

# Israel lifts closure of Gaza Egypt for liberation of East Jerusalem, occupied areas

CAIRO, June 8: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Saturday made one of his harshest attacks yet on Israel, calling for the liberation of East Jerusalem and the other occupied territories, reports AFP.

In a speech read on his behalf at Arab League headquarters in Cairo to mark Jerusalem Day, Mubarak said the holy city's eastern sector, can never be Israel's capital.

He called on the international community to liberate East Jerusalem and the rest of the territories, saying the occupation can never be considered a fait accompli, no matter how long it lasts.

Any occupation by force of territories belonging to others is illegal and constitutes a violation of international conventions, Mubarak said in the speech.

He said that the Israeli au-

thorities' policy of putting settlers into the occupied territories, notably Jerusalem, testifies to the bad faith of those who want to renege on their undertakings.

The Arabs cannot renounce either a right or an inch of territory and will not accept any bargaining over sovereignty and their national rights in the framework of a just and global peace, which we would like to take into consideration the security of all peoples in the region, Mubarak said.

The speech, read out by Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, follows a meeting the Egyptian president had in Damascus Wednesday with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad.

AFP also adds: The Islamic resistance movement Hamas and the PLO faction Fatah on Sunday reached a 10-point agreement to coordinate resis-

tance to Israeli occupation, correspondents said in Gaza.

The two groups pledged to use democratic means to settle differences and condemned the use of force by one Palestinian faction against another.

Hamas and the secular Faith, the principal component in the Palestine Liberation Organisation, stressed that the intifada, the grass roots uprising that began in December 1987 — should remain the favoured vehicle in the struggle against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

AP adds: Israel partially lifted a two-week closure of the occupied Gaza Strip Monday, allowing entry only to Arabs older than 28 and in groups of at least 10, the army said.

The new rules meant that few of 40,000 Palestinians

from Gaza who usually work in Israel were able to get in.

Arab reporters said between 50 and 100 Gazans entered Israel by mid-morning, and that about 12,000 were turned away Israel radio said several hundred Palestinians got through.

The army said there was "slow movement" from Gaza to Israel without providing figures.

Gaza was sealed on May 24 after a Palestinian stabbed and murdered an Israeli teen-age girl in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam. Many recent stabbing attacks in Israel have been by Palestinians from Gaza younger than 30.

In addition to the age and group travel restrictions imposed by the army Monday, Gazans are only permitted into Israel if they are driven to their jobs by employers, the army said.

## By-elections in India begin under tight security

NEW DELHI, June 8: Indians began voting under tight security in by-elections today to fill two vacancies in the Federal Parliament and 19 State Assembly seats, election commission officials said, reports AFP.

Four million voters were eligible to cast their ballots in the polls, including a fight for the prestigious New Delhi parliamentary seat between two fading movie superstars.

Opinion polls have favoured Rajesh Khanna, fighting on the ruling Congress (I) Party ticket, over his rival Shatrughan Sinha of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the race for the New Delhi seat.

Balloting was underway in 516 voting stations in the constituency, where 460,000 voters were eligible to turn out to choose from among 125 candidates.

Election commission officials said elaborate security arrangements had been made to ensure voting is free and fair in the capital and elsewhere.

# Australia was 'desert'?

SYDNEY, June 8: Aboriginal and political leaders are pondering the implications of a High Court decision that overturns the concept that Australia was an unoccupied country when whites arrived more than 200 years ago, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Paul Keating has hailed last week's landmark decision as the death of Petra Nullius, the legal interpretation defining Australia as "desert and unoccupied" before the arrival of Europeans in 1788.

The High Court, which is the final judicial authority in Australia and whose decisions cannot be appealed, ruled that the traditional land rights of the indigenous people of Murray Island in the Torres Strait were not extinguished by white colonisation.

He said the dispossession of aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders had been justified in law because they had no notion of property and "because their use of the land did not seem to be in accordance with the biblical injunction to replenish the earth and be fruitful".

But Keating later said in a television interview that it would not be wise for aboriginal leaders to press the federal government for a treaty and national land rights legislation.

Str Francis Brennan indicated that it was necessary for common law to move in line with international law in recognising the rights of Australia's indigenous inhabitants.

But the high court judges were careful to say their decision recognises native title to land only under certain conditions.

