The Best Time to Rob A Bank in Houston

Wednesday, July 11, 1990

G-7 leaders agree to study Soviet economy for six months

by Kelley Tuthill
University of Notre Dame

Backed down from their support for joint financial assistance to the Soviet Union, leaders of the G-7 nations agreed to President George Bush’s plan to study the ailing nation’s monetary needs, said Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady at a press conference Tuesday.

Brady downplayed the disagreement among the leaders of the industrialized nations, instead stressing a unified support for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev’s political and economic reforms.

Although Bush initiated the proposal for a study, Brady was hesitant to call it a compromise to a U.S. victory.

The study will investigate the economic situation in the Soviet Union and determine how Gorbachev’s reforms would be put in place. It will also suggest how the countries could aid Gorbachev’s reform movement in technological advances.

The G-7 leaders agreed to participate in the study provided that some of Mikhail Gorbachev’s changes in the Soviet economy—proposed but not yet approved by the Soviets—would be put in place.

“Gorbachev has proposed an option system was instituted by the Soviets had previously been its best interest in regard to aid to the Soviets,” Brady said.

Although the World Bank is a neutral professional international organization with the resources already in place, it may not be able to participate in the project, according to a Tuesday Reuters’ report.

And even if the study is undertaken, it would take at least a year and “clearly could not serve as the basis for the quick emergency financial support which has been proposed by some of the summit leaders,” a spokesman for the World Bank told Reuters.

The issue of joint monetary aid to the Soviets had previously been a point of division for the leaders.

The U.S. has maintained that it could not send monetary aid to the Soviet Union unless the Soviets made a commitment to market reforms.

France and West Germany, however, have called for an immediate increase in help for Gorbachev.

American people could not possibly justify a loan to the Soviet Union “while the Soviet Union is providing $5 billion of aid to Cuba and missiles are trained on our cities,” Secretary of State James Baker said.

There is no indication that the announcement of the study will curtail West Germany’s plans for aid to the Soviet Union.

Brady statistically addressed other summit issues including discussions on the Uruguay Round.

The summit will be held in Rice University’s Herring Hall yesterday afternoon, the Thresher placed phone calls to several of the leaders’ personal holding rooms in the building.

Although the calls irritated many of the high-level leaders, some officials were glad to talk, though cautious about providing any information which might not be released to the press.

“The mood of the delegation is good,” said Horst Teltschik, personal adviser to Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, adding that he feels the summit is going well for his country’s delegation.

As assistant to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that the delegation is enjoying the summit, adding that Rice University is “extremely well-appointed” and Thatcher is “extremely satisfied with the university facilities.”

On the other hand, as a July 10 Houston Chronicle article in the Houston Chronicle, leaders are electing to save their money and stay out of the freebies which the Houston Chronicle, leaders are electing to save their money and stay out of the freebies.

Summit causes merchants to suffer, despite visitors

by Elise Perachio
Rice University

Houston may be hot for some, but many local restaurateurs, bartenders, and cabbies have gotten the cold shoulder from visiting media. It’s no surprise since, as has been discussed often on television and in print, the media have access to all the free food, drink and transportation they want 24 hours a day at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Local merchants are upset over the freebies which the Houston Summit Host Committee calls hospitality. They hoped the influx of visitors would bring a boon to what is usually one of the slowest periods for the service industry, the week after July 4. But instead, those with access to the Brown’s luxurious spread are eating to save their money and stay out of the freebies.

The summit has caused merchants to suffer, despite visitors.

Among the disgruntled Houston restaurateurs are taxi drivers who must compete with METRO’s free shuttle service to the Brown, hotels, and Rice University. One Yellow Cab driver said that rather than increase business for him, the summit has diminished it, particularly because of the various roadblocks established for motorcades.

“The traffic is terrible,” he explained. “It’s too hard for drivers to get to the summit. They’re in town all day, and we’re not. They have a company policy of picking them up now we estimate about 10 percent more.”

Dong Ting, a downtown restaurant which is hosting a special party for the Japanese delegation today, is “kind of disappointed” about the lack of business from summit visitors, said manager Jack Tsai. “All in all, I think we gain a little, but it’s way below our expectations.”

