

Yeltsin bans 'extremists,' dissolves security force

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin went on the offensive Wednesday against his hard-line political foes, banning a new right-wing group and ordering an opposition-controlled security force disbanded.

The one-two punch seemed designed to keep the hard-liners off Russia's political center stage.

Yeltsin took the step after hard-line lawmakers rebuffed his request to delay the next parliament session and after weeks of criticism from many sides.

The ban hit the members of the parliament, who are determined to curb his powers and slow economic reforms during a session of the Congress of People's Deputies set to start Dec. 1.

Russian and former Soviet lawmakers, including Sergei Baburin and retired Gen. Albert Makashov, led about 3,000 people on Saturday in creating a "National Salvation

Front" to oust Yeltsin and restore the former union.

The grouping of Russian nationalists and Communists accused Yeltsin of destroying the national economy, and polluting Russia's moral and social traditions.

The group was comprised mostly of right-wing critics still believed to have limited influence.

Yeltsin said in a speech on Tuesday he would outlaw the Front.

The president said the group posed a "great danger" for Russia and made good on the threat on Wednesday, signing a decree ordering authorities to prevent all activities by the "anti-constitutional" group or any other "extremist" organizations, said spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov.

Yeltsin also chose Wednesday to order the disbanding of the special 5,000-member police force controlled by legislative speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Clinton pans, praises Perot

Bill Clinton alternately poked and praised Ross Perot on Wednesday, hoping to siphon off support in a race for the White House growing closer by the day. President Bush said he wants a second term so "every American that is hurting has a better opportunity."



Perot mapped plans for a campaign-ending series of rallies to supplement the costliest television advertising effort in American history.

"Six more days," said Clinton.

The sun was just coming up in Ohio as Bush wrapped up his morning jog. Clinton did his own roadwork in the pre-morning darkness in Texas, then had stops set in three southern states before flying off for Ohio.

Clinton's lead has shrunk in recent days as Perot has gained in the polls. In an appearance on NBC's "To-

day" show, Clinton said Perot's recent claims, including one that Republican operatives planned to disrupt his daughter's wedding had "called his temperament into question in many quarters."

Asked his own opinion, Clinton replied, "The American people make their own judgments about temperament, character and trust. So he can't prove what he said and that bothers people."

Clinton told a call-in questioner that if he wins the White House, he would like to have Perot's advice "on the issues that he cares and knows about." He referred specifically to prisoners of war missing in Southeast Asia and steps to reduce the deficit and control government spending.

Later, he told reporters, "I don't think he (Perot) wants a position, but would I let him be involved? Yeah."

Clinton's campaign supplemented his comments by announcing that 122 former Perot supporters, including nine previous statewide coordinators,

were endorsing the Democratic ticket.

"A vote for Ross Perot could let George Bush and Dan Quayle in through the back door for four more years," they said in an "open letter" to Perot supporters circulated by the Clinton campaign.

Bush criticized what he said was overly negative media coverage about the economy, assailed the "voices of doom and gloom" who predict his demise, and said, "Believe me, we are going to win this election."

Most independent analyses give Clinton a commanding edge in the Electoral College.

Mary Matalin, Bush's political director, told reporters traveling with the president, "We're ahead in 15 states with 140 electoral votes" out of 270 needed for victory. Asked to name them, she replied, "I don't have my list with me."

Perot planned a late-night broadcast on CBS of a 30-minute program called "Ross, You Bet Your Hat We Can Win."

State parties quietly bankroll campaign's 'ground war'

WASHINGTON — Republican and Democratic parties at the state level have quietly injected at least \$35 million of their own money in a massive effort to mobilize and influence voters before Election Day, an Associated Press review of the 50 states has found.

In at least 14 states, local parties also have provided another avenue for "soft-money" donations from unions and corporations, which are

Local Republicans, Democrats spend millions

banned from directly contributing to federal campaigns, the AP found.

The state parties will likely spend millions more in this final week before Election Day, carrying about half the financial burden for a campaign that many people have assumed is the sole work of the national parties and the presidential campaigns.

The effort includes bankrolling get-out-the-vote drives, phone banks, generic ads, mass mailings and slate cards designed to influence voters to

vote for the party's entire ticket.

"Ours is the ground war in the trenches in each of the counties and towns. Things like that end up saving the campaigns tons of money," said Jeff Malmen, executive director of the Idaho GOP, which has spent \$351,000.

The state party efforts, often called "non-federal joint expenditures," are particularly important to President Bush and Democrat Bill Clinton, leaving them more of their legally limited

\$55.2 million fall election money for such items as last minute television advertising.

In some of the biggest-spending states:

• In New Jersey, the state GOP has already doled out \$3.05 million from its coffers while state Democrats have spent \$1.34 million.

• In California, the state with the most electoral votes, Democrats have spent \$2.84 million to \$1.63 million by the state GOP; but in Texas, the

No. 3 electoral state, the state GOP has outspent the Democrats \$2.1 million to \$1.3 million.

The AP review involved computer analysis of Federal Election Commission reports and reviews of state campaign finance records in all 50 states.

It showed that through Oct. 14 the state parties reported they had spent \$46.3 million on the joint voter mobilization projects: \$35 million of their own money and about \$11 million in transfers they received from the national parties.

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Doomsday disappointment Missing Rapture a revelation for Korean worshippers

SEOUL, South Korea — For months, thousands of believers proclaiming the "Rapture is coming!" stood on street corners and predicted the end of the world. Some quit jobs and sold everything to prepare to ascend to heaven.

But early Thursday, 15 minutes after the midnight deadline passed, worshippers were told heaven could wait.

"Nothing has happened," said the Rev. Chang Man-ho of Seoul's largest doomsday church, the Mission for the Coming Days. "Sorry; let's go home."

Some 2,500 believers filed out in disappointment, walking under the big yellow chrysanthemum arch at the entrance, past the loudspeakers that earlier blared hymns and "hallelujahs!"

"We just got the message from God wrong," said Kim Tae-jin, a 34-year-old architect. "Jesus will be back in several years."

Critics said the church drew followers because of anxiety over rapid social and political changes in South Korea, and that the mentally troubled and the insecure were easily lured by the doomsday predictions. Korean officials had said the church was creating a social crisis.

Thousands of police backed by fire engines and ambulances were placed on alert overnight to monitor churches across the country and try to prevent suicides or acts of despair. Four people committed suicide prior to midnight, but there were no reports of deaths after it was clear there would be no ascension to heaven.

One young woman collapsed. Some wept. Most tried to avoid the 1,000 curiosity seekers and police searchlights illuminating the night sky.

Police said they had no immediate word on

“ We just got the message from God wrong. Jesus will be back in several years. — Tae-jin, Korean architect ”

whether 10,000 to 20,000 other believers at 200 other churches across the country also had gone home calmly, or whether they were continuing prayer.

But anger surfaced. In Taegu, the Rev. Hwang Bo-kwan was beaten by a man who said the church had kidnapped members of his family, the Yonhap national news agency said.

Police said some church members were reported missing, including 20 believers in the southern port of Pusan who left wills and personal belongings behind, and a couple in Seoul who left three small children.

Seven years of apocalypse were to follow the rapture, the ascent to heaven, and set the stage for the second coming of Christ.

A spokesman for the Seoul church said leaders would visit prison on Thursday to see Lee Jang-rim, 46, the group's founder, jailed on charges of swindling followers of up to \$4 million.

Lee wrote a letter to followers that asked them to restrain themselves if his predictions were wrong.

"Nothing is wrong with our objective to meet Jesus Christ," he wrote. The letter made no mention of the fraud charges.

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