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Who Is This Man?

- A. Rode across Asia on a tricycle.
- B. First magician to successfully saw a woman in half.
- C. Winner of 1886 Ulysses S. Grant look-alike contest.
- D. Developed rotary dial telephone and automatic switchboard.



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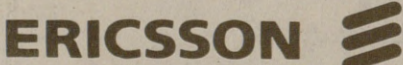
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Gorbachev says he won't serve a divided U.S.S.R.; seventh Soviet republic secedes

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail S. Gorbachev threatened on Tuesday to resign unless some form of Soviet unity is preserved. But even as he spoke, a seventh republic spun off from the center and celebrated its independence.

The Soviet president, who only a week ago was a prisoner of the hard-line coup plotters who briefly toppled him, made a forceful and impassioned plea to the national legislature to maintain the country's cohesion or risk disaster.

Raising his voice at times to be heard over the clamor, Gorbachev said the Soviet Union stood "on the point of collapsing" and warned: "If it does, it would be a catastrophe."

Although he staked his political future on some form of union, the Soviet president left open the prospect of some new and looser confederation, acknowledging that the face of the nation had already changed irrevocably.

Gorbachev emphasized the need for a common defense and continued economic ties. In line with that, he agreed earlier Tuesday to begin negotiations on an economic cooperation agreement that would be acceptable to all 15 republics, even those intent on independence.

In the ninth day of an extraordinary upheaval that has seen Gorbachev's ouster and reinstatement, the ascendancy of Russian president Boris Yeltsin and the disintegration of the once-mighty Communist Party, there were these developments:

—Moldavia, which borders Romania, declared independence, the fifth republic to do so since the coup and the seventh overall. "It's a happy day," said President Mircea Snegur. In the Moldavian capital, Kishinev, crowds waved the republic's red-yellow-and-blue flags after its Parliament adopted the independence declaration.

—The European Community formally recognized the independence of the three Baltic states, joining a growing list of foreign governments granting diplomatic recognition to the republics or saying they would do so soon.

—In a sign of the Kremlin's rapidly loosening grip on the Baltics, the new Soviet defense minister, Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, said Lithuanian youths drafted into the Soviet army can go home. Shaposhnikov also told Lithuanian lawmakers the infamous "black

beret" troops blamed for bloody attacks would be withdrawn from the Baltics.

—Robert Strauss, the new U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, strongly hinted President Bush may extend diplomatic recognition on Friday to the Baltics. He said Bush "probably will have something significant to say" about the matter that day.

—The Tass news agency said the surviving coup leaders could face the death penalty on charges of high treason. One of the conspirators, former Interior Minister Pugo, was found dead after the coup collapsed, but it was not certain whether he committed suicide or was slain.

—Since the abortive coup, Yeltsin, Russian Federation president who ran opposition to the hard-line takeover, emerged as Gorbachev's partner in government — perhaps the senior partner.

Gorbachev, speaking to the lawmakers, said Yeltsin agreed with him on the need for some form of unity among the republics that cannot be preserved, he said he would leave the question to Parliament "and leave." But the resignation threat didn't have

Federal Government approved sales

U.S. companies sold high-technology goods to countries known to support terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government has approved the sale of more than \$300 million in high-technology items to Iran and Syria in recent years, even though it says those countries support terrorism, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The Commerce Department used loopholes in federal regulations to legally approve the exports, some of which had potential military use.

From late 1987 through September 1990, U.S. companies got government permission to ship computers, aircraft parts, navigational, radar and communications equipment to Iran and Syria, according to the

Commerce Department documents.

One of the licenses, granted in July 1990, allowed a major U.S. computer maker to sell \$3.9 million worth of equipment to Iran's Interior Ministry. The license said the computers "will be used for accounting and payroll applications and ... to perform a national census project."

Other licenses allowed sales to the Syrian Atomic Energy Commission of U.S. computers, oscilloscopes and film processing chemicals.

Oscilloscopes display electrical waves on fluorescent screens. Experts say they can potentially

be used to develop missile guidance systems and to process data from nuclear weapons tests.

Federal law bans the sale of sensitive U.S. technology to Iran and Syria because they are on the State Department's list of countries that support international terrorism. Government officials are supposed to "presume denial" of such exports — but there are exceptions.

One recognizes the "sanctity" of previous contracts, which the Commerce Department said it used to approve a range of high-tech exports.

The U.S. exporters to Iran and Syria included major computer

makers, oil drilling companies, medical equipment suppliers, other technology firms, the Commerce Department documents show.

The documents were provided to The AP on condition that individual company names not be used.

The AP asked Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, to examine the documents. The Washington-based project is funded by the University of Wisconsin.

Milhollin and his associates who are experts on dual-use technologies, identified the items on the list that had both civilian

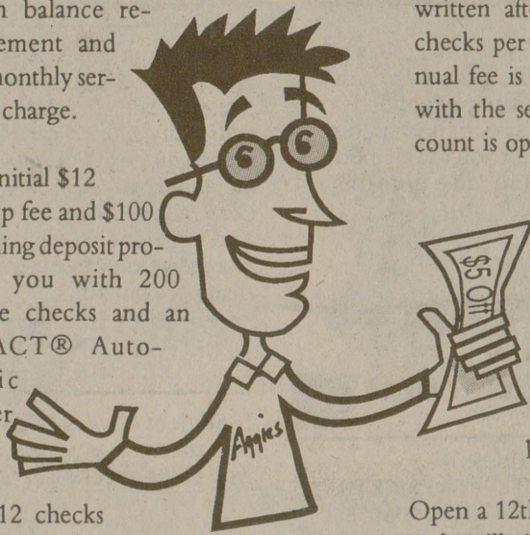
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