Tsai, too, stated that traffic blockades have cut down on business.

“Why are they going to get busy when the traffic is gone?”

Summit causes merchants to suffer, despite visitors.

Destination: The Summit Seven

by Elise Perachio
Rice University

The summit is a hot topic of conversation in Houston.

Canada

The decision of the world leaders gathered in Houston to maintain loan restrictions over economic reforms is a sign of a human rights record of countries affected by any policies. Any subversion of the popular will of the people must not be permitted by these industrialized nations. It would amount to complicity.

This theme not only pervades the discussions about China, but also the issues of Soviet aid and debt relief. However, trade restrictions must not be confused with political structures.

Simply because democratic western nations disapprove of closed economies and communist regimes, the existence of these institutions should not precipitate aid.

The main issue is self-determination. The popular will of the people is what should be supported and fostered, not blind alignment with western political and economic structures.

Greg Sewell, University of Toronto

Japan

Toshiki Kaifu, the Prime Minister of Japan, emphasized aid to the Third World, focusing on Asia. During the summit he has presented the needs of countries in Asia and the Pacific region to the other developed countries. He said that although the world is apt to focus on the historic changes in Europe, we shouldn’t forget or decrease the economic aid to the Third World. This shows Japan’s role as the only nation from Asia taking part in the summit.

Japan is willing to aid China, in part because Japanese enterprises are lured into a large market in China.

On the other hand, as a July 10 article in the Houston Chronicle says, some Asians, including the Chinese, are critical of the economic aid from Japan because they consider the aid an economic invasion that reminds them of the military invasion during World War II.

It goes without saying that this shows Japan hasn’t fulfilled its duties to send aid to Asia yet. Unfortunately, Japan is separated from not only the United States and Europe, but also from Asia.

—Koito Eguchi, University of Toronto

France

France has proposed another plan to avoid continued deterioration of Third World economies. France has helped the Paris, Paris has been making decisions to ease the deprived countries’ pain. The underdeveloped nations were in such dire straits that it was high time to act. France has already addressed the plight of the less developed nations by writing off their French debts.

Last year, the G-7 leaders came to an agreement providing for commercial banks to write off the debt in exchange for a loan to the Third World economies.

Among the disgruntled Houston restaurateurs are taxi drivers who must compete with METRO’s free shuttle service to the Brown, hotels, and Rice University. One Yellow Cab driver said that rather than increase business for him, the summit has diminished it, particularly because of the various roadblocks established for motorcades.

“It takes too long to get to your destination,” he explained. “We usually have a company policy of picking customers up within 10 minutes of a call. Now we estimate about 30 minutes.”

This was supposed to generate a lot of revenue,” said Reagan Wilkins, the manager of the Atchafalaya River Café. Their Cajun cuisine has attracted mostly Japanese journalists, though those may have been the only ones wearing their credentials, he said.

Has the food service at the convention center cut down on their profits? “Absolutely,” replied Wilkins. The restaurant expected a 25 percent increase in business but now estimates they’ve received only about 10 percent more.

Dong Ting, a downtown restaurant which is hosting a special party for the Japanese delegation today, is “kind of disappointed” about the lack of business from summit visitors, said manager Jack Tsai. “All in all, I think we gain a little, but it’s way below our expectations.”

Tsai, too, stated that traffic blockades have cut down on business.

“Why are they going to get busy when the traffic is gone?”

The summit has caused merchants to suffer, despite visitors.
Summit proves valuable

By the official beginning of the 1990 Economic Summit, many of us had almost become resigned to the fact that the entire event was designed for the press: an entertaining show, but lacking in substance.

Those of us from Houston and Rice had seen our city, especially our campus, turned into a stage for the world to watch its leaders act upon. It seemed absurd to pay all of the attention given to making the city and campus look polished and perfect, that the participants in the actual summit would only be actors reading from scripts.

When The Thresher’s invited guests, visiting student journalists representing the nation and the world, arrived, their first impressions seemed to confirm ours. They too were amazed at the media parties, the elaborate press packages and the many layers of paint covering the city. Over the past few days the Thresher has printed several articles questioning the entire event was designed for the press: an entertaining show, but lacking in substance.

