

Milosevic's foes win in Belgrade

Despite an election victory, opponents of the Socialist Party remain skeptical about the future.

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Foes of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic won official recognition Tuesday of an election victory in the Serbian capital — their biggest demand during weeks of massive protest and international pressure. Milosevic's opponents were skeptical of whether he and his Socialist Party would actually give up the new announcement by the city's electoral commission and hand over control of Belgrade's municipal government. The opponents vowed to keep protesting, but suspended a Tuesday night demonstration to see if the government had given way in Belgrade and other cities including Nis, the country's second-largest. Foreign governments also took a wait-and-see attitude. While giving in could bring an end to nearly two months of daily protests that have shaken Milosevic's autocratic rule, it also would

give his opponents much more political leverage than they have had during his nine years in power.

The Belgrade commission previously had declared the opposition victorious in Nov. 17 balloting, only to be overturned by a court. It seemed unlikely, however, that the commission would have repeated its declaration without backing from a higher authority.

In Nis, Socialists on the electoral commission gave in after days of stalling and stopped opposing a court order to reinstate the opposition's election triumph there.

The Socialists already had withdrawn their claims to five lesser towns; the opposition claims wins in Belgrade and 13 other major Serbian cities.

"I believe nothing," said opposition leader Zoran Djindjic, who would be mayor if the opposition indeed wins Belgrade. "This is another attempt to buy time. We will continue our protests."

"There is no reason for euphoria. Belgrade is only a part of the whole package," he said. "We don't trust this regime until our deputies constitute the city council."

Djindjic said the opposition wanted to see its victories recognized in all the cities it won, and its representatives actually take power.

The U.S. government was waiting for the same thing. "We're just going to reserve any kind of commendation for the Belgrade government" until the opposition victors take their seats, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said in Washington.

Belgrade has been the scene of large daily demonstrations, including 500,000 people Monday, since the election wins by the opposition were annulled.

Opposition control of Belgrade would break the near-monopoly on electronic media now enjoyed by the Socialists and their neo-Communist coalition partners. By law, the City Council has the right to run radio and television stations in the city.

Control over the stations could be invaluable to the opposition ahead of Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections later this year. One of the protesters' main aims has been to offer alternatives to the intensely pro-Socialist state media.

A Belgrade win by the opposition also would hurt Milosevic in other ways.

It is common for his Socialists and the neo-Communists led by his wife, Mirjana Markovic, to award building and business per-



mits in the city to their loyalists, say former associates.

"All want nice locations for building big villas or establishing good businesses," said Mihajlo Markovic, a former Milosevic lieutenant purged in 1995 because he opposed the Socialists' coalition with the neo-Communists.

"It's clear that you would want to continue to have this possibility of rewarding your supporters," said Markovic, no relation to Milosevic's wife.

Milosevic's attempts to compromise have been opposed by his wife, who reportedly counseled harsh action against demonstrators at a weekend meeting of the Serbian leadership.

Hebron agreement nears with negotiations

JERUSALEM (AP) — Months of tortuous negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians neared an end Tuesday with Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat trying — yet again — to complete a deal to get Israeli troops out of Hebron. A midnight summit between the Israeli prime minister and the Palestinian leader — the second in as many weeks — was called to work out elusive details. The deal under consideration would give Palestinians control of 80 percent of the Biblical city of Hebron, home to 130,000 Palestinians and 500 Jewish settlers. It also would set dates for a three-stage Israeli withdrawal from West Bank rural areas. It won't cover some issues sure to cause conflict later. Most notably, it is not expected to address the scope of the planned Israeli withdrawals. The Palestinians want control of most of the West Bank — an un-

derstanding they say was reached with the previous Israeli government — but according to some reports, Netanyahu plans to cede as little as one-third of the territory.

Still, a Hebron agreement would be the first concrete step in the Israel-Palestinian peace process since Netanyahu's government took office in June, pledging to slow the handover of land to the Palestinians.

Tension between the two sides rose sharply as the stalemate dragged on. In September, Palestinian frustration boiled over in clashes with Israel that killed 79 people. Leaders on both sides have warned of a new crisis if an agreement is not reached.

