

Pope uses Easter message to salute Lithuania's yearning for freedom

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In an Easter Sunday salute to man's yearning for freedom, Pope John Paul II said he hoped Lithuanians would achieve their goal of independence through "respectful and comprehensive" dialogue with Moscow.

In other Easter celebrations, Romanians and East Germans gave thanks for the freedoms won by their pro-democracy revolutions, and religious leaders called for peace and tolerance in Lebanon and Israel.

In the Soviet Ukraine, where Roman Catholicism was banned 44 years ago, Catholics in Kiev were allowed to legally perform Easter services for the first time in decades.

The pontiff spoke as Lithuanians waited to see whether Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev would carry out his threat to impose economic sanctions on the republic unless it rescinded independence-oriented actions by Sunday.

"In the name of Jesus dead and risen for all men, we ask for peace for our children in the dear Lithuania nation, while we hope that their aspirations find confirmation in a respectful and comprehensive dialogue," the pope said.

He spoke in Lithuanian after delivering his noontime Easter message from the central balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square.

Cheers went up from a crowd of 100,000 faithful and tourists in the square, where the pope earlier celebrated Easter Mass in front of St. Peter's Basilica.

Tass, the Soviet news agency, reported that a Soviet envoy received by the pope on Saturday had delivered a message from Gorbachev about the crisis in Lithuania, where four out of five

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people are Catholic.

The Vatican in March opened diplomatic relations with Moscow. Earlier this month, the Vatican's newly appointed envoy to the Soviet Union said the Holy See would be willing to mediate the Lithuanian dispute.

In his speech, John Paul gave holiday wishes in 55 languages.

In Romania, tens of thousands of worshippers sang ancient hymns in packed churches across

the nation in an emotional celebration of their first free Easter in more than four decades.

In Timisoara, where Romania's pro-democracy revolution started and where some of the worst fighting occurred, Archbishop Nicolae eulogized the martyrs of the revolution in a sermon to 2,000 people.

"After 45 years during which (Communists) tried to enslave our soul and history ... we now celebrate in freedom Holy Easter."

East and West Germans poured through their border in both directions and packed churches to give thanks for their new-found freedoms, while thousands of others took part in traditional peace protests.

Border guards waved crowds from West Berlin through the Brandenburg gate checkpoint, where churchgoers headed for Roman Catholic services at St. Hedwig's Cathedral and Lutheran services at St. Mary's Church in East Berlin.

In Lebanon, church bells vied with bursts of gunfire in east Beirut as thousands of Christians celebrated Easter and wondered whether full-scale fighting would break out again in the battle for control of their enclave.

In Israel, the Roman Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem used his Easter message to call for equality between peoples, as tension continued between Jews and Christian Arabs over a Jewish settlement in the city's Christian quarter.

Americans work longer in 1990 to reach 'Tax Freedom Day'

WASHINGTON (AP) — You won't be through with taxes for the year even if you beat the midnight Monday deadline for filing your federal return. The average American will have to work through May 5 to satisfy the tax collectors.

If that prediction by the Tax Foundation proves accurate, it will be the latest "Tax Freedom Day" on record and falls two days later than 1989.

The reason is simple, the non-partisan research organization said Sunday in announcing the mythical date: "Tax increases will outpace the growth in individuals' income during 1990."

Tax Freedom Day is the foundation's estimate of how long it would take an average person to pay his or her state, federal and local taxes if all income went for taxes until they were all paid for the year 1990.

The calculations assume that all taxes are paid by individuals, including those collected from corporations.

Until this year, the latest date was May 4, 1981, before a big tax reduction took effect. The foundation said subsequent watering down of several deductions, increases in Social Security taxes and state and local taxes, and a gradual economic slowing will have wiped out that reduction.

For the millions of couples and individuals still struggling with 1989 returns, the Internal Revenue Service announced that its toll-free telephone service would remain open late Monday night to answer technical tax questions.

The Postal Service said most post offices in cities with at least a 30,000 population planned to station clerks

at curbside to receive returns.

Neither the IRS nor the Postal Service estimated how many returns were likely to be filed Monday night. However, the IRS said it expects to receive about 23 million this week — or one of every five that will be filed this year.

About 6 million couples and individuals unable to file their returns on time were expected to receive a four-month extension by filing Form 4868 instead. The extension is automatic — but only if Form 4868 is accompanied by a check for estimated taxes owed.

Another 650,000 or so Americans abroad, including military personnel, qualified automatically for a two-month extension just by having their main business, home or duty station outside the United States and Puerto Rico.

Official says rebels may reignite war

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The return to Nicaragua of thousands of armed rebels threatens to reignite Nicaragua's civil war, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto was quoted as saying in Sunday news reports.

D'Escoto, who spoke to reporters Saturday night on a stopover in Mexico en route to Europe, said Washington would be responsible for any flareup in hostilities.

"The United States created a monster similar to the Frankenstein story, that once it's alive, nobody can stop it," D'Escoto said.

D'Escoto stopped in Mexico on his way to Paris, where he was to participate in a committee meeting with Nelson Mandela, leader of South Africa's African National Congress.