Underneath all of the pomp and circumstance, real progress on substantive issues shines through. The deadlock on aid to the Soviet Union was broken as President Bush, leading the way, convinced his fellow world leaders to commission a study of the Soviet economic situation and proposed reforms. Progress was also made on the Uruguay Round agricultural proposals, with Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady demanding, “in terms of moving the problem forward, I think you’ll see in the communique a different way of looking at this.” Bush’s Enterprise for the Americas was received with strong support, and the Latin American debt was further discussed.

It is said by those hesitant to give aid that there should be specific conditions fulfilled before aid can be given. These conditions were rejected by the French President and were pushed through in yesterday’s summit plenum.

Instead, aid should be linked to concrete infrastructure and logistical programs ensuring that there will be a competitive Soviet Union entering world markets without destabilizing security structures.

As long as the strongest economic powers do not come to an agreement on giving aid to the Soviet Union, bilateral programs like the German loan won’t be enough and the risk of wasted investment rises.

All of this bears the risk of Soviet reforms failing and the re-establishment of an unwanted regime. When we hear the muddling on German’s hesitation on rapid reform, we should remember how this man already changed the face of our world.
Latin and North America make natural economic bloc

by John Weimer
Rice University

With the dissolution of the ideological blocs and the military alliances which characterized the Cold War era, countries throughout the world are searching for an international framework in which to redefine themselves.

Providing financial aid to the Soviet Union, a central topic of this year's G-7 Economic Summit, once an ideological and strategic enemy, the Soviet Union is now considered an ally, by some, at summits. The transformation of East European countries to free-market democracies combined with the approaching economic unification of Western Europe is dictating a new international order based upon economics.

Following Europe's lead, several countries consider reorganization by regional tracts, which are more and more everyday. The prospect of a world order determined by economic relationships has ignored the imaginations of peoples worldwide. In fact, foreign policy based upon mutual economic interests instead of ideological differences presents the possibility of the most communal international system in history.

With the eminent economic solidarity of the European Community, the U.S. must seek greater solidarity with neighboring countries. Although the U.S. already trades heavily with Canada, a larger economic bloc could mean greater domestic prosperity and greater regional solidarity.

Spanish interests are purchasing several state-owned telecommunications companies in Latin America as well as bidding on state-owned airlines. In an effort to aid in developing countries, accompanied by technicians and consultants, exceeded that of the U.S., some of it going to Latin America. Appreciative of Japan's willingness to give money, many Latin Americans welcomed Japanese private investment.

In contrast to large-scale U.S. investment, enthusiasm for direct investment and trade is increasing. Countries of the European Community are working to strengthen the economic bloc of the Americas. Diplomatic gestures, instead of serious economic ones, will only perpetuate the economic disintegration within the region and weaken the economic stability of the hemisphere.

Homeless need help, not Houston hype

by Noelle Vance
University of Michigan

Economic prosperity isn't measured by free caviar and ice cream. It's not about which company can produce the greatest number of trinkets for visiting journalists or extract the best PR pieces for themselves.

Yet that is the only gauge of prosperity that Houstonians have offered this week. And the journalists, filling their pages or screens with special features on the summit's gala affairs, would have one believe the hoopla surrounding the Economic Summit is truly indicative of an upgrading economy.

One only has to walk a short distance from the G. B. Brown Convention Center, however, to realize that many neighborhoods are far from crawling out of their economic slump. The deteriorating shacks and condemned buildings of Allen-Parkway Village do not speak of economic prosperity. Instead, they speak of a city willing to pussyfoot around the issue of affordable and safe housing and community rule for a sizable number of its minority citizens.

In many areas, the sights of men sleeping in parking lots or rubbish through the garbage are too familiar.

People say the hoopla is okay because the city is going to get something back from the summit. Rice University will have its name plastered across the country, able to attract the best and brightest students from every state in the union. Yet in Houston, approximately 700 students graduated from the Houston Independent School District last year. Only about 40 percent of those graduates indicated a desire to attend college. Many of the dropouts were black or Hispanic and face the double hardship of being without an education and a minority in a still white-dominated society.