Politicians, aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and legal experts have all said it has far wider ramifications.

Aboriginal Law Expert Garth Nettheim, a professor at the University of New South Wales, said Australia should follow Canada's example of establishing a national forum to consider the implications of the high court decision.

Nettheim said the Canadians had taken similar legal decision several years ago.

Tickner said the royal commission into deaths in custody had recommended that land rights be implemented through action by state and territory governments and this recommendation had received backing from governments nationally.



PAUL KEATING following the decision. Keating responded: "I don't think it's wise for aboriginal leaders to take that position, many have not." In Thursday's ruling, Judge

## BRIEFLY

**Bush won't send troops to Haiti:** President George Bush said on Sunday he was not considering sending troops to Haiti to help restore democracy and put ousted President Jean-Bernard Aristide back in power, reports Reuter from Camp David.

"No, not yet," Bush replied when asked about the possibility during a news conference with British Prime Minister John Major.

He said he was hoping sanctions imposed by the organisation of American states would be effective in returning democracy to Haiti, where a coup last year ousted Aristide.

**Delta launched successfully:** A delta rocket carrying a multi-million dollar scientific satellite was launched successfully in Cape Canaveral Sunday, US air force officials said, reports AFP from Florida.

The launch had been scheduled for Saturday but was delayed until Sunday because of poor weather at the radar tracking station on the Caribbean island of Antigua, officials said.

**Five more killed in Kashmir:** Five people, including two militants and a security official, were killed and ten subversives apprehended in the Kashmir valley since Sunday night, reports PTI from Srinagar.

A security official was killed and another injured when militants fired upon them during search operations in Pulwama district on Sunday night, an official spokesman said, Sunday.

In the return fire, he said, two militants were killed. One AK-47 rifle was recovered from the site, he added.

**COPA plane crashes with 47:** Panamanian rescue teams have found the wreckage of a Panamanian jetliner that went missing overnight Saturday, and said there were no signs of survivors among the 47 people aboard, Colombian aviation officials said Sunday, AFP says from Santa Fe de Bogota.

The wreckage of the Boeing 737 was spread over one square kilometre (0.4 square mile) in a jungle region in Panama near that country's border with Colombia, Colombian civil aviation officials said.

The plane belonging to the Compania Panamena De Aviacion (COPA) was flying from the Panamanian capital to the southwestern Colombian city of Cali when it was reported missing in stormy weather. It was the first time the company had flown between those two cities.

**Nepal to ban cigarette ads:** Three million Nepalese people have agreed to ban cigarette advertisement in public media, Xinhua reports from Kathmandu.

A leader of the Leo Club handed over their signatures to Prime Minister Girtija Prasad Koirala at a function of the gathering of social organisations in Kathmandu on Sunday.

Smoking in government offices, public places and transportation has been banned in the Kingdom which has a population of 18.46 million.

**Kuwait destroys 22,353 mines:** Kuwait destroyed 22,353 mines last week and hopes to be totally clear of mines left from the Iraqi occupation by the end of June 1994, reports Reuter from Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti army said 1,008 tonnes of mines, explosives and ammunition left by the Iraqi army during its seven-month occupation of the Emirate were destroyed last week, the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) said on Sunday.

Mine clearing teams from Kuwait, the United States, Britain, France, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Turkey are involved in the operation.

**2 Romanian climbers missing:** Two Romanian women climbers were missing presumed dead after a failed attempt to scale the 8,167 metre (26,793 feet) Mount Dhaulagiri, the Nepalese Tourism Ministry said Sunday, AFP reports from Kathmandu.

Expedition leader Taina Iacinta Coliban, 49, and Sandita Isaila, 42, were last seen by their Sherpa guide on May 11 as they left their second high altitude camp for camp three at 6,200 metres (20,340 feet).

**NZ wants military ties with Australia:** WELLINGTON, June 8: New Zealand was working towards restoring its military ties with Australia and the US cut by a previous government's anti-nuclear policies, Defence Minister Warren Cooper said Monday, reports AFP.

He said the government intended to work towards the fullest possible participation "in the ANZUS treaty (Australia, New Zealand, United States).

New Zealand's role in the treaty ended in 1985 when the government of Prime Minister David Lange introduced anti-nuclear laws which the US claimed compromised its policy to "neither confirm nor deny" the presence of nuclear weapons aboard US warships.

