

### Russian official requests recognition from Baker

#### Bush administration balks on decision

MOSCOW — The Russian foreign minister asked U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker III on Sunday for formal U.S. recognition of the various republics' independence from the Kremlin.

"This will help to crystallize authority," and to "stop further disintegration," Andrei Kozyrev said after the two met at the Russian Foreign Ministry, Baker's first stop on a five-day visit to what he called the "former Soviet Union."

Baker hedged, saying, "These are essentially political issues that are internal." He said the Bush administration would not inject itself into the political struggle between Mikhail Gorbachev's central government and the new Commonwealth of Independent States.

But Baker did not flatly turn Kozyrev down, saying, "We will be looking at the suggestion that has been made."

Kozyrev told reporters afterward: "I do understand the United States is in a delicate position."

Baker arrived in Moscow earlier Sunday, carrying to the faltering Soviet Union undisclosed proposals for accelerating the reduction of the estimated 27,000 nuclear weapons stockpiled in four republics.

The imminent breakup of the old union is raising concerns that the weapons cannot be safeguarded indefinitely.

President Bush and Baker, while asserting their support for reform and political change, have hesitated to come down squarely on the side of the republics. Just before Ukraine voted for independence, a senior U.S. official told reporters at the White House that the administration would move "expeditiously" and extend recognition.

But since the vote, Bush and Baker have declined to take that step, which normally would involve establishing embassies and dealing with each republic as an independent nation.

On Monday, Baker will meet with Boris N. Yeltsin, the president of the Russian republic and the dominant



force in the movement toward setting up a commonwealth.

Baker then will see Gorbachev, who has alternated between hinting at resignation and expressions of determination to see the struggle through.

During the visit - which will include stops in Kirghizia, Kazakhstan, Byelorussia and Ukraine - Baker plans to assess the impact the political revolution is having on the Soviet people. His U.S. Air Force jet carried medical

supplies for children's hospitals in Russia, Ukraine and Armenia.

Before Baker took off Saturday night, two cargo planes, one American and the other Soviet, were loaded with \$6 million worth of pharmaceuticals and equipment for the hospitals in Moscow, Minsk and Yerevan. The planes were scheduled to arrive Tuesday.

"The idea is to offer hope in this season of hope," Baker said.

### Soviets stop selling arms to Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Soviets have stopped flying in arms to the Kabul government, preparing to bring down the curtain on their involvement in the final superpower proxy war, government officials and diplomats said Sunday.

The halt in air shipments comes two weeks ahead of the Jan. 1 deadline set by Washington and Moscow for ending all military aid to government forces and Muslim guerrillas. They hope the cutoff will encourage the two warring sides to try to find a peaceful settlement to the 13-year-old conflict.

But both the Soviet-supported government and U.S.-backed rebels say they have enough weapons and supplies stockpiled to keep fighting for two more years, maybe longer.

The Americans and Soviets have been working for peaceful solutions to conflicts previously used as stand-ins for their Cold War differences. Their most recent success was in Angola, where the Soviet-backed government signed a peace accord with U.S.-supported rebels earlier this year.

The Soviets also have been scaling back support for the client states of the former Communist government, such as Cuba.

The United States halted its military aid to Afghanistan's Islamic guerrillas Oct. 15, more than two months ahead of schedule, according to Western diplomats in Pakistan, the main staging area of the Afghan resistance.

The Soviet Embassy in Kabul refused to comment on the end of its military supply flights, but government officials and diplomats confirmed the flights had stopped 15 days ahead of the deadline. The officials would not allow their names to be used.

As many as 50 giant IL-76 Soviet transport planes landed in Kabul daily, each capable of carrying 65 tons of equipment and supplies. Each plane spouted dozens of flares to deflect the heat-seeking missiles fired by rebels from the mountains ringing the capital.

Sunday, the sky over the capital was clear and silent.

## Officials from Russia, Ukraine promise commonwealth will not use nuclear arsenal

MOSCOW — Seeking to allay Western fears, Russian and Ukrainian officials said Sunday that their new Commonwealth of Independent States would promise never to use its nuclear weapons.

Control of the Soviet nuclear arsenal is one of the most urgent issues arising from the commonwealth's creation from the rubble of the Soviet Union. It was to be the main topic in talks Monday by Secretary of State James A. Baker III and Soviet and republic leaders.

Mikhail Gorbachev was among those to meet with Baker, but there were growing signs of the dramatic ebb in the Soviet president's influence. Before he meets Gorbachev, Baker will see Boris Yeltsin, the Russian Federation president who spearheaded the formation of the new

alliance. Media reports said Sunday that Yeltsin had met with the Soviet defense minister to discuss transfer of the country's military might to the new commonwealth - without Gorbachev present.

In the week since the founding of the new commonwealth, Gorbachev has hinted that his days as Soviet president are nearly over.

Although the commonwealth is still in the fledgling stages, signs of discord were emerging. Moscow's popular Mayor Gavrill Popov, one of the country's leading reformers, told Russian TV he would quit because of differences with Yeltsin over how to run the city.

The commonwealth's founding members, Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia, together possess most of the

Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal. The remainder are in Kazakhstan, which has expressed interest in joining the commonwealth. While the former Soviet Union had promised not to be the first to fire nuclear weapons, a commonwealth pledge never to use them could ease Western fears about control of the estimated 27,000 weapons.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, speaking Sunday on the NBC program "Meet the Press," noted that commonwealth officials have suggested a new coordinating council to control the weapons but stressed the United States would still deal with Gorbachev's government until then.