Tourism, the area of business most likely to benefit from the summit, provides an attractive new region for foreign investment and trade. Closer to Latin America presents. In 1989, U.S. trade with Latin America exceeded $100 billion. The region is home to 435 million people, compared with Eastern Europe's 113 million. And half of the population is under 15 years of age, about to enter the consumer market.

The President's action is admirable, yet flawed. Will he repeat the errant policy which has helped sustain Latin America's poverty? Only short-term gains result from free-trade with Third World countries. A scarred African child cannot win a foot race with Carl Lewis. If Latin American countries are to develop, they must first be protected with tariffs.

Without trade barriers, they are Trickle-down explained

by Jay Yates
Rice University

Upon realizing that there was no new news to be had in the George R. Brown Convention Center, and that the Summit was hit to the streets and talk to the people. But this task was not an easy one. In the heart of Houston's street people have been removed for the duration of the summit.

But the conference hall editor, I hailed a local car driver and, as he looked over his shoulder at me, asked him what he thought Houston was getting out of the summit.

"This summit thing is great for Houston," he said.

Surely, I mentioned the cost of all those police officers, the freebies given to the media at the city's expense, the closing of Memorial Drive and a million other streets, and all the time and energy wasted on an event that could be over Wednesday at noon.

You kids just don't understand the trickle-down theory," he began. "See, all these media people are spending a fortune in our hotels. So our hotel owners will get the tip buying the Sunday edition of the Houston Chronicle, which is rescued from a recycling bin by a home- less person, who uses it as a blanket that evening. "So you see, everyone benefits with the trickle-down theory." Feeling a little overwhelmed that a cab driver had such a comprehensive view of how our economy works, I asked him if he had ever worked at Rice University. A tear came to his eye as he pulled out what seemed to be a framed cocktail napkin with some scribbling on it, saying that his most important fare was with a Republican presidential candidate back in 1979. And that was the only time anyone ever took his ideas seriously.

My lesson ended just as we arrived at the campus, and I paid the fare. For the tip I left the gold Texas Press bag given to me at the convention center as my own version of the trickle-down theory.

"The waiter will then share his tip with the bartender in greens," the bartender then spends his trip buying the Sunday edition of the Houston Chronicle, which is rescued from a recycling bin by a homeless person, who uses it as a blanket that evening. "So you see, everyone benefits with the trickle-down theory."
While summit jet-set lives it up, Fourth Ward knows none of it

by Noelle Vance
University of Michigan
and Shih-Lin Han
Rice University

No flags are waving on Gillette Street, where 71-year-old Ollie Faye Minix lives. Though less than 10 blocks away, the sea of banners and海 of journalists downtown for the Economic Summit has left the dilapidated wooden houses and tenements of Houston's Fourth Ward do not sport red and white national flags or newly
scrubbed streets.

"I don't think about it at all," Minix said of the summit as she sat on her front porch drinking a Pepsi in the hot afternoon sun. "It ain't doing nothing for me. They aren't allowing it here. Your mayor won't let them come here.

Fourth Ward, one of Houston's oldest districts, is one of 300 areas city officials said were cleaned for the summit. Mayor Bob Lanier and Toshiki Kaifu would not recognize this inner-city scene as the city they've spent the past five days in.

"They said they were going to clean up the city. I ain't seen nobody cleaning up around here," said one of Minix's companions.

Though volunteers spent one Saturday picking up trash and cleaning the streets, the area is still a mess and needs a lot more than one cleaning. City Councilman Vince Ryan (D-District C) who represents both the Rice University area and the Fourth Ward.

"We had no control over aban-
donments," said Robert Chase, executive director of Clean Houston Incorporated. Chase said volunteers were not allowed to clean abandoned property for safety rea-
sons. Because Fourth Ward is a his-
torical district, Chase added, there were added restrictions cleaning the area. All equipment used for the project was donated.

"As long as people have inap-
propriate sanitary behavior, there's no guarantee it will stay clean," Chase said.

