

German reunification tops summit agenda

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, setting the stage for the first post-Cold War summit, staked out rival stands Wednesday on the military shape and political alliance of a unified Germany.

The Soviet leader opened his American visit with a warm red-carpet welcome at a military airport, then moved on to a boisterous greeting from a thousand people at the Soviets' downtown embassy. Applause drowned out a chorus of boos.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III welcomed Gorbachev and touched immediately on the German question, which loomed as the thorniest summit issue. "Together our nations have the responsibility to leave behind not only the Cold War but the conflicts that preceded it.

"To do that we must see a Germany unified and Europe reconciled," Baker said. He added, "We want to see continued movement toward democracy and openness in the Soviet Union."

Even as the Soviet leader arrived in Washington, there were new indications of domestic turmoil: political maverick Boris Yeltsin announced his intention to seek sovereignty for the republic of Russia.

Bush will formally welcome Gorbachev to the White House at a Thursday morning ceremony of pomp and military honors. Vice President Dan Quayle said the president spent Wednesday reviewing "all the possible issues that could be raised, all the points he wants to raise with Gorbachev."

At a pre-summit news conference in Ottawa, Gorbachev punctuated the issue of German unity by complaining that the West was trying to "dictate" the future of the new nation. "This will not suit us," he warned.

Yet the Soviet leader did not mention the dispute when he arrived in Washington.

"A lot will depend on our results," Gorbachev said. "This summit stands out in its importance, first of all, for the promise it holds as the first major step to reduce strategic nuclear arms."

The two leaders were ready to sign long-sought agreements to reduce nuclear and chemical weapons, but their differences on Germany pushed to the top of the agenda on the eve of the four-day meeting. Gorbachev

emphasized his opposition to a united Germany belonging to the West's NATO alliance and challenged Bush to offer another solution.

"It seems that it is just like an old record that seems to be playing the same note again and again. ... I would like us to find a new melody," Gorbachev said in Ottawa.

The White House said Bush was sympathetic to Soviet anxieties about the military might of a combined Germany and said it would pursue an answer that was "politically acceptable and reasonable."

Gorbachev also voiced hopes for compromise. "We do have some leeway to find an accommodation. There are different scenarios that might not be exactly what the West would propose."

In a reminder of Gorbachev's domestic troubles, Lithuanian leaders sent a televised appeal via satellite to Washington for a lifting of Moscow's economic blockade. They said oil shortages threaten to shut down heating systems in the break-away Baltic republic. A few hours later, Yeltsin, the newly elected president of Russia, said he would seek sovereignty for the Soviet Union's largest republic.

Red Soviet flags snapped in the wind alongside American flags in front of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Vendors hawked summit T-shirts, and television cameras staked out building tops within eyesight of the White House.

Thousands of demonstrators were poised to raise their voices in Lafayette Park in protest of Soviet pressure against the Baltic states and other issues.

Gorbachev comes to Washington as a leader besieged by growing domestic woes ranging from an economic crisis to fractures within the Soviet Communist Party.

Bush enjoys strong political support but stands accused by conservative critics of giving away too much in arms deals to a weakened Soviet leader.

Bush, closeted with advisers in a final day of preparations, gave the pre-summit limelight to Gorbachev.

The president spoke by telephone with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is trying to accelerate the move of East Germany to the West into a single nation outside of Soviet influence.

'Twin Peaks' ending planned early

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Even though ABC said Laura Palmer's murder would be resolved in last week's season finale of *Twin Peaks*, executive producer Mark Frost said he never made such a promise.

"I don't know what they would have been basing that on," Frost said Tuesday in an interview from Hawaii. "We never told anyone that was our intention."

In fact, Frost said, it was decided long ago to keep the audience guessing right to the end to force the network into renewing the prime-time soap opera.

"We had no guarantee that ABC would ever renew us," Frost said. "I intentionally structured that last hour so that if ABC was really curious about who killed Laura, they'd have to pick up the show."

"Our sole strategy was survival. By withholding the identity of the killer, we thought we were down to our last coin."

An ABC spokesman told the press early this month that the mystery would be solved in the last show. The spokesman, Bob Wright,

did not return repeated phone calls Wednesday.

The promise was at best another riddle. And yes, *Twin Peaks* will be back in the fall, along with, it appears, disappointed viewers who charted every dizzying turn of the show's nine hours trying to figure out who murdered the sleepy Northwest lumber town's homecoming queen.

On April 8, television was introduced to a world out of kilter, concocted by Frost and film director David Lynch.

The ratings were only mediocre, but die-hard fans threw *Twin Peaks* parties and more was written about the program than any other in recent memory.

So with much ballyhoo, *Twin Peaks*, hurtled toward its season finale with viewers waiting for the solution to Laura's murder, as promised by ABC.

"There were a lot of people who were disappointed that they didn't learn the identity of Laura's killer," Frost said. "I just think there was a misunderstanding somewhere."

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