

Political crisis in Ukraine

by UPI

KIEV - Ukraine was in a political standoff Thursday, with the Supreme Council refusing the president's order to disband.

Pro-Western President Viktor Yushchenko has called for the legislature to dissolve and for new elections to be called, RIA Novosti reported.

Instead of disbanding, the Supreme Council issued an address saying Yushchenko "provokes a legal chaos in the country forcing state and self-government bodies to illegal actions," Itar-Tass reported. The legislature is awaiting a court decision on the president's decree.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, whose Party of Regions controls the largest bloc of seats in the legislature, walked out of an emergency session of the National Security and Defense Council the president had called to address the political crisis, Yanukovich's spokesman said.

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