

## Gorbachev reorganizes Communist Politburo

MOSCOW -- Mikhail S. Gorbachev pulled off a major shake-up of the ruling Communist Party on Wednesday, dropping three Politburo members in a dramatic consolidation of power.

Tass news agency announced that former KGB chief Viktor M. Chebrikov, 66, and Viktor P. Nikonov, 60, were retired from the pinnacle of Soviet power, and 71-year-old Ukrainian party chief Vladimir V. Shcherbitsky said he, too, was retiring.

The personnel moves continued Gorbachev's molding of the top party apparatus, carried out in a series of bold strokes. Gorbachev is general secretary of the Communist

Party as well as Soviet president.

The shake-up came after the party Central Committee on Wednesday approved a program directing restive Soviet republics to stifle calls to leave the union but acceding to demands for more local control of the economy.

The Central Committee also gave Gorbachev an early chance to reach deep down in the party for new faces by moving up the next party congress to October 1990.

Gorbachev forced the retirement of a quarter of the Central Committee at the last meeting of that policy-making body in April. Almost a year ago, two long-time apparatchiks, includ-

ing then-President Andrei A. Gromyko, were removed from the Politburo.

Shcherbitsky, regarded as a conservative force both in Moscow and his native Ukraine, was the last Politburo member serving from the time of President Leonid I. Brezhnev. His retirement leaves Vitaly I. Vorotnikov of the Russian republic the only pre-Gorbachev appointee on the 11-man Politburo.

Shcherbitsky long has been rumored to be in trouble with Gorbachev. He presumably will remain party chief in the Ukraine until a meeting there can be called to name a replacement.

Gorbachev continued to fill the ruling body

with his own men, elevating the new KGB chief, Vladimir Kryuchkov, and the head of economic planning, Yuri Maslyukov, to full membership.

Tass said Gorbachev thanked the three Politburo members warmly for their "many years of fruitful activity" in the party, indicating they were retiring in good grace.

Two non-voting members of the Politburo, Yuri Solovyev and Nikolai Talyzin, also retired. Their places were taken by Yevgeny Primakov, head of the Soviet of the Union legislative chamber, and Boris Pugo, head of the party commission overseeing discipline.

### Plane blown apart by bomb

PARIS -- A Moslem extremist group claimed responsibility Wednesday for the downing of a French DC-10 jetliner in southern Niger that killed all 171 people on board.

U.S., French and UTA airline authorities said they believe the plane, bound Tuesday from Chad to Paris, was blown out of the sky by a bomb. A U.S. team of investigators was to leave later Wednesday for Niger.

Two callers who claimed to

represent Islamic Jihad but did not give their names made their claims of responsibility in separate telephone calls to the airline and to a Western news agency.

UTA Flight 772 was on a flight from Brazzaville, Congo, to Paris when it crashed Tuesday shortly after making a stop in N'Djamena, Chad. Debris was scattered over a 16-mile expanse of desert about 400 miles northwest of N'Djamena.

### Hugo heads toward Eastern Seaboard

MIAMI -- Hurricane Hugo quickened its pace toward the Eastern Seaboard on Wednesday as residents gathered supplies and made evacuation plans, while violence and looting broke out on the shattered islands in the storm's wake.

President George Bush authorized the sending of troops to the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Croix after National Guardsmen and police reportedly joined prison escapees and others in wild looting. Armed Coast Guard crewmen also went ashore to help

restore order.

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh ordered 100 U.S. marshals and FBI agents to the island, and Coast Guard cutters evacuated frightened tourists and residents. Bush also authorized troops to help hurricane-damaged Puerto Rico.

Forecasters issued a hurricane watch from St. Augustine, Fla., to Cape Hatteras, N.C., urging coastal residents to begin taking precautions. Hugo picked up speed over open

water and could come ashore late today or early Friday.

"I think they're looking at this one with a bit of respect," city spokesman Pat Dowling said in Myrtle Beach, S.C., as radio and TV advisories warned: "Remember the people of Puerto Rico."

Since Sunday, Hugo has killed at least 25 people, left thousands homeless and caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damage as it slashed through the northeastern Caribbean with wind of 125 to 150 mph.

## Daily Nebraskan

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### De Klerk commits to end oppression

PRETORIA, South Africa -- F.W. de Klerk was sworn in as president Wednesday and promised a new constitution that would bring blacks into South Africa's government by the end of his five-year term.

He appealed to South Africans of all races to help build a nation "free of domination and oppression."

"We accept that time is of the essence and we are committed to

visible, evolutionary progress," de Klerk said in his inaugural speech.

He has vowed to eliminate discrimination and allow blacks, who currently cannot vote, participation in government under a five-year plan.

But he did not specify any apartheid laws he would repeal. Nor did he say how he would implement his goal of providing limited political rights to the 28-million black majority

while maintaining the political domination of the country's 5 million whites.

De Klerk, 53, took the oath of office as reports spread that his government will free jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela early next year. Newspapers quoted official sources as saying the release will be part of a package of reforms to draw blacks into constitutional talks.

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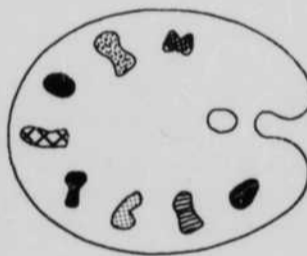
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