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Lithuania chooses national freedom

Voters defy Kremlin order

By STEVE GOLDSTEIN
Knight-Ridder News Service

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. — Defying a Kremlin decree outlawing their plebiscite, citizens of the break-away republic of Lithuania voted overwhelmingly Saturday for independence and secession from the Soviet Union.

The Lithuanian Electoral Commission said more than nine of 10 voters said they wanted Lithuania to be "an independent, democratic republic." More than 85 percent of eligible citizens appeared to have cast ballots, the commission said.

"Today we did good work," President Vytautas Landsbergis said in a televised speech Saturday night. "The great majority no longer are fearful and once again expressed to the world their determination. They decide in what kind of Lithuania they want to live, what kind of Lithuania they want to create, and what kind of Lithuania they want to leave for their children."

No interference was reported at any of the 2,158 polling stations in the Baltic nation.

Tension had been building as the election date approached: President Mikhail Gorbachev decreed the vote illegal and made a personal plea for the continued unity of the Soviet Union. Military helicopters dropped anti-independence leaflets, and the Ministry of Defense ordered the Soviet army to begin maneuvers in the Baltic republics.

Threatened boycotts by non-Lithuanian citizens of the ballot failed to materialize. In fact, some voters among the republic's 20 percent minority population — primarily Poles, Russians and Byelorussians — said they had been ultimately persuaded to vote for independence by the events of Jan. 13, when Soviet troops captured several key administrative buildings in a bloody incursion that left 15 people dead and hundreds injured.

The vote marked the first time in the history of the Soviet Union



Associated Press

ON GUARD: A Lithuanian guard protects an election checkpoint outside the parliament building in Vilnius Saturday as voters present their identification.



Associated Press

CASTING BALLOTS: Children deposit their parents' ballots in the box, left, as Lithuania's president, Vytautas Landsbergis, votes in Saturday's plebiscite.

that one of its 15 constituent republics attempted to poll its citizens on their desire to secede from the Soviet federation. It came 11 months after the Lithuanian parliament declared the republic's independence, and five weeks before a scheduled national referendum on whether the union should be preserved.

Lithuanian officials, who intend to shun the March 17 national poll, say their plebiscite was designed to demonstrate that a vast major-

ity of the republic's citizens support independence.

The plebiscite does not have any legal effect, but if it is approved, the demand for independence will be worked into the constitution now being drafted.

Voters admitted to high anxiety over the polling.

"We were very nervous about the Gorbachev order and I didn't sleep at all last night. I didn't even watch TV," said Adele Kliukiene, after casting a "yes" vote.

Kliukiene, 64, an ethnic Pole, said she and her husband had a farm near Vilnius that they lost to collectivization in 1949.

After voting, welder Alvydas Butenas, 54, said he was willing to endure any Kremlin intimidation, even renewed violence, to gain independence from Moscow.

"Maybe Gorbachev thinks this poll is unimportant, but for us it is vital that we can freely express ourselves," he said.

The Societies for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP), an anti-Communist youth movement of Catholic inspiration, existing in 21 nations, collected over 5,000,000 signatures in 20 nations calling for a free and independent Lithuania. This epic campaign took place during 1990 with wide and impressive repercussions that the Western media mysteriously chooses, for the most part, to ignore. SHAME!!

Needless to say, The Guinness Book registered the world record, up to this event, to be 3,100,000 signatures. The TFPs collected more than this previous record in but 80 days!

The sympathy, adhesion and enthusiasm of the peoples for this initiative were unanimous everywhere, from Canada to Argentina, from Colombia to the Philippines.

This enormous effort by the TFPs, according to Mr. Emanuelis Singeris, President of the Commission of Lithuanian Foreign Affairs, "was one of the best supports Lithuania has gotten from the free world." Other Lithuanian officials also voiced similar sentiments.

Heartened by election, Lithuania looks ahead

Los Angeles Times Service

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. — Once again, Lithuania is the Baltic mouse that roared. But also again its problem will be finding a way to make Moscow listen.

