

Peru Voters OK New Constitution in Narrow Victory for President

Latin America: Ballot is seen as a plebiscite on Fujimori's first 3 years. Narrower-than-expected margin casts shadow on his reelection bid.

By ADRIANA VON HAGEN
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

LIMA, Peru—Voters approved a new Peruvian constitution Sunday, but the administration of President Alberto Fujimori failed to clinch the overwhelming victory it had predicted only two weeks ago, raising doubts over the outcome of Fujimori's expected bid for reelection in 1995.

Preliminary exit polls by the Lima polling firm Apoyo showed 55.3% in favor of the charter and 44.7% against. Official results will be released later this week.

At a brief press conference Sunday night, Fujimori said, "I'm going to try and find out the reasons why 45% voted 'no'... Undoubtedly a percentage voted against the referendum because of disinformation

and distortions." An Oct. 14 poll indicated that 64% of the voters approved the constitution, with 36% against. Only days before the referendum, however, approval for the constitution had dropped to 59% and prospective "no" votes had risen to 41%.

Fujimori has admitted that the referendum was "transformed into a plebiscite" on the first three years of his five-year term rather than reflecting opinion on the new constitution. Indeed, surveys indicate that few Peruvians have actually read the new charter. As a result, analysts say the president envisioned getting 70% of the votes to match his similarly high popularity rating.

The new constitution is the country's 12th since independence from Spain in 1821 and the first to go to a referendum.

It goes into effect 1½ years after the April 5, 1992, seizure by Fujimori of broad powers in a military-backed "self-coup" that shut down the Congress and suspended the 1979 constitution. Bowing to international pressure that condemned his one-man rule, Fujimori called

elections for the Constituent Congress that wrote the new constitution.

The referendum "closes a parenthesis that was opened April 5," said Jaime de Althaus, deputy managing editor of the Lima newspaper *El Exposito*. "... It ends an era and in that sense legitimizes April 5..."

Fujimori and his supporters expected to win by a much wider margin, and last week the president said a defeat at the polls "would oblige me to resign... It would create a climate of political instability, and the framework for investments would be seriously threatened."

The new charter limits the role of the state to basic services and infrastructure and sets the framework for a free-market economy, in keeping with the liberal reforms sweeping Latin America.

Fujimori's detractors have accused the government of using public funds to finance a nationwide advertising blitz whose jingle, "Say 'yes' to the Peru you love," has saturated the airwaves since



Police belonging to an anti-terrorist unit keep watch over a Lima polling station as residents line up to vote.

September.

A disparate opposition, composed mostly of the right-of-center Accion Popular, the populist American Popular Revolutionary Alliance and the left, could barely muster a few flyers urging voters to vote "no."

"The 'no' campaign acted at a more underground level, involving a lot of rumors and personal contacts, as then-candidate Alberto Fujimori did in 1990," said Apoyo

pollster Alfredo Torres.

In 1990, political neophyte Fujimori trounced novelist Mario Vargas Llosa in runoff presidential elections.

Fujimori relied on voters disillusioned with traditional politics in a word-of-mouth campaign that catapulted him into the presidential palace. Foremost among his supporters were Peru's estimated 1 million evangelical Christians.

Sunday, that same force helped

turn voters against Fujimori. "We feel used and manipulated," said Caleb Meza, who heads Peru's National Evangelical Council.

Meza and fellow church members object to the establishment of the death penalty in the new constitution and say that the provision on presidential reelection, which for the first time allows a president to have consecutive terms, has transformed Fujimori into "the incarnation of a personal tyranny."

Armenians Reportedly Burn String of Azerbaijan Villages

Caucasus: Tens of thousands have fled across a perilous river into Iran, aid workers and refugees say.

By ALEXIS ROWELL
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

IMISHLI, Azerbaijan—Armenian troops pushing deeper into Azerbaijan have burned a string of villages and captured a major town in recent days, forcing tens of thousands of people across the treacherous Araks River into Iran, relief workers and refugees said Sunday.

The eastward offensive, which began about a week ago, marks the resumption of a six-month campaign to expand Armenian control of the mountainous terrain surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. That Armenian-populated enclave inside Azerbaijan is now under Iranian control after 5½ years of ethnic warfare.

Armenians say the offensive is aimed at clearing away Azerbaijani artillery that might threaten the enclave. But civilians in the path of the war testify that the advancing troops have opened fire on them and torched their modest rural homes.

"The Armenians were shelling us as we were waiting to cross the river," said a 12-year-old refugee who was separated from his parents in the exodus and identified himself only as Galid. "I was very scared. I saw several

children my age swept away by the current."

Galid is one of 25,000 refugees who have crossed into Iran in recent days, boarded trucks and been shuttled eastward and back across the border to a refugee tent city near Imishli, in a safer part of Azerbaijan. Relief agencies say an additional 40,000 refugees are on the way here at a rate of 5,000 per day.

