, including espionage.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, says it knows of 150 Soviets "imprisoned solely for their non-violent exercise of their fundamental human rights." It put their number at 10,000 a few years ago.

Amnesty's list includes about 30 religious believers, 30 conscientious objectors to military service, and about 20 people held for anti-Soviet propaganda

and other offenses, said spokeswoman Carline Windall.

Kronid Lubarsky, editor of Country and World, the respected emigre publication in Munich, said there are at least 167 Soviet political prisoners.

A West German group, the International Society for Human Rights, said 503 Soviets are imprisoned on political or religious grounds.

Many of those sent to labor camp or prisons for political offenses have been convicted under two clauses of the Soviet Criminal Code.

Article 70 outlaws "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Article 190 forbids "anti-Soviet slander."

"The only number we know is (those held under Article) 70, and only those in camps," Sakharov said in a telephone interview. He put the total number of those prisoners at 25.

"We don't know who is in psychiatric hospitals... We can't in any way say how many," said Sakharov, who was kept almost seven years in internal exile for condemning the 1979 Soviet military push into Afghanistan.

Sakharov said it was also not known

how many of his countrymen were imprisoned for violating laws that regulate the practice of religion.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States welcomes the report by Kohl "as evidence the Soviet Union recognizes the importance of releasing all political prisoners" and said U.S. officials are looking forward to their actual release.

Roman Popadiuk, deputy White House press secretary said: "We are awaiting further details. If true, it is something we would look forward to."

In New York, the chairman of the Na-

tional Conference on Soviet Jewry, Morris Abram, said he was skeptical.

"One will have to wait to see whether or not the promise is confirmed by the practice," Abram told the Associated Press.

"I am skeptical because we've heard for a long time that the Soviets are going to obey the obligation to let everyone leave the country who wishes to leave. And that's just not happened," he said.

Last year, authorities freed at least 300 prisoners being held on charges including Articles 70 and 190.

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However, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov refused to confirm or deny that a release of political prisoners is imminent.

He told reporters there are about two dozen such prisoners. Estimates from human rights groups abroad vary from 50 to more than 500.

Gerasimov said the fate of the prisoners was not on the agenda of the Soviet-West German negotiations that brought Kohl to Moscow.

## A&M establishes crime 'tip' fund

By Sherri Roberts  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M and the Association of Former Students have established a reward fund for people who give the University Police Department information leading to the solving of campus felonies.

"We hope that the establishment of this new fund will send a clear signal that we're serious about committing both human and monetary resources to apprehending individuals who engage in criminal activities on our campus," Robert Smith, vice president for finance and administration, said.

Bob Wiatt, A&M's director of security and University police, said that rewards of up to \$10,000 will be given to individuals who give relevant information to police.

The value of the information, he said, will be determined by representatives from UPD. The crimes to

which the rewards apply must be publicly announced, he said, or rewards cannot be given. Information about misdemeanor crimes will not be eligible for the rewards.

The abduction and stabbing of an A&M student last week from a campus parking lot is the first case to which the fund will apply, he said.

Financed by \$5,000 contributions from both the Former Students' Association and the president's office, the fund was approved by A&M President William Mobley shortly after he took office in August.

Smith said the fund will accompany, rather than compete with, the successful Crimestoppers program operating in the Brazos Valley and throughout the United States. The rewards will offer an additional incentive for people to come forward with information about campus incidents.

Wiatt was optimistic about the program's potential for success, noting that other law enforcement agen-

cies have found reward programs to be effective in encouraging people to bring forth information about a crime.

Although other universities may offer rewards for information about particular crimes, Smith said he believed the fund is the first permanent and on-going university fund of its kind.

Establishment of the fund is one of several security measures being adopted by the University.

New lighting will be installed at points along the jogging track and around the Commons dormitory complex, Smith said. Studies to determine other areas needing additional lighting are underway, he said.

The University also will install emergency telephone call boxes outside of each residence hall next month and in other locations in December and January.

Call boxes will be installed at several Parking Annexes, the jogging track, the Research Park, Hensel Park and near Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center.

## Father tells daughter of baby swap

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — A man said Wednesday that his 9-year-old daughter pleaded, "Daddy, I don't want to move away," after being told of a Pennsylvania couple's legal fight to prove they're her rightful and legal parents.

Robert Mays, who had been silent for months in hopes of protecting his daughter, Kimberly Michelle, stepped forward

for the first time Wednesday to reveal his identity.

He promised to fight any attempts to take her away, not only because he says his daughter is happy and does not want to move, but because he does not want to give his only daughter up to what he calls strangers.

"I wouldn't care if they traced her heritage to Cabbage Patch U.S.A., she is

my daughter," Mays said at a news conference, which was held at his attorney's office.

Regina and Ernest Twigg of Langhorne, Pa., claim the girl was born to them but was swapped with another child soon after birth in 1978 at a Florida hospital. The girl they raised as a daughter died in August of a heart defect, which caused them to suspect foul play. It was

at this time they had a blood test run that they say proved the child was not their genetic child.

