

Soviets choose candidates in election for parliament

MOSCOW (AP) — For the first time in more than 70 years, Soviets had a choice of candidates when they voted Sunday for a new parliament in an election Mikhail S. Gorbachev hailed as a triumph for his vision of democracy.

However, maverick candidate Boris N. Yeltsin, running to represent Moscow in the new 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies, claimed many Soviets are worried about vote fraud and said the election was not completely democratic.

Polling stations in Moscow, festooned with red banners and Soviet flags, opened at 7 a.m. Eleven time zones to the east, in the Kamchatka and Chukotka regions of Siberia, polls closed as Muscovites were still voting.

The millions of voters elected 1,500 deputies to the congress, which later will choose the country's president and elect about 400 of its members to a new full-time legislature, the Supreme Soviet.

The Communist Party, labor unions and other officially sanctioned organizations already have directly elected 750 members of the congress, which will meet once a year.

Hundreds of races were contested for the first time in more than seven decades. The election marked a revolutionary change in Soviet politics, where the party has allowed only one approved candidate to run for each seat since the days of Vladimir I. Lenin.

The official Tass news agency reported brisk to heavy voter turnout nationwide. At one precinct in Moscow's Krasnopresnenskaya district, 84 percent of those eligible cast ballots, according to a Soviet television report.

Final results may not be known for several days. An informal sample of voters in Moscow showed 80 percent of more than 2,000 people questioned as they left polling places said they voted for Yeltsin, but no scientific exit polls were taken by the official media.

Yeltsin campaigned against the privileges afforded high Soviet officials and called for speeding the pace of reform to improve living standards for all.

Gorbachev is already assured of a seat in the new congress, and the elections are unlikely to produce any major upheaval in the present power structure, which is dominated by the Communist Party.

The last elections in which most Russians had a choice occurred weeks after the November 1917 revolution that swept Lenin and the Bolsheviks to power.

In June 1987, two or more candidates competed in 1 percent of the races for municipal offices in what amounted to a test for greater democratization.

But Sunday marked the first such balloting on a nationwide scale. In 74 percent of the districts, there were two or more competing candidates, the Central Election Commission said.

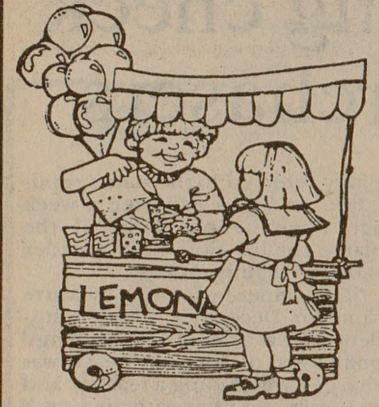
However, according to the weekly Moscow News, 82 percent of those running in Sunday's races are Communist Party members, guaranteeing the country's ruling political party will dominate whatever assembly emerges from the voting.

Gorbachev, who with his wife Raisa voted at Moscow's Institute of Chemical Physics, told reporters the occasionally boisterous campaign caused by the multi-candidate election was just what the Kremlin leadership wanted.

"The electoral law that we passed has justified our hopes," Gorbachev said, as Mrs. Gorbachev, holding a blue umbrella, stood beside him under a light rain. "It has advanced the political thought and social activity of the people, and this is what we wanted to achieve."

The president said his policies of pressing for more democracy and openness in Soviet society, while not permitting any legal opposition to the Communist Party, are "the key to opening the potential of our socialist society, with the purpose of taking into account the various interests of people."

WANTED: Enterprising Self-Starters



When business starts booming it's time to think about expanding your operation. Advertising in the Classifieds for the right person to fill the job not only makes good sense, it nets results!

When you have an item to sell, a message to get across, a product to buy, a service to advertise...enterprising people use our Classifieds for fast, economical and effective results!

CALL 845-2611
The Battalion

SALE Contact Lenses Limited Time Offer
Only Quality Name Brands
(Bausch & Lomb, Ciba, Barnes-Hinds-Hydrocurve)

\$79.00 pr.-STD. DAILY WEAR SOFT LENSES

\$69.00 ~~\$99.00~~ pr.-STD. FLEXIBLE WEAR SOFT LENSES

\$99.00 pr.-STD. TINTED SOFT LENSES Daily Wear or Extended Wear

Sale ends March 31, 1989 and applies to clear standard Bausch & Lomb lenses of limited power

Call 696-3754 for Appointment

Charles C. Schroepel, O.D., P.C.
Doctor of Optometry

707 South Texas Ave., Suite 101D
College Station, Texas 77840
1 block South of Texas & University

* Eye exam & care kit not included

SALE Bridal Gowns
ONE WEEK ONLY
Monday, March 27th thru Saturday April 1st.
Take an additional 15% off of the sale price of selected in-stock bridal gowns.

Use The American Express Card on a purchase of \$75.00 or more and receive an elegant solid brass picture frame. HURRY! Quantities are limited.

The Bridal Boutique 693-9358
FORMALS AND EVENING WEAR
Parkplace Plaza (Next to Winn-Dixie)
2501 Texas Ave. South College Station

Afghan city under siege by guerrillas

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Moslem guerrillas bombed Jalalabad with rockets and artillery shells Sunday, and government forces retaliated with heavy air and ground attacks, the Foreign Ministry said.

A spokesman for the Communist government said 248 guerrillas, 12 civilians and 3 soldiers were killed in the past 24 hours around Jalalabad. He said 55 others were wounded and 12 houses were destroyed.

