

35 nations adopt new human rights accord

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — NATO, the Warsaw Pact and 12 other European nations Sunday wound up more than two years of hard bargaining by adopting a human rights and security agreement hailed as historic by both superpowers.

Romania, however, immediately served notice it would not implement some provisions intended to enhance freedom for millions in the Soviet bloc.

A text of Romania's statement, which was made in a closed-door meeting and distributed later by its state news agency Agerpres, said Bucharest "takes no pledge" to stick to commitments on greater religious freedom and emigration.

U.S. Ambassador Warren Zimmermann dismissed the statement as "illegal" and "absurd."

"We simply don't take seriously the Romanian view that they're at liberty to implement our document selectively," he told reporters. "They will pay a price for it if they try."

In Czechoslovakia, meanwhile, riot police used water cannons, batons and dogs to break up crowds of almost 2,000 people at a banned in-

dependent rally just an hour after the accord was adopted.

The document, adopted by consensus of the 35 nations who signed the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, paves the way for new NATO-Warsaw Pact talks in March on reducing conventional forces across Europe.

Secretary of State George Shultz, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and their colleagues from 33 other nations are expected to discuss preparations for the new arms control talks when they meet in Vienna on Tuesday.

The Vienna accord lays down greater freedom for East bloc citizens to practice religion, travel or emigrate to the West; obtain and distribute information; and form groups to monitor government compliance with human rights agreements.

For the first time, the accord also gives Western and neutral governments the right to raise human rights issues with East bloc nations at any time.

"It's an excellent document, one that can play a historic role in the development of the Helsinki process," Zimmermann said.

The 1975 Helsinki Final Act signed by the superpowers, Canada and all European nations except Albania gave Moscow the recognition it long sought of the post-1945 division of Europe.

But it also put human rights firmly on the East-West agenda, where they have played an increasingly important role.

Western and East bloc diplomats were unanimous that Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union and willingness to disarm contributed to the advances made at Vienna.

One of the biggest sticking points of the 27-month conference was a human rights conference in Moscow, scheduled for 1991.

The release of more than 600 political prisoners, reunification of more than 100 divided families and a nine-year high in Jewish emigration persuaded the United States and Britain to agree this month to go to Moscow.

Soviet Ambassador Yuri Kashlev said the agreement to hold the Moscow conference constituted "international recognition of the policies pursued by Gorbachev."

Texas could get chance to rewrite abortion laws

AUSTIN (AP) — If the U.S. Supreme Court gives Texas lawmakers the chance to rewrite the state's abortion statutes, the current legislature would outlaw the practice, say activists on both sides of the issue.

The Supreme Court agreed last week to revisit the Roe vs. Wade case, a Dallas lawsuit that led to the landmark ruling establishing a woman's right to abortion.

Before the Roe vs. Wade case challenged Texas' abortion law in 1973, the statute was known as one of the toughest in the United States. It remained virtually unchanged since it went on the books in 1854 and permitted abortion only when a woman's life was endangered.

The Supreme Court's decision on the abortion matter is not expected until summer or fall, after the 71st Legislature adjourns.

But activists say if the Supreme Court sent the issue back to the states, most of the Texas lawmakers in office would ban abortion as long as there were exceptions for rape and incest or to save the woman's life.

"I think we'd put it back on the book," Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Kubiak, an abortion opponent, said his interest is due partly to his adopted children.

Phyllis Dunham, executive director of the Texas Abortion Rights Ac-

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tion League, said the group has a "tremendous fight" on its hands.

"We probably have nine to 11 pro-choice votes in the Senate (among 31 members), maybe 40 to 50 votes in the (150-member) House," Dunham said. "Draw your own conclusions. It looks grim."

Bill Price, director of the Texas Coalition for Life, said a major obstacle to passage of an anti-abortion law is Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, who has the power to keep such legislation from coming up for a vote.

Hobby, a Democrat first elected in 1972, is considered no friend of the anti-abortion movement and is blamed by Price and others for preventing several previous attempts to restrict abortion.

Hobby will leave office in 1990. That, along with the timing of the Supreme Court's decision, make the 1990 elections important to activists on both sides of the issue.

"We will for the first time since Roe vs. Wade have a new lieutenant governor," Price said. "That means we may have the first chance to pass an anti-abortion law since 1854."

Dunham said for abortion rights advocates, the 1990 elections are a chance to choose lawmakers that more accurately mirror public sentiment about abortion.

"As far as the Texas Legislature is concerned, in their attitudes toward abortion they are much more conservative — anti-abortion — than their constituents," she said. "The vast majority of them are Anglo males from affluent backgrounds who may not be able to understand the drastic effect limiting access to abortion has on women's lives."

Although a major legislative battle over abortion is not expected for at least two years, opponents and supporters of legalized abortion are planning to officially unveil their 1989 legislative packages later this week, to coincide with the 16th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision Jan. 22.

Organization boycotts A&M on MLK day

By Holly Beeson
Reporter

Members of the off-campus organization Medicine Tribe will hold Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday protesting the fact that students are being held at Texas A&M on the federal holiday.

This day of remembrance of the civil rights leader who was assassinated in 1968, the mail won't be delivered and banks won't be open. Medicine Tribe believes students should likewise observe the day and cancel classes.

"Students deserve to have a day off to think about Martin Luther King," Kalahar says.

The organization will be on campus today reminding students of King's birthday. They will also be passing out special coupons from Brazos Landing encouraging students to eat off campus.

"The protest will be more like an economic boycott," Kalahar says.

He says they will be asking students not to spend any money on campus.

