

is the first time "no" votes have been recorded in the Supreme Soviet since it was created in its present form in 1936.

Western press gushed enthusiastic over the "no" votes as a sign of "true democracy" coming to the Soviet Union. The *New York Times* called this a "small but symbolically important step toward increased democracy." Small is the word. There were only 13 "no" votes of 1,350 delegates. The two police-state laws were passed overwhelmingly. The *New York Times* in its coverage obscured the nature of the laws.

### ***Genscher mediates between Moscow, Beijing***

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, an East German emigré who is Western Europe's most outspoken champion of Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachov's "reforms," is now helping to mediate between the Soviet Union and China.

Genscher emerged from meetings with Chinese leaders Li Peng and Zhao Ziyang to report that Moscow and Beijing may normalize their relations but will not "ally."

"Normalization would not mean a return to the past era of alliance," he said, delivering a message from the Chinese leaders.

"I think this would be in harmony with the view from the Soviet side," Genscher added. At the end of October, Genscher was in Moscow, accompanying West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Meanwhile, from Moscow, Soviet spokesman Gennadi Gerassimov declared that the Soviet Union and China have settled most differences over their disputed border.

### ***Heterosexual AIDS on the increase***

"Heterosexual AIDS Infection Rate Increases," reads the front-page headline of the Oct. 31 *Times* of London. Said the report, "A government appointed research team has calculated that several thousand people have

been infected with AIDS through heterosexual intercourse, a much higher total than shown in Department of Health figures."

The *Times* continues, "The researchers' report, to be submitted to health ministers, confirms estimates that up to 50,000 people, most of them homosexual, will develop AIDS in the next 10 to 15 years. The most recent Department of Health figures show that about 1,794 people in Britain have developed AIDS, of whom 965 have died. Another 9,512 are known through blood tests to be carrying AIDS. Of these, only 400 are believed to have been infected through heterosexual intercourse.

"However, the report calculates that up to 3,000 men and women may have been infected heterosexually in England alone."

### ***U.S. in new gestures toward North Korea***

The State Department Oct. 31 announced new gestures toward North Korea. Though the U.S. has no diplomatic relations with Pyongyang, spokesman Charles Redman said that U.S. diplomats have been given permission to renew substantive contacts with North Korea.

There is also to be a relaxation of travel restrictions between the two countries. As of Oct. 31, the United States will allow North Korean purchases of humanitarian supplies, to be determined by the Commerce Department, which is expected to include food and medicines.

The United States will not, however, remove North Korea from the list of terrorist states, and will not lift sanctions against North Korea, said Redman.

He insisted that any serious consideration of reducing the 46,000 U.S. troops in South Korea was "far in the future." He noted that the above overtures were coordinated with South Korean President Roh Tae Woo.

The Soviet Union and China are acting as mediators, and have been asked to deliver the details of the U.S. initiative to Pyongyang.

## ***Briefly***

● **SATANISTS** are targeting children for use in ritual sacrifices, according to Dianne Core of Britain's Childwatch organization. Childwatch is helping three children—ages 8, 10, and 11—who were crucified upside down and forced into sex acts at a ritual last April for "Beltane" or "Walpurgisnacht," Satan's birthday.

● **A COUP THREAT** has apparently been thwarted in Venezuela, but the incident remains under investigation. During the last week of October, immediately after President Jaime Lusinchi departed for a Uruguay meeting of Ibero-American leaders, a caller to the presidential palace identified himself as the chief of staff and said a coup was imminent. In response, an army major ordered 30 tanks to surround the palace in defense.

● **BISHOP** Dario Castrillon of Pereira, Colombia has suddenly resigned from the Democratic Cooperation Committee, which negotiated the freedom of the kidnapped Conservative Party politician, Alvaro Gómez Hurtado. Earlier this year, he had called on the Colombian government to open negotiations with terrorists. His unexpected resignation from the committee he headed was reportedly the result of a direct order of the Pope.

● **'UP TO 40%** of sexually active adults are already seropositive and some villages have lost most of their young people" to AIDS in some areas of Africa, a Red Cross worker reported to European press.

● **THE WORLD** Medical Association's September meeting in Vienna adopted a resolution urging physicians not to refuse treatment to a patient simply because they are infected with the AIDS virus.