

Gorbachev faces hard race for succession: Mastro



Joseph Mastro speaks last night as part of 'Great Decisions '85'

Romanov may be 'dark horse'

By MARK POWELL
Staff Writer

Mikhail Gorbachev, a predicted successor to Konstantin Chernenko as leader of the Soviet Union, will face aggressive opposition from Politburo members, Joseph Mastro said last night in the second "Great Decisions '85" speech in the Art Classroom Studio Building.

Mastro, a N.C. State University political science professor, said Gorbachev had not been in the Secretariat of the Politburo long enough to be a strong contender. Since he is also 53 years old, Politburo members will feel threatened by Gorbachev because he could be in office for the next 20 years, Mastro said.

Gorbachev is a reformer and represents the soft line of the Politburo, which will count against him with the hard line members of the Politburo, he said.

"Grigoriy Romanov is the long shot; he is a party apparatus person, but he leads a scandalous life," Mastro said.

Romanov, the third ranking member of the Politburo, is 62 years old and is a hard liner. Conservative Politburo members are attracted to him because of his strong support for the Soviet military complex. He would represent a setback in U.S.-Soviet relations, Mastro said.

"There are two major groups in the Soviet Politburo today," Mastro said. "One group favors a higher level of international tension with increased Soviet power, heavier emphasis on the military, more control over Eastern Europe and it frowns upon relations with the U.S."

The other group, according to Mastro, does not support increased international tension and favors better relations with the United States. Over the last 20 years there has been a general compromise to a position in the middle of the two groups, he said.

The new leadership of the Soviet Union will have to address several problems, Mastro said, including a negative economic growth rate, foreign policy, resistance to reform, an entrenched bureaucracy and splits within the Politburo.

The economic growth rate is declining rapidly in the Soviet Union, according to Mastro. He said any Soviet citizen would say that what he had today was less than what he had five years ago.

"There are problems in foreign relations for the Soviets every place -- Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Afghanistan, China and the Middle East," Mastro said.

There never will be any radical departure from the general sense of Soviet foreign policy, Mastro said. All current Soviet leaders agree on one thing: The Soviet Union will never again accept second-class status in the world, he said.

"We're dealing with a system that hides itself from the citizens of the Soviet Union and the world, a group of 11 old men," Mastro said.

All the decisions made in the Soviet Union are made by this group of men, and a system of self-perpetuating elitism exists among the members, he said.

The Soviet leadership is going into transition, he said. The leaders of the past two decades come from the "Class of '39," whose members entered the Soviet political system in 1939 with Stalin. Since then, the Soviet Union has moved from a second-class power to become one of the two global powers.

But the new leaders, the 500 top elite in the Soviet Union, are post-World War II politicians who entered the system between 1946 and 1950, he said. Within the next two decades they will be moving to top positions in the Politburo and the Communist Party, he said.

Congressmen charge deception

From United Press International reports

WASHINGTON — The administration has provided Congress "insufficient, misleading and in some cases false information" about U.S. involvement in El Salvador, three members of Congress charged in a sharply worded report yesterday.

"These deceptions remind us of what happened in Vietnam. Congress and the American people simply are not getting the facts about our involvement in this Central American civil war," they said.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, joined Reps. George Miller, D-Calif., and Jim Leach, R-Iowa, in releasing the report prepared for the 130-member Congressional Arms Control and Foreign Policy Caucus.

American dead returned

BANGKOK, Thailand — Vietnam has agreed to turn over to the United States the remains of five more Americans killed during the Vietnam War, a U.S. Embassy official announced yesterday.

The embassy said talks in Hanoi last week between the United States and Vietnam had resulted in new information on "several" cases involving American soldiers who were listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War.

Papers to be used in defense

WASHINGTON — The Navy is using Army court-martial documents to defend Vice Admiral Joseph Metcalf from charges of stealing Soviet-made rifles and bringing them home from Grenada.

Pentagon officials said Monday that the documents, which uphold the conviction of Army Capt. John Dorsz for similar charges, would be used by the Navy as evidence that the theft of AK-47 rifles by Dorsz bears no similarity to the attempt by Metcalf to bring home 24 of the Soviet-built assault rifles as souvenirs.

CREEP pays off debts

WASHINGTON — Richard Nixon's 1972 Committee for the Re-Election of the President has paid its last debts, with money going to familiar names of the Watergate scandal that forced Nixon to resign.

News In Brief

The presidency, it was reported yesterday.

The *Washington Post* reported that the 1972 Campaign Liquidation Trust, the sole legal survivor of the Nixon campaign organization, doled out \$588,877 in the last three months of 1984, leaving \$19,938 in the bank, according to records on file at the Federal Election Commission.

Opposition leads in elections

SEOUL, South Korea — A new opposition party aligned with dissident leader Kim Dae Jung took an early lead in the capital yesterday in elections the opposition hopes will demonstrate a lack of support for President Chun Doo Hwan.

The election, for a 276-seat National Assembly, drew the highest voter turnout in 25 years as 84.2 percent of the nation's 23.9 million eligible voters cast ballots in unseasonably mild weather, election officials said.

Bennett supports aid cut

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary William Bennett is endorsing President Reagan's proposed cut in student aid that he says may force some middle-class youngsters to give up stereos, cars and beach vacations.

"You have to look at the major picture," Bennett said Monday in holding his first news conference as education secretary. "I think the administration is absolutely right."

Smith rejects plea bargain

LOS ANGELES — The Canadian singer charged with murder for injecting comic John Belushi with a lethal overdose of cocaine and heroin during a Hollywood drug binge has refused to plead guilty to a reduced charge.

Appearing Monday at a hearing at which she could have pleaded guilty to manslaughter, Cathy Evelyn Smith took the advice of her American attorney, Howard Weitzman — who won acquittal for John DeLorean — and rejected the plea bargain under which she had returned to the United States.

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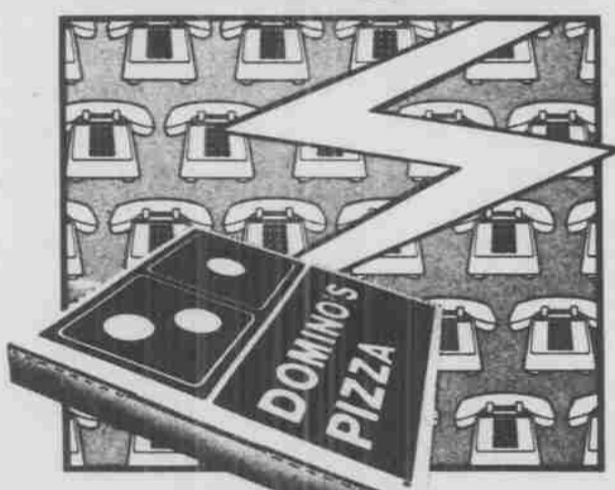
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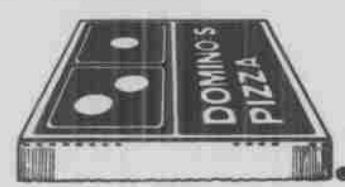


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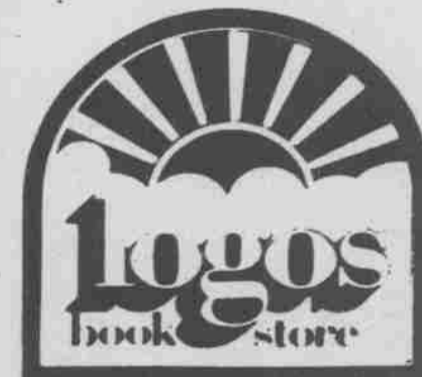


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