

Reagan: Soviets must change their ways

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — President Reagan, five weeks before meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev, said Thursday that the United States and the Soviet Union cannot have "a normal relationship" unless Moscow changes its ways and stops interfering in nations such as Afghanistan.

Reagan, in a wide-ranging speech on U.S.-Soviet ties, listed a variety of concerns for both superpowers, including arms control, the famine ravaging Ethiopia and the peace process in Central America.

On arms control, the president urged the Senate to ratify the treaty banning medium-range nuclear missiles, signed at the last U.S.-Soviet summit, before he and the Soviet Communist Party general secretary meet May 29 in Moscow.

He spoke hours after Senate majority Leader Robert C. Byrd said the Senate won't rush to ratify the treaty despite White House pressure to do so by the summit.

The treaty is not scheduled to go to the Senate floor until May 9.

As for relations with a nation Reagan once labeled "the evil empire," he said that "the next few months will be no time for complacency, no time to sit back and congratulate ourselves."

The president said the Soviet Union can build trust only when it stops interfering in other nations and improves this record of human rights.

"Our policy is intended to nurture what you might call more normal relations between East and West,"

Reagan said.

He said that a Soviet Union that tramples on the rights of its own people "can never have truly normal relations with the United States and the rest of the free world."

"Neither can a Soviet Union that is always trying to push its way into other countries ever have a normal relationship with us."

Taking a positive note, Reagan said U.S.-Soviet relations "have taken a dramatic turn, into a period of realistic engagement. . . . The INF treaty is now a reality and now the Senate should give its consent to ratification."

He added that progress has been made on limiting strategic weapons as well.

Bush, Dukakis, Jackson to visit Nebraska

The Nebraska presidential primary will bring Republican Vice President George Bush and Democrats Mike Dukakis and Jesse Jackson to the state in the days ahead.

However, it isn't likely that any of the candidates will spend more than a day or so in the Cornhusker state. And none plan to spend more than a comparative pittance on the Nebraska race, according to their campaign officials.

Former Gov. Charles Thone will lead the Bush campaign for the May 10 primary. He's confident the vice president will win the GOP nomination and carry Nebraska and the entire

Midwest in November.

Bush supporters have good reason for optimism. No Democrat has carried Nebraska in a presidential election since the state went to Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

Bush will attend a May 6 dinner in Lincoln, Thone said.

Thone, a long supporter and acquaintance of President Reagan, said he had advised Bush to take his cues on agricultural matters from Kansas Sen. Bob Dole, who has dropped out of the GOP race.

"Dole comes from farm country and he has served on the House and the Senate ag committees and very

few people know those federal crop programs as well as Bob Dole," Thone said. "More importantly, his agriculture philosophy is good for agriculture."

Helen Boosalis, the former Lincoln mayor who was the Democratic nominee for governor in 1986, is a co-chairperson for Dukakis's campaign.

"There are farms in Massachusetts and Mike Dukakis has been very supportive of agriculture. . . . He has spent a lot of time in rural areas," she said. "He is an intelligent, caring person and he has a lot of valuable experience and he has genuine leadership qualities."

Gore pulls from Democratic race

WASHINGTON — Sen. Albert Gore Jr. said Thursday he would suspend his campaign for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination and said he would do "everything I can" to elect a Democrat as the next president.

In a graceful exit, Gore said he would technically remain a candidate to permit his delegates to attend the Democratic National Convention.

In Brief

Standoff ends at Mexican bank: Gunmen flee

LOS MOCHIS, Mexico — Seven gunmen who holed up in a bank after a foiled robbery in which five people were killed freed their 42 captives Thursday and were allowed to flee with three hostages.

Police said the gunmen released the three captives 15 minutes after they escaped.

"Thanks to you, the hostages are safe!" a policeman shouted to the hundreds of people who had gathered outside the bank as the 24-hour standoff was ending. The crowd had urged officials to end the crisis peacefully.

The standoff in Los Mochis, a city of 120,000 on the Gulf of California, began at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday when the gunmen took hostages in the bank after an alarm alerted police to the attempted robbery.

Red Cross spokesmen said five people were killed and at least 15 people wounded during the attempted robbery and the standoff that followed.

Hundreds of police surrounded the branch of the National Bank of Mexico during the siege.

Former hostages return home to Kuwait

KUWAIT — Hostages freed in Algiers from a hijacked Kuwait Airways jet arrived home Thursday to a tumultuous reception after being released by nine Moslem gunmen, who slipped away.

Western diplomatic sources said they had clear evidence the hijackers had reached Beirut after the end of the 15-day siege. Officials at the Beirut airport denied they landed there.

Debate location discussion continues

Gov. Kay Orr spent most of the day Thursday in telephone conferences with officials of the Commission on Presidential Debates, administration press spokesman Doug Parrott said.


While noting that no official announcement was ready yet on the selection of Omaha as a debate site, word from Annapolis, Md., that they had been chosen as a debate site was considered promising, he added.

"The delay in an announcement of Omaha has been due to a lack of four cities being finalized. Assuming the Annapolis invitation is accepted, we can expect an announcement very soon," Parrott said.

An Annapolis city official said earlier Thursday that Annapolis, Pittsburgh, Winston-Salem, N.C., and Omaha have been chosen to host presidential debates this fall.

Correction

The car/pedestrian accident reported in Thursday's Daily Nebraskan occurred Wednesday morning, not Thursday.



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