

## Yeltsin starts as president

### 'Great Russia is rising from its knees,' says elected leader

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris N. Yeltsin formally took office Wednesday as the first elected president of the Russian republic, pledging to uphold human rights and break from abuses of the past.

"For the first time in Russian history, the citizens of Russia have made their own choice," the white-haired Siberian said in his inaugural address.

The people of Russia, Yeltsin said, "chose not only an individual, not only a president, but above all they chose the path along which our motherland is to travel. It is the path of democracy. The path of reform. The path of the restoration of human dignity."

"Great Russia is rising from its knees," he said. "We certainly will turn it into a flourishing, democratic, peaceful, law-based sovereign state."

The audience in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses rose in ovation at the end of Yeltsin's 10-minute address.

In the ceremony, televised throughout Russia, the 60-year-old president recited the oath of office beneath an enormous red and blue Russian flag. Then he received congratulations from Soviet and Russian leaders.



**Boris Yeltsin** promises to uphold human rights.

Gorbachev and a blessing from the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Gorbachev congratulated Yeltsin and warmly shook his hand, a highly visible symbol of the political alliance that has developed between the two.

Yeltsin and Gorbachev once clashed repeatedly over the speed and scope of efforts to move away from a centralized Communist system.

But their relations have improved since Gorbachev agreed in April to give up Kremlin control of Russia's industrial and natural resources. Yeltsin and the leaders of nine of the other 14 Soviet republics also agreed to sign Gorbachev's proposed Union Treaty on holding the country together.

Gorbachev, in his speech, congratulated Yeltsin but dwelt largely on the need for unity.

"Let me wish you success in your activities for the people of Russia," said the Soviet president. "In this, you can be sure you will find the support of the president of the country."

At one point, Gorbachev drew mocking laughter when he garbled a sentence that should have said: "On all continents, people are following with great interest what we are doing here." Gorbachev broke the sentence in two, ending: "What are we doing here?"

He ignored laughter and whispering that continued for two minutes. Radical lawmaker Galina Starovoiteva said afterward that "the humor involuntarily used by Mikhail Sergeyevich (Gorbachev) reflected his insecurity during this transition period."

At the start of the 50-minute ceremony, Yeltsin rose from a seat near the back of the white marble palace and strode up the same aisle that he came down a year ago when he quit the Communist Party during a national congress.

## Collider plan gets millions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Wednesday to take \$75 million of the money appropriated for cleaning up the nation's atomic weapons complex and instead spend it on President Bush's \$8 billion-plus atom smasher in Texas.

Acting on an appropriations bill for the Energy Department, the Army Corps of Engineers and several other agencies, the Senate restored three-fourths of the \$100 million that the House had trimmed from Bush's \$534 million request for the Superconducting Super Collider.

The administration and Senate supporters of the 55-mile doughnut-shaped particle accelerator contended the House's cut would have delayed the scheduled 1999 completion of the project by at least 18 months and increased its costs by more than \$200 million.

To come up with the money, Senate appropriators trimmed \$108 million from the \$3.75 billion that the House wants to spend next year on cleaning up radioactive and other wastes around Energy Department atomic weapons plants in 13 states.

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, whose state includes one of the major cleanup sites, tried to get the money restored by taking an equal amount away from atomic weapons production in fiscal 1991 but was defeated by 54-43 vote.

The Super Collider survived its first major showdown in the Senate when Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., failed on a 62-37 vote earlier Wednesday to scuttle it entirely.

"This was a convincing victory," said Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas. "The vote should protect the SSC so long as it stays on schedule and on budget."

The accelerator is intended to help scientists explore the creation of matter and origin of the universe by smashing counter-rotating proton beams moving at nearly the speed of light against each other.

More than \$500 million has already been spent in the last three years on the accelerator, which is to be located near Dallas. During that time, its price has doubled from \$4 billion and some researchers expect its cost to reach more than \$11 billion before completed.

The \$22 billion bill — nearly half a billion dollars more than what the House passed in May — also includes \$33 million to launch 15 new water projects expected to eventually cost a total of more than \$300 million. Bush had requested only five new water projects.

But it also includes dramatic increases above what Bush requested and the House approved for two projects in the home states of the chairmen of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its energy and water subcommittee.

Appropriations Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., added \$50 million to the \$13 million recommended by Bush Lewis and Tug Forks Dam project in West Virginia and Kentucky.

## Bush's approval of base closings disappoints some Texas officials

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush endorsed an independent commission's recommendations Wednesday to close three military bases in Texas, forcing Fort Worth, Austin and Beeville to "make the best of this disappointing decision," lawmakers said.

Congress has 45 legislative days to either accept or reject the list of 34 bases and military labs nationwide recommended for closure, including Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, Bergstrom AFB in Austin and Chase Field Naval Air Station in Beeville.