The official Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, Pakistan, said "after a shameful defeat" U.S.-backed rebels fled their positions around the city. But the guerrilla-controlled Afghan News Agency, also monitored in Islamabad, said insurgents were successfully attacking posts flanking the embattled city to the north and south. Rebels reported no death toll after Sunday fighting.

There was no independent confirmation of either report. The government said the rebels killed at least 50 people in attacks on four civilian buses elsewhere in the country this weekend.

The last Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan Feb. 15, ending a nine-year intervention. Soon after, the Moslem guerrillas established an Afghan government-in-exile in Pakistan and focused the fighting on Jalalabad, 75 miles east of the capital.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mohammad Nabi Amani, told reporters the guerrillas pounded civilian and military areas of Jalalabad with 12,000 rockets and shells between Saturday and late Sunday.

Jalalabad had a population of about 200,000 a decade ago. With many people fleeing to neighboring Pakistan or to other parts of Afghanistan, the population now is thought to be less than 100,000.

National Briefs

Laos has first election under communist rule

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Laotians voted Sunday in the first national election since communists seized power 13 years ago. Officials called the balloting a step toward "socialist democracy" but said it would bring no policy changes.

Citizens of this impoverished Southeast Asian nation chose members of the Supreme People's Council, the highest state body. Officials said 121 candidates, about two-thirds of them Communist Party members, were running for the 79 seats.

"After the elections, there will be no political changes," acting President Phoumi Vongvichit told reporters at a polling station, dismissing foreign reports of major leadership changes.

"Policy and direction remain unchanged," said Phoumi, who turns 80 next month.

At another polling booth, 68-year-old Premier Kaysone Phomvihane boasted, "The people won't let me quit. I am still the prime minister."

Hundreds of people were lined up at polling stations at schools, temples and government offices in the capital by the time polls opened Sunday.

Many voters appeared confused. Some turned in unmarked ballots, and one 70-year-old grandmother asked a foreign reporter to mark hers. Officials said voting was not compulsory, but some citizens said they voted because they were not convinced there would be no penalty.

Man breaks record for living on heart pump

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jack Fisher broke a record Saturday as the person to live longest on an electric blood pump to help his ailing heart. More than anything, though, the 46-year-old bond salesman hopes for a transplant.

"It's not a record I want to break," he said, grinning. But he said he didn't mind being a medical pioneer. He talked while relaxing in his hospital room with his wife, Edie, 39, and four of their five daughters. The girls arrived Thursday from the family's home in Rumson, N.J., to spend the Easter weekend with their father.

Surgeons at Presbyterian-University Hospital of Pittsburgh implanted a Novacor left-ventricular assist device into a dying Fisher in an operation that ended Dec. 9. Saturday was his 107th day with the device while awaiting a transplant.

He had been diagnosed three-and-a-half years earlier with cardiomyopathy, a disease of unknown origin that damages heart muscle.

The one-and-a-half-pound, polyurethane pump was implanted behind the muscle of the front abdominal wall as a temporary means of helping the left ventricle, which does 85 percent of the heart's work.

Unlike the Jarvik and other total artificial hearts, the Novacor and other assist devices do not require removing the patient's own diseased heart. They are intended to keep people alive while awaiting transplants, although eventually a long-term device may be developed. The Novacor is the only one of the devices to be driven by electricity.

Zenith's SupersPort 286—With Modem and Free Lap-Link Software—Lets You Hook Up With Any IBM Or Mac Desktop On Campus!

ZENITH INNOVATES AGAIN™

Buy the Zenith Data Systems SupersPort 286™ with internal modem at our special student price, and get a coupon for Traveling Software's Lap-Link—a \$589 value—Free!

Lap-Link lets you transfer files between a host of laptops and desktops, including the IBM PS/2™ And Lap-Link...

- Comes in both IBM PC/DOS and Macintosh™ versions
- Installs in seconds
- Offers a split-screen design
- Transfers data at up to 115,200 baud; and
- Includes disks, documentation and universal cable.

And with the SupersPort 286—today's best selling battery-powered 286 portable—you'll enjoy high-end desktop performance anytime, anywhere. Plus an internal 2400 Baud modem, maximum battery life, and a dazzling back-lit LCD screen for superior readability.

So ask for your Zenith SupersPort 286 and FREE Lap-Link coupon today. Then hook up with any PC at school!

*Source: Dataquest, Inc.

To Get Your Free Lap-Link Coupon, Contact Your Nearby Zenith Data Systems Campus Representative Today At:

MICROCOMPUTER CENTER
Computer Sales and Supplies
Located at the MSC inside the Texas A&M Bookstore
Monday thru Friday 7:45a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Saturday 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
(409) 845-4081
Offer Ends March 31, 1989!

ZENITH data systems
THE QUALITY GOES IN BEFORE THE NAME GOES ON™

Aggie Hostel

We invite you to join 80 former students as they return to campus this summer for a week of classes and campus life

STUDENT HOST Applications for AGGIEHOSTEL '89

are now available in the FIELD OFFICE of the Association of Former Students

DEADLINE MARCH 31

Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer Co. Lap-Link is a registered trademark of Traveling Software Inc. Graphics simulate Microsoft Windows, a product of Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft Windows is included with all hard disk models of Zenith Data Systems' advanced desktop systems. Special pricing offer good only on purchases directly through Zenith Contact(s) listed above by students, faculty and staff for their own use. No other discounts apply. Limit one personal computer per individual in any 12-month period. Prices subject to change without notice. IBM PS/2 is a registered trademark of IBM Corporation. © 1989, Zenith Data Systems