

Opposition supporters occupy city halls in state of Michoacan

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Supporters of the opposition Democratic Front were occupying city halls in the state of Michoacan on Sunday, demanding the resignation of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party's governor, state officials said.

Opposition supporters entered 19 city halls Saturday afternoon to demand Gov. Luis Martinez Villicana's dismissal, according to a statement released by the state government.

The newspaper quoted Razo Amezcua as saying the seizures had nothing to do with the Dec. 1 inauguration of President-elect Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Salinas was the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party's victorious candidate in disputed elections on July 6; the runner-up, Democratic Front candidate Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, did well in Michoacan.

An official in the Michoacan state press office said the city halls were seized by members of the Authentic Revolutionary Party, part of the Democratic Front coalition. The official, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition his name be withheld, said there had been no violence.

"We don't want to fall into their trap," said the official, speaking by telephone from Morelia, the state capital about 130 miles west of Mexico City. "We are negotiating with them, even bringing them food."

The official said that the municipal buildings seized were all in small towns and that most of the occupying groups were also small. He said only 10 people were at the city hall in Tocumba but about 800 had occupied the building at Zacapu.

Police in Tocumba and Jiquilpan said that their city halls were not occupied Sunday afternoon, but that crowds were gathered outside. The state official in Morelia said that several attempted occupations had failed.

"State authorities will not and cannot accept this insane pressure, nor any other provocation," state government secretary Genevevo Figueroa Zamudio said in a statement.

Figueroa Zamudio accused opposition supporters of letting prisoners out of some city jails and said that he thought the seizures were only the first of a series of provocations planned by the opposition in the next few days.

What the opposition wants, said

Figueroa Zamudio, is to provoke a vigorous response from authorities that could be painted as repressive, thus making themselves martyrs and victims.

"That they will not get," the statement said.

Opposition senator Cristobal Arias said the only objective of the protests was to achieve Martinez Villicana's dismissal, according to the Mexico City newspaper *La Jornada*.

Bush chooses top advisers with history of friendship

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — George Bush's top advisers are mostly longtime friends and loyalists whom he trusted for strategy during his campaign and to whom he now turns for advice as president-elect.

But on Monday, Bush will have to reach beyond this inner circle to try to forge a working relationship with a former political rival, Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas.

The meeting could be an early test of Bush's ability to work with those outside his core of associates in dealing with Congress.

The two are to meet for lunch in Bush's vice presidential office in Ex-

ecutive Office Building next to the White House. Bush was returning to Washington Sunday after spending a four-day Thanksgiving vacation in Maine.

There is one new face in Bush's inner circle — New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu, who will be White House chief-of-staff. Otherwise, Bush's closest associates are for the most part those who advised him during the campaign — James A. Baker III, Nicholas Brady, Lee Atwater, Robert Teeter and Robert Mosbacher.

Some members of Bush's inner circle have already been rewarded for their loyalty with Cabinet posts,

including Baker, who will be secretary of state.

Bush prides himself on the loyalty he showed as vice president for eight years to President Reagan, and he clearly values the trait in others.

Baker, 58, is one of Bush's best friends. The friendship goes back more than two decades to when they forged a social and political alliance in Houston — Baker, a lawyer, and Bush, then an oil man.

Another longtime Bush friend already holding a Cabinet post is Treasury Secretary Brady — whom Reagan chose in August to fill the vacancy created when Baker resigned to oversee Bush's general election campaign.

OPEC agreement thrown into peril by price dispute

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A new OPEC accord to limit production appeared to be unraveling Sunday after Saudi Arabia pressed for a \$15-a-barrel benchmark price, \$3 less than the cartel's official level, officials said.

"Iran is not going to accept this type of idea," said F. Barkeshli, a senior Iranian delegate to the winter conference of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

The proposal, he said, "can totally sabotage the agreement."

He said Algeria, Nigeria and Libya also opposed changing the \$18 benchmark. Barkeshli said he met for two hours Sunday with OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria, but said afterward: "I am very pessimistic."

Iran's oil minister, Gholamreza Aghazadeh, announced in Tehran earlier Sunday that he would accept the deal to cut the cartel's output and drive up prices.

But Barkeshli said Aghazadeh agreed to a preliminary draft that would retain OPEC's \$18 benchmark.

The announcement last week that the ministers tentatively reached a new output pact sent prices higher. Brent North Sea crude rose \$1.65 a barrel to close Friday at \$14.42.

Prices have been running \$4 or more below the \$18 target due to a world oil glut.

Each \$1 rise in the price of crude oil theoretically means an increase of 2.5 cents a gallon in retail gasoline prices, although oil companies do not always pass along the full increase.

The agreement, which would set member quotas, would cut OPEC production from the current estimated 22.5 million barrels a day to 18.5 million barrels a day in the first half of next year.

Barkeshli told reporters that Saudi Arabia made two proposals Sunday morning.

The Iranian delegate said one would set a target price at \$15 a barrel and the other would set a price band ranging from \$15 to \$18. This, he said, "is a major divergence from OPEC resolutions so far."

"We're not going to concede to any new elements whatsoever," he said.

Barkeshli said the plan worked out with Aghazadeh "did not have anything like \$15" and that the Iranian Cabinet approved the original draft with the \$18 reference price.

Aghazadeh left Vienna Friday to try to sell the package to his government. Barkeshli said Aghazadeh will not return to Vienna.

The OPEC ministers were scheduled to resume their formal discussions Sunday but no time was announced.



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