

U.S. no longer Russian target

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin unveiled an ambitious plan to cut nuclear weapons spending Wednesday and urged the United States and other nuclear powers to "move much farther along the road" to disarmament.

And in a dramatic shift away from more than 40 years of Cold War hostility, the Russian president said his republic's nuclear warheads would no longer be aimed at any targets in the United States.

Yeltsin's first major pronouncement on disarmament came only a few hours after President Bush proposed in his State of the Union speech that the United States and Russia take big bites from their nuclear arsenals.

In a nationwide broadcast, Yeltsin told the Russian people he is ending production of two big bombers and long-range cruise missiles and stopping development of new offensive nuclear weapons.

"We no longer view the United States as a foe," Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told reporters after the meeting.

Key Russian and U.S. nuclear weapons cuts



Following President Bush's offer to:

- ▶ Eliminate 1,500 of 2,000 nuclear warheads on U.S. land-based missiles
- ▶ Reduce by one-third the number of warheads on sea-based missiles
- ▶ Convert some bombers to non-nuclear roles.

Russian President Yeltsin announced:

- ▶ About 600 strategic land- and sea-based nuclear missiles—carrying a total of 1,250 nuclear warheads have been taken off alert.
- ▶ The halting of TU-160 and TU-95MS heavy bomber production.
- ▶ The stoppage of long-range air-based and sea-based cruise missile production.
- ▶ Programs to design or modernize several types of long-range offensive nuclear weapons will be stopped.
- ▶ 130 land-based missile silos have been eliminated or are being prepared for elimination.
- ▶ Russia would be prepared to eliminate all existing sea-based long-range nuclear missiles if the United States agrees to do the same.
- ▶ Long-range nuclear missiles stationed in Ukraine will be dismantled within a shorter period of time than previously planned and the number of nuclear-armed submarines on patrol would be cut in half—stopped altogether if the United States follows suit.

AP

Domestic spending up in Bush's new budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush unveiled a \$1.52 trillion budget on Wednesday that would lighten tax loads for families and businesses in hopes of easing the recession's "winter's gloom." He would boost spending on children but limit other programs including Medicare help for the aged.

Military spending also would be trimmed, but the federal deficit would still rise to a record level of about \$400 billion.

After setting a March 20 target for action in his State of the Union address Tuesday night, he visited GOP legislators Wednesday and asked them to "help communicate with the American people" to win support for his program, according to lawmakers.

Bush would throw the financial might of the government at a wide collection of programs in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

For example, the Head Start preschool program for poor children would grow by \$600 million next year to \$2.8 billion, the fight against AIDS would grow from \$4.4 billion to \$4.9 billion, and highway building would grow from \$17 billion to \$19.2 billion.

But to help pay for the expansion of some initiatives, 246 domestic programs would be eliminated and 84 others would be trimmed.

And once again, Bush proposed limiting the growth of Medicare, the \$127 billion program that helps the elderly and handicapped pay their medical bills.

With the end of the Cold War, Bush proposed whittling \$50 billion over the next five years from the amount he foresaw authorizing the military to spend just a year ago.

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ASUN approves resolution supporting Affirmation Day

By Kara Morrison
Staff Reporter

After two hours of debate, ASUN passed a resolution Wednesday night to co-sponsor, in name, a day to increase awareness of gay, lesbian and bisexual human rights.

Affirmation Day, sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Student Association, will be April 8.

Arts and Sciences Sen. Teg Hughes, co-sponsor of the bill, said she was pleased with the outcome.

"We can finally educate and promote awareness throughout the university community of gay and lesbian rights," Hughes said.

Passed 16-6, the resolution will allow GLSA to use the Association of Students for the University of Nebraska's name on its promotional posters and other materials.

However, the resolution will become ineffective April 1 when a newly elected ASUN senate takes office.

Lengthy discussion arose over one amendment to the resolution that called for ASUN personnel to wear a pink or black triangle on Affirmation Day as a symbol of gay and lesbian rights. Speaker of the Senate Steve Thomlison proposed the amendment.

Arts and Sciences Sen. Doug Peters said the amendment contradicted the purpose of the resolution.

"The group we're trying to support would have a problem with (the amendment)," Peters said. "The day is about choice."

Thomlison voted against the unamended bill, and said he was "opposed to supporting the morality that Affirmation Day supports."

Arts and Sciences Sen. Steve Dietz, who voted in favor of the bill, said the discussions about the morality of lesbianism and homosexuality were irrelevant.

"We are supporting the organization's right to have the day," Dietz said.



Legislature

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The first stated only two methods of acknowledging the living will: It must be either witnessed by two adults, age 19 or older, or notarized by a notary public.

An additional provision in the amendment, Landis said, would provide for those in a terminally ill or vegetative state who did not have a living will or durable power of attorney. In this case, a doctor may be faced with the decision of what to do with the patient, he said.

A U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1990, in

which the court upheld the right of the family to remove a woman from life support, laid out the procedure of implied consent, Landis said.

The decision, he said, first lies with the spouse, followed by the children, and then the parents.

When the bill is next debated, Landis said, Lindsay will introduce a number of "controversial" amendments to LB671.

Lindsay said he would be introducing a "conscience clause" for physicians to remove themselves from a case if they have a conscientious objection to the living will.

Another amendment, he said, would prevent insurance agencies from adjusting their rates for living wills.

Bush

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have less money taken out of their weekly paychecks. The plan is short-term, however, because while taxpayers would have more money in their weekly checks in 1992, the amount of their 1993 tax return would be reduced.

That withholding change will not require congressional approval, but several other changes proposed by Bush will. He asked for a capital gains tax cut, a \$5,000 tax credit over two years for first-time home owners, and a cut that would allow parents to claim an additional \$500 personal exemption for each child.

Robert Sittig, a political science professor, said he thought Bush might have viewed the speech as an opportunity to defend his administration against charges from Democratic presidential hopefuls.

"We have had such a steady diet of news coverage on the Democratic presidential con-

tenders, that it must have crossed the minds of Bush and his speech writers that this was a chance to weigh in on behalf of the administration," he said.

But Sittig said he thought Bush might have hurt himself by demanding action on his proposals from the Democrat-controlled Congress by March 20.

"Normally, a chief executive wants to avoid antagonizing or alienating his allies in the legislative branch," he said, "and I thought Bush went a tad farther than custom would have dictated."

Bush's posturing might gain him a short-term advantage, Sittig said, but it could cost him in the long run.

"His sermonizing — that if you don't like my proposal then there is going to be trouble down the line — might have some short term advantage," he said.

"But he is going to have to work with these folks (Democrats), and they are in control of both houses."

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