

East Germans vote in first free elections

## Pro-unification conservatives score big win

EAST BERLIN - An alliance of conservative parties favoring quick unification scored a big victory in East Germany's first free elections Sunday, according to partial official returns.

However, returns from 90 percent of the polling stations indicated that the alliance had fallen short of winning a majority of the seats in the new 400-member Parliament.

The election capped East Germany's transition to democracy since the fall pro-democracy revolution that ended 40 years of iron-fisted one-party Communist rule.

The conservative alliance is backed by West Germany's governing party, and the election seemed certain to speed German unification.

West Germany's ARD television network, reporting the partial official returns, said the conservative alliance would get 189 seats in the 400-member Parliament. East Germany's official news agency ADN said it was

unclear whether the conservatives would achieve a majority, which is needed to run the country alone.

The leftist-leaning Social Democrats lagged well behind in second place, with a projected 88 seats.

East Germany's conservative alliance is led by the Christian Democrats, sister party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats in West Germany.

Commentators in both countries agreed Kohl played a key role in helping the conservatives win by promising quick replacement of East Germany's nearly worthless currency with the West German mark and other financial benefits.

"It was a victory for Kohl," the ARD network said.

"I just want to celebrate," said Lothar de Maiziere, head of the Alliance for Germany's main Christian Democratic Party, at his party's headquarters. The conservative Christian Democrats were expected to win more

votes than any party, which could allow de Maiziere to become East Germany's first democratically elected premier.

De Maiziere said a "grand coalition" with the Social Democrats and other parties was possible to lead the country toward unification with the greatest possible popular support.

He said a broad coalition was needed to muster the two-thirds parliamentary majority necessary to change East Germany's constitution and pave the way for quick unification. With such a majority, the East German parliament could simply declare a merger with West Germany.

Kohl, in an appearance on West German television, also voiced support for a broad coalition. His Christian Democrats have backed the conservative East German alliance.

Gregor Gysi, chairman of the reformed Communist party, immediately offered support to the Social Democrats to prevent the conserva-

tives from gaining a two-thirds majority of seats needed to change the constitution.

The Communists, who lost their 40-year monopoly on power in the fall revolution, were projected to win no more than 15 percent of the popular vote. They fared poorly in pre-election polls, despite the popularity of Communist Premier Hans Modrow and Gysi as well as intensive efforts to shed their hard-line image.

In his comments, De Maiziere also promised his party would strive for quick economic, monetary and social union with West Germany.

A roaring crowd of 2,000 supporters jammed the conservative alliance's headquarters, waving party banners and West German flags and drinking and dancing.

"As quickly as possible, unification!" Dieter Schloder said. "There is no question about it."

Only a few weeks ago, the Social Democrats were considered the strong-

est contenders. But the Alliance for Germany got much campaign help from Kohl. His Christian Democratic Party is the sister party of de Maiziere's.

Still, there were 24 parties or organizations competing in the vote.

At stake were 400 seats in the national parliament, which will hold office for a four-year term. Virtually all the parties competing favored unification with West Germany, but at different paces.

People lined up at polling stations in cities as well as makeshift voting booths in rural pubs and eateries. Some people cast ballots from hospital beds.

"This is the greatest day of my life after being put down all these years," whispered 66-year-old Annelisa Schoen, choking back tears of joy as she voted in East Berlin.

Some voters seemed a bit perplexed by the huge selection that included such contenders as the Beer Drinker's Party.

## Soviets hold military maneuvers, plan talks in Lithuania

MOSCOW - Soviet military jets repeatedly streaked over the capital of Lithuania during military maneuvers Sunday, one day before a Moscow deadline demanding that the Baltic republic renounce its declaration of independence.

At the same time, however, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev struck a conciliatory tone, saying he still plans to talk with the Lithuanians about returning to the Soviet fold. And he said there have been no ultimatums.

"We will carry on conversations," Gorbachev told reporters after voting in runoff elections.

He continued to insist that Lithuania's March 11 declaration was illegal and must be decided by the entire Soviet Union, not just the republic. He said he would work for a new federation agreement that would satisfy everyone.

The military maneuvers surprised the Lithuanian government, parliamentary spokesman Vladislovas Panumis said in a telephone interview. But military officers told Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis that the training had been planned in advance, Panumis said.

A Westerner in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, said it was unclear whether there were many planes landing at a military base or whether it was just one or two jets making repeated passes over the city.

The Baltic Tribunal, an emigre newspaper in Copenhagen, says there are eight military bases in Lithuania, including one near Vilnius. At least 1 million Soviet troops are believed to be stationed in Lithuania, which is on the Soviet Union's front-line western

border. Another parliament spokesman quoted Lithuanian Premier Kazimera Prunskiene as saying the military maneuvers on the border with Latvia and in southeastern Lithuania seemed to be ordinary, and there was no cause for concern.