Political leaders in Lithuania were certain of success in Saturday's vote for independence and secession from the Soviet Union. But the sheer scale of the triumph — more than 90 percent of those voting favored independence — still staggered them a day later.

It was "a victory against lies, against attempts to scare us, against fear," President Vytautas Landsbergis said.

Just how to exploit that latest step and promote Lithuania's quest for the restoration of its independence will be debated by parliament here when it reconvenes today, but initiatives are being contemplated in at least three fields — diplomacy, the economy and the law.

Lithuania reported no signs of new Soviet troop movements on Sunday, a day after the vote.

On the diplomatic front, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas was in London when the referendum took place and will attempt to exploit its resounding result as ammunition to demonstrate that his government is the sole legitimate representative of Lithuanians.

As the Westward-looking Lithuanians are painfully aware, the

United States and its partners in the anti-Iraq coalition are anxious to retain Soviet support for their military onslaught against the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and are unlikely to jeopardize it by a gesture in favor of Baltic self-determination.

In domestic matters, the Lithuanian parliament's spokesman, Audrius Azubalis, said that the republic's chief task in building on Saturday's popular mandate is adoption of an economic reform law that, by allowing state-held assets to become privately owned, would arrest the free fall of the Lithuanian economy and support the present, relatively high standard of living.

Landsbergis said that the privatization bill would have the political benefit of further fracturing the government-run economic network that is one of the last bastions of the pro-Soviet Communist Party.

Finally, the presidium of the Lithuanian Supreme Council is expected to ask the parliament to amend the constitution to reflect the citizenry's resounding approval of Lithuania's transformation to "a democratic, independent republic."

But whether those measures will have any impact on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Kremlin leadership seems doubtful to many.

"I expect the deadlock with Moscow to go on and on for months," was the forecast of one journalist.

Gorbachev tightens grip on TV, radio

Los Angeles Times Service

MOSCOW — President Mikhail Gorbachev on Friday ordered the reorganization of Soviet broadcasting, transforming the governmental committee that has run radio and television into an autonomous, state-owned corporation.

He named a politically conservative news executive as its chairman.

Although the move was part of the general decentralization under way, its form appeared to ensure that Gorbachev will retain direct control of the broadcast media through his appointment of the corporation's chairman, who will have broad powers.

Gorbachev immediately appointed Leonid Kravchenko, who has been the chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio, to head the corporation — despite widespread criticism of his conservative policies and his recent censorship of radical programming.

As planned, the reorganization would give the corporation chairman greater powers, allowing him to make many more decisions on his own authority, freeing him from supervision by Communist Party officials and members of Parliament, and leaving him responsible only to the president.

According to Soviet journalists, this will ensure stronger controls over programming than there have been in recent years, and there are fears that Kravchenko will use that authority to end what little critical reporting survives on national radio and television.

Last week, Kravchenko took liberal Radio Rossiya off the major frequencies it had been using, depriving it of half of its audience. The station belongs to the Russian Federation, the country's largest republic, and reflects the views of Boris Yeltsin, the head of the Russian republic. It had been highly critical

of the central government's policies in the Baltic republics.

Yeltsin accused Kravchenko this week of refusing to grant him uncensored television time to respond to official attacks against him for his support of the Baltic republics.

reporting on current affairs drew an audience estimated at 185 million each weekend. It had wanted to investigate the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in December.

Kravchenko, the former director of the official news agency Tass,

argued without apology at a national journalists' meeting this week that the state media, including radio and television, must reflect the views of the president and of the government. His policies, he asserted, were aimed at ensuring that television and radio act responsibly during the country's prolonged economic, ethnic and political crises.

Kravchenko was also appointed chairman of a new radio and television council that will coordinate national broadcasting and help the country's constituent republics develop their own programming.



