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NATIONAL

Yeltsin hopes visit will establish his identity

WASHINGTON (AP) - Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin's visit to the United States this week is aimed at establishing his identity as leader of a sovereign European state, a Yeltsin spokesman said Mon-

The trip will be Yeltsin's first since winning last week's election as president of the Russian Republic, the largest and most powerful of the 15 republics within the Soviet Union.

Viktor Yugin, a leader of an advance team setting up the four-day trip, told a news conference here that the central Soviet government of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev sets the broad outlines of foreign policy for all 15 of the Soviet repub-

But specific elements of that policy will be up to the repub-

"It is quite natural that Yeltsin will be talking about joining the European house as a sovereign entity." the spokesman said

In a slap at Gorbachev, Yugin added that the Russian leader would not be coming "with his hand extended, as some of our leaders do, but to discuss mutually beneficial cooperation' in developing cultural and economic ties with the United

Another official, Andrei

government is in the process of establishing "parallel foreign relations" with those of the Soviet government. But he said he does not foresee the two governments being in competition with each other.

Yeltsin is scheduled to arrive in Washington on Tuesday afternoon and meet Wednesday with the leaders of the House and Senate, his official hosts.

He meets with Bush and top administration officials on Thursday before departing for New York, where he is to address New York University and meet with leaders of the Federal Reserve Bank and business executives and human rights

Yeltsin was one of seven republic leaders who reached agreement with Gorbachev Monday on the draft of a new Union Treaty defining the relationship between the Soviet government and its constituent republics. Six of the 15 Soviet republics are seeking independence and have refused to participate in the negotiations on the new treaty to replace one signed in 1922

The participation of Russia, which is by far the largest and most powerful of the 15, is critical to the future of any union structure that remains.

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petes well with its larger counterparts.

'With the work they're doing at Pine Mountain, it's not so much the size of the telescopes as the darkness of the sky," said Rick Kang, president of the Friends of Pine Mountain, a volunteer group that conducts tours and keeps the public operations going through memberships and do-

The fact is that there's a lot of dark sky out there in the desert, and the darker the sky you get, the easier it is to get images of the objects that are faint to begin with.

The same technology that will allow images to be shown on video monitors will give researchers better, quicker views of faint and distant objects such as galaxies, which are so far away it takes their light millions or billions of years to reach Earth.

The observatory was started in 1967 by the late E.G.

Ebbinghausen, a University astronomy professor. Tired of lugging the 15-inch telescope all over the Cascades looking for cloud-free viewing sites. Ebbinghausen built a cinder block and metal dome to house the scope at Pine Mountain.

Pine Mountain, like other observatories, is at a high altitude (6.300 feet) to put it above much of the light-distorting atmosphere and far from city lights, which can wash out faint starlight

After Ebbinghausen spent years collecting data from double stars, another University professor, James Kemp, used the site to study light coming from white dwarf stars - old stars that are small, dense and intensely brilliant.

His work at Pine Mountain confirmed the existence of these stars, which play an important role in understanding a star's life cycle.

In the 1970s, the two larger telescopes were added to the Pine Mountain site

Professors Greg Bothun and

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