

World & Nation

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The Battalion

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Tensions threaten Soviet reforms

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet reformers told Secretary of State James A. Baker III Thursday that disarray in their ranks and ancient ethnic tensions are the greatest threats to a peaceful transition to democracy in the Soviet Union.

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov said, too, that the forces that backed the three-day coup against Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in August "will always be a threat."

But he quickly added that "the biggest threat however, is not so much the reactionary forces, but the inability of us reformists to really come together and work out our problems."

The wary, somewhat pessimistic view of the future was echoed by former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

Kozyrev talked of the danger of "excessive nationalism," a reference to the tensions between the republics as they break the once-strong hold of the Soviet central government.

Their emphasis on the dangers that lie ahead was in sharp contrast to the upbeat statements the day before by Gorbachev and Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin.

Gorbachev and Yeltsin talked of progress toward political and economic change. Their warnings of hard times ahead were in the context of a need for massive aid

tempt at a coup could be made," he said. Baker referred to the personal relationship he and Shevardnadze developed when the Soviet repre-

Shevardnadze said the visit had "a very important symbolic meaning."

Popov said he thought the transition to a market economy would be easier in a large city such as Moscow and Leningrad than it would be in the countryside.

"It should not be difficult to return stores to private ownership in Moscow," said the mayor.

"The reactionary forces will always be a threat to us as long as they still maintain their position in the old structure that is still somewhat with us," said Popov. "As long as property is still in the hands of the state, it will always be a threat and continues to be so."

Shevardnadze agreed on the danger from a lack of cooperation among reformers.

"The most difficult thing, of course, is the crisis situation in which our economy finds itself," he said. "Conditions of life are getting worse. Of course, on a backdrop like this, the dangers exist and continue, especially since the democrats and the reformers have to get together in order to remove danger and that threat."



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Mikhail S. Gorbachev

from the West — short-term to meet the challenge of the harsh Russian winter and long-term to rebuild the crumbling national economy.

Shevardnadze also talked of a need for aid, saying dire consequences would follow if "astronomic" sums of money are not provided by the West.

"If we fail to improve, at least, at minimum, the living conditions, then we have to face this reality and it's quite possible another at-

tempted his country as foreign minister.

"I have always had the greatest respect and the closest feelings of affection for Eduard Shevardnadze in the past," Baker said.

It was an unusual endorsement for a man who is forming a political opposition party in a country where Baker was on an official visit. They met at the headquarters of Shevardnadze's Movement for Democratic Reform and

Senate approves removal of ban on tax-funded abortion counseling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved legislation Thursday revoking a ban on abortion counseling by federally financed clinics, and allowing taxpayer-paid abortions for women who are victims of rape or incest.

The measure, adopted 78-22, faced a veto threat from President Bush over both provisions.

With his promised rejection of the bill, abortion foes did little to thwart passage of the legislation. They have resorted to that tactic

frequently in recent months, in a Congress that increasingly favors abortion rights but still lacks the strength required to override a presidential veto.

"The president's regulations ... are not morally defensible," Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, told reporters about the administration's abortion-counseling ban. "And that is why he has chosen not to defend them. Obviously, the White House

strategy is not to have either a debate or a vote squarely on that issue. It is to obscure the issue."

The abortion provisions were part of a bill providing \$204 billion for the departments of Health and Human Services, Education and Labor for fiscal 1992. The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

The legislation also contains nearly \$5.8 billion for education programs for the handicapped, a nearly \$200 million increase over 1991.

Study predicts ethnic makeup of U.S. schools

NEW YORK (AP) — A first-ever forecast of the ethnic makeup of public schools says a third of U.S. students will be from minorities by 1995, and such students will make up a majority of high school graduates in four states.

The study, released Thursday by The College Board and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, also stressed that some of the fastest growing groups, Hispanics especially, are most likely to drop out.

The report, "The Road to College: Educational Progress by Race and Ethnicity," predicted the non-white and Hispanic student population will increase from 10.4 million in 1985-86 to a projected 13.7 million in 1994-95.

Such pupils will constitute 34 percent of public elementary and secondary school enrollment by 1994-95, up from 29 percent in 1985-86, according to the study.

White enrollment, meanwhile, will rise by just 5 percent, from 25.8 million to 27 million, and their share of the student population will drop from 71 percent in 1985-86 to 66 percent in 1994-95.

Non-whites and Hispanics already make up a majority of high school graduates in Hawaii, New Mexico and the District of Columbia in 1989.

Swaggart defamed fellow preacher, brought down ministry, jury finds

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Televangelist Jimmy Swaggart spread lies that helped ruin fellow television preacher Marvin Gorman's ministry, a jury found Thursday.

Gorman had sued for \$90 million, claiming Swaggart and several co-defendants brought down Gorman's budding television ministry in 1987 with false statements about his sex life.

The verdict that said Swaggart, Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and the Rev. Michael Indest defamed Gorman. Damages were yet to be decided.

Indest was named on the form

as a conspirator but is not a defendant in the case. He settled with Gorman prior to the beginning of the nine-week trial that ended Thursday night.

Also named as defendants Swaggart's wife, Frances, the Rev. Tom Miller and Miller's church, and attorney William Treeby.

Swaggart and other defendants say they told the truth. They produced two women as witnesses who said they had sex with Gorman — one a fellow minister's wife who had gone to him for counseling, the other a woman who said he pressured her into in-

tercourse after accusing her of being a lesbian.

Two other women who testified said the minister fondled and kissed them.

Gorman acknowledged a single act of intercourse with one woman and heavy petting once with another before he resigned from First Assembly of God church in New Orleans.

Excluded from this trial was testimony about Swaggart's expulsion from the church because Gorman caught him with a prostitute. The judge said it was not relevant to Gorman's case.

Shuttle launches study of ozone layer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery bolted into space Thursday evening with five astronauts and an observatory designed to scrutinize the alarming shrinkage of Earth's ozone layer.

Discovery thundered away from its seaside pad at 7:11 p.m.

EDT, flames spewing from its twin booster rockets.

The 100-ton spaceship pierced a hazy sky as it darted out over the Atlantic Ocean and up the East Coast.

"It's the moment we've been waiting for," said Don Wuebbles, an atmospheric scientist who has

been working on the project for 13 years. "After 13 years, how can I put it in words?"

The launch was delayed 14 minutes because of a temporary loss of communication between the launch site and Mission Control at Johnson Space Center in Houston. The countdown clock

was held at the 5-minute mark as engineers assessed the interruption.

The shuttle's solid rocket boosters dropped empty into the ocean as planned two minutes into the flight, and the ship continued upward on the thrust of three main engines.

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Applications are due by 5:00pm Monday, September 16