Observe
U.N.'s
mandate,
U.S. told
Peace envoy
to visit Iraq

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1991

Soviet: War may go too far

APOCALYPSE VIII, 1-13: "And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven, as it were for half an hour. 2. And I saw seven angels standing in the presence of God; and there was given to them seven trumpets. 3. And another angel came, and stood before the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer of the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar, which is before the throne of God. 4. And the smoke of the incense of the prayers of the saints ascended up before God from the hand of the angel. 5. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with the fire of the altar, and cast it on the earth, and there were thunders and voices and lightnings, and a great earthquake. 6. And the seven angels, who had the seven trumpets, prepared themselves to sound the trumpet. 7. And the first angel sounded the trumpet, and there followed hail and fire, mingled with blood, and it was on the earth, and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. 8. And the second angel sounded the trumpet; and as it were a great mountain, burning with fire, was cast into the sea, and the third part of the sea became blood: 9. And the third part of those creatures died, which had life in the sea, and the third part of the ships was destroyed. 10. And the third angel sounded the trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, burning as it were a torch, and it fell on the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters: 11. And the name of the star was Wormwood (i.e. "Chernobyl" in Russian and Ukrainian). And the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. 12. And the fourth angel sounded the trumpet, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars, so that the third part of them was darkened, and the day did not shine for a third part of it, and the night in like manner. 13. And I beheld, and heard the voice of one eagle flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth; by reason of the rest of the voices of the three angels, who are yet to sound the trumpet."

M

2/11/91 - Our Lady of Lourdes, France...

Dear Blessed Mother Mary,

The whole world should now see that Russia was never consecrated to thy Immaculate Heart by the Pope in union with all the world's Roman Catholic Bishops, as was requested by thee at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 and after. Meanwhile, over 100 million souls have perished to atheistic Communism in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, the Americas and other parts from 1917 to our days.

The Vatican's shameful Ostpolitik toward Communist regimes that began during the pontificate of Paul VI set the stage for the West's detente with this anti-Christian dragon of the Apocalypse. The most recent events in the Middle East are no exception. Just prior to Iraq's invasion of her smaller neighbor, Kuwait, high ranking Soviet military personnel met with Saddam Hussein to plot strategy. The Soviets expect to do in the Middle East now what they did to Japan during World War II. Although Japan had lost the war, Soviet Russia declared war and occupied certain northern Japanese islands which it still holds.

Please ask God to intervene forcefully now!

ARCTURUS

6C SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1991
THE MIAMI HERALD

VIEWPOINT

A Soviet shift in the Gulf?

Henry Hamman, former London bureau chief for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty News, is a journalist who is completing his studies for an advanced degree at the University of Miami. He wrote this article for The Herald.

By HENRY HAMMAN

The past week in the war in Iraq has seen a change in tactics: With many strategic targets in Iraq and Kuwait destroyed, allied warplanes are now flying patterns and looking for targets. A supply convoy, an armored column, troops on the move; all are targets of opportunity.



Hamman

The pilots have a name for this tactic: They call it "trolling."

But the pilots are not the only people who have dropped a line in the Persian Gulf. There are clear signs that the Soviet Union is moving to an opportunistic strategy in its Middle East diplomacy. Consider the following items:

■ On Jan. 30, Pravda observed that it would be "naive to suppose that all Moscow and Washington's interests converge." It would, Pravda added, be "even more naive to believe that the Soviet Union... has conceded the Near and Middle East to the 'sole remaining superpower,' America."

■ The next day, Sovetskaya Rossiya, the official organ of the conservative Russian Communist Party, attacked the allied air war on Iraq as "the real massacre, the veritable genocide of the Iraqi people," and said the United States wanted to establish a pro-American regime in Iraq.

■ Last Monday, the chairman of

the Supreme Soviet's Committee on International Affairs, Aleksandr Dzasokhov, complained that allied military action in the Gulf "is already exceeding the U.N. mandate."

Dzasokhov (who is also a Politburo member) also met the Algerian and Tunisian ambassadors to Moscow. According to Tass, he told the ambassadors the Soviet Union was seeking a political settlement of the war and repeated his complaints about the scope of military action. Both Algeria and Tunisia are Arab countries where support for Saddam Hussein is growing rapidly.