The latest offensive brings to nearly 300,000 the number of Azerbaijanis chased from their homes since Karabakh Armenian defense forces broke out of their enclave and began seizing territory to the west, south and east. Azerbaijan and Iran contend that the Armenian army has joined the offensive, which has grabbed about 20% of Azerbaijan's territory.

On Friday, Armenian units captured Zangelan, the last major town in southwestern Azerbaijan's highlands that had been controlled by the dispirited Azerbaijani army. Other units pushed the battlefield eastward along the Araks into Azerbaijan's southeastern lowlands to a point 70 miles downstream from the Armenian border.

Octay Rustamov, a 35-year-old native of Zangelan, fled as the Armenians arrived. After crossing the river, he said, "I looked back and saw my hometown burning in



VICTOR KOTOWITZ / Los Angeles Times

the distance."

Widespread arson by the Armenians was confirmed by Mahmoud Said, chief of the U.N. mission in Azerbaijan, who drove 20 miles along the river on the Iranian side Friday and Saturday.

"The Azerbaijani side of the border was in flames," he said. Along that whole stretch of riverbank, "we could see entire villages burning just 500 meters from the barbed wire."

The offensive has upset a round of peace efforts that intensified after three-way talks in Moscow among the presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia in early October. But it has attracted little outside attention, in part because of a recent flare-up of civil war in neighboring Georgia that prompted Georgian leader Eduard A. Shevardnadze to seek and get Russian military intervention.

Azerbaijani President Geidar Al-

iev has also asked the Russian army to help stop the Armenian offensive, but Moscow has so far offered only diplomacy.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, worried about the violence along the border, brokered his own cease-fire during a visit to Azerbaijan last week, but it quickly broke down. Iran has mounted a major relief effort on Azerbaijani soil, with assistance from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Oxfam and other relief agencies.

On Friday, Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey called for an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the offensive. Azerbaijan charged that 60,000 of its people were cut off from the rest of the country and faced "the threat of being annihilated by bombardment from Armenian artillery and armored units."

Armenia responded that the offensive being carried out by the Karabakh defense forces was of a "purely reciprocal nature" and aimed at neutralizing movements of Azerbaijani troops violating the cease-fire.

By all evidence here, however, the Azerbaijani army is in full retreat. Azerbaijani television Saturday showed a Cabinet official, Leila Gadjeva, visiting the battle front and criticizing soldiers for their hasty withdrawal from Zangelan. She said they allowed the Armenians to seize "enough ammunition for five wars."

U.N. Troops Reportedly Used Brothel Run by Bosnia Serbs

By ROY GUTMAN
NEWSDAY

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina—U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia regularly visited a Serbian-run brothel outside Sarajevo, where some of them took sexual advantage of Muslim and Croatian women forced into prostitution, according to Muslim witnesses and the local Serbian commander.

Although the Bosnian government charged repeatedly that Bosnian Serbs had set up a concentration camp at the same site, U.N. peacekeepers neither investigated the facility nor reported its existence to their superiors, according to former prisoners and U.N. officials.

The visits occurred in the summer and autumn of 1992 at Sonja's Kon-Tiki, a restaurant-pension in Vogosca, about six miles north of Sarajevo, according to 12 Muslim and three Serbian witnesses. A U.N. investigation of alleged black-marketeering and other improprieties by U.N. personnel in Sarajevo has been widened to include these allegations.

Sonja's gained notoriety following the capture and trial of Borislav Herak, a Serbian soldier who was sentenced to death by the Bosnian government in March for raping and murdering Muslim and Croatian women at Sonja's during the summer of 1992. Herak testified at his trial that he visited Sonja's two to three times a week, raping women there. He said he had seen U.N. personnel at Sonja's once.

According to Branislav Vlacic, the Bosnian Serb commander of the camp from May to November, 1992, U.N. troops were frequent visitors to Sonja's.

"They came several times a week while I was commandant," he said. He said they came for food and drinks, to watch television,

"and they came for the girls too."

Vlacic, who later became chief of police in Vogosca, said that as many as 50 U.N. peacekeepers came to visit. The officers were from Canada, New Zealand, France, Ukraine and an African country, he said. A member of the self-styled Bosnian Serb government and a restaurant employee confirmed frequent visits.

Vlacic also ran the detention camp in a half-buried bunker about 150 feet behind the restaurant, where 80 to 100 people, mostly Muslim men, were held in inhumane conditions.

Survivors of the camp interviewed by Newsday reported that in the summer and autumn of 1992, uniformed U.N. troops arrived on U.N. transports and jeeps on six or more occasions and entered the restaurant. On some occasions the camp survivors saw young women being forced into U.N. armored personnel carriers or civilian cars that followed the U.N. vehicles to an unknown destination. Not once did U.N. personnel investigate the bunker, the witnesses said.

U.N. officials at U.N. headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia, declined to comment on the allegations.