Though the summit delegations were not expected to stop in the neighborhood, which is just south of the Allen Parkway route taken by several motorcades, Ryan said "The Fourth Ward lies in the shadow of the downtown buildings...it's easy to take a wrong turn." Italy's attitude towards both East-
ern Europe and Third World debt is by no mistake a matter of concern for industrialized econom-
es. But, as Mr. Craxi remarked in his report, the Third World debt is an issue of national security.

Asked about what the summit will produce, Collebo, said that "this summit
talks about the differences between the G-7 countries and political topics. At the Paris summit everybody was in the same opinion on China," he said. "In Houston topics are much more controversial."

And: "We don't get to know what is going on behind the curtains. It be-
longs to the rules of such events that the real news is announced three or four days later," he said. Of course, the proposal to install an urgent res-
cue action for the rain forests in Brazil was a good result. We can look forward with confidence to further results from the summit.

"Roberto D'Avanzo, University of Bonna

Italy

While G-7 leader will focus first on if, when and how to start efforts to avoid eastern countries' debt burdens, the delegations will also discuss developing countries' debt. Italy has already stressed that its willingness to aid Eastern Europe will be no way of looking at this."

if a "wrong turn" were to occur, VIPs might catch a glimpse of the predominantly black and Hispanic (Hispanic) of the neighborhood. Just in case of that unlikely event, the school had posted "Welcome Eco-

omic Summit" underneath their sign.

Gillette Street residents said they noticed no more differences in the neighborhood. They also expressed dissatisfaction with the amount of money the city spent on the summit. Houston's return on its investment in the summit cannot be measured. But the cup will not likely run overflow into Houston's ghettos, where lives are filled with food stamps, burnt-out neon church mission signs and giv-
ernment checks.

"They're wasting the money," said Minix of summit expenses. "They are not spending it." "It's a waste of time," agreed Larry McGraw, who has been fixing city water meters for 11 years. "We don't get to know what is going on behind the curtains. It belongs to the rules of such events."

Some may think that developing countries have no moral responsibility to help with the problems, and less developed countries were hoping to hear.

United States

In the debate about farm subsi-
dies, Brazil was good news. People ignored who really loses and why those grants are absurd to the western countries' West so prosperous.

Third world debt causes related problems with immigration from those countries, drug trafficking, trade imbalance and obstacles to free trade market. Those problems will affect the global economic and political situation.

Italy now faces all these issues. Even if Italy supports the Soviet Uni-

on, it will not stop looking for a solu-
tion to aid developing nations.

"Isabel Lhuillier, University of Late-

nino Lhuillier, University of Latin

Europe

US

While the G-7 leaders agreed that they will continue to provide eco-

nomic assistance to Eastern Europe and Latin America, Brady said. The leaders discussed Bush's Enterprise for the Americas, which involves measures to liberalize trade and inv-

estment regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as reduc-

tion of official debt in that region.

The Enterprise for the Americas and Bush's debt strategy both re-

cived "support from the heads," said Brady.

Brady also said he expects the final communiqué to include a strong commitment to cooperate on global environment problems.

The G-7 leaders also agreed that they will continue to provide eco-

nomic assistance to Eastern Europe and

Latin America, Brady said. The leaders discussed Bush's Enterprise for the Americas, which involves measures to liberalize trade and in-

vestment regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as reduc-

tion of official debt in that region.

The Enterprise for the Americas and Bush's debt strategy both re-

cived "support from the heads," said Brady.

Brady also said he expects the final communiqué to include a strong commitment to cooperate on global environment problems.

"There is general agreement on the need to reduce excessive and ineffi-
cient barriers to trade and agricul-

ture, although vigorous discus-

sion continues on the specific ele-

ments of a multilateral solution," Brady said.

Although Brady could not pin-

point specific advancements, he stated: "I think you'll see in communique language a different way of looking at this."
Bored police at Rice take 12-hour shifts in Houston heat

by Stephanie Hirach
Swarthmore College

With sweat running down the center of their polyester blue pants soaking up the sun, defending world leaders can be a challenge. So said the 270 officers stationed every 50 yards around the three-mile circumference of the Rice University campus. They are part of what City officials call the largest protection operation outside of Moscow, Houston and the U.S. Secret Service.

