

Monday, December 4, 1989

## Bush, Gorbachev end summit Both look forward to signing arms agreements in '90

MARSAXLOKK BAY, Malta (AP) — President Bush and Soviet Leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev wrapped up two days of superpower summitry on Sunday, claiming strides toward a new era of East-West peace but underscoring differences that linger at the end of a 45-year Cold War.

Both men said they would meet again next year in the United States, and expressed the hope — but not the certainty — they would be able to sign historic agreements in 1990 to cut long-range nuclear weapons and conventional forces in Europe and make progress toward a chemical weapons ban.

"We stated, both of us, that the world leaves one epoch of Cold War and enters another epoch," Gorbachev said at an unprecedented joint news conference that marked the end of two days of storm-tossed talks held aboard a Soviet luxury liner. "We are just at the very beginning of our long road to a long-lasting peaceful period."

After his first summit as president, Bush said,

"I am optimistic that as the West works patiently together and increasingly cooperates with the Soviet Union, we can realize a lasting peace and transform the East-West relationship into one of enduring cooperation."

Even so, neither man sought to gloss over differences on two topics, the Soviets' call for cuts in naval forces and American anger at the continued flow of Soviet weapons to leftist rebels in El Salvador.

Gorbachev departed Malta for Moscow, where he was convening a meeting of virtually an entirely new lineup of Warsaw Pact leaders to discuss the summit.

Bush went immediately to Belgium to meet with NATO leaders on Monday. Arriving in Brussels, he noted the "thunderous events" taking place in the Eastern bloc, and said, "Tonight we stand at the crossroads of history on a way to Europe, whole and free. . . . And that simple truth brought Mikhail Gorbachev and me together in a windswept harbor off Malta."

Windswept it was. Bush and Secretary of State

James Baker, who spent the night aboard ship in the harbor, sported penny-size patches behind their ears to guard against seasickness.

The joint news conference in Malta was held aboard the Soviet luxury liner Maxim Gorky, which was pressed into service as the site for the two days of talks after bad weather forced cancellation of plans to use U.S. and Soviet warships anchored offshore. An afternoon session and a dinner on Saturday were cancelled because of the rough weather.

The two superpower leaders met for eight hours over two days at a time of extraordinary change in Eastern Europe. The upheaval was dramatized in the summit's final hours by the resignation of the East German leadership and the formation of a new government in Czechoslovakia that opposition leaders immediately denounced as too much like the old one.

Gorbachev said he was "encouraged and inspired" by the changes in Eastern Europe.

## Elections in Mexico peaceful

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Voters in the states of Guerrero and Michoacan went to the polls Sunday to elect local officials in a tense climate marked by charges of fraud in previous elections.

Members of opposition parties said their networks of poll-watchers would guard against irregularities in either state, but some officials were worried about violence erupting in Michoacan as it did in July.

Voting began peacefully at 8 a.m. in both states under cool, rainy skies. Six parties were on the ballots in both states.

Coastal Guerrero, where the resort of Acapulco is located, elected 75 mayors and 36 state legislators.

The western state of Michoacan, which was disrupted by protests after July's state legislature balloting, elected 113 mayors. After accusing the government and ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party of cheating, leftists skirmished with PRI loyalists and took over some city halls in Michoacan.

In Michoacan, voters placed their ballots into transparent boxes Sunday. Such boxes were being used because ballot-stuffing has been a frequent occurrence in Mexican elections.

Election officials said turnout appeared to be light Sunday. In July's disputed voting, 70 percent of the state's 1.6 million voters abstained. In Guerrero, 1.3 million people were registered to vote.

In the northwestern state of Sinaloa, there were still problems after Nov. 5 local elections. Angry protesters from the conservative National Action Party are accused of burning down the city hall in the state capital of Culiacan after accusing PRI of irregularities. National Action is traditionally strong in northern states.

The attorney general's office in Sinaloa has identified 14 National Action activists, saying they participated in the city hall burning, and four of them have been arrested, news reports said Sunday.

In the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, the state election commission on Sunday declared candidates from the center-left Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution the winners in mayoral contests in the border cities of Reynosa and Matamoros.

## Aquino vows to crush rebels after sixth coup attempt fails

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Government forces battled rebel holdouts Sunday after driving off an assault on military headquarters by mutineers seeking to oust President Corazon Aquino. More than 600 rebels surrendered.

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said the government had crushed the attempted coup. Aquino ruled out a cease-fire and vowed: "What they started, we will finish."

Junior and middle-grade officers in several provincial commands declared their support for the rebellion, which began Friday. About 400 rebels maintained control of Mactan Air Base in Cebu, 350 miles south of Manila.

Aquino, facing her sixth coup attempt since coming to power four years ago, rejected suggestions by Cabinet members that she declare a "state of siege," according to assistant Press Secretary Lourdes Sytango. That would be tantamount to martial law.

At least 56 people have been killed and more than 500 wounded since Friday, according to hospital and Red Cross figures.

More than 10,000 people fled their homes to escape the fighting

**"What they started, we will finish."**

— Corazon Aquino, Philippine president

and were housed in schools, churches and other refugee centers. Many shops were closed, and garbage piled high in the streets.