Cooper said in a speech that this US initiative had removed the primary reason for resisting ship visits.

**Azerbaijan polls held peacefully:** BAKU, June 8: Voting in Azerbaijan's presidential election went off quietly on Sunday, with the required 50 per cent turnout level passed easily by mid-afternoon, electoral officials said here, reports AFP.

A Defence Ministry statement said election day passed off generally more peacefully in the troubled republic than other recent days.

Speaking to journalists, Electoral Commission President Djfar Bertev said the turnout was over 60 per cent by mid-afternoon. A 50 per cent turnout was needed for the poll to be valid.

Final results, which are expected to hand victory to the National Popular Front and its candidate Abulfaz Elshibey, are only expected in around 10 days time, although provincial results would probably be available tomorrow (Monday).

**Election results threaten to tear Czechoslovakia apart:** PRAGUE, June 8: President Vaclav Havel, trying to keep Czechoslovakia together as election results threatened to tear the country apart, chose right-wing strongman Vaclav Klaus on Sunday to form a new government, reports Reuter.

Finance Minister Klaus' Civic Democratic Party (ODS) swept the western Czech republic, were voters overwhelmingly backed his radical reforms designed to transform the country quickly to a market economy.

But voters in Czechoslovakia's eastern region chose by an almost identical margin the leftist and nationalist-minded Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), which confirmed it would take steps that could break up the Czechoslovak federation.

The results will almost certainly result in a deadlocked parliament. Klaus, despite having the most seats in the federal assembly, faces tense and tough negotiations in his attempts to put together a government.

But the tough and single-minded Klaus was not daunted by being at odds with the equally Pugnacious leader of the HZDS, Vladimir Meciar.

"The starting points are different but we know that there is room for manoeuvre for both parties", Klaus said. "We still hope that

the Slovak side has a basic interest in keeping the federation."

He admitted that if negotiations were unsuccessful Czechoslovakia would break up.

Meciar immediately made matters more difficult for Klaus. He said the election results showed Slovak dissatisfaction with the economic reforms, insisted he would declare Slovak sovereignty and also said he would oppose Havel's own bid for re-election next month.

The (Czech and Slovak) republics will adopt their own constitutions which will make the federal constitution cease to exist, Macker told reporters in the Slovak capital Bratislava.

Havel's chances of re-election after the new parliament meets later this month were now minimal, Meciar said.

In contrast, Klaus said "Havel was the only man who could keep Czechoslovakia". Adding: "Our candidacy of Havel is one of the constants of our negotiations."

Both Klaus and Meciar would not rule out that they could come to a deal when they begin negotiations today but Klaus said their talks would be a minifield.

"We have to start bargaining with Meciar," he said. "We don't have much time, we cannot

afford to be without a government. It's going to be difficult."

Klaus party won 80 seats in the federal assembly, to Meciar's 54. The left-wing in the Czech republic also made a strong final surge and the three major leftist groups ended with 46 seats.

The tangled political scene was complicated further by the failure of Klaus' expected right-wing allies, the Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), to pass the five per cent barrier necessary to win seats in parliament.

The new parliament will be short of senior and experienced politicians. A total of 13 of the current 18 cabinet ministers lost their seats.

The principal casualties were Prime Minister Marian Calfa, Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier and Economy Minister Vladimir Dlouhy.

The party of the democratic left (SLD) in Slovakia, which came second in the region and won 20 seats, will be an important broker in inter-party negotiations.

Its leader Peter Weiss, although supporting the HZDS proposal to declare Slovak sovereignty, is regarded as a moderating influence. He was due to meet Meciar today.

**PLO officer shot dead in Paris:** PARIS, June 8: A senior PLO intelligence officer was shot to death Monday in front of a Paris hotel, Palestinian sources said, reports AP.

Atef Bsciso, 42, was killed with a gun equipped with a silencer in front of the Meridien Montparnasse hotel, according to the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The killer or killers fled the scene.

The incident was not immediately confirmed by French police.

Bsciso was one of the most senior intelligence officers of Fatah, the PLO's mainstream guerrilla faction.

He had been essentially running the faction's intelligence operations since the assassination of Salah Khalaf in Tunis in January 1991.

