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David Turnbull, lording it over the Thames



25p Saturday March 26 1988 Published in London and Manchester

# The Guardian

## Radical shake-up

French hostages in Lebanon were subsequently freed, sparking condemnation of Mr Chirac's alleged dealing with terrorists.

Mr Mouhajer remains engaged with associating with criminals and possession of

weapons, the interests of the hostages and carrying off a winning card," Mr Rafsanjani said in Tehran.

Mr Mitterrand, on French radio last night, declined to comment on the hostages issue for fear of hampering any negotiations that might be going on.

ments have caused some concern to Spain since he led his Gibraltar Socialist Labour Party to its first ever victory, winning a record 58 per cent of the vote and eight seats in the 15-seat Assembly.

The agreement, he said, was signed "behind the backs of the Gibraltarians" who oppose any change of their status as a British colony.

frontier closed in 1969, and to another 500 already retired by then will be cut when the fund, which contained £16.5 million from Britain, runs out in October.

been ruined, and demanded compensation. "You don't skimp on a pair of good shoes," they told the court.

## Riot police disperse Slovak Catholics

Lord's Prayer, and lit candles. Five minutes later the police asked the crowd to disperse.

Suddenly the entire crowd was surrounded by police vehicles sounding their sirens and flashing their lights.

Austrian ORF team was bundled roughly into police cars, while Mr Carl Bringer, an RAD correspondent from Frankfurt, and his two Czech technicians, were taken off, surrounded by uniformed and secret police.

Tension had been growing in Bratislava for much of the day. The authorities had banned the demonstration earlier in the week, but representatives of Slovakia's so-called "underground church" said that their candlelit protest would go ahead.

Hundreds of uniformed and secret police milled around the square from early afternoon, but did not attempt to seal it off initially.

Since January over a quarter of a million Czechoslovak Catholics have signed a petition containing 31 points criticising the State's uncompromising approach towards the country's religious communities.

Earlier this month, Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek publicly supported the petition during a mass held in front of 8,000 Czech and Moravian Catholics.

After assembling in front of the Slovak national theatre on Hviezdoslav Square, they sang the national anthem, said the

Special Riot Corp yesterday fired watercannons to disperse a crowd of 2,000 Catholic demonstrators in the Slovak capital, Bratislava.

The riot corp was called in after clashes between police and some demonstrators occurred when squad cars and street-cleaning lorries were driven through the crowd at between five and 10 miles an hour.

This is a disgrace. You call this a democratic state! screamed one man incessantly. Several terrified old women began crying.

Most of the crowd stood peacefully, praying aloud. Within minutes, however, the Special Riot Corp had sealed off the square with dog-handling troops. Three watercannons fired on the crowd, knocking down some demonstrators.

Earlier in the day, two television crews were arrested while filming the growing crowd. The

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Illinois), Mr Dukakis could carry off more of the 138 delegates because of organisational strength.

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Jane Walker in Madrid

GIBRALTAR'S newly-elected Chief Minister, Mr Joe Bossano, warned yesterday that his Government would oppose meetings between Britain and Spain aimed at determining the colony's future.

"We intend to divorce ourselves from the Brussels agreement," Mr Bossano said yesterday, "although this should not be interpreted as a gesture of hostility to Spain."

Thoughtful the election campaign, Mr Bossano condemned the 1984 agreement between Britain and Spain to discuss all matters concerning Gibraltar "including questions of sovereignty."

The agreement, he said, was signed "behind the backs of the Gibraltarians" who oppose any change of their status as a British colony.

Spain is also worried by the possibility that pensions to some 4,000 Spaniards who worked in the colony before the

The Socialist leader, who won an overwhelming victory in Thursday's general elections, said he would await an invitation from the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, to discuss the colony's status, but he would not send representatives to the regular meetings on Gibraltar between British and Spanish officials.

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## Dukakis drives ahead in Motown

Alex Brummer in Detroit

G GOVERNOR Michael Dukakis of Massachusetts hopes his new tougher approach on foreign trade will win enough blue collar votes in today's Michigan caucuses to eliminate the early favoured Congressman Richard Gephardt, from the Democratic presidential race.

Mr Dukakis, who traditionally draws his strength from Yuppie and suburban voters, has adopted the trade threat and crime as his issues in Motown in an effort to deflect populist challenges -- amid howls of foul play from his main rivals, the Rev Jesse Jackson and Mr Gephardt.

But the new message of "protecting jobs" in Michigan, where more than 500,000 work-

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Dole admits to certain defeat

AP in Washington

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