



Academics react to Soviet's death

(AP) — President Ronald Reagan is making a major diplomatic mistake by sending Vice President George Bush to Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko's funeral instead of personally attending, say two University scholars.

"If we have any kind of hope for accommodation and a loosening of tension, it's by making some kind of gesture toward Gorbachev," said Joseph Fiszman, a political science professor specializing in socialist governments.

"We should begin to court him (Gorbachev) through diplomatic channels," added Russian history professor Alan Kimball. Reagan is the first president in recent history not to have routinely sent the Soviet leadership diplomatic greetings on major Soviet occasions, such as the anniversary of the Russian Revolution, he said.

The two said Monday that the selection of Mikhail Gorbachev to head the Communist Central Committee doesn't signal any major shifts in the Soviet power structure.

However, Kimball added that the speed with which Gorbachev was chosen by the Politburo to succeed the late

Konstantin Chernenko was a significant departure from the way past general secretaries have been chosen. The announcement that Gorbachev would succeed Chernenko came within five hours of Chernenko's death.

"I have a feeling it was predecided," said Kimball, who has a doctorate in Russian history, and has been studying Soviet affairs for the past 20 years. If a consensus among the Politburo was reached before Chernenko's death, Kimball said it would represent a contrast from the way Soviet leaders have been chosen in the past.

Gorbachev's age — at 54, he is the youngest member of the Politburo — does not mean he will approach his new post with fresh ideas or with an eye toward changing Soviet policy, Kimball said.

"Gorbachev represents tradition and that's why he was chosen," he said. "He'll be more like a Brezhnev."

Unlike Grigory Romanov, the other Politburo member believed to have been a top contender for the general secretary post, Gorbachev represents a more

progressive and worldly view toward leadership, Kimball said. Romanov is considered "the thug" among the top Politburo members for his close links with the Soviet secret police, the KGB and the Army, the professor added.

Gorbachev, who recently completed a well-publicized visit to England where he met with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, also has closer links with the West and may have more global sophistication than Romanov, Kimball said.

"I think people will like Gorbachev," he said.

Kimball and Fiszman agreed it will take three to five years before Gorbachev establishes his power within the Soviet government.

The U.S.-Soviet arms talks should continue largely unchanged by the shift in party leadership, Fiszman added. The Soviet leaders will continue to have a "great fear and inferiority complex over American technology," he predicted, and pursue arms limitations as a way to direct more attention, and money, away from armaments and into the Soviet economy.

Gorbachev to meet with world leaders

MOSCOW (AP) — A "young and energetic" Mikhail Gorbachev, in firm command of the Soviet Union, looked back to mourn his predecessor Tuesday and ahead to his first head-to-head summit talks with world powers.

Vice President George Bush, landing in the frigid Soviet capital for Wednesday's funeral honoring former President Konstantin Chernenko, declared that he was bringing a "message of peace" from President Ronald Reagan.

The United States "has no greater hope and no greater goal" than improved relations with the Soviet Union, said Bush.

In Washington, the White House said Reagan would consider meeting with the new Kremlin chief sometime in the future if "it would be beneficial to the cause of world peace."

Gorbachev's first planned talks, however, were with France's President Francois Mitterrand. A presidential spokesman in Paris said Mitterrand, attending Chernenko's funeral, would sit down with the new Soviet Communist Party general secretary after the Red Square burial.

Meetings with Bush and others among the world leaders streaming into Moscow remained uncertain.

Hundreds of thousands lined up in central Moscow Tuesday to file past the flower-draped bier bearing the body of Chernenko, who died Sunday at age 73 of lung, heart and liver ailments.

Gorbachev, a 54-year-old lawyer and agricultural specialist, was the youngest member of the 10-member ruling Politburo. He was announced as the new Communist Party chief within hours of Monday's announcement of the death of Chernenko, who had been both president and party leader. Gorbachev can be expected to eventually take on the less-important presidential title as well.

It was a smooth and rapid transition from a period — since the November 1982 death of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev — that Western diplomats described as a time of rule by an aging collective.

"It's the right thing that they chose Gorbachev," a young bearded man told a reporter near a central railway station. "He's young and energetic. We are putting all our hopes in him, as they say."

House panel votes for missile funding

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House appropriations subcommittee fired the first shot in the congressional battle over the MX missile Tuesday, by voting 7-4 to accept President Ronald Reagan's recommendation for spending \$1.5 billion to produce another 21 of the long-range nuclear weapons.

The panel, meeting as the arms control negotiations began in Geneva, Switzerland, opened what is forecast as a close and bitter battle in both the House and Senate later this month.

A subcommittee member, Rep. Joseph McDade, R-Pa., said if Congress voted to stop MX production now, "It would be devastating to the purposes of arms control... The place to settle this is at the talks in Geneva and not at the table in this committee room."

But Rep. Joseph Addabbo, D-N.Y., the subcommittee chairman, said there are enough of the 10-warhead missiles already approved by Congress to permit the United States to produce the 100 sought by Reagan — even if the arms negotiations go badly.

An Oregon Democrat, Rep. Les AuCoin of Forest Grove, was one of four members casting 'no' votes.

The Senate is expected to vote on the missile about March 20, with the House following on March 25.

Tuesday's vote was required under a congressional decision made last fall which in effect postponed the MX fight. No matter how the subcommittee or the full appropriations committees in the House and Senate vote, the issue will be battled on the House and Senate floor.

NOMINATION FORM FOR 1985 FACULTY AWARDS FOR DISTINGUISHED TEACHING

Nominations are being accepted for 1985 awards to UO faculty members for distinguished teaching. This year there will be two Ersted awards and three Burlington-Northern awards made at the Spring Commencement exercise. Each of the Ersted awards will be accompanied by a gift of \$1,000 and each of the Burlington-Northern awards will be accompanied by a gift of \$2,000. Nominations may be submitted by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. You may use the form below or send a letter of nomination to:

Joanne M. Carlson, Associate Provost, 103 Johnson Hall
Please send no later than March 15, 1985

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