# "Death to America, death to Israel" Iranian pilgrims rally in Makkah

RIYADH, June 8: An estimated 120,000 Iranian pilgrims staged a political rally in Makkah Sunday, chanting "Death to America" and appealing for Islamic unity, an Iranian official reported, said AFP.

He said the gathering was peaceful, with participants having been warned by Iranian authorities to "respect the security of all pilgrims."

A similar rally in 1987 led to violent disturbances that killed 402 people, including 275 Iranians, outside the

grand mosque in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

Iranian authorities charged that Saudi security forces had opened fire on the crowd and relations between Tehran and Riyadh were broken off in 1988. Saudi officials insisted the deaths occurred in a crowd stampede.

Iran boycotted the pilgrimage, or Hajj, from 1988 to 1990, returning to Makkah last year after relations were restored.

Sunday's demonstration, at-

tended by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohamad Ali Besharati, was punctuated with shouts of "Death to America," "Death to Israel" and "Muslims, Unite!"

In a conciliatory tone, reflecting a new climate of pragmatism in Iran, Besharati declared that Saudi-Iranian relations were now very solid.

"No other countries pay as much attention to the need of Muslims as Saudi Arabia and Iran," he said in remarks carried by the Saudi press agency.

But in Tehran, newspapers close to radical hardliners criticised the government for moving closer to what they called an advocate of "American Islam."

"American Islam, the false and reactionary force of Islam, wants to get rid of real Islam," warned the newspaper Kayhan.

In Makkah Iranian pilgrimage leader Hojatolleslam Mohamad Rey-Shari pointedly thanked Saudi security forces "for having helped organise the rally."

# Elections no threat to Suharto govt

JAKARTA, June 8: Indonesians vote Tuesday in tightly controlled elections that pose no threat to President Suharto's 26-year-old administration, reports AP.

A five-day "cooling off" period ended Monday during which public politicking was banned after the formal 25-day campaign period.

This is the sixth election since Indonesia declared independence from the Dutch in 1945, and the fifth since Suharto took power with military backing in 1966. Suharto and his vice president are retired generals and more than a dozen of the 41 cabinet ministers are active or retired officers.

The election is the only sanctioned public political event in the world's fourth most populous country.

Critics dismiss it as a contrived ritual that is useful only to let off steam. Supporters say it provides training for an eventual return to true civilian rule.

Parliament acts mainly as a sounding board for public grievances and endorse of government policies. It has never initiated its own legislation.

The three contesting parties support the president and, under the rules, are not supposed to offend the government. Not surprisingly, they

didn't, since the Suharto administration helps finance all three and screened their 2,283 nominees.

At stake are 400 parliamentary seats. Suharto appoints another 100 members of the military, who cannot vote in elections.

While Suharto, who turned 71 on Monday, isn't a member of Parliament, his popularity will be tested at the polls. Golkar, whose full name is Golongan Karya, or "functional groups," is geared up with the

full weight of Indonesia's huge civil service behind it.

Golkar enjoys military patronage and is well-financed. It is the only political group permitted to organize full time at the village level.

Although Golkar is favoured to win easily, as in previous elections, attention will focus on whether it fares as well as in 1987 when it won 73 per cent of the votes.

Citizens vote for a party, not individuals. Each party has a slate in the 27 provinces, with a priority ranking for individual candidates.

**32,908 foreigners were held in Japan last yr**

TOKYO, June 8: Japan arrested a record 32,908 foreigners in 1991 for working illegally and has deported most of them, the Justice Ministry said today, reports Reuter.

South Koreans topped the list with 9,782, followed by 7,700 Iranians, 4,855 Malaysians and 3,249 Thais, the ministry said in a report.

More than 23,000 foreign workers were arrested in 1990.

The ministry said there were a record 216,399 illegal immigrants as of November 1, 1991, up 35 per cent from six months before.

This number was calculated by examining records of those entering and leaving Japan, the official said.

Of this figure, 32,751 were Thais, 30,976 South Koreans, 29,620 Philippines and 25,379 Malaysians, it said.



HONG KONG: Newly crowned Miss Hong Kong Emily Lo (C) poses with first runner-up Patsy Lau (L) and second runner-up Shirley Cheung (R) June 7 after the Miss Hong Kong 1992 pageant.