Netanyahu and Arafat still had to resolve several issues lower-level negotiators were unable to settle, including the wording of U.S. guarantees to both sides.

"The number of issues on the table is small, getting smaller all the time, but you

know that until the last issue is resolved, nothing is resolved," Netanyahu said Tuesday evening.

Israeli troops are expected to withdraw from most of Hebron within days of a signing, although Netanyahu has promised to first present the deal to his Cabinet, where he faces growing opposition, and to the Israeli parliament.

Settler leaders met Tuesday night in Jerusalem to plan a protest campaign against the government they helped bring to power.

"This agreement is going to tear the nation into pieces," said Elyakim Haetzni of the Kiryat Arba settlement outside Hebron. "Netanyahu has cheated us."

Palestinians, meanwhile, started preparing for the Israeli pullout. Merchants painted over political graffiti on iron storefront shutters in the downtown Bab Izawiya area of Hebron.

CINEMARK THEATRES
MOVIES 16 HOLLYWOOD USA
BRYAN COLLEGE STATION
Hwy 6 Bypass @ Hwy 30 764-7592
MOVIES BELOW ARE FIRST-RUN
\$3.50 MATINEES EVERY DAY BEFORE 6PM
DAYLIGHT (PG-13) 7:05 9:40
SPACE JAM (PG) 2:45 5:00
MICHAEL (PG) <ON TWO SCREENS> 1:50 4:10 7:00 9:20 2:20 4:40 7:30 9:50
SCREAM (R) 2:20 4:40 7:50 10:10
THE PREACHER'S WIFE (PG) 1:45 4:30 7:15 9:55
GHOSTS OF MISSISSIPPI (PG-13) 1:10 4:10 7:10 10:10
JERRY MAGUIRE (R) <ON TWO SCREENS> 6:50 9:20 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:30
TURBULENCE (R) 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:15
EVITA (PG) 1:30 4:00 7:00 10:00
ONE FINE DAY (PG) 1:25 3:50 7:50 10:05
MY FELLOW AMERICANS (PG-13) 6:55 9:25
MARS ATTACK (PG-13) 6:55 9:25
FIRST STRIKE (PG-13) 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
JINGLE ALL THE WAY (PG) 2:00 4:20
THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT (R) 1:20 4:20 7:20 10:20
THE EVENING STAR (PG-13) 1:00 3:45 6:45 9:30
STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT (PG-13) 1:45 4:15
RANSOM (R) 7:10 9:50
*NO PASSES

FREE PAGERS *
NEW Motorola BRAVO PLUS \$29.95*
AIRTIME
*Activation and Airtime Purchase Required
764-5900

THE YOGA INSTITUTE AND BOOKSTORES EST.1974
725 E. VILLA MARIA BRYAN FOR CLASS INFO 822-2246

PROFITABLE NUMBER!
845-0569

THE BATTALION Classified Advertising

Let's Talk
English as a Second Language
Conversational English Classes
For student, staff, family
Beginning, intermediate, advanced
Small group lessons
For information call or visit 1:00 to 5:00 Monday-Friday
707 Texas Ave. Suite 210 Bldg. D
696-6583
707 Texas Ave Campus

The Texas A&M University Interfraternity Council

Invites you to

FEEL THE RUSH

The Open Fraternity Forum represents the beginning of Spring Rush for Texas A&M's 22 Men's fraternities. You are invited to come and meet representatives of every fraternity and receive schedules of each chapter's rush activities. Should you have any questions, please call the IFC Office at 845-0117.

Did You Know?

- All but two U.S. Presidents since 1825 have been Greek
- 63% of the U.S. Presidents' Cabinet since 1900 have been Greek
- 71% of the Who's Who in America listees are Greeks
- 76% of U.S. senators and representatives are Greeks
- 85% of the U.S. Supreme Court justices are Greeks
- 85% of the Fortune 500 executives are Greeks
- Of the nation's 50 largest corporations, 43 are headed by Greeks

Come and see what Fraternity Life offers