"With support and momentum we can make a difference," he says.

Medicine Tribe was founded in the summer of 1988 by A&M students Derek Kalahar and Todd Honeycutt with the intent to increase awareness of various issues.

"We're an activist organization," Kalahar, a sophomore psychology major, said. "We deal with a variety of social issues."

Train crash kills more than 100 pilgrims

MAIZDI KHAN, Bangladesh (AP) — A fast-moving train carrying pilgrims to a religious festival crashed head-on into a mail train Sunday, killing at least 110 people in Bangladesh's worst railroad accident, officials said.

As many as 1,000 people were injured, including 100 hospitalized in critical condition, they said.

"Oh, God! Give brother back!" wailed 25-year-old Sunil Daniel, beating his chest and sobbing for his brother Susanta, who was killed.

He was among thousands of anguished people who thronged fields near the wreckage of four derailed cars.

Police tried to keep relatives and friends from trying to find loved ones among rows of

bodies laid alongside the track in central Bangladesh.

"Hundreds of bodies were lined up on both sides of the two shattered trains," said Syed Sirajul Huq, a businessman from Chittagong who suffered minor injuries in the crash.

Communications Secretary Manzurul Karim estimated at least 2,000 people were traveling on the trains.

It was difficult to be exact because many people were riding on roofs of the trains and between cars, he said.

Government officials immediately appointed a commission to investigate the crash. Some railway officials said operators may not have known how to work a signaling system installed on Tuesday.

"Human failure and wrong signaling may have caused the two trains to come on the same track, leading to the collision," a senior railway official said on condition of anonymity.

The express train, headed for the southern port city of Chittagong, and the Dhaka-bound mail slammed into each other outside Maizdi Khan village.

"I saw coaches flying up to 15 feet as the collision occurred," said one soldier, who did not want to be named. "It was a terrible scene with hundreds of passengers — men, women and children — shouting for help."

He was with 250 soldiers holding winter exercises nearby who arrived within moments of the accident to rescue those trapped inside the wreckage.

Bush advisers focus on changes in USSR

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Bush's foreign policy team plans a sweeping review of U.S. strategic interests to key on changes in the Soviet Union and cope with economic competition from other countries, according to top aides.

Bush has said that such a review would delay the resumption of arms talks with the Soviets from their scheduled resumption on Feb. 15. And the review is expected to change the Pentagon budget that President Reagan sent to Capitol Hill this month.

Senior Bush aides, interviewed on

condition of anonymity, said the goal is not a radical shift in U.S.-Soviet relations or in American strategic forces.

Rather, the new administration wants to "do some long-range planning, to sort of look out ahead, to hypothesize the kind of world that we would like to see, and then to look at the kind of forces that are at work for or against that kind of world," said one man who has been named to a senior post.

The new administration also plans to seek a diplomatic solution in Central America, said a second senior

foreign policy adviser to Bush. If the diplomatic effort fails to bring greater democracy to Nicaragua,

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gua and end the leftist insurgency against U.S.-backed El Salvador, then the Bush administration might

ask Congress to resume military aid to the Contra guerrillas, who have been fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

In the Middle East, the administration also will be seeking to determine whether an international peace conference is possible in the wake of statements by Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat that he opposes the use of terrorism, said an aide.

U.S.-Soviet relations likely will occupy center stage early in the new administration. Bush has said that the reform policies of Soviet Presi-

dent Mikhail S. Gorbachev present new opportunities for the United States, but that the Kremlin leader has not changed the basic nature of the communist state.

"I am impressed with what Mr. Gorbachev says and I really think he wants better relations," Bush said in a recent television interview.

The improved climate in U.S.-Soviet relations under Reagan and Gorbachev has started to change the shape of the world, said one Bush aide.



MLK remembered

Claudette Arnold of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church Choir sings during the fourth annual Gos-

pelfest in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The event was held Saturday at Lincoln Park.

Photo by Jay Janner

Texas expects to receive nod for super collider by Friday

DALLAS (AP) — Texas could get the final nod as site for the superconducting super collider project as early as Monday, but officials say the confirmation definitely will be made by Friday when the Reagan administration leaves office.

A final, 10,000-page environmental impact statement officially was noted in the Federal Registry, Energy Department spokesman Jeff Sherwood said.

U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington in November named Ellis County as site for the approximately \$5 billion dollar atom smasher project, pending the outcome of the environmental impact study. The 30-day waiting period is permitted for public commentary on the study.

Texas passed a bond proposal in 1987 promising to kick in \$1 billion

to help cover such costs as building the super collider lab, electrical utility capacity and for higher education and physics research projects.

The 53-mile oval-shaped super collider underground tunnel project will yield about 4,000 construction jobs, some 3,500 permanent jobs, prestige in the scientific community and spinoffs for transportation, medicine, communications and defense.

The Reagan administration is recommending \$250 million be spent on the project in the 1990 fiscal year. Some \$90 million of that appropriation would be spent on research and development while the remaining \$160 million would pay for initial construction of the project.

"If approved by Congress, this will get us off to a strong start on building the superconducting super

collider," Sen. Phil Gramm said.

The congressman whose district includes much of the supercollider site, Joe Barton, said he was pleased to see the proposed allocation in the Reagan budget.

The Ennis Republican said he would lobby for even more first-year funding of the project.

Still, politicians in the six states passed over for the project — including Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina and Tennessee — are seeking independent confirmation that the site selection was done purely on scientific merits.

"The Texas decision has a strong smell of White House politics," Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., said at the time of the November announcement.