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The Battalion WORLD & NATION

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Soviets gain new religious freedom

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet leg-islature formally ended decades of religious repression on Wednesday, passing a law on freedom of conscience at a time when Soviets are flocking to churches in record num-

"Our people suffered to get this law," said Mikhail Kulakov, a leader of the Soviet Union's Seventh Day Adventists, who have been persecuted for evangelical activities.

The law forbids the government from interfering with religious activ-ities, improves the legal status of religious organizations and gives Soviet citizens the right to study religion in homes and in private schools.

The Soviet constitution has long guaranteed freedom of worship, but in the past the Communist Party's ideological opposition to religion as

Decades of repression end, religious activity flourishes

the "opiate of the masses" made that for optimism the law will be reguarantee hollow spected.

In practice, the government discouraged religious services, closed for religion has increased since Preschurches and synagogues, impris- ident Mikhail S. Gorbachev came to oned religious leaders and preached power in 1985. Gorbachev's mother atheism.

"The most important thing for us is not only that the law is passed, but that it begins to work," Adolph Shayevich, Moscow's chief rabbi said

Peter Reddaway, an expert on So-viet religion at George Washington University in Washington, said in a telephone interview "there is reason

He noted that official tolerance is a practicing member of the Rus-sian Orthodox Church, and last year he acknowledged he was baptized as a child.

'The authorities have been loosening restrictions for a couple of years, and now they're putting it in writing," Reddaway said.

He said Western experts estimate that a quarter of the 285 million So-

viet people practice religion, a number is rising fast. Among signs of religious re are increasing numbers of sem ans and the reopening of chu that were used as storehous rages and even factories.

Three years ago, Gorbacher talks with the head of the Rue Orthodox Church, the firs meeting in more than 40 ye December, he met Pope John Pa

at the Vatican. Bibles are no longer confisca Soviet borders, holiday church ices are shown on television a

gious publications are flouris On Sunday, a Divine Litur held in the Kremlin's Uspensiv thedral, the first full service and

in Russia's most important cathe since 1918.

Fitzwater: I would expect a downward impact

Bush pushes 5 million barrels of oil onto market U.S. taps dome reserves for first time in history

CHICAGO (AP) - The White House, claiming there was "no justification" for the recent run-up in oil and gasoline prices, an-nounced Wednesday that President Bush had decided to sell 5 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The decision to tap the nation's oil reserve as announced by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

Fitzwater said the decision to put 5 million barrels on the market was a "test" and the president would take "additional steps to stabilize energy prices.

The reserve contains 590 million barrels of crude oil.

Fitzwater said Bush was taking the action to head off "those who might seek profit by sub-verting the sanctions" against Iraq.

"There is sufficient oil to meet current needs," Fitzwater said. "Oil markets have simply not taken into account additional production coming on stream.

Industry experts have estimated that production in other countries has restored about two-thirds of the 4.8 million daily barrels of oil production removed from world markets by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2 and the world embargo against Iraqi-Kuwaiti oil.

Fitzwater quoted Bush as saying there was "no justification for the intensive and unwarranted speculation in oil futures" that has driven the price to about \$39 a barrel in the United States

Fitzwater said this was the first time that the oil reserves, which have been held in salt domes along the Texas and Louisiana coasts, have been tapped for usage since they we established in 1975.

He offered no estimate of how much prewould decline as a result of the sales, but did say, "I would expect it would have a dow ward impact

"Should the oil situation deteriorate," Fu-water said, the president is "prepared to bing additional oil on the market" from the re

While insisting there is no oil shortage the United States "at this time," Fitzwaters 'this test is to make sure the system works." "Frankly, there is no way to justify" price

creases that sent oil soaring from \$24 a ban to \$39 a barrel over the past week, he said. "We need to make it clear that we do ha

oil available to put on the market," Fitzwater

Vatican issues new rules for Catholic universities

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope tecting the universities' Catholic John Paul II issued rules for the identity. world's Catholic universities Tuesday, a compromise document that instructed schools to uphold official

tors, who had protested earlier drafts that would have given bishops a say in hiring and firing of theology teachers. The final document assigns bishops a watchdog role in pro-

American officials were surprised, however, by the pope's stipulation that a majority of a university's tea-chers be Catholic — a decree Vatican doctrine but dropped proposals to give bishops wide powers. The long-awaited document pleased many U.S. Catholic educa-Archbishop Pio Laghi, head of the officials acknowledged will be diffi-

Archbishop Pio Laghi, head of the Archbishop Pio Laghi, head of the dents and teachers, paracellarly Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education, said finding a Catholic-majority faculty in nations like Japan and Indonesia might be impossible. "This should be considered a to respect, Catholic doctrine and

principle, something that should be put into effect as much as we can," he said.

The 49-page document, drawn up over 10 years and issued in the form of a constitution, upheld the right of academic freedom and indepen-dence. But it also stressed that students and teachers, particularly theologians, must not stray from of-

morals in their research and u ing," it said. American Catholic educate

complained that earlier threatened to undermine ac freedom and give the church archy too much control. Sister Alice Gallin of Washi D.C., executive director of the.



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Liz & Co. ignites fall's laid back casuals with high energy colors

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Hatchett said. He whether the Western force hold up much longer in Arabia.

He also noted Saudi Arab not like Vietnam, where sol could go to the cities for ac sion from the situation.

"There are no bar gi Riyadh," he said of Saudi Ar capital city. Hatchett predicted Ame

would grow tired of a sta and tell the government to resolve the situation or bring soldiers home

'Americans' initial respo Iraq's invasion of Kuwait) go over there and kick but said.

But as the ordeal has gor he said the United Statesh ized it can't do that yet. All do is what it said its purpo being there was — to deter tack on Saudi Arabia.

But reports by various g ment officials — authoriz not — suggest the situation handled by use of force.

Hatchett said the United has the fire power to kill a people, but it doesn't have troops necessary to push H out

Hussein, however, has m clear the two sides either tiate or go to war.

Hatchett said he favor United States' face-saving drawal and advocates no tions.

"(Negotiating) is not idea," he said. But he said press hasn't entertained the "It's like we want one las rah," he said.

Hatchett closed by spe about the possibility of war. "The cost of war is too h dous," he said.

The West needs to let the world solve its problems own terms and not force W democracy on it, he said. would allow the Arab wo achieve the unity and self-es it is seeking.