The whole operation will cost the city only $1.3 million, employ over 2,000 Houston police officers and has taken eight months of planning, said Richard Retz, officer and spokesperson for the Houston Police Department.

The city police officers involved in protection represent more than half of the total Houston police force, Retz said. About 95 percent of the city's summit protection tag will have to be overcome by personnel costs.

"We cancelled all days off, all vacations, and we are working in intensive care, just to get off," the city called in extra officers to maintain protection for the rest of Houston, Retz said.

Officer C.R. La Groue, 29, believes they will need substitutes when "some of us drop off from heat exhaustion.

Although they are holding their posts surrounding the campus, many of the officers said they would rather be fishing, playing golf, "swilling down a Miller Lite" or resting in air-conditioned homes with air conditioning.

Officer J.J. Garcia, 31, was "just trying to survive." Since they have been stationed at posts around campus, officers have arrested three news media people and seven civilians, who were fined between $50 and $350 and released, Retz said.

Secret service agents, who give out final orders for all protection operations, have set metal detectors at entrances, used police dogs to search vehicles and buildings for bombs, and swept campus buildings and steam pipes for any stray people, said Mary Voswinkel, the chief of Rice University Police.

Retz said about a dozen departmental assistants such as the FBI, the U.S. Customs Agency and the Harris County Sheriff's Department have been working the protection responsibilities. The three main agencies—HFD, the campus police and secret service—have been forced to coordinate different protection strategies.

"With the different agencies trying to work together with different upper structures and different ways of conveying orders, it is very difficult," Voswinkel said.

Some of the officers said they have received unclear orders, "I don't know why I'm here," said officer James Capos, 24.

The police department gives prep talks to their officers to "try to give them enough knowledge about the mission to prepare," Adolph said.

Secret Service coordinates much of the protection, but will not comment on their strategies for protection, said Ken Lospalo, a secret service special agent stationed at Rice.

The city police department, making up about one-third of the officers, guards the outer circle of Rice University as well as Hermann Park, Lospalo said, "and on and on and on."

Seven hundred campus police officers have also been holding 12-hour shifts since Saturday. They have checked people's credentials and escorted uncredentialed people onto campus. Because of limited access to outside restaurants, officers have taken to barbecuing their meals. "We cook meat sausages, chicken, potatoe," said Sargent Willie Anderson, 45, a police officer. "It's not just their relative importance to America, but to the world." You have to look at the importance of those seven people and their staffs," said Baker, 67, mayor of Houston, police for the Houston Police Department.

In response to criticism that the U.S. is moving forward to consider World Bank loans to China in the midst of the hard-line policy toward the Soviet Union, Baker said Tuesday to show to the world, "You have to look at the importance of those seven people and their staffs," said Baker, 67, mayor of Houston, police for the Houston Police Department.

City brings out best for media briefing

By Robert Miller
University of Miami

The City of Houston rolled out its best for media briefing Tuesday, with the case the city as a "progressive and open minded" place to live and work. In a series of media briefings at the George R. Brown Convention Center, city leaders, educators and business people attempted to convince the international gathering of press for the 1990 Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations that Houston is leading the way in the areas of energy, space and medical industries as well as its role in the high-energy physics research for the Superconducting Super Collider. "Houston has a fantastic story to tell about its economic recovery, diversification, research, technology and leadership, and we believe these Houstonians represent some of the most exciting developments taking place in Houston today," said Randal Meyer, chairman of the Economic Summit Host Committee's Sights of Houston Subcommit tee. "It is very much a Houston tradition to be a part of a frontier," Joseph P. Allen, vice president of Space Industries International Inc., said during the briefing on Houston's role in space technology. "There very much is a pioneer spirit here." Kenneth Lay, president and CEO of Enron Corp., told the press that Houston was, and still is, "the energy capital of the world." Lay went on to predict the future of the oil business and its relationship to the city of Houston.

