

E. German government resigns amid unrest

BERLIN (AP) -- East Germany's government resigned Tuesday amid growing nationwide unrest, a continuing exodus of thousands of its people and pleas from within the Communist Party for a sweeping top-level shakeup.

Also on Tuesday -- one day after the government introduced a proposed law promising up to 30 days of travel to the West -- a parliamentary committee rejected the measure and urged a new law allowing unrestricted stays abroad.

The 44-member Council of Ministers resigned jointly, government spokesman Wolfgang Meyer said. The cabinet, led by 75-year-old Premier Willi Stoph, has little power and implements policy made by the Communist Party's ruling Politburo. Stoph and several other ministers also are Politburo members.

"We appeal to the citizens who intend to leave our republic to reconsider their step once

more. Our socialist fatherland needs everyone," said a statement issued by the outgoing cabinet.

Since early Saturday, more than 28,000 East Germans have fled to the West through neighboring Czechoslovakia. They arrived in West Germany on Tuesday at the rate of 120 an hour.

The government will remain in office until Parliament elects a new Council of Ministers, Meyer said. He did not say when such an election would occur. The party's Central Committee was to meet today to consider further changes.

Several Communist officials and three small parties allied with the Communists have urged the Politburo itself to resign.

Leaders "should resign without any delay" to make way for a new Politburo and a new Cabinet that will implement reforms, said the

East Berlin newspaper Junge Welt, organ of the country's Communist Youth organization.

At least eight Politburo jobs were on the line at a meeting Tuesday.

New party leader Egon Krenz has said five elderly Politburo members closely associated with former leader Erich Honecker will be replaced by the end of the week. Two other Politburo members lost their jobs Oct. 18 when Krenz took over.

The Politburo, which normally has 21 members, also discussed an "action program" that Krenz has said would contain sweeping political and economic reforms.

As the government resigned and the Politburo met, about 5,000 people marched in East Berlin to protest election fraud and urge free elections. Police did not intervene as the demonstrators challenged the Communists' mo-

nopoly on power and shouted: "All power to the people."

On Monday, 750,000 demonstrators took to the streets in cities around the country, with about 500,000 in Leipzig alone.

East Germany's embattled leaders have been promising democratic reforms and eased travel restrictions in hopes of halting the growing unrest. But a draft allowing 30 days of travel to the West failed to curb discontent.

The constitutional committee of Parliament rejected the measure in its present form, just one day after it was published, the state-run news agency ADN said.

"The proposal does not meet the expectations of citizens . . . and will not achieve the political credibility of the state," the committee said.

Anti-Communist marchers challenge party authority

MOSCOW (AP) -- Anti-Communist marchers, striking workers and clashes between police and protesters vied Tuesday with a scaled-down military parade on Red Square as the Soviet Union celebrated the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Even President Mikhail S. Gorbachev tempered the Revolution Day festivities by saying the nation's economic problems hang like a "sword of Damocles over us."

A column of about 5,000 marchers paraded peacefully through Moscow to challenge Communist Party authority, while a few miles away, Gorbachev and other leaders celebrated the 72nd anniversary of the revolution reviewing the traditional show of military force.

Activists in the southwest republic of Moldavia said police broke up a crowd of thousands of would-be pro-

testers and beat some of them. The military part of the parade in its capital, Kishinev, was canceled.

In the Arctic city of Vorkuta, striking coal miners joined the official celebration, but carried slogans demanding more independence and that the government fulfill promises of better living and working conditions.

In some trouble spots, such as the Caucasus republics of Armenia and Georgia, state-run media said traditional parades were canceled. Boris Sokolov, an activist from the Baltic republic of Latvia, said a small group of people burned a red Soviet flag in the center of Riga, the capital.

Gorbachev, interviewed by Soviet TV atop Lenin's Mausoleum in Red Square, acknowledged that many Soviets feel threatened by food shortages and the disorganization of the consumer market.

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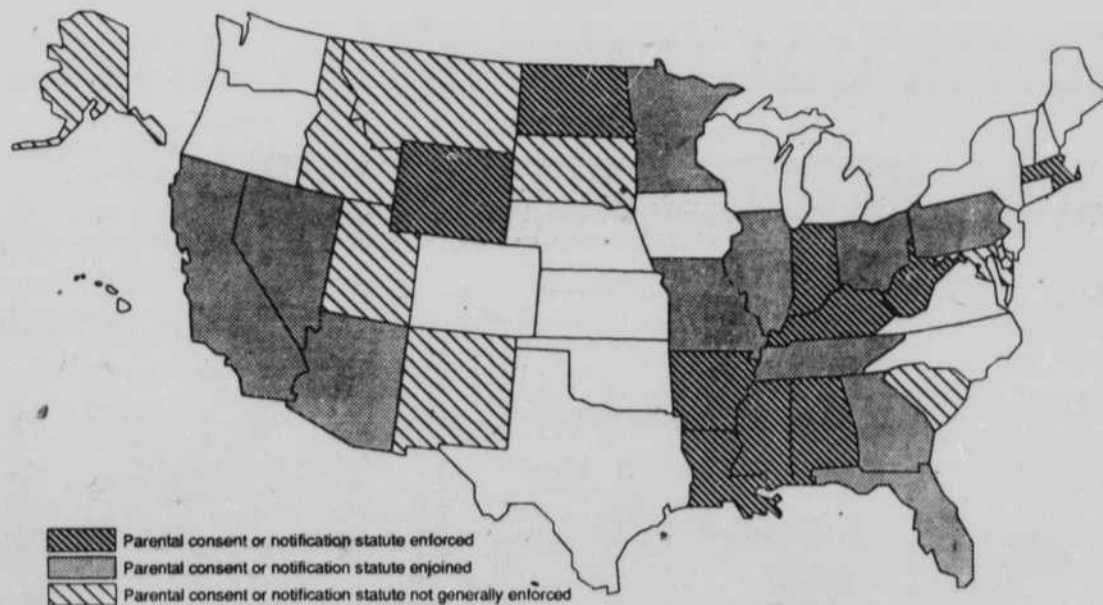
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