Although Rep. Pete Geren promised to fight to keep Carswell open, he expressed little hope that Congress would overturn the list compiled by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

For Geren, D-Fort Worth, the fight will center on keeping Carswell's hospital open for the area's 120,000 military retirees, and finding a new mission for the base once it's abandoned.

"We've had a number of nibbles already," Geren said Wednesday. "One advantage we have is the location — we're in the middle of one of the best

transportation centers in the world."

Carswell, with 5,543 military and civilian workers, could be used as an industrial maintenance center, manufacturing complex, or for education, training or government purposes, Geren said, although nothing has been ruled out.



**President Bush** approves a plan to close three Texas military bases.

"I'm going to pour my energy into making the best of this disappointing decision, and trying to turn what the Air Force is going to leave behind into an asset for our community," Geren said.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, also said he was disappointed that the president "acted so quickly, without giving special consideration to the facts we raised regarding Texas bases on the hit list."

Beeville would lose 1,647 military and civilian employees.

### European Community devises plan to avert civil war

## Slovenia suspends independence drive

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) — A European-brokered plan to avert civil war in Yugoslavia received a major boost Wednesday when Slovenia's parliament voted overwhelmingly to suspend its independence drive.

Deputies approved the plan, drafted last week by the European Community, despite misgivings by some legislators that it offered no guarantees federal tanks and warplanes would not attack again. Slovenian and federal military officials exchanged threats of violence later in the day.

Violence was reported Wednesday in an entirely different area of the patchwork na-

tion, along its southern border. Yugoslav and Albanian border guards traded fire in the Serbian province of Kosovo, which is populated mainly by ethnic Albanians, Belgrade television said. The reason for the clash was not immediately known, and there were no reports of casualties.

Yugoslavia's Tanjug news agency said that the Albanians further increased the combat readiness of their army following the incident.

The strong endorsement of the peace plan — by a vote of 189-11 with seven abstentions — was significant because Slovenia had pushed further toward full se-

cession than neighboring Croatia and has been the center of battles against federal forces.

The accord already has been approved by Croatia, which like Slovenia declared independence June 25, and by Federal Premier Ante Markovic and his Cabinet. Yugoslavia's eight-member presidency still must accept the plan.

Some army troops and rebel militiamen remained in the field late Wednesday despite the pact's call for full withdrawal.

"Let us not forget we are in the Balkans, where lies and deceit are the highest moral values," Viktor Zakej, a Socialist Party deputy in Slovenia, warned the

parliament. Before the vote, Slovenia's president, Milan Kucan, told lawmakers their choice was "war or peace."

He said the agreement was "one of the steps on the long road to Slovenian independence."

The pact is the latest attempt to halt clashes between secessionist and federal forces. It calls for army units to return to their barracks and the Slovenian militia to be demobilized.

It also calls for Slovenia and Croatia to suspend independence moves for three months to permit negotiations with the central government.

## Coast Guard improves response to oil spills

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Coast Guard will station specialized oil spill cleanup equipment in the Houston-Galveston area and Corpus Christi as part of a \$14 million plan announced Wednesday to improve its response to tanker accidents.

The Texas ports were among 19 cities nationwide selected for the new spill response equipment, which is being built at a cost of \$750,000 for each location and should be in place by late next summer.

Rep. Jack Fields, R-Humble, said each site would get two oil-skimming devices capable of collecting a total of 360 gallons of crude a minute. Each site will also get two portable floating bladders, which are used to contain recovered oil, and 2,500 feet of oil containment boom, used in the water like a floating fence to corral oil so that it can be skimmed more efficiently.

"This is extremely important if a spill is close to a beach, a wetland or estuary, or

the Houston Ship Channel, which if closed costs \$1 million a day," said Fields, who included language in the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 establishing guidelines for locating the spill equipment.

One of two major spills in the Houston-Galveston last year cost the ship channel and the Port of Houston \$14 million, Fields said. The oil slick also cost the seafood industry an estimated \$40 million.

## Plan to move copter unit from Fort Hood receives OK

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — A plan to shift a helicopter attack unit from Fort Hood, Texas, to Fort Campbell has received what appears to be a nod of approval.

The proposal to move 264 military personnel, their families and 34 AH-64 Apache helicopters to serve with the 101st Airborne Division would involve long-term construction, a report said. The move could occur as early as August.

The report, prepared by the Army Engineer District at Mobile, Ala., and released Monday, indicates no environmental problems with the move, and on the economic side, anticipates

332 new jobs created in the area because of the planned unit shift.

The unit targeted for the move is the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Aviation Attack Helicopter Regiment. The idea behind the move is to bring the 101st Airborne Division's aviation brigade up to full combat strength.

The division is authorized four attack helicopter battalions, three in the active force and one in the reserves, according to the report.

Maj. Ed Gribbins, post public affairs officer, said the Army will wait and "gauge public opinion" before making a final decision on the move.

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