Yeltsin briefs Gorbatchev on new commonwealth of three republics

President Boris Yeltsin has briefed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbatchev on the new commonwealth of three republics formed by former republics Russia, Byelorussia and Ukraine. The commonwealth accord makes no mention of the central government Gorbatchev heads. But a Gorbatchev spokesman said Yeltsin indicated there could be a role for the Soviet president in the new union.

Meanwhile, Gorbatchev said he wanted parliament to discuss his country's future. He accused the three former republics of assuming too much authority in planning a new commonwealth of independent states.

Yeltsin assures Bush that Soviet nuclear weapons not a threat

The White House said Russian President Boris Yeltsin has assured President George Bush that Soviet nuclear weapons will not be a threat as the union dissolves. Speaker Marlin Fitzwater said the United States wants those weapons to remain under what he called "a unified command." US government sources said the administration wants the weapons stored in Russia for self-defence until they are destroyed. The fate of the weapons has been a concern as the Soviet nation continues to unravel.

Security is tight again in West Bank and Gaza Strip

Security has been tightened than usual in the occupied territories as Palestinians mark the fourth anniversary of their uprising against Israeli rule. The Palestinians plan to stage a general strike in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel has imposed curfews in parts of the occupied lands and Palestinians have been allowed to enter Jerusalem. The army said soldiers in a Gaza refugee camp wounded a Palestinian man who tried to attack them. Arab reports said the soldiers shot the teen.

Muslim cleric urges release of Israeli airman

A Muslim cleric who is considered Israel's most valuable hostage said he will not re-elect President Joseph Malbouh said he will not run for the country's new legislature hard-hit by the state's new school-choice law.

The interview appears to be an Israeli attempt to exert State Senator Margaret McGee - said the high court's decision will finally be "like first-class citizens." Union

Aid not reduced for schools

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Judge upholds Defense Department ban on homosexuals in the Navy

A federal judge in Washington, DC, has upheld the Pentagon ban on homosexuals serving in the military, ruling against a former Naval Academy midshipman who acknowledged he was gay.

US District Judge Olive Cough ruled that the Defense Department policy challenged by Joseph Steffan as unconstitutional "rationalized further legitimate state purposes."

According to the judge, the policy promotes the mainte-

ance of discipline, morale, good order, a respected sys-

tem of rank and command, a healthy military force and morality.

Steffan resigned from the US Naval Academy in May 1987, six weeks before graduation. He said academy officials were trying to force him to drop out. He had disclosed days earlier that he was homosexual.

Steffan had said the Pentagon ban violated the equal protection clause of the Fifth Amendment.

Terry Anderson wants kidnappers to return bodies of two victims

Former hostage Terry Anderson said he wanted the kid-

nappers in Lebanon to return the bodies of two American hostages who died in captivity — CIA agent William Buckley and Marine Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins. He also said he was praying for the quick release of the hostages from Germany who died in captivity.

Weather

Quiet weather ahead

An intensifying cyclone to the southeast will move further east away from the area today as high pressure builds in the Midwest. The high should provide sunny days and clear chilly nights for the next few days. Maximum temperatures should slowly increase during this period as well.

Tuesday afternoon: Clearing and chilly. Highs around 43 °F (6 °C).

Tuesday night: Clear and cold. Low 25 °F (-4 °C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny and a bit colder. High 47 °F (8 °C).

Thursday: Mostly sunny and continued mild. High 46-51 °F (8-11 °C).

Forecast by Michael Morgan

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The Thirsty Ear Pub

In the basement of Ashdown House 305 Memorial Drive

Monday

Monday Night Football Featuring Wing-It Buffalo Wings with 7pm

Tuesday

The Thirsty Ear's movie of the week

Wednesday

Friday

"Bucket of Rocks"

Memorial Drive (West) in front of Memorial Drive (East)

Memorial Drive (East)

Boston

Massachusetts drinking age 21. Positive ID required.

HOURS: Mon-Thur 6 pm - 1 am
Fri 4 pm - 1 am

Happy New Year from the Ear

The Thirsty Ear will close December 23rd and will reopen January 6th.