Mays, 43, said he told his daughter of the Twigg's months-long battle to require the fourth-grader to submit to genetic blood tests to prove her who her natural parents were.

About a week ago, he said, he sat his only child down and told her, "We live in America and we are free and we do have a right to make allegations," which are then processed through the courts. At one point, she grew wide-eyed, he said of the young girl.

"She wanted to know if it meant she would have to go live with these people," he said. "She said 'Daddy, I don't want to move away.'"

Mays, who has refused to allow genetic test and said he is certain he took his own daughter home from the hospital, assured her nothing would change as far as he was concerned.

"She's confident Daddy's taking care of the situation," he said of his only child. "She is intelligent. I thought she could handle it and she did. She understood as well as any 9-year-old child would in a situation as completely devastating as this one."

Kimberly, who has blond hair and blue eyes, looks like her mother and aunt and has some of the same characteristics and mannerisms, he said.

Mays has been raising Kimberly alone since his first wife died of cancer in 1981. He is divorced from his second wife.

Mays' name has been known to the news media but had been voluntarily withheld to protect the child, not himself he said.

Mays said he has remained silent to protect his daughter, a happy, healthy well-adjusted child, and to ward off any disruption in her life. But he said he feared that she would be told by someone else who might frighten her or cause her mental anguish.

Mays said he also had hoped the Twigg's might abandon their fight, but the couple has pressed on.

The Twigg's have said their daughter, a healthy girl, was switched in a baby-selling scheme at Hardee Memorial Hospital in Wauchula for a sickly child. Hospital workers then altered records to hide the swap, they allege.

Kimberly was born at the same hospital in late 1978, at about the same time as the daughter the Twigg's raised, Arlena. The couple said genetic tests this summer proved Arlena was not their biological daughter.

The Twigg's filed a \$100 million suit against the hospital and some of its employees and persuaded the FBI to investigate. The FBI failed to find sufficient evidence that federal law had been violated.

Mays said the Twigg's have presented no evidence to show Kimberly could be their daughter. And even if genetic tests supported their claim, Mays said he would not surrender her regardless of what means the Twigg's went to. "I would fight to the ends of the earth for her."

## Sheriff claims assassin hired to kill Hefner

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt allegedly offered a hitman \$1 million to kill Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner, Frank Sinatra, publisher Walter Annenberg and Penthouse publisher Bob Guccione, it was reported Wednesday.

The \$1 million was never paid, however, and the purported hitman, Mitchell WerBell, has since died of a heart attack, KNBC-TV news reported.

"Larry Flynt one evening called an individual by the name of WerBell to his home and allegedly offered him \$1 million if he would arrange for the death of these four individuals," Sheriff Sherman Block said to KNBC.

Sheriff's officials did not immediately release the names of all the individuals purportedly targeted in the alleged murder solicitation, but KNBC reported that

they were Annenberg, Guccione and Sinatra.

The station then displayed a photocopy of a \$1 million check allegedly signed by Flynt, made out to WerBell.

"He did in fact give WerBell a \$1 million check, which, immediately upon leaving, we were told, that Flynt's business manager stopped payment on that check so it never was negotiated," the sheriff of Los Angeles County said in the broadcast interview.

The alleged hitman, who reportedly described himself as a soldier of fortune and founder of a paramilitary organization, died a short time later at UCLA Medical Center, KNBC said.

There was no immediate report on whether any charges or investigation were pending against Flynt. No charges have been filed.

## Dorm constructions still causes closing of streets

Dormitory modules are still being delivered, causing Houston and Hogg streets to remain closed intermittently until the end of next week.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Traffic and Transit, said the construction workers are delivering the modules as quickly as possible.

"Right now, we're having to store the

modules on Hogg Street, and we've had to partially block Houston Street during the delivery," Williams said. "But the deliveries are on schedule, and we'd like to reopen the streets as soon as we can."

Williams said delivery of modules for south side dormitory construction will begin as soon as Northside delivery is complete. He said Mosher Lane will be

closed for parking at that time.

"The modules will come in from Jersey Street," Williams said. "We'll have to block off some of the parking in the area during that time. We weren't supposed to keep Mosher Lane open for parking this semester, but we've kept it open as long as we possibly could. That area will be only a loading area for the halls."

## Climate plays indirect role in social, political changes

Conference continues for 3 days

By Sharon Maberry  
Staff Writer

Climate plays an indirect and subordinate role in social and political changes throughout history, a University of Texas professor said Wednesday as part of a Texas A&M conference to determine a single driving force of history.

Liberal arts professor Karl W. Butzer told A&M students and participants at the conference titled, "What is the Engine of History?" that although climate does affect historical changes, it is not the dominating factor.

Climate affects plant and animal productivity through such factors as growing seasons, Butzer said.

In the late Middle Ages, 40,000 European settlements out of 170,000 were abandoned as a result of short growing seasons, cooler winters and heavy rains causing soils to lose a significant amount of nitrogen.

Butzer also cited the extinction of settlements in Greenland in the 14th century due, in part, to shorter and wetter summers and sharply colder offshore waters causing a decrease of contact with Europe.

