



World beat

International

Superpowers hold talks

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union traded charges of human rights violations Wednesday and then held extended talks on how to carry out their Iceland summit pledges for sharp reductions in nuclear weapons.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz, speaking at a 35-nation conference aimed at improving relations between East and West, said "a tragic human rights situation" existed in the Soviet Union and among its Eastern allies. He warned that arms control would falter unless the perceived abuses were corrected.

Tehran says it'll bargain

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Two Iranian officials said Wednesday that Tehran is willing to work for the release of American and French hostages in Lebanon in return for weapons, unfreezing of Iranian assets in the United States and freedom for political prisoners.

Parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani ridiculed what he said was a mission to Tehran by former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane and four other Americans to try to mend U.S.-Iranian relations. U.S. officials have not confirmed the mission.

But Rafsanjani signaled that rejection of the purported mission does not mean Iran won't help. "If you want us to help you... we will help — if our friends in Lebanon accept," Rafsanjani was quoted as saying.

Waite speaks to press

LONDON (AP) — Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite said Wednesday that British press speculation he was acting on behalf of governments in his mission to free hostages in Lebanon had made his Middle East contacts nervous and could cost his life.

"There are certain speculative comments now moving around that perhaps Mr. Waite is used by or closely associated with governments," Waite told reporters.

"Give me a break. It is your fellow journalist I am working for," he said, referring to Associated Press reporter Terry Anderson, one of six Americans still missing in Lebanon.

National

EPA urges lead cleanup

WASHINGTON (AP) — An investment of \$140 million by community water systems to

reduce lead in drinking water could yield up to \$1 billion in savings, concludes a draft EPA report released Wednesday.

The Environmental Protection Agency report attempts to compare the dollar value of the benefits of reduced lead content with the cost of chemically treating water.

Recent studies show that lead can stunt the growth of children, possibly leading to retardation and even death. In adults, lead can raise blood pressure, thus increasing the likelihood of strokes and heart attacks.

Regional

Voters OK Klamath jail

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Klamath County voters approved an \$8 million bond to build a new jail, according to returns announced Wednesday.

With all precincts counted and about 900 absentee ballots outstanding, the vote was 10,691 in favor to 8,548 against the jail, according to county elections officials.

The county was under a federal court order to build a new jail because overcrowding and antiquated conditions in the old one violated the constitutional rights of inmates against cruel and unusual punishment.

Goldschmidt causes stir

PORTLAND (AP) — In his first full day as governor-elect, Democrat Neil Goldschmidt created a stir Wednesday by urging a halt to further consideration of appointments made by Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

Goldschmidt, who defeated Norma Paulus in Tuesday's election, said the Oregon Senate should hold off on confirming Atiyeh's appointments to dozens of state boards and commissions.

At a news conference, Goldschmidt said it's important that as incoming governor he has some say over the people who will serve on those boards and commissions and help carry out his agenda.

Hanford efforts hurt

PORTLAND (AP) — The Republican Party's loss of control of the Senate will make it tougher to block a proposed nuclear waste disposal site at the Hanford nuclear reservation, Sen. Mark Hatfield acknowledged Wednesday.

When the Democrats regained control of the Senate in Tuesday's election, Hatfield was among six senators from the West to lose committee chairmanships.

Democrats move to set agenda with newly won Senate control

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jubilant Democrats, savoring their newly won control of the Senate, moved Wednesday to settle internal squabbles and fashion a legislative agenda for their next election showdown with the Republicans in 1988.

Senate Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia — poised to become majority leader in the 100th Congress — predicted that his party would use its fresh 55-45 edge to "pull the administration back toward the center in its extremes in foreign policy and its extremes in domestic policy."

Democrats regained the majority after six years of GOP control by grabbing Republican seats in nine states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington. They also turned back strong GOP challenges to Democratic seats in California, Colorado and Louisiana and yielded a Democratic seat only in Missouri.

With the majority, Democrats are claiming the prize of appointing committee chairmen and setting the legislative agenda.

But now they also are under pressure to develop a program, something that will be easier said than done for a party that has yet to develop a consensus on such key issues as military spending, the budget, U.S. aid to Nicaraguan Contra rebels and the president's Strategic Defense Initiative.