The ruling Sandinistas turn over power April 25 to Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, whose National Opposition Union trounced the ruling Sandinistas in the Feb. 25 elections.

Leaders of the Contra rebels are scheduled to meet this week with representatives of Chamorro's incoming government to negotiate a definitive cease-fire.

The Contras have been fighting the Sandinistas since 1981, and many rebel leaders have insisted they will not give up the fight until the Sandinistas give up all political and military power in Nicaragua.

The war has killed some 30,000 people since it began two years ago after the fall of Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship.

D'Escoto said the Contras, who have poured back into Nicaragua from Honduran camps, continue to attack government targets.

"After the victory of Chamorro, we wanted to have a peaceful transition on the 25th of this month, but the return of the Contras and the fact that they have not been disarmed fortells the worst," D'Escoto was quoted as saying.

"Our people should be prepared for a civil war. The Contras resist handing over their arms. They don't stop their attacks in various areas dominated by the Sandinistas," he added.

Freedom euphoria dies down Real world problems plague Czechoslovak government

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — The euphoria surrounding Vaclav Havel's fairy-tale journey from prison to the presidency is gone and Czechoslovaks are back in the real world, arguing about the economy, politics and the country's name.

In January and February, intellectuals still exulted over the end of censorship.

The playwright president in Prague Castle and his entourage of former dissidents and underground artists introduced a new morality to politics at home and abroad. They were praised from Washington to Moscow.

Then domestic worries began to take over. Czechs and Slovaks, whose winter revolution was so smooth, split on the question of whether "socialist" should be removed from their republic's formal name. The matter still is not resolved.

Government economists, facing a deadline in late April for an agreement on drastic reforms, fell out over how quickly to adopt a free market.

Political rivals of the movements that led the revolution began campaigning for the June 8 elections, the first free vote in four decades.

Havel, recovering from a hernia operation, acknowledged in a national radio address April 1 that "the time of elation and happiness, stemming from the fact that

everyone can say what they want, has come to an end. "The time has come when we will really have to do something with the freedom," he declared.

Transition from communism to democracy in Czechoslovakia and elsewhere in Eastern Europe has been sudden and makeshift, marked by ethnic problems, sharp decreases in worker output and a political shift to the right.

Czechoslovakia is better off than most. Disputes between Czechs and Slovaks have not become violent, as ethnic strife has in Romania.

The economy, while lagging behind countries Czechoslovakia outstripped 50 years ago, is not burdened by heavy debt, but hundreds of potential Western investors flocking to Prague still await laws liberalizing capital movement.

Unlike Hungary, Czechoslovakia has not even begun establishing such fundamental elements of capitalism as new banks and a stock market.

A senior economist with close ties to the government said reform is hindered by a split between Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, who wants to go all-out for capitalism, and others, including Havel, who fear the social consequences.

Havel's Civic Forum and its Slovak partner Public Against Violence lead opinion polls for the elections.

Chinatown's merchants fight for freeway

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Chinatown, normally jammed with tourists, has been suffering financially since October's earthquake smashed one of the main highways leading to the maze of crowded streets and bustling shops.

So when Mayor Art Agnos suggested the crippled Embarcadero Freeway be destroyed instead of repaired, with a new road built at ground level or underground, merchants decided they had had enough.

Activist Rose Pak of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce is leading the fight to rebuild the 1.7-mile freeway. At her urging, hundreds of Chinatown merchants planned to lock their doors Monday and show up at a Board of Supervisors meeting where the freeway's fate was expected to be decided.

Agnos argues the freeway is ugly — it blocks prime views of San Francisco Bay — and too expensive to re-

pair and reopen. His supporters on the issue include many groups who opposed it even before it opened in 1959. They

"It's a political statement that we're not a silent minority."

— Rose Pak, activist

include preservationists and urban design activists, who say the freeway sacrifices city streets and alters the character of neighborhoods.

The freeway survived a 1986 vote to spend \$10 million to tear it down. But opponents of the mayor's plan say rebuilding the damaged highway would take far less time than building a new underground

stretch, and time is the key to recovery of businesses in the nation's second-largest Chinatown.

Pak called the plan to shut down

the neighborhood's shops and cafes for a show of force as the supervisors vote on the Agnos proposal "a very basic, grass roots, humble gesture."

A longtime ally of Agnos, the outspoken Pak is steamed that the mayor has rejected the message of 10,000 people who signed pro-repair petitions.

"It's a political statement that we're not a silent minority," she said. Under Agnos' proposal, \$120 million would be spent to replace the elevated roadway with a sunken one leading into Chinatown, North Beach, Fisherman's Wharf and the rest of the waterfront. He acknowledges it could take five or six years to complete.

It would cost far less, an estimated \$32 million, to reinforce and patch up the freeway. The state Transportation Department has that amount set aside for the repair and is awaiting the city decision of whether work can begin.

One supervisor the protesters have on their side at today's meeting is Tom Hsieh, who says he is outraged by the mayor's decision.

"Some leaders have no idea of the hardship and the trauma people in that community are facing," Hsieh said. "They lost not just business, they lost employment."

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