

Villagers: Mass grave holds Stalin's victims

BYKOVNIA, U.S.S.R. -- Thousands of skulls and skeletons found entwined with grass and bits of clothing testify to the years of murder concealed in a mass grave in a forest outside this Ukrainian village.

The single bullet hole in each skull offers the most chilling evidence that these victims - up to 300,000 by one unofficial estimate - were killed by Josef Stalin's secret police, not the Nazis as the Soviet government claims.

Stalin's men shot people in the back of the head. The Nazis usually lined up their victims on the side of a ravine and machine-gunned them, said Mikola G. Lysenko, a retired economist who is crusading to end what he considers a conspiracy of lies.

After 50 years of silence, elderly residents of this village near Kiev are speaking up, blaming their government for the bodies buried in the forest.



Petro Z. Kukovenko says he summoned the courage to speak after a Soviet commission reburied the bones and erected a memorial in May

blaming the Nazis for the killing. On the spot where Soviet government trucks once dripped blood on the forest floor, the monument carved the

official version in granite.

"When they put up this monument, I became ashamed that they were blaming this on the wrong

people," Kukovenko, 74, said in an interview.

"My father may be buried there," said Kukovenko's wife, Halyna.

"My father was a collective farmer, and they killed him for nothing," she sobbed.

Western historians estimate 20 million Soviets were killed under Stalin, particularly during the Great Purge of the late 1930s.

But it was only in 1987 the Soviet government, as part of the reforms instituted under President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, began to admit that Stalin was responsible for even thousands of deaths.

The monument blaming the Nazis for the victims at Bykovnia was built in May, Lysenko said. In December, he succeeded in forcing the government to form a fourth commission to find the murderers.

The last three commissions all blamed the German occupation army.

Labor trounced in elections

JERUSALEM -- The right wing scored a decisive victory in Israel's municipal elections and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Wednesday the voters had vindicated his refusal to deal with the PLO.

The elections Tuesday extended the power of his Likud bloc on the local level and gave major gains to Jewish and Moslem fundamentalists.

Teddy Kollek, the moderate Labor Party's best-known mayor, won a sixth term in Jerusalem but lost control of the City Council.

A preliminary count gave religious parties 12 of the 31 council seats, up from 10 in 1983. Kollek's One Jerusalem slate got 11 or 12 seats, down from 17; four went to Likud and three or four to the secular Citizens Rights Movement.

More seats on the council will give religious parties greater power to enforce demands that restaurants and theaters close on the Jewish sabbath, but Kollek said he won't make concessions that "do not conform to the will of the majority."

Final results are not expected until later in the week, but Labor estimates it lost control of at least 10 towns councils, including several in traditional strongholds. Most were taken by Likud, including five of the largest cities.

Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, said on army radio Wednesday: "We have definitely been dealt a blow, and I don't want to underestimate its force. But five years ago, when we won a big victory in municipal elections, it didn't mean anything for the Knesset (parliament) elections."

Food stores jammed after riot, at least 100 dead in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela -- New riots broke out in the western slums Wednesday despite martial law imposed because of two days of disturbances, and at least one person was reported killed.

Venezuelans jammed the few remaining food stores, guarded by soldiers, to stock up after two days of riots and looting over price increases in which more than 100 people have been reported killed and 800 injured.

Witnesses in outlying areas of Caracas said police exchanged gunfire with snipers and drove mobs away from stores. Other witnesses said a woman had been killed by police early Wednesday in the town of Catia as she tried to loot a store.

Radio reporters said delinquents tried to break into homes in Guarenas, 30 miles west of Caracas, while homeowners were defending themselves with guns.

President Carlos Andres Perez declared martial law late Tuesday, saying the "incredible tragedy" of the violence threatened Venezuela's "consolidation of democracy." His spokesman said people must realize the rich years of the oil boom are over.

The president also announced an agree-

ment between industry and labor for an immediate wage increase that would raise the pay of those earning the minimum wage by more than 50 percent.

Bus fare increases of 30 percent to 50 percent, and price gouging by drivers, were the immediate cause of the riots, but oil accounts for 90 percent of Venezuela's export income and the economy never recovered from the plunge in world prices several years ago.

Inflation is expected to reach 70 percent this year, double the 1988 level, and the foreign debt is \$33 billion.

Perez, in office only four weeks, announced a sweeping reform package under pressure from international creditors. It includes freeing interest rates, doubling gasoline prices and letting the currency float, which means higher prices for imports.

Martial law prohibits public gatherings, suspends the right to privacy and freedom of the press and permits detention without charge. Perez also imposed a 6 p.m.-6 a.m. curfew that government spokesman Pastor Heydra said would last until peace was restored.

Armed forces call cease-fire

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador -- The armed forces on Tuesday declared a unilateral halt to military operations involving offense and called on leftist rebels to reciprocate.

The armed forces press office said in a statement that the cease-fire would begin at midnight Tuesday (1 a.m. Wednesday EST) and run through June 1, when President Jose Napoleon Duarte's term in office ends.

It asked the guerrillas to reciprocate "to comply with the Salvadoran people's desire for peace." It did not say whether the armed forces would abide by the cease-fire if the guerrillas kept up their military attacks.

No immediate response to the announcement came from the rebels' Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN. The government had no comment on the announcement.

Political party leaders said late Tuesday they were still studying the move by the armed forces.

The gesture came after the five Farabundo Marti commanders said in a communique that they were willing to discuss peace with Duarte but rejected the venue and agenda he suggested Sunday night.

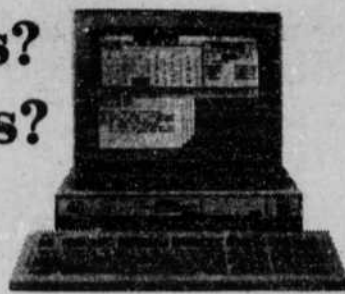
But it also lamented Duarte's "invariable design to obtain our surrender, which is unrealistic, illogical and impossible."

It was unclear Tuesday if the conflicting positions could be reconciled. Both stemmed from a Jan. 24 guerrilla peace overture that called for postponing the presidential election now scheduled for March 19.

The IBM Personal System/2 is Here!



Questions?
Comments?



Stop by The Computer Shop on Thursday, March 2 from 8:30 a.m. til 12:30 p.m. and meet Dealer Account Representative

Holly M. Simon,
National Distribution Division.

The Computer Shop

University Bookstore, Lower Level - Nebraska Union

472-5785, Hours: M-F, 8 am-5 pm

Daily Nebraskan

Editor	Curt Wagner 472-1766
Managing Editor	Jane Hirt
Assoc. News Editors	Lee Rood Bob Nelson
Editorial Page Editor	Amy Edwards
Wire Editor	Diana Johnson
Copy Desk Editor	Chuck Green
Sports Editor	Jeff Apel
Arts & Entertainment Editor	Mick Haller
Graphics Editor	Tim Hartmann
Diversions Editor	Joeth Zuoco
Graphics Editor	Tim Hartmann
Photo Chief	Connie Sheehan
Night News Editors	Victoria Ayotte Chris Carroll
Librarian	Anne Mohr
Art Directors	John Bruce Andy Manhart
Sower Editor	Kirstin Swanson
Supplements Editor	Deanna Nelson
General Manager	Don Shatill
Production Manager	Katherine Poltkey
Advertising Manager	Robert Bates
Sales Manager	David Thiemann
Circulation Manager	Eric Shanks
Publications Board Chairman	Tom Macy 475-9868
Professional Adviser	Don Walton 473-7301

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tom Macy, 475-9868.

Subscription price is \$45 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT
1989 DAILY NEBRASKAN