Byrd repeatedly said Democrats want to cooperate with Reagan, but he made clear that he wants to enact farm and trade measures, even if the president resists.

The administration has opposed most trade measures offered over the last two years on grounds they would backfire and cause retaliation abroad. Its farm program, approved by Congress in 1985, has not boosted exports as much as many agriculturalists had hoped it would.

As the votes were counted Tuesday night and into Wednesday, one GOP seat after another fell to the Democrats.

In the South, Democratic Gov. Bob Graham defeated Sen. Paula Hawkins in Florida.

In Louisiana, Rep. John Breaux kept the Senate seat of retiring veteran Russell Long in the Democratic column by defeating GOP Rep. Henson Moore.

Georgia Democratic Rep.

Election roundup

The Senate

Democrats won 20 of 34 elections, enough to capture a 55-45 majority of the Senate. They won formerly Republican seats in nine states; the GOP won a single Democratic seat.

The margin going in: Republicans 53, Democrats 47. The margin following the 1982 election: Republicans 54, Democrats 46.

Highlights: New senators included Gov. Bob Graham, D-Fla.; Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md.; Gov. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., and Terry Sanford, D-N.C. The number of women in the Senate remained the same: two, as Mikulski won in Maryland but Sen. Paula Hawkins, a Republican, lost in Florida.

The House

Democrats went into the election with a 73-vote majority, 253-180, aside from two vacancies, and were adding to their control slightly. With races decided in most of the 435 elections, Democrats had won 258 seats and were leading in one, though Rep. John Hiler, R-Ind., was protesting that a counting mistake had wrongly labeled him a loser. Republicans had won 173 and were leading in three.

Highlights: Joseph P. Kennedy II, elected in Massachusetts, to succeed House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill; his sister, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, lost in Maryland. Rep. Jim Wright, D-Texas, won re-election to his Fort Worth seat and is expected to become speaker.

Governors

Democrats won at least 18 governorships — and probably a 19th as soon as the Vermont Legislature ratifies the victory of incumbent Madeleine Kunin — to 17 for the Republicans. However, since a big majority of the seats at stake had been held by Democrats, the Republicans reduced their national governor deficit from 18 to just two.

Wyche Fowler ousted one-term GOP Sen. Mack Mattingly, while Alabama Democratic Rep. Richard Shelby put GOP Sen. Jeremiah Denton out of office.

Former North Carolina Gov. Terry Sanford put an end to the brief Senate career of GOP Sen. James T. Broyhill, who was appointed to the position earlier this year to replace Sen. John East, who committed suicide.

In Maryland, Rep. Barbara Mikulski swept aside conservative Republican Linda Chavez, a former Reagan aide, in the race for the seat being vacated by retiring GOP Sen. Charles Mathias.

South Dakota Republican Sen. James Abdnor went down to defeat at the hands of Democratic Rep. Thomas A. Daschle.

Former Transportation Secretary Brock Adams unseated Republican Sen. Slade Gorton in Washington.

And in a close race in Nevada, Democratic Rep. Harry Reid defeated GOP Rep. James Santini to take the Republican seat being vacated by Sen. Paul Laxalt.

One of the few bright spots in an otherwise gloomy night for the GOP was the victory in Missouri of former Republican Gov. Christopher S. Bond over Lt. Gov. Harriett Woods for the Democratic seat vacated by retiring Sen. Thomas F. Eagleton. In Arizona, for retiring GOP Sen. Barry Goldwater's seat, Republican Rep. John McCain turned aside Democrat Richard Kimball.

Democrats fought back a strong Republican challenge in Colorado for the seat of Democratic Sen. Gary Hart, who is retiring to concentrate on his expected bid for the presidency in 1988. Democratic Rep. Tim Wirth defeated GOP Rep. Kenneth B. Kramer.

And in California, three-term Democrat Alan Cranston defeated Rep. Ed Zschau.

The last Democratic victory was assured at midday Wednesday when the final votes were counted in North Dakota and showed Kent Conrad, the Democratic state tax commissioner, a winner over first-term Republican Mark Andrews.

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