

## W. Germany approves aid for E. Germany

BONN, West Germany - West Germany approved \$3.6 billion in aid for East Germany on Wednesday to keep its economy afloat and prevent its citizens from fleeing in frustration until the two nations become one.

Another \$1 billion was approved to resettle East Germans who come to the West.

Though the money is earmarked for specific East German programs, none of it will go directly to the government of Communist Premier Hans Modrow, who likely will be ousted when the country holds its first free elections on March 18.

Modrow, whose two-day summit here concluded Wednesday, had requested \$9 billion in immediate direct aid Tuesday but was turned down by the government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Both leaders, however, hailed the landmark agreement by the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain that sets up a procedure for formal talks on reunification.

The agreement by the four World War II Allies that defeated and divided Germany 45 years ago is a diplomatic breakthrough and a first step to a timetable for reunification.

### American historians downplay threat of reunified Germany

WASHINGTON - Historians say misgivings about a reunited Germany are understandable but the world has more to fear from a power vacuum in the center of Europe.

For the most part, the historians said an East Germany collapsing into chaos would be far more dangerous than a united Germany.

"The only alternative to reunification," said Henry Ashby Turner of Yale, is an East Germany in ruins, "a basket case, a Bangladesh of Europe."

Added Richard Breitman of American University, author of three

books on German history: "One Germany is not only inevitable, but given the successful record of West Germany over the last 40 years, my feeling is it is better than having a regime in chaos."

Turner, author of "The Two Germanies Since 1945," said Germans have "no significant interest in territorial revisions. Those misgivings are misplaced. I don't think there is any chance that the young men of Germany are going to slip out of their Adidas running shoes and pull on jackboots and start running around saying, 'Heil!'"

Gerhard Weinberg of the University of North Carolina, considered a leading historian concentrating on the Nazi era, cautioned that reunification, if mishandled, still could prove explosive.

While the people of West Europe have learned to put aside their nationalistic distrusts, East Europeans "have been deprived of that by a control system which restricted their freedoms to choose governments and express themselves. They have not, therefore, had the opportunity to work out nationalist sentiments."

"We see this as an exceptionally important development and a great success for the West German foreign minister, an important step toward German unity," Hanns Schumacher, a West German Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Wednesday.

Modrow told reporters in Bonn that he welcomed the announcement, made during a meeting of Warsaw Pact and NATO nations Tuesday in

Ottawa, and considered it the best means of protecting both German interests and those of the wartime allies.

East Germany is a key component of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact and West Germany serves much the same role in NATO. The United States wants to keep a united Germany in NATO, while the Soviets are pressing for German neutrality.

During the talks between the Germans, West Germany has a commanding position because of its vibrant economy, which will be needed to bail out the financially ailing eastern state, where thousands are fleeing to the West.

Modrow, who spoke with West German industrial leaders on the last day of his visit, told reporters before returning to East Berlin that he was

disappointed by Kohl's rejection of East Germany's appeal for immediate aid.

Government and opposition political forces had asked for up to \$9 billion to help the East German government until the election.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann said Bonn turned down the request because it "makes no sense" to grant loans or credits to East Germany when so little is known of its economic situation.

However, Finance Minister Theo Waigel on Wednesday announced Cabinet approval of \$2.4 billion to modernize East Germany's aging factories, repair roads, install a new phone system and other "immediate measures" to improve production and living standards.

The 1990 budget supplement also provides \$1 billion to cope with the costs of tens of thousands of East Germans resettling in West Germany, and another \$1.2 billion for a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses related to East German reforms.

Haussmann told reporters that the bulk of the money would be available immediately.

### Relay Mirror Experiment

1 Two ground stations on Maui, Hawaii will aim laser beams simultaneously at the satellite orbiting 270 miles above earth.

2 The 2 beams will be used as signals to orient its mirror.

3 When another beam is aimed at the satellite from an Air Force base atop Mt. Haleakala, the beam should reflect off the mirror and strike a sensor target at the base of the mountain 12 miles away.

Source: Associated Press

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

## Two SDI satellites launched to gauge system's accuracy

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - Two satellites rocketed into space Wednesday to test a "Star Wars" plan to destroy hostile missiles by bouncing laser beams off orbiting mirrors.

One satellite carried a mirror designed to reflect lasers fired from a Hawaiian mountaintop back to a ground target to test the accuracy of such a system.

The other held sensors for measuring how successfully scientists can correct distortions caused by dust, moisture and gases as the beam shoots through the atmosphere.

The satellites were carried aloft by a 12-story Delta rocket at 11:15 a.m. Nearly two hours later, the Air Force announced both were in their proper orbits and functioning properly.

A successful mission could help preserve the \$4.5 billion that President Bush is seeking for research in budget year 1991 for the Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars." Some members of Congress want to cut that amount.