Schools were closed indefinitely, but officials planned to reopen the international airport Monday.

Pro-government forces contained hundreds of rebels in an 11-building area in the financial district of Makati, where numerous foreign em-

bassies are and where many foreign diplomats and businessmen live, military Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa, said.

Government troops blocked off avenues leading to Makati. Rebels fired volleys of machine-gun fire from skyscrapers and snipers shot at vehicles. Among the buildings rebels occupied was the Intercontinental Hotel.

Loyal troops responded with recoilless rifles and heavy machine guns, causing widespread damage.

Radio station DZRH broadcast an appeal for ambulances, saying many civilians lay wounded along Makati's Pasay Road.

A spokesman for the U.S.-run Clark Air Base said there were no American warplanes in the skies over Manila on Sunday. U.S. jets began flying cover for government troops Friday, at Aquino's request. But American officials said the planes ended those flights at 6 a.m. Saturday.

## Czech leaders announce new Cabinet includes first non-Communists in years

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Communist leaders named a new government Sunday that includes non-Communists for the first time in 21 years, but it was immediately denounced because of the large number of holdovers from the last Cabinet.

Opposition leaders called for a renewal of mass street protests, and hundreds of people gathered on Prague's Wenceslas Square in the night and urged people to show up for a rally Monday, chanting "Everybody here tomorrow!"

The new government includes five non-Communists, but the other 16 members are Communists, and 13 served on the previous Cabinet. It failed to meet opposition demands for a non-Communist interior minister, who is in charge of police, and a civilian defense minister.

President Gustav Husak swore in the Cabinet and in-

dicated he may be ready to step down, as the opposition has demanded. Husak was one of the leaders installed after the crushing of reforms in 1968, and he is the last still in power.

One of the government's first acts was to propose talks with Moscow on the future of the 80,000 Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia since the Warsaw Pact invasion that crushed the reforms 21 years ago.

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the architect of the reforms sweeping Eastern Europe, recently criticized the invasion.

The Cabinet holdovers include Foreign Minister Jarmir Hohanec, criticized for defending past harsh stands on human rights, and Antonin Krumnikl, whose energy policies have been blamed for serious pollution problems.

## Report says nuclear lab lacks security

WASHINGTON (AP) — A secret inspection of a federal nuclear weapons laboratory in California found serious security lapses last spring, including poor protection of large amounts of plutonium, according to a congressional report released Sunday.

The report also said the Energy Department from 1982 through 1988 misled the president, in its annual reports to the White House, about the adequacy of measures

taken to protect weapons-grade nuclear materials from potential theft or sabotage.

The report included a declassified transcript of a closed hearing in July in which several senior Energy Department officials testified on security and safeguards weaknesses in the nuclear weapons production and design complex.

The hearing was held by the House Energy and Commerce sub-

committee on oversight and investigations.

Portions of the subcommittee's hearing transcript and department documents were deleted by the department.

The subcommittee is continuing to investigate the department's nuclear weapons facilities, which in recent months have been wracked by allegations of health, safety and environmental violations. Some key plants have been closed temporarily.

## Businesses drop employee pension plans after federal rules raise costs of benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of small businesses across the country are ditching their employee pension plans, saying federal rules make the benefit programs too costly and complex to maintain.

Employers claim congressional tinkering with a 1974 pension law has dramatically increased the paperwork, accountants and administrative personnel needed to comply with the law.

"It's impossible," said Ronald Turner, a third generation lumber company owner in Clarksburg, W.Va. "We're going to drop the plan."

Alvin D. Lurie, a former assistant commissioner for the Internal Revenue Service, says Turner is typical of small business owners who tried but failed to keep current with the ever-changing provisions of the 1974 Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

"It has become much, much too complicated," said Lurie, now chairman of the New York Bar Association's Special Committee on Pension Sim-

plification. "It's frightful. People can't afford it, don't understand it."

A San Antonio attorney who handles the pension plans for several hundred small businesses said he is advising his clients to drop them. A Santa Ana, Calif., plan administrator said about 30 percent of the small businesses she works with are terminating their programs.

But some say the business owners are simply using regulations as an excuse.

"I don't think it's that clear cut that the (congressional) revisions have led small businesses to drop their plans," a Senate Labor Committee aide said, asking that she not be further identified. "I'm skeptical because they can go into simplified plans."

Many of the employers bailing out of the federally insured pension plans are setting up profit-sharing or other programs seen as less beneficial to employees because they usually re-

quire the workers to put up some of the money.

The pension law, known as ERISA, was enacted by Congress to protect the 76 million American workers with pension plans and their \$2 trillion in pension assets. Always complex, the law saw a series of amendments over the years that proved, in some cases, expensive or frustrating for employers.

The Labor Department's inspector general's office, cautioning that the pension system is open to fraud and embezzlement, wants Congress to enact additional laws to prevent possible abuses.

"I think the people writing the laws are trying to be fair and equitable, but they don't understand what the costs mean," said Paula Calamafde, a tax lawyer and head of the Small Business Council of America.

Turner, who plans to give his employees the cash due to them from the pension fund, said he always tried to keep up with the laws.

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