

## Czech premier talks with opposition leaders

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia -- The Communist premier held unprecedented talks with opposition leaders Sunday, then joined bold reformer Alexander Dubcek at a pro-democracy rally before 300,000 elated, flag-waving demonstrators.

Even the armed forces and riot police, who just nine days ago beat peaceful protesters, indicated backing for the growing reform movement. "We support the democratic changes," a riot policeman told the crowd, which braved freezing weather and snow.

Premier Ladislav Adamec became the first top official in 20 years to share a platform with

Dubcek, the former Communist Party leader who spent two decades in political exile after Warsaw Pact tanks crushed his "Prague Spring" reform movement in 1968.

Adamec also held his first talks with leading dissident Vaclav Havel and independents in an effort to find a way to end the political crisis and propel Czechoslovakia toward democracy.

The talks seemed intended to clarify the situation as the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee began its second emergency session in three days Sunday.

New party chief Karel Urbanek, addressing the meeting, said the Central Committee will

make further personnel changes following a major shakeup in the ruling party last Friday. He also proposed an extraordinary party congress on Jan. 26 which would have the