In the missile-intercepting project called Relay Mirror Experiment, two ground stations on Maui, Hawaii, will aim low-powered laser

beams simultaneously at the 2,300-pound satellite orbiting 270 miles above Earth. The satellite holds a 24-inch mirror designed to point a laser beam with an error of less than 57 millionths of a degree.

RME will use the first two beams as signals to orient its mirror. When an Air Force station atop Mount Haleakala aims another beam at the satellite, the beam should reflect off the mirror and strike a sensor target at the base of the mountain 12 miles away.

The tests are scheduled to start in about two weeks and to last eight months. RME will pass within range of the Hawaii stations at least once a day.

The second satellite, called LACE for Low-Power Atmospheric Compensation Experiment, will test a set of 210 laser-sensitive sensors packed into a square measuring 13 feet on each side.

The Mount Haleakala laser to be used on the 3,175-pound payload has a special flexible mirror for distorting the laser beam on Earth to compensate for atmospheric disturbances. The beam should be sharp and powerful by the time it reaches LACE orbiting 340 miles high.

## Proposal for strengthened presidency met with criticism in Supreme Soviet

MOSCOW - President Mikhail Gorbachev appealed Wednesday for legislative backing for a stronger presidency and said it was vital to his reforms, but wary lawmakers refused to be stampeded into setting a timetable.

Once again, the 542-member Supreme Soviet proved itself a force to be reckoned with in the new Soviet political game, which under Gorbachev has shifted more from closed-door sessions of the Kremlin leadership to elected government bodies.

After a two-month break, the fledgling Soviet legislature reconvened for the third time in its less than one-year history. Lawmakers approved a 22-item agenda to debate bills designed to put flesh on the skeleton of Gorbachev's economic and social reforms, including legalization of private property.

However, the Kremlin leadership's proposal to call an emergency session of the Supreme Soviet's parent body, the Congress of People's Deputies, to replace the office now held by Gorbachev with a stronger Western-style presidency met with raucous debate.

"Unless democracy is strengthened and ensured by corresponding mechanisms, democracy will perish, and we'll lose," Gorbachev angrily told his critics.

Otherwise, he said, the victors will be forces who want to "tighten the screws even tighter than they were earlier."

More power for the presidency would strengthen Gorbachev's government powers while further weakening the Communist Party apparatus that he is trying to reform.

### 91 passengers die in Indian jet crash

NEW DELHI, India - An Indian Airlines Airbus jet that had been in use only three months crashed onto a golf course and burned Wednesday short of a runway in southern India, and 91 of the 146 people on board died, officials said.

The Airbus-320 grazed a clump of trees on its final approach to Bangalore airport and caught fire when it hit the ground, about 50 yards from the runway, officials said.

The flight originated in Bombay, 530 miles northwest of Bangalore. At least 55 people survived the crash, including two Americans, the airline said.

Gorbachev would have two powerful instruments to implement his program of "perestroika" -- the party apparatus and the reinforced machinery of government.

Vice President Anatoly Lukyanov, who flanked Gorbachev beneath a gilded globe emblazoned with the hammer and sickle, recommended that lawmakers call the Congress into

**66**  
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President Gorbachev

**99**  
session Feb. 27 to fortify the presidency and make other constitutional changes -- including the planned abandonment of the Communist Party's legally guaranteed right to govern.

A close Gorbachev adviser, Georgy Shakhnazarov, told reporters during a break in the proceedings that top Kremlin officials want the Congress to elect the new president within a month.

But the Supreme Soviet voted 304-95, with 34 abstentions, to debate the presidential issue first. If the Supreme Soviet approves Gorbachev's plan to fortify the presidency, it must then be confirmed by the Congress of People's

Deputies. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader since March 1985, is likely to be a candidate for the new presidency, but for the second time in a week he spoke guardedly about whether he will run.

"If we proceed to take a decision on the presidency, we will decide that there will be alternative candidates," he said. "I don't know if I will be among the alternatives."

Still, a half-dozen speakers Wednesday criticized the rush to create a more powerful presidency, and Gorbachev acknowledged that some Soviets equate him with late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. He did not clarify whether the comparison was being made by reformers or by hard-liners who supported Ceausescu's brand of iron-fisted leadership.

Ceausescu was ousted by a popular revolution and executed Dec. 25.

Gorbachev told the legislature that he was once opposed to presidential power, but "life has demanded changes." In the Soviet political system, the head of state has traditionally been merely a figurehead.

A prominent liberal lawmaker from Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak, said that increasing the powers of the presidency would decrease those of the legislature, and he opposed such a shift.

Ilmar Bisher of Latvia said he supported the stronger presidency but only if the powers of the office are carefully tailored. He said that couldn't be done in time to hold a session of the 2,250-member Congress this month.

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE. Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Pam Hein, 472-2588.

Subscription price is \$45 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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