Lay said that he believes that, given the current direction of world oil consumption, consumers can expect to pay about $56 for gas by the year 2000. Because of this, he said there will be an increase in dependency on natural gas and offshore oil drilling. Something the Houston based energy companies are already preparing for. At 3 p.m., Houston Mayor Kathryn Whitmire and several other of Houston's women leaders met to brief the press on the strides women have made in the public sector in the city and in the state.

Whitmire explained that not only does Houston have a woman mayor, but the three other largest cities in Texas also have women as their executive officers. "These include Dallas, El Paso and San Antonio. Nowhere else can you find even the top two cities in a state with women as mayors," Whitmire said.

Houston also has the only female chief of police in the nation, Elizabeth Watson. Because of this, she said she believes Houston is ahead of most of the rest of the country in opening doors for women.

The mayor, during the brief question and answer part of the briefing, explained that the city of Houston had a lot to be proud of and that the briefings and promotions that have been going on during the summit have attempted to show to the rest of the world.

Invited guests included such Houston notables as Rod Canion, president and CEO of Compaq Computer Corp.; Constantine Nican dros, CEO of Conoco Inc.; James Dunlap, president of Texas USA; Aaron Cohen, director of the Johnson Space Center; Richard Wainerdi, president and CEO of the Texas Medical Center; and Dr. James "Red" Duke, professor of surgery at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston.

Baker pledged hard line on aid to U.S.S.R.

Randy Udeavka
Carnegie Mellon University

Secretary of State James A. Baker said that he did not want to be a "fait accompli" to emerge from the summit was exhilaration at recent strides that have been made all over the world for the cause of democracy—though he cautioned that such occurrences "should not lead us to overlook other opportunities and other needs."

Speaking at an afternoon press conference yesterday at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Baker relayed the story of the small group of affairs from within the G-7 meeting rooms by summarizing the details of the Political Declaration issued by the summit leaders.

Baker listed a number of role models for what he called "democratic evolution" around the world, including Namibia, Chile, Panama, and Nicaragua. As for those areas currently locked in the heat of conflict—such as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Angola, Korea, Israel and Pakistan—he said it is the position of the leaders that "in every possible situation lies in negotiated settlements leading to free democratic elections.

Regarding a barrage of questions dealing with Soviet aid, Baker restated the United States' reluctance to grant economic aid to the Soviet Union without proof of Soviet economic and political reform. "For 70 years the Soviets have based an economic policy that is totally foreign to the principles that we believe in," he said.

Still, the secretary did not preclude the possibility of either loans or direct grants. "I don't think you should ever say never," said Baker, in the hope that the leaders can find a "positive response and reaction that has come from the Soviet Union." Although stressing that the countries attending the conference want to help the U.S.S.R. move toward a "more secure, stable and open" political environment, Baker was quick to caution that the leaders have not agreed on the scope of such assistance. In response to criticism that the United States' pledge to help the cause of perestroika has been larger than a rhetorical exercise, Baker reiterated that the United States will continue its long-standing policy of providing technical assistance and training to the Soviet Union. "Technical assistance is very, very important, and could be every bit as important, if not more important, than a specific dollar amount of financial assistance," he said.

Asked whether negotiations might clear the way for private debtors, Baker pointed to current legal statutes such as the Johnson Debt Default Act, which prohibits such actions. He added, however, that these statutes are subject to alteration in the negotiation process. Baker acknowledged that the U.S. is considering measures to help alleviate the Soviet debt—which has accrued since well before World War II—though he did not elaborate on the likelihood of these possibilities.

The 1934 Johnson Debt Default Act was enacted to block any economic assistance by private institutions to any nation which has not repaid debts to the United States. Current law allows for the standing Soviet debt at $1.3 billion. When asked whether a double standard exists in the U.S. decision to consider World Bank loans to China in the midst of the hard-line policy toward the Soviet Union, Baker was adamant, "I do not agree with that," he said. "I don't think there's any parallel between China and the U.S.S.R., to quote one of the principles of ourpolicy summit. The United States and the G-7 countries as a whole still have sanctions against China. So the idea that somehow we are treating them more liberally than we are the Soviet Union, I think just doesn't wash." One reporter also asked whether or not the U.S. is moving forward to help Nicaraguan leader Violeta Chamorro in the midst of what has become a situation of political crisis. "We've been very helpful to be in giving security in Nicaragua just as the statement mentions."

