

# Soviets to find new governing tactics

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail S. Gorbachev and heads of 10 Soviet republics won resounding support from parliament leaders Monday to shift most Kremlin power to the republics and create a loose federation of sovereign, equal states.

A troika formed by Gorbachev, Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev sought hard-line lawmakers off guard at the opening of the

Congress of People's Deputies by proposing to transform the government of the Soviet Union.

Although there was no formal vote on the proposal from the 1,900-member Congress, it won key procedural votes by overwhelming margins.

"Let's speak frankly," said Sergei Alexeyev, chairman of the Constitution Oversight Committee. "Our union was not simply on the verge of collapse, but already

in a state of collapse. We're in the state similar to that in Yugoslavia."

To preserve the country, Gorbachev and the other leaders proposed an interim government of three councils that would give far more power to the 10 republics that endorsed it and strip the central government of most functions beyond defense and foreign affairs.

The plan apparently would

grant independence to the five republics that did not endorse it — the three Baltic states, Moldavia and Georgia — although that issue has not been fully resolved.

On Monday, the United States formally recognized the independence of the Baltic states. President Bush said diplomatic ties would be established immediately with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Under the proposal put forth

## Air conditioners powered by the sun Solar energy generates cool air

TOKYO (AP) — The sun that helps turn your home into an oven in summer also may power the air conditioning to cool it down, Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. says.

The Japanese company, a leader in solar cell technology, says it has developed solar-powered air conditioners that can cut electricity demands in hot weather and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The air conditioner uses a 54-square-foot solar panel that generates up to 500 watts of electricity, Sanyo says. The panel can be mounted on a roof or balcony.

The company is shipping 20 samples this month to electric power companies for evaluation, Sanyo said. The samples cost about \$10,900 each, but the price should decline after mass-production begins sometime next year, it said.

The company did not say when the air conditioners would go on sale to the public or what the

retail cost would be.

The air conditioner can use regular house current to supplement the electricity generated by the solar panels on overcast days, at night or when maximum cooling power is desired, such as when the machine is first turned on in a hot room, the company says.

Once the desired temperature is reached, the air conditioner can maintain that by using as little as 300 watts, well within the capacity of the solar panels, Sanyo says.

A Sanyo official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the greatest difficulty in developing the air conditioner is in regulating the electricity produced by the solar panels so that it isn't dramatically affected by changing weather or by a cloud passing in front of the sun.

The air conditioners have a cooling capacity of 8,530 BTUs per hour, the company said.

## Angry mob injures two paramedics

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Two paramedics were beaten and cut with shards of glass by an angry mob during a call to help a man who wounded himself during a domestic dispute, authorities said.

Tim Berry, 32, and Mike Wheeler, 39, were attacked early Sunday when they were called to help 18-year-old Charles Hollbrook, who allegedly punched out a window at a coin laundry after a fight with his girlfriend.

The paramedics said a half-dozen male bystanders surrounded Hollbrook when they arrived.

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