Hungary declared a democracy

BUDAPEST, Hungary -- Hungary declared itself a democracy Monday, 33 years after Soviet troops crushed an anti-Stalinist uprising, and chants of "Russians go home!" and "Communism no more!" rose from a crowd of 100,000.

Hungarian flags of red, white and green waved over the throng, which overflowed the Parliament square. People cheered wildly in the torch-lit plaza when participants in the uprising invoked memories of its leaders.

'It took 33 years for those behind the thick walls to hear the cries" for democracy, Jenoe Fonay told the rally, referring to the recent official change of heart about the nature of the 12-day revolt that began Oct. 23,

The Soviet bloc's bloodiest uprising was called counterrevolution until early this year, when the official description was changed to a popular uprising in one of the dramatic moves in Hungary's progress toward de-

As many as 32,000 people were killed in 1956 and about 200,000 fled the country

Gyula Óbersovszky, a writer and

my fingers crossed for Gorbachev. The crowd called out "Gorby!

"History has taught us that as long as Moscow is not free, we cannot be free either," Obersovszky said.

He expressed certainty that "the suppression of the revolution would not have taken place' if Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader who champions reform, and President George Bush had led the superpowers

A banner proclaiming "Freedom, Independence" was draped across the main entrance of Parliament and floodlights bathed the structure.

Gyoergy Krasso, a vocal opposi-tion figure jailed for his part in the uprising, drew one of the strongest ovations when he declared: "We've had enough of Russian occupation!"

Without mentioning names, he appealed to East European allies who oppose reforms to "help us and not make it more difficult.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said: "Declaring itself an independ-

editor who was sentenced to death but later pardoned, said: "I am keeping of the popular uprising seems parmy fingers exceed for Corbochev": of the popular uprising seems par-ticularly appropriate. We congratulate the Republic of Hungary and its

> Hungarian national TV broadcast the entire rally, its cameras going frequently from the cheering crowd to the balcony with its large photograph of Imre Nagy, who led the 1956 revolt and was executed. Nagy's body was exhumed and reburied with honor in June.

> Some speakers recited patriotic poems, including one that began: "The streets of Budapest are running with blood.'

> The evening rally followed a proclamation by acting President Matyas Szueroes formally declaring Hungary a democracy after 41 years of communist rule.

> Szueroes declared the communist "People's Republic of Hungary" dead from the balcony of Parliament, to the applause of 100,000 people who had filled the square by midday.

> "As of today, our nation's . . . name is the Republic of Hungary," he said, and church bells throughout the country pealed at noon.

Survivor improves; commuters battle heavy traffic, weather

SAN FRANCISCO -- Freeway survivor Buck Helm improved Monday but crews searching the collapsed highway where he was rescued gave up hope others would be found alive. The death toll from last week's earthquake climbed by two to 61.

Bay area commuters, meanwhile, conquered heavy traffic and rough seas on the first full workday since the quake.

"We're very certain nobody's up there alive. We've searched, searched, researched, triple-searched," said Oakland Police Lt. Kris Wraa, referring to the crumpled 1 1/4-mile stretch of Interstate 880 where huge slabs of concrete teetered in the rain.

Asked if officials had given up

hope of finding another survivor, she said, "That's fair wording." With rescue efforts suspended,

crews began dismantling a shaky 100-yard section, officials said. Kyle Nelson of the California

whose job is to make sure the structure was safe for rescuers, called it extremely dangerous. "Given the right conditions of rain and wind, it could have collapsed," he said.

Commuters did return to the

earthquake-ravaged transit system, many boarding extra trains or a flotilla of ferries because the Bay Bridge from Oakland to San Fran-

cisco remained closed.
The Bay Area Rapid Transit system carried twice the normal

system carried twice the normal load and ferry passengers had to stomach rough seas and whipping winds, but there was little of the feared gridlock on the roads.

"I've just been through hell, but heck, I have to admit I made it through it," said John Trowbridge, a commuter who normally would have driven across the Bay Bridge. have driven across the Bay Bridge but instead rode a ferry that lurched constantly, battling swells that washed across the tip of the

"It can only get better, this can't get much worse," he said. Department of Transportation,

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into so many other wonderful things.

Hashemi Rafsanjani on Monday offered help in getting Western hos-tages freed in Lebanon if the United States releases billions of dollars in

frozen Iranian assets or helps settle the cases of three kidnapped Iranians. Rafsanjani said hostage-taking is an "inhuman action" that can produce no positive political results. Eighteen Westerners, including eight

pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. While Rafsanjani said his govern-

Americans, are believed to be held by

Rafsanjani offers hostage help for freed assets demands were not new.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Rafsanjani's comments did not change the U.S. posi-

'We do not link the Iranian assets to the hostages and we do not make deals for hostages," he said.

Christian Lebanese Forces militiamen kidnapped the three Iranians in north Lebanon in July 1982. The missing are Ahmad Motevaselian, commander of the contingent of Irament was maintaining indirect con- nian Revolutionary Guards based in

TEHRAN, Iran -- President tacts with Washington, his offer and the Bekaa Valley of east Lebanon; Iranian Charge d'Affaires Hussein Musavi; and Kazem Akhavan, a correspondent for the Islamic Republic News Agency

> Their Lebanese Shiite driver, Rastegar Moqadam, who also held an Iranian passport, was grabbed with them at a Lebanese Forces checkpoint 25 miles north of Beirut. All four are believed dead.

> Lebanese Forces commander Samir Geagea said in August 1988 that after he took over the militia in 1986 he found no trace of the missing men and blamed his predecessor, Elie Hobeika, for their disappearance and apparent murder.

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