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France elects new president

PARIS (AP) — Jacques Chirac, the conservative mayor of Paris, finally won France's presidency in his third attempt, defeating Lionel Jospin in a runoff Sunday to end 14 years of Socialist rule.

The right already controls 80 percent of the seats in parliament, and Chirac's victory gives conservatives their first chance since 1981 to exercise full control over foreign and domestic policy.

"I will be the president of all French people," Chirac declared in his victory speech. "I know the difficulty of the task that awaits us."

Jospin congratulated Chirac, wished him good luck and said his supporters had helped launch the troubled Socialist Party back on the road to recovery.

With all votes counted except for overseas possessions, Chirac

led Jospin 52.7 percent to 47.3 percent, with 15,551,412 votes to 13,975,871.

Jospin had narrowed a large deficit in the polls in recent days, creating suspense in the battle to succeed Francois Mitterrand, France's longest-serving president.

The Socialist Mitterrand, 78 and ailing with prostate cancer, is expected to step down in about one week after 14 years in office. He sent telegrams congratulating Chirac and thanking Jospin.

Champagne corks popped in Chirac headquarters, and supporters erupted into a chorus of "La Marseillaise," the national anthem, when the projections were flashed onto TV screens. Later, tens of thousands of revelers flooded into the Place de la Concorde, waving flags and splashing in floodlit fountains as honking horns echoed throughout Paris.

President Clinton congratulated

Chirac in a message relayed by the U.S. Embassy in Paris, according to a statement read by presidential spokesman Mike McCurry.

Alain Juppe, the foreign minister expected to become Chirac's prime minister, said the winner prevailed through "courage and tenacity," after trailing badly just three months ago behind conservative Premier Edouard Balladur.

"Now we must keep a cool head and a spirit of tolerance," Juppe said. "The French have chosen without ambiguity."

The Jospin camp was disappointed but not surprised by the result, which was closer than predicted by the last authorized polls a week ago and a marked improvement over the debacle the Socialists suffered in recent parliamentary elections.

"We got back close to the people," said Martine Aubry, a former labor minister and Jospin aide. "Now, we must continue."

Embassy may move to Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP) — There is growing concern in Israel over a U.S. congressional initiative to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, even though Israel has long sought international recognition of its claim to all of the holy city.

The unease was reflected in a refusal by Israeli leaders to take a public position on the embassy move. Officials said they fear a move could ignite Arab anger and upset peace negotiations.

Palestinians warned it could provoke violence, cripple Israeli-Arab peacemaking efforts and ruin America's credibility as an impartial mediator.

"I think it will have dangerous and grievous consequences," Marwan Kanafani, spokesman for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, told The Associated Press. "The status of America as mediator would be in jeopardy."

The United States, like most other countries, has maintained its embassy in Tel Aviv and refused to accept Israel's claim to the city of 560,000 as its

capital. The PLO wants the eastern sector, which Israel captured from Jordan and annexed in 1967, as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

The Clinton administration and previous U.S. governments have held that the final status of Jerusalem, whose eastern sector contains sites holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians, should be determined in negotiations. Israeli-PLO talks on the city's future are to begin next year.

But some in the U.S. Congress are pushing to move the embassy to Jerusalem by 1999. Reports in *The Jerusalem Post* and the *Washington Times* suggested Senate majority leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., planned to introduce legislation Tuesday mandating an embassy move.

"I think it's useful for us to send a signal we support Israel's right to pick their capital," House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

Bird charged with cocaine smuggling

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP) — Police arrested a would-be smuggler trying to get 22 pounds of cocaine through the airport named after his father into the country governed by his brother.

Ivor Bird, the fourth of five sons of former Prime Minister Vere C. Bird and a younger brother of Prime Minister Lester Bird, was arrested Saturday, police said Sunday.

Police said Bird had refused to allow customs officials at

Vere C. Bird International Airport to search a suitcase brought Friday from Venezuela by an accomplice, Marcus Alberto Chapman. When the officials notified police, Ivor dropped the luggage and ran away.

Authorities found 22 pounds of cocaine inside the suitcase and immediately placed Chapman under arrest. Bird, whose age was not released, was arrested Saturday at an undisclosed location.

Bird was charged with possession of cocaine, intent to sell, intent to transfer and importing drugs. He was released on \$50,000 bail. A hearing was scheduled for next week.

Chapman faces the same charges.

Prime Minister Bird, 57, didn't issue a statement on his brother's arrest, the latest scandal affecting the family that has run this Caribbean nation for the past 50 years.

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