World & Nation

Monday, September 2, 1991

Soviet leader will continue to push reforms

President Bush, Cabinet launch

ber, the White House will try to build pressure on Congress to act on a series of stalled domestic ini-

tiatives, from school reforms and a

crime package to a national energy strategy and a \$105 billion high-way bill.

how best to get congressional ac-

tion on some of our programs,'

Bush said after the first of two re-

cent strategy sessions with domes-

tic advisers at his summer home

up to frustration at their failure to get much of this legislation passed

"Congress, contrary to their rhetoric, doesn't seem to have the

Bush and his lieutenants own

'We're really looking forward to the fall ... trying to figure out

efforts for educational reforms

Gorbachev gives Baltics autonomy

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail S. Corbachev on Sunday promised independence of the Baltic republics, but said he would not reign or retreat from the battle to maintain the

wiet Union as a country.

If independence "is the final wish and inmition of the people" of the Baltics, "then I hink we must agree to it," Gorbachev said in interview on Soviet television and the Cable

"I will not resign now," he said. "That would be immoral."

Gorbachev's statement on the Baltics met ith joy in Lithuania.

"I am glad that he has said this. This is the eginning of a new period in history," Lithua-ian President Vytautas Landsbergis told an esimated 20,000 people at a victory rally in Vil-

"Now there must be concrete talks on the withdrawal of Soviet troops," added Landsbergs, holding a bouquet of pink roses and white

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boolc neral Gorbachev spoke after meeting for 75 min-tes in the Kremlin with British Prime Minister ohn Major, the first Western leader to visit oscow since last month's attempted coup by

"Now is the time for the West to support "Gorbachev told Major, according to an aide the British leader.

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine

P) - President Bush and most

this Cabinet are headed back to

shool this week as the adminis-

ration launches a renewed push or educational reforms and tries

dispel Democratic charges that ey lack a domestic agenda.

Bush will end his summer va-

tion and at the same time open

enew academic year Tuesday

visiting two public schools and elivering a back-to-school speech students in Lewiston, Maine.

Her a year dominated by foreign policy crises, from the Persian

Oulf War to the splintering of the swiet Union, Bush is back trying

fulfill his campaign pledge to be the education president." Come November, Bush will be

eading abroad again, with jourleys on tap to Europe and the Far

Major also met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who returned to Moscow on Sunday

former Soviet republics.

Despite their long rivalry, both Yeltsin and Gorbachev have been trying to prevent the union from evaporating in the power vacuum that has followed the Aug. 18-21 coup and the subsequent suspension of the Communist Particles.

Gorbachev said in the TV interview that during a meeting earlier Sunday, 11 of the 15 republics agreed to maintain some form of union, although its exact shape is yet to be

Those not represented apparently were the Baltics and Moldavia.

"As far as economic cooperation, then here there is a large degree of agreement from all 15 republics," Gorbachev said.

"Now, at this very difficult stage when decisions must be taken that will define whether to preserve the course which we started in 1985, I cannot allow myself as a person, as a citizen, to leave," Gorbachev said, when asked if he

Gorbachev told the Supreme Soviet legislature after the coup that he would step down if the union were dissolved. He reiterated Sunday that "there is one condition" for his remaining in office: "The union."

Gorbachev said the issue of Baltic independence was on the agenda for this week's session of the 2,250-member Congress of People's

after discussions with Estonian and Latvian leaders about maintaining economic ties among former Soviet republics.

Despite their long rivalry, both Yeltsin and Deputies.

The Congress is the country's highest legislative body, but since its creation two years ago it has met only four times, to consider constitutional amendments and other critical matters. From among its members, the Congress elects the 542-member Supreme Soviet, which meets regularly and passes most of the coun-

Gorbachev did not make clear in the TV in-terview whether he has fully dropped his insis-tence that the Baltic republics follow the complex constitutional process for secession. That process could involve a waiting period of five years or more, and billions of dollars in compensation for Soviet investments.

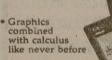
He said his concept of a reformed union opens the possibility for each republic, each nation, to make use of its constitutional right to self-determination. And in connection with that, if that is the final wish and intention of the people of these (Baltic) republics, then I think we must agree to it.'

Gorbachev became emotional only when discussing the health of his wife, Raisa, who he said had a "very bad bout" during their three days under house arrest in the coup.

The Russian word for bout was translated as "heart attack" during the live television broadcast on CNN.

It is unclear exactly what happened to Mrs. Gorbachev. She was able to walk off an airplane on her return to Moscow after the coup.

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atomic power within 10 years

of being consumed with his avowed first interest, foreign af-They say Bush has been miss-ing in action on such pressing do-mestic problems as the cost and availability of health care.

ing in an interview Friday that regard will lose," said the agency, monitored in Nicosia.

It said that his comment was a to allow the German firm Siemens to

Amrollahi said the nuclear power plants would help overcome an acute shortage of electrical power in

Iran may have

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization said his nation would have several nuclear power plants within
10 years, the Islamic Republic News
Agency reported Sunday.
It quoted Reza Amrollahi as say-

'those who do not help Iran in this

jab at Germany, which has refused complete a nuclear plant abandoned during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Iran lacks the know-how to build the plants, and Amrollahi did not if any other country had offered

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interest in moving the domestic agenda forward," said deputy White House chief of staff Andrew But for September and Octo-Card. "It is frustrating." Welcome Back Specials From **EXON** \$18.95

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Democrats in turn accuse Bush

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, and Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., have intro-

duced major legislative proposals in recent months to expand health coverage in the workplace, and

their party is certain to harp on the

health issue in the 1992 campaign.

"We're going to have a domestic agenda and we hope the president will joing with us," House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash.

one domestic issue he can champi-

on without worrying about the

For the president, education is

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