

German, Baltic issues not settled by summit's close

By Terence Hunt
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev proclaimed "an atmosphere of growing trust" Sunday at the close of their four-day summit. They left unresolved nagging differences on German unity and independence for Lithuania.

The leaders parted with smiles and warm handshakes and a decision to meet on a regular basis — perhaps annually. The Soviet president invited Bush to Moscow, a state visit that may take place before year's end.

The Soviet president and his wife jetted off to meet with business and farm leaders in Minneapolis and an overnight stop in San Francisco. On Monday, Gorbachev has a reunion with Ronald Reagan, and holds a first-ever meeting with the president of South Korea.

"We've moved a long, long way from the depths of the Cold War," Bush said at a wrapup news conference, sitting alongside Gorbachev at the same mahogany table where they sealed agreements Friday to slash long-range nuclear weapons, halt production of chemical weapons, and lift trade barriers against Moscow.

The news conference was broadcast live in America and across the Soviet Union, where mounting political and economic problems await Gorbachev on his return.

Gorbachev said the two leaders compared differences in "an atmosphere of frankness, a constructive atmosphere, an atmosphere of growing trust."

Despite the rosy assessments,

stubborn problems persisted.

Bush said Gorbachev offered no assurances that he would ease his economic stranglehold on Lithuania, the Baltic republic struggling for freedom. The U.S. leader said the question of Baltic independence was "one of the thorns in the side of an overall relationship."

As for Gorbachev's objections to a united Germany belonging to NATO, Bush said, "I'm not sure we narrowed them." Gorbachev said the European questions were matters of "the highest level of strategy." He said of Germany, without elaboration, "We're not going to put spokes in the wheel."

Separately, Secretary of State James A. Baker III said he will explore a "political agreement" between NATO and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact to bridge the differences over a unified Germany. He was skeptical of an idea from a Gorbachev adviser that the Soviet Union become a member of NATO, the 16-nation Western alliance.

Overseas, leaders of the two Germanys said the summit improved prospects for unifying their countries and boosted chances for disarmament.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher pronounced the meeting "a great success." East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere hailed "new and very different ideas" about stabilizing European security.

Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will take up the German question on Tuesday at a Copenhagen human rights meeting and then again later in the month at the so-called two-plus-four uni-

fication talks. These talks involve the two Germanys and the four victors of World War II: the United States, Soviet Union, France and Britain.

With impassioned words, Gorbachev said he was obliged to speak for the 27 million Soviets killed in German-provoked World War II. "It's not a matter of pride but of justice, supreme justice. ... We have a moral right."

On the contentious issue of Lithuania, Bush said he did not link trade benefits for Moscow with a relaxation of pressure on the Baltic republic. The only price, he said, was passage of a Soviet law protecting Jewish emigration. "That's it," he said.

Yet, Baker acknowledged it would be "very difficult" to win congressional approval of a trade treaty.

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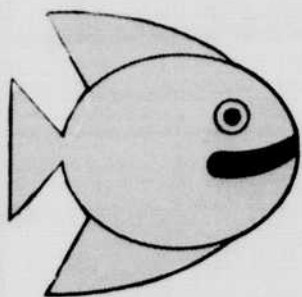
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