Los Angeles Times

A Times Mirror Newspaper
Daily Founded Dec. 4, 1881

For home delivery, call: 1-800-LA TIMES
VOL. CXII, NO. 333

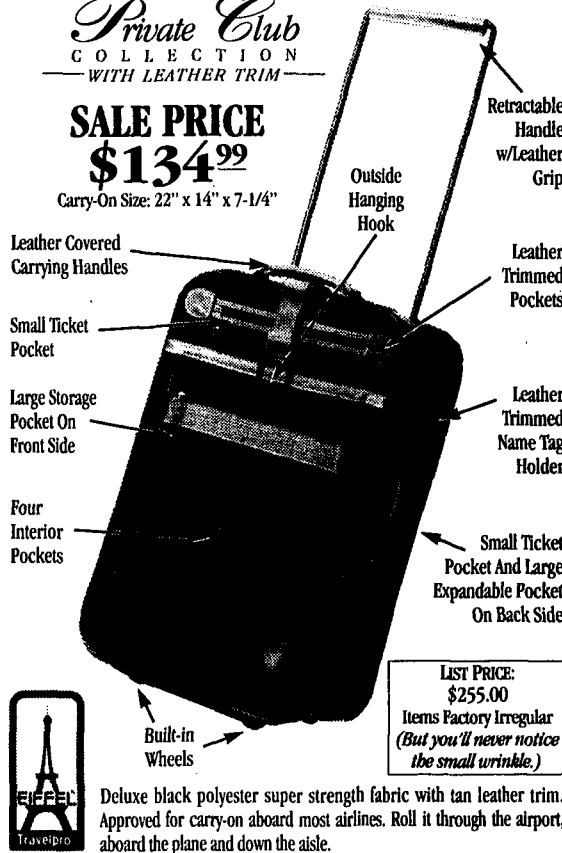
LOS ANGELES TIMES (ISSN 0458-3033) is published daily by The Times Mirror Company, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053. Home delivery rate in most areas \$3.54 per week for daily and Sunday service. All rates include applicable CA sales taxes. For rate information, call above number. Second-class postage paid at Los Angeles, CA and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Los Angeles Times, Times Mirror Square, Los Angeles, CA 90053.

More than 80% of the newspaper used to print the Los Angeles Times contains at least 50% recycled paper fiber, and all Times inks are soy-based, low rub, recyclable and environmentally sound.

EIFFEL TRAVELPRO INTRODUCES THEIR MOST DELUXE CARRY-ON.

Private Club
COLLECTION
WITH LEATHER TRIM

SALE PRICE
\$134⁹⁹
Carry-On Size: 22" x 14" x 7-1/4"



Deluxe black polyester super strength fabric with tan leather trim. Approved for carry-on aboard most airlines. Roll it through the airport, aboard the plane and down the aisle.

H. SAVINAR LUGGAGE

Serving Business/Industry/The Professions Since 1916
LOS ANGELES: 4625 W. Washington Blvd. • 3 1/2 blocks east of La Brea • (213) 938-2501 • Open 9 to 5:30, Mon-Fri; Sat. 9 to 5
CANOGA PARK: 6931 Topanga Canyon Blvd. • 2 1/2 blocks north of Topanga Plaza • (818) 703-1313 • Open 10 to 6, Mon-Sat; 11 to 4, Sun.
Park Free On Our Lots • Credit Cards Welcome.

CALL TOLL-FREE 800-877-1011 (8683)

THE ULTIMATE GIFTS!



Send Today For
GEARY'S
New Catalog

Looking for that perfect gift? Let GEARY'S 1993 Winter Holidays Gift Catalog be your guide. Our vast selection represents merchandise culled from the world over, offering unique and wide-ranging gift ideas for everyone on your shopping list. For a convenient and quick preview of our collection send \$3 and we'll put your catalog in the mail today!

Business Gifts: Need help with your holiday gift shopping? No problem. Just call our Corporate Gift Department at extension 177, and we'll provide you with extensive and affordable gifts.

GEARY'S (310) 273-4741

351 NORTH BEVERLY DRIVE • BEVERLY HILLS • 90210
MONDAY 10 TO 8 • TUES.-FRI. 10 TO 6 • SATURDAY 10 TO 5:30

"We love this room too much to trust it to an amateur..."

Coit has 40 years of experience and a written guarantee!



Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning - Guaranteed
NOW 25% OFF

- Our written money-back guarantee assures your satisfaction
- Over 40 years professional cleaning experience
- Powerful mobile unit assures optimal results
- Exclusive cleaning process restores color & extends carpet life
- Upholstery fabric pre-tested to insure most effective cleaning method
- Certified to clean stain-resistant carpet
- Evening and weekend service available

*Mention this ad and save \$50 on Air Duct Cleaning

For local service call
1-800-FOR-COIT
1-800-367-2648

COIT
Experience you can trust.

Offer Expires 11/30/93