Extinction occurred because people continued to practice agricultural and hunting strategies from hundreds of years earlier when the climate was dramatically different.

Society did not keep pace with climatic changes, he said.

A famine in the early 1800s in the Upper Rhine Valley, including France, Germany and Switzerland, set into motion a

massive immigration to the New World, Butzer said.

"You can't minimize the role of climate-produced famine," he said.

"Such stress didn't affect political structures, just social changes," Butzer said.

In the long run, however, climate is a minor factor in economic and demographic factors, he said.

Climatic changes play a part in history, but do not function as a real engine of history because of the relationship rural societies have with food resources.

Throughout history, the rural population has had methods of reducing famine stress through diversification of crops, Butzer said.

Farmers plant crops in different sea-

sons and crops that can survive under different climatic factors.

Another factor combating famine's effects on populations is food storage facilities, including protection of grain from rodents and mold and pasteurizing milk, he said.

Another factor reducing famine stress has been a network of social and economic contacts that redistributed food in communities during crises, he said.

Other strategies mitigating the impact of food stress throughout history have included consumption of food not normally eaten (like horses, rodents and wild plants), the sale of material goods and property (sometimes including children) and increasing mobility of families to search for food, Butzer said.

## Additional sessions planned at conference

Other sessions that will take place are as follows:

- **Environmental and Geographic Engines** held today at 9 a.m. in 206 MSC.
- **Demographic Engines** held today at 2 p.m. in 206 MSC.
- **University Lecture** held today at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms A and B of Clayton Williams Alumni Center.
- **Technological and Economic Engines** to be held Friday at 8:30 a.m. in 206 MSC.
- **Social and Political Engines** to be held Friday at 2 p.m. in 206 MSC.
- **Intellectual and Cultural Engines** to be held Saturday at 9 a.m. in 206 MSC.

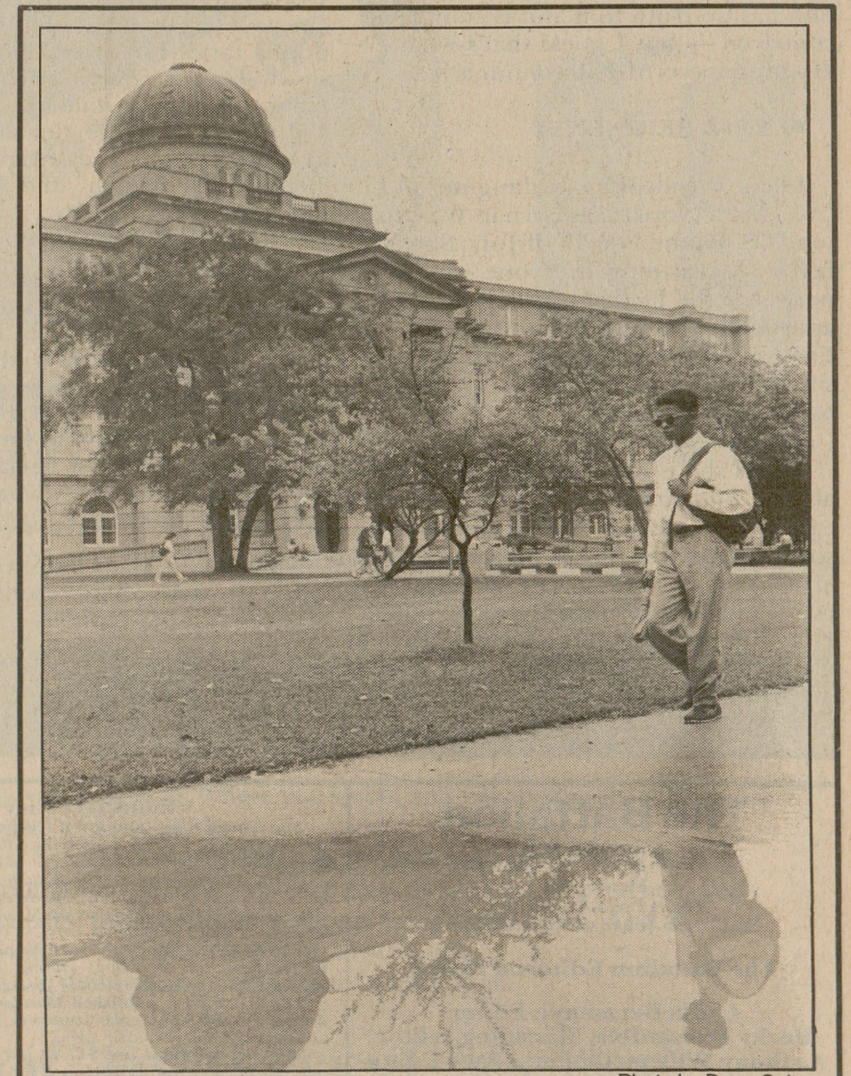


Photo by Dean Saito

## Reflections

The Academic Building and a passerby are reflected in a puddle after Wednesday afternoon's showers. There was .11 inches of rain received yesterday, and it is expected to continue through Friday, clearing up on Saturday.