## Off the Record

### 'Nothing can change the affection'

CAMP DAVID: British Prime Minister John Major Sunday said he saw nothing that could change the affection he said Britons feel for their monarchy in claims made about the Princess of Wales in a new book, reports AFP.

Major, who held a press conference with President George Bush at the US presidential retreat after a weekend of talks here, was asked by the British press for his reaction to journalist Andrew Morton's book "Diana," which says the Princess of Wales has made several suicide attempts.

"I'm not going to comment on the unsubstantiated rumours that I gather have been published today. I've not had a chance to look at them in any depth," Major said.

"I would ... simply say this: the monarchy is very deeply rooted in the affections of the British, and so is the present royal family, and I see nothing that is going to change that."



### He got AIDS not through sex

SAN FRANCISCO: A gay police officer has won a legal battle to prove he got AIDS from being bitten by an infected suspect, reports AP.

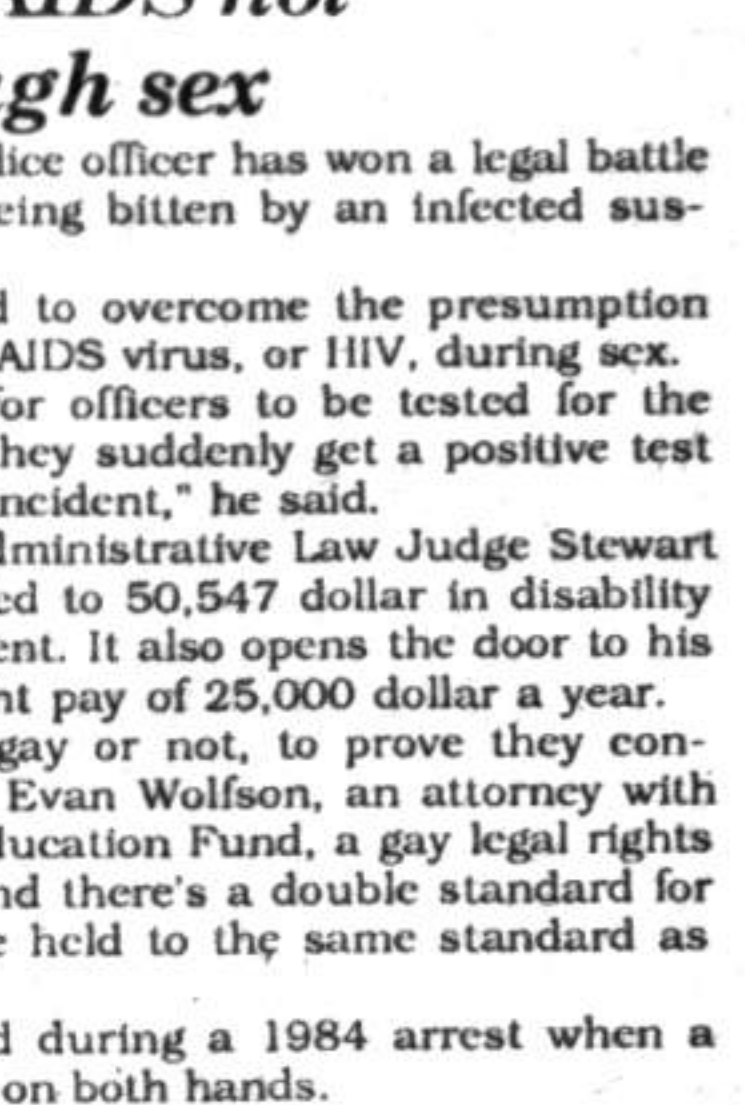
Thomas Cady said he had to overcome the presumption that he was infected with the AIDS virus, or HIV, during sex.

"I think it's a good idea for officers to be tested for the virus every six months so if they suddenly get a positive test they could trace it to a work incident," he said.

The ruling last week by Administrative Law Judge Stewart Judson means Cady is entitled to 50,547 dollar in disability pay and AIDS medical treatment. It also opens the door to his claim for permanent retirement pay of 25,000 dollar a year.

"It's difficult for anyone, gay or not, to prove they contracted HIV on the job," said Evan Wolfson, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defence and Education Fund, a gay legal rights group based in New York. "And there's a double standard for gays. Gay people ought to be held to the same standard as anyone."