Special thanks to the Rice University Police Department.
G-7 nations anger environmentalists by adopting forest management plan

by Kirsten Danis
Columbia University and Alliance Lae Berkeley

A West German plan to aid reforestation of the Brazilian rainforest edged global warming out of the Economic Summit's environmental spotlight yesterday.

"They have not been able to take full advantage of the forest," he commented. "They are not getting to see the way their neighbors are concerned with the environmental problems in the Third World, and elsewhere can be solved. The media is being sequestered into areas where the forest is found," he said.

The program was meant to make an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved.

The environmentalists have said Bush and Kohl are wrong in their decision to provide financial aid to Brazil.

"We want to send them back with a positive view of our city, but the media is being sequestered into areas where the forest is found," he said. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved. The program is an example out of Brazil to demonstrate that the environmental problems in the Third World and elsewhere can be solved.
Atchafalaya River Cafe has good fare

By Ann Zitterkopf

Atchafalaya (Ch-a-fa-LIE-yah) River Cafe, 8816 Westheimer, is a moderately priced eating establishment with above-average Cajun food.

The decor reflects the Louisiana theme—with garlic, chili peppers, and posters of Louisiana hanging on all of the walls. Diners are given Mardi Gras beads as they enter. The lights are slightly dimmed, making the setting more intimate. And the laughter of other patrons combines with the ragtime background music to create a busy atmosphere.

After my friend and I were seated, the attentive waiter immediately brought out a basket of assorted breads. My favorite was the banana nut bread muffin, which was extremely moist and contained a lot of walnuts. I also liked the corn jalepeno muffin because it wasn't overcooked. The sauce wasn't overcooking, and it was heavy and, although good, would be better with more seasoning.

Atchafalaya offers an enjoyable atmosphere and pleasing but relatively inexpensive food. Reservations are recommended. On a Tuesday night, the restaurant was over 75% full. There is a second location at 14904 North Freeway.

Summit according to Jack

By Steve Lait

Rice University

The press work area for the Economic Summit was a bustle of activity on a world scale. The wire services were running on overdrive as was the non-information coming from the press secretaries.

Into this hurricane of activity stepped Houston Oilers Head Coach Jack Pardee. Clad in white, Pardee surveyed the scene from the sidelines. He looked back and forth across the football-field sized ballroom.

Since no actual reporters acknowledged Pardee's appearance, I decided to grab a notebook and pen and step out of my usual role as Thresher editorial cartoonist.

Pardee, who routinely holds press conferences for hundreds seemed as puzzled about me as I was about this slightly surreal scene.

"Well, uh... Mr. Pardee... um..." I stammered.

"Yes, it's a great showcase for Houston. The city has done a great job," he said.

When asked if he thought the lavish treatment was a bit much, the coach responded, "I've heard it set a standard. You gotta do it right if you're going to do it."

Before I could really probe this coach's analytical mind any more, he offered this bit of insight, "Besides, political conventions come around every four years, or something, and this city will show it can do this thing right."

Just as this give and take really took off, a real-life reporter stepped out of the shadows and asked a question which had something to do with the popularity of International "Football" vs. American football.

Pardee chose to avoid giving a controversial answer, thus preventing him from offending the thousands of foreign delegates who might read the story.

The coach then turned towards me and said, "I got nailed by traffic yesterday... Heed up for thirty minutes. But that 288 is a great freeway."

With that, Pardee turned and walked out of the press area, gazing into the football season ahead.

This all left me to wonder if the real reason for this visit was so the coach could look for possible field-goal kickers among the West German press corps.
Summing up the Summit

Photos by Nguyet Vo and James Yao

Clockwise from top: Leaders of G-7 nations take morning stroll between sessions; Military bandleader displays his reverence for diplomatic protocol; Summit protests drew the attention of many Houstonians; Houston Police officer Taylor protects Klan's first amendment rights; Crosses mark number of daily U.S. abortions at "Cemetery of Innocents" protest.