



**SMALL STATES
CONFERENCE ON
SEA LEVEL RISE**
MALE, 14 - 18 NOVEMBER 1989

BBC

**WORLD SERVICE
NEWS**

**A SPECIAL TRANSMISSION FOR THE
SEA LEVEL RISE CONFERENCE**

at 0300 GMT

on November 14th, 1989

In El Salvador, heavy fighting has been going on for a third day as government troops attempt to regain full control of the capital, San Salvador. Reports suggest more than three hundred people have been killed since Saturday, when left-wing rebels started their biggest offensive in eight years. Army helicopters and planes have been strafing rebel positions and journalists in one suburb said there had been large numbers of civilian casualties. A correspondent for the BBC in San Salvador says the rebels are still holding at least four areas, although the government radio has denied that they control any part of the capital. The guerrillas say their attack had been planned for some time, using hidden stores of arms, ammunition and food, and their aim is to take over power. Our correspondent says fighting elsewhere in the country appears to be much more serious than first thought, especially in the East and North. The government has imposed a state of siege.

In Namibia, counting votes is well underway after last week's election for a constituent assembly to lead the territory to independence. With about a third of the votes declared, the multi-racial Democratic Turnhalle Alliance had taken a 15 % lead over the black nationalist organisation, SWAPO, although results have not yet come in from the areas where SWAPO has most of its support. SWAPO has predicted it would win a two-thirds majority, but a BBC correspondent in Windhoek says this now seems unlikely.

Following the inconclusive outcome of last week's general election in Greece, the Communists, who took twenty one of the three-hundred seats in Parliament, have been asked to try to form a government. The former Socialist prime minister Mr. Andreas Papandreu, and the largest group, the Conservatives, have already failed to do so. If, as expected, the Communists also do not succeed, President Sartzetakis will try to persuade the three to form a joint administration: otherwise, another election will be called.

The Israeli military authorities say they have sealed off the whole Gaza strip, after an Israeli patrol was ambushed and a soldier killed in Gaza city. Another soldier was badly hurt. A curfew was imposed and a search is underway for the attackers. The attack came after Israeli army sent reinforcements into the occupied area and closed schools for a week, to prevent demonstrations marking the anniversary of the declaration of a Palestinian state.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that the failure to hold pollution, coupled with an over-increasing number of hungry people, means the world is facing a catastrophic situation. The organisation's director-general Mr. Edouard Saouma, told a conference in Rome that in the developed countries, intensive production has led to catastrophic pollution of air, water and soil. In the Third World, the need to feed populations growing at a rate of eighty-million a year had resulted in the over exploitation of soil and the massive destruction of tropical forests.

China is set to begin a new campaign to suppress prostitution and what it calls other repulsive deeds. The Public Security Minister, Wang Fang, said these included selling pornography and using drugs. He gave no details of the campaign, beyond saying it would begin soon and those found to be involved, including foreigners, would be punished.

The pace of change in East Germany has continued with the appointment of a new Prime Minister and confirmation that a special Communist party congress will be held next month.

European Community leaders are to meet in Paris on Saturday to discuss the rapid development in Eastern Europe.

There has been more heavy fighting in El Salvador as government forces attempt to dislodge guerrillas holding areas of the capital.

Israeli troops have sealed off the Gaza Strip after a soldier was shot dead in an ambush.

East Germany has taken further steps towards a complete overhaul of its political institutions. Parliament has appointed as Prime Minister, the leading liberal in the Communist party, Mr. Hans Modrow. And the Party itself has approved plans for an extraordinary congress which will have the power to effect fundamental changes. Mr. Modrow succeeds Mr. Willi Stoph, whose cabinet resigned last week in the face of growing unrest.

In a radio interview later, Mr. Modrow promised that his government would be a genuine coalition of all parties and that it would tackle not only the economy but the entire social system. He warned that it would take time to come up with a viable plan, but added that the most important thing was the government would be the servant of parliament.

The Congress, to be held in mid-December, will consider the tasks to be faced by the party leader, Mr. Egon Krenz, and a new programme and a new party statute will be decided. A BBC Correspondent in Berlin says the calling of a special congress was made in response to growing dissatisfaction at the grassroots of the party. As decisions were being taken in Berlin, pro-reform demonstrators were keeping up the pressure elsewhere. Some two-hundred-thousand people joined another march in Leipzig, with banners saying Mr. Krenz should resign, and demanding that the Berlin Wall must come down altogether. More than fifty-thousand joined a demonstration in Karl Marx-Stadt and processions were also reported at Magdeburg, Halle, Cottbus and Schwerin.

Leaders of the European Community are to hold a special Summit meeting to discuss the rapidly changing situation in eastern Europe. President Mitterrand of France, who is the Community's current president, has invited the heads of government, their Foreign Ministers and the President of the European Commission, Mr. Jacques Delors, to meet at the Elysee Palace in Paris on Saturday evening.

The British Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher, has called on the European Community to stretch out the hand of co-operation to the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe. In her first major foreign policy speech since the upheavals in East Germany, Mrs. Thatcher told financial leaders in London that the Community must rise above an obsession with internal affairs and develop new forms of association with the East. At the same time, she urged caution, saying the very speed of change could jeopardise the goal of democracy.

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany continues his visit to Poland today with a visit to the site of the former Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, where more than four million people, mainly Polish Jews and Christians, were killed during the Second World War. The BBC Warsaw Correspondent says his presence is intended as a powerful symbol of the desire for reconciliation. Our correspondent says the Chancellor yesterday went some way to allay Polish fears about possible German reunification by admitting that the question could not be solved by the German people alone.