Cady said he was infected during a 1984 arrest when a suspect, Lyle Julius, beat him on both hands.



### 'King of champagne music'

STRASBURG: Champagne music filled the air as friends and neighbours dedicated the sod house where Lawrence Welk was born, reports AP.

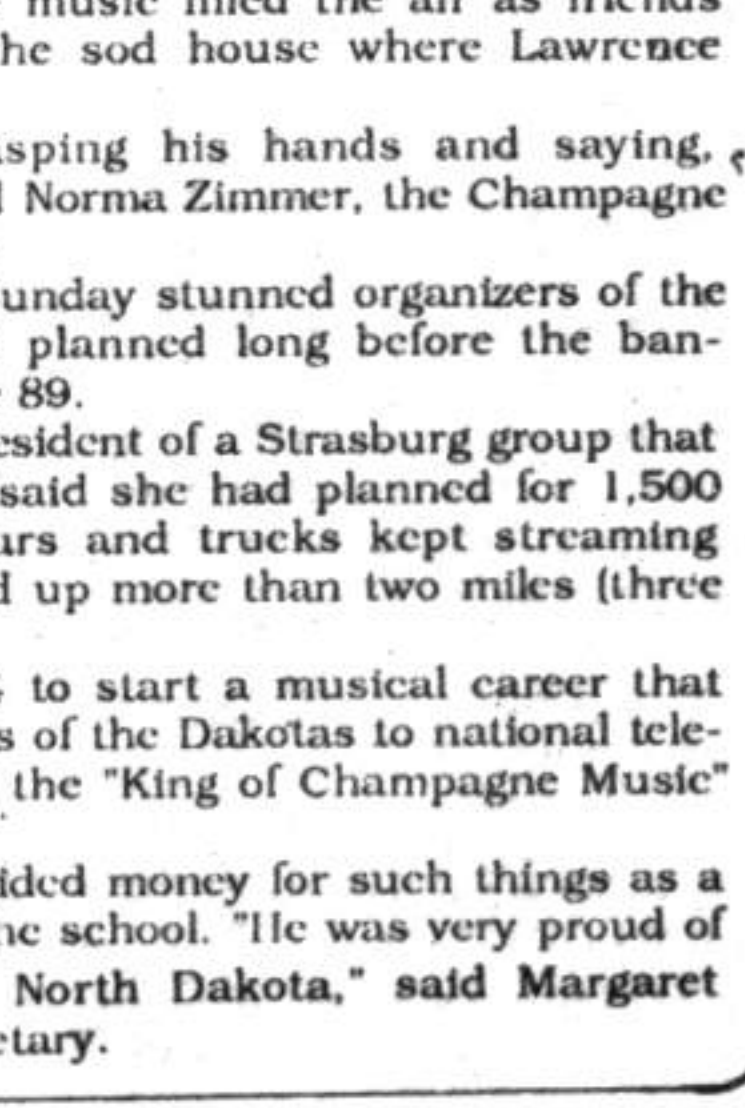
"I can just see him clapping his hands and saying, 'Wunnerful, wunnerful'" said Norma Zimmer, the Champagne Lady singer with Welk's band.

The turnout at the farm Sunday stunned organizers of the dedication, which had been planned long before the band leader's death May 17 at age 89.

Rosemary Schachbauer, president of a Strasburg group that worked to restore the farm, said she had planned for 1,500 to 1,700 people. But the cars and trucks kept streaming down the gravel road, backed up more than two miles (three kilometers).

Welk left Strasburg at 24 to start a musical career that took him from the dance halls of the Dakotas to national television. He became known as the "King of Champagne Music" for his bubbly dance tunes.

Over the years, Welk provided money for such things as a park and improvements for the school. "He was very proud of the fact that he was from North Dakota," said Margaret Heron, Welk's executive secretary.



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Meciar fell just short of an outright majority in the Slovak National Council (regional parliament) where he has promised, along with allies, to declare sovereignty, quickly draft a Slovak constitution and elect a regional president.

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The far-right republican party won parliamentary seats for the first time after polling more than 11 per cent in parts of the Czech republic.

Havel said in a radio broadcast on Sunday that the period until the new parliament meets on June 25 will be tense.

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