However, Cheney said even if the commonwealth was 99 percent successful in controlling the arms, many

warheads, or the plans for making them, could fall into hands of "third parties."

"I can't make a prediction ... that that's going to happen, but clearly you have to be concerned about the possibility," Cheney said. He said U.S. officials also anticipated trouble from disgruntled members of the 3.7 million-member Soviet military as the country's economic crisis worsened.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, speaking on CBS' "Face the Nation," asserted that the unified command system will control the weapons.

"It's very important that nobody will ever launch these weapons," he said. "Hypothetically there will be a single command."

### Clinton's spending pays big dividends

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton on Sunday won the Florida Democrats' presidential straw poll by a wide margin in balloting seen as the first test of strength in the young campaign.

Clinton got 54 percent of the vote in the non-binding balloting, followed by Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin with 31 percent and Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey with 10 percent.

"This is just the first step," Clinton declared. "Now we will build on this victory to win Florida in March, and in November."

Trailing behind were former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas with less than 2 percent and Virginia Gov. L. Douglas Wilder with a little more than 1 percent. Former California Gov. Jerry Brown got just four votes out of 1,775 cast.

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who must decide by Friday whether to compete in the pivotal Feb. 18 New Hampshire primary, got 21 write-in votes. But convention delegates booed lustily when his name was called.

The Florida straw ballot was part of the biggest campaign day so far for the Democratic hopefuls, who also were squaring off in a nationally televised debate Sunday evening.

"It's a chance for a real double-whammy for the winner," said Simon Ferro, chairman of the Florida Democratic Party.

Ferro acknowledged that history shows the winner of the straw ballot won't necessarily win the March 10 Florida primary. But he said the poll does show who's best

able to mobilize the party activists who will staff campaign phone banks, raise money and work volunteer offices.

"If someone doesn't show up well in the straw poll process, he's got a lot of work to do to show well in the March primary," Ferro said.

Clinton's forces spent about \$33,000 to win the straw ballot, hoping to prove his strength in the South. Harkin, who spent less than \$10,000, drew strong support from the quarter of delegates with labor backgrounds.

"Clinton is the only one who could have been a political loser here," said Bill Crotty, a key Democratic Party fund-raiser and Harkin supporter. "Nobody else put any money of consequence into this."

Despite his surprisingly poor showing, Kerrey's state campaign chairman, Rep. Mike Abrams of North Miami Beach, said he was satisfied that his candidate had begun to build alliances in Florida before the March 10 primary. He said the Nebraska senator's effort now will turn to New Hampshire.

"Every dollar Clinton spent here takes a dollar away from New Hampshire," Abrams said. "Every dollar we saved is a dollar for New Hampshire."

Democratic National Committee Chairman Ronald Brown on Saturday called the straw ballot a "beauty contest" that won't identify a sure front-runner. But he said the process had sparked enthusiasm for the party's chances to defeat President Bush.

### Law would jail delinquent renters

SALT LAKE CITY — What's the difference between Salt Lake City's proposed ordinance mandating jail terms for delinquent renters and laws that sent debtors to prison in Charles Dickens' day?

Nothing, said advocates for the poor and Mayor Palmer DePaulis, who is aghast at the mean-spirited reputation the proposal is giving the city.

"Whether I sign it or not, the impression is that Salt Lake City prosecutes the poor," DePaulis said.

City Councilman Ron Whitehead, a landlord who pushed for the ordinance, said he has nothing against the needy.

"Landlords just aren't in the business of welfare," he said.

DePaulis said he will veto the measure, but the seven-member council, which includes several current and former landlords, has the votes to override. So the proposal promises to dog DePaulis' successor, Deedee Corradini, when she takes office Jan. 6.

Corradini agrees that the proposal is a public relations disaster.

The measure, an amendment to the Theft of Services Act, is aimed at swindlers who have no intention of paying rent, its backers said. The violation would be a misdemeanor carrying a fine of up to \$1,000 and a six-month jail term.

The measure was approved Dec. 3 after a heated public hearing, from which one angry tenant was ejected.

Council supporters said tenants wouldn't be jailed for failing to pay rent since landlords first must show a lease was signed with intent to defraud. Police and prosecutors agree that would be difficult to prove.

But in this city of 160,000, where rental units make up more than half of all housing, the disclaimer is cold comfort.

"What we've got here is a tool unscrupulous landlords will use to intimidate low-income renters," DePaulis said.

## Daily Nebraskan

Editor	Jana Pedersen 472-1766	Night News Editors	Adeana Leftin John Adkisson Wendy Molt Tom Kunz Scott Maurer
Managing Editor	Kara Wells	Art Director	Bill Vobejda 476-2855
Assoc. News Editors	Chris Hopfensperger Kris Karnopp	Publications Board Chairman	Don Walton 473-7301
Arts & Entertainment Editor	Stacey McKenzie	Professional Adviser	
Diversions Editor	Donna Searcy		
Photo Chief	Michelle Paulman		

FAX NUMBER 472-1761  
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.  
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.  
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1991 DAILY NEBRASKAN