The Soviet Parliament on Thursday directed Gorbachev to defend Soviet interests and citizens in the Baltic republic of 3.8 million. It declared the Lithuanian move illegal and the Soviet Constitution still in force. Gorbachev on Friday sent Landsbergis a telegram giving him until today to respond to how the directive is being realized. He did not say what the Kremlin would do if the Lithuanians refused to respond. He and his aides say they have ruled out the use of force.

On Sunday, Gorbachev said the telegram was not an ultimatum.

"I think we shall receive a reply from the authorities of present-day Lithuania and, depending on what it is, everything will become clear. The character and content of the answer will define our next steps," he said.

"We shall act responsibly with a view to realizing the aspirations of the Lithuanian people from the viewpoint of strengthening their independence and sovereignty, but at the same time, within the scope of cooperation with all republics," he said.

Landsbergis and aides met Sunday to draft a response stating that Lithuanian law will observe the legal rights of the Soviet Union and protect national minorities. On Saturday, Landsbergis appealed to democratic nations for official recognition of his new government.

## Latvia and Estonia hold republic elections

MOSCOW - Latvians and Estonians voted in their first free elections in 50 years Sunday to choose republic parliaments that activists hope will press for independence from the Soviet Union.

Crucial runoff elections in local and republic races were also held in Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine, the Soviet Union's Slavic heartland that makes up some 80 percent of its territory and two-thirds of its population.

From Moscow to Vorkuta in northern Russia, reformists confronted party and government officials. A former political prisoner faced a KGB officer in a runoff in Moscow. No election results were expected before today.

In the two Baltic republics, annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940, backers of independence hoped their candidates would emerge victorious, following the example of nearby Lithuania.

Lithuania's parliament was taken over by independence supporters in elections in February and early March. It promptly declared the republic independent on March 11. The Soviet Congress declared the move illegal and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev gave the republic three days to respond.

The deadline expires today, but Gorbachev repeated his offer to hold talks with the Lithuanians. Latvia legalized alternative

political parties several months ago, following the lead of Lithuania. Estonia has not removed the Communist Party's constitutional guarantee on power but a variety of political parties put forward candidates without interference.

The Soviet Parliament legalized multiple political parties for the entire country last Tuesday, but that was too late for strong, republic-wide movements to form in the heartland of Russia, Byelorussia and the Ukraine.

In Latvia, average voter turnout was 75 percent, the republic's Electoral Commission said. The pro-independence Latvian People's Front nominated 185 candidates out of the total 390 competing for the 201 parliament seats.

Election officials said 69 percent of the contenders there are Communists, including some People's Front members, the official Soviet news agency Tass said.

People Front's spokeswoman Anda Anspoka says the front hopes to gain a two-thirds parliamentary majority "to fight for independence."

Thousands of Popular Front supporters rallied in the Latvian capital of Riga Sunday, urging voters to support their movement. At least five other parties, including the Green or environmental party, competed in the Latvian elections, Tass said.

Estonian journalist Michael Taro predicted the People's Front would win about 35 of the 105 seats in Estonia, with 15 or 20 more going to other pro-independence groups.

In Estonia, about 63 percent of the voters turned out by 2 p.m., said Annu Laido of Estonia's Electoral Commission. The lowest turnout at that point was 54 percent in Tartu.

In the three Slavic republics, voters chose between candidates in some 1,610 run-offs, held after no candidate gained 50 percent of the vote in the main round on March 4.

"According to data reaching us, voter turnout today is somewhat lower," than on March 4, secretary of Russia's electoral commission Anatoly Petrov told Tass. Turnout by noon was especially low in Western Siberia, between 26 percent and 27 percent.

In Moscow, officials reported a 57 percent turnout after the polls closed.

"I think people want to participate, because they believe that things would change for the best, that these are the first democratic elections. For the first time, we have alternative candidates" for the republic and local councils, said Ivan Petrov, chairman of the electoral committee at a polling station in Moscow's Kievsky district.

## Run-Off Election

March 21, 1990

8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

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## Settlement ends baseball lockout

NEW YORK - Baseball players and owners agreed to a new four-year contract late Sunday night, ending the 32-day lockout and paving the way for the start of the season, a source involved in the negotiations said.

The settlement brought an end to a bitter dispute that kept players locked out of spring training since Feb. 15.

The key issue emerged as salary arbitration eligibility, and it dominated the negotiations the last few weeks.

Word of a settlement came about 11:30 p.m. EST after the players and owners had spent the entire day working on a formula to solve arbitration eligibility.

There was no immediate word if opening day would be on April 2 as scheduled. A news conference was scheduled for early today.