■ Also on Monday, the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party asked the government to "take the necessary steps in the international community and the United Nations to end the bloodshed" in the war, to "preclude irretrievable damage to the environment and redirect the military conflict so that it is in the spirit of U.N. Security Council resolutions."

■ Tuesday, the head of Moscow's Institute for International Affairs told a French television interviewer that Evgeni Primakov, Mikhail Gorbachev's chief Middle East troubleshooter, might soon go to Baghdad to see Saddam Hussein.

■ Throughout this period, a top Soviet diplomat, Deputy Foreign Minister Aleskandr Belonogov, was in Tehran for talks with the Iranian foreign minister, Ali Akhbar Velayati. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said the Soviet Union had called for closer ties "at a time when tragic events are taking place near the boundaries of the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic."

■ Back in Moscow, the new Soviet foreign minister, Aleksandr Besmertnykh, was meeting the vice premier and defense minister of Syria, Mustafa Talas. The Syrians are the weakest link in the military alliance against Iraq, and they are bound to the Soviet Union by a treaty of friendship and a military supply relationship.

■ And on Wednesday, Maj. Gen. Viktor Filatov, speaking at a meeting organized by Palestinian diplomats in Moscow, charged that the United States "planned to conduct one military operation that would destroy Iraq completely. But they have already used three times the number of bombs necessary for one operation."

These are more than straws in the wind. It would be wrong to deny that there may be real concern among Soviet officials and leaders that the allied coalition is engaging in overkill in the air war. But clearly other factors are influencing the shifting Soviet view of the correlation of forces in the Middle East.

The common wisdom of the Sovietologists is likely to be that the shift in policy is a reaction to the United States' growing willingness to criticize Soviet behavior in the Baltic republics.

This is an element, but the strategic prize in the Gulf may also be a motivating factor: Increased influence in the Gulf could give the Soviet Union — the world's biggest oil-producing state — great leverage in the international oil market. Sustained high prices for oil might bring in enough hard currency to avert Soviet economic collapse.

Some Soviet military men have said recently that they do not see the coalition as a sure winner in the war. If they are right, now is the time to distance Soviet policy from that of the allies.

Another factor may be sympathy among more reactionary Soviet policymakers for Iraq's goals. After all, just like Kuwait, the Baltic republics were occupied and annexed by a dictator who demonstrated little concern with human life or the rule of law. And, like the Kuwaitis, the Balts want no part of an empire they never wished to join. The major difference between Iraq's engorgement of Kuwait and the Soviet Union's absorption of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia amounts to one thing: 50 years.

Dear God,

We take this opportunity to thank Thee again for hearing our fervent prayer for rain in the summer of 1970. Most of Florida was suffering a dreadful drought, the Everglades were on fire in many places near homes where children were exposed to the smoke. Although the media (The Coral Gables Times and a local radio station) were interested in our proposal, as mentioned in the article below right, when the rains actually fell that Saturday, contrary to all the weather forecasters' predictions, the media fell silent in giving Thee the credit. Nevertheless, we were so happy when Thou didst answer our prayer for rain then.

Now, over 20 years later we ask Thee, through the intercession of St. Valentine, Priest and Martyr of the Catholic Church, for a very great favor. Namely, that Thou momentarily ignore the moral evils of pornography, perversion and other such sins produced by California and other places, for which the serious drought is a punishment, and grant rain, lots of rain, specially for the hard pressed farmers. In gratitude to Thee, hopefully, many current moral and social evils will be eradicated by an alert and sensible citizenry. Amen.

F SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1991, THE MIAMI HERALD 17A

Taps dry on parched West Coast

Drought hits worst in mid-California

By MILES CORWIN
Los Angeles Times Service

MORRO BAY, Calif. — Every night residents here go to sleep not knowing if there will be enough water to get them through the next day.

The critical time is 7:30 a.m., when a city worker checks the 11 water storage tanks that are automatically refilled each night from nearby wells. If any of the wells, which are at dangerously low levels, dry up, and the tanks are not refilled, residents face a crisis.

"If we don't get any rain, the question of when we'll go dry is a matter of days, hours or even minutes," said Nick Nichols, Morro Bay's director of public works. "I don't go too far from the phone."

Morro Bay is the driest community, in the driest region of California, during the driest period in almost 60 years.

Although the entire state is suffering from a severe drought, the water shortage along the Central Coast between Santa Barbara and Monterey is the most severe. No region in California has been so far below its average rainfall, with such low reservoir levels and so little runoff.

The lack of rainfall has devastated the area because it is not connected to any outside water sources in Northern California or to Colorado River water. The Central Coast relies almost entirely on local reservoirs and ground water supplies.

Towns consider desalting

If the drought continues, many communities in the region could soon face a water shortage as critical as Morro Bay's. As a result, the Central Coast has initiated an unprecedented array of programs to prepare for life without rain.

Many of these communities, including Morro Bay, are banking on desalination to solve their water problems. Plans are already under way to build a number of crash desalination plants that will deliver water before the wells and the reservoirs run dry.

But until the desalination plants are complete, and until state water is available communities are scrambling for emergency supplies that will get them through the next year. Goleta is considering importing water by tanker from Canada. Montecito is drilling wells in the hills east of town. Santa Barbara is using treated sewage effluent to water city parks and golf courses.

In Morro Bay, a seaside community of 10,000 midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the price of water is not the primary concern. Residents just want to ensure that when they turn on their faucets, something comes out.

Dry wells expected

City officials have already drawn up plans to obtain emergency supplies within 24 hours if their wells run dry. They may tap into a pipeline to San Luis Obispo's main reservoir, temporarily draw water from a well at a county golf course, or quickly install an above-ground pipeline to link up with a nearby college's water supply.

Residents are trying to hold off until July, when a temporary desalination plant is scheduled to be completed. It could provide two-thirds of the city's needs. But some residents say that the city, which relies entirely on underground water supplies, is cutting it too close and should have been better prepared for another year of drought.

During the last year, Santa Barbara residents have endured the state's strictest conservation laws — including a ban on lawn watering — and, as a result, have cut water use by almost 50 percent. But without significant rainfall, the city could run out of water by next year.

One of the city's two reservoirs went dry last year, and the second one, Lake Cachuma, is only at 15 percent capacity. Reservoirs throughout the Central Coast are at critically low levels — at 9 percent of capacity, contrasted with an average of 32 percent for the rest of California.

Santa Barbara officials hope desalination will solve the city's water woes. Final environmental approval for the Santa Barbara plant is expected next month, and it should begin delivering potable water by the spring of 1992. The water will be expensive — about \$1,900 an acre-foot, contrasted with about \$200 an acre-foot for treated reservoir water. (An acre-foot is about 325,000 gallons, considered a year's supply for two families).

But until its desalination plant is built, Santa Barbara, a city known for its lush gardens and expansive lawns, will continue to wither. Lawns throughout town are straw-colored patches of grass.

1970-SUMMER
CORAL GABLES TIMES

Prayers Might Bring Rains

Arthur Denchfield, III was struck by the idea that a Texas Indian chief did a rain dance, followed by a five-inch deluge on the drought stricken Lone Star State.

"Just think what we could do in Florida with prayer and thoughts," Denchfield speculated, a

former seminarian and now a partner in one of Miami's largest water bed stores, The Inside.

"We have ARTHUR hundreds of thousands of Christians, Jews, those of other faiths and those who believe in the power of thought alone," the Coral Gables resident said.

"But not enough people are really affected directly enough to pray about it," he went on.

That's when Denchfield came up with the idea of One Great Moment of Prayer for Precipitation.

Starting Monday, Denchfield hopes that all South Floridians will stop for just one minute at noon to pray, or just wish for and think of — Rain.

"God in all his providence will hear our prayers and answer them,"

Prayers Might Bring Rains

Continued from Page 1

Denchfield believes, if the thoughts and prayers are repeated for five days.

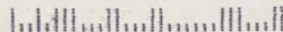
"I appeal to all Floridians join in prayer for rain; for the sake of Florida's general welfare, including all its people, plants and animals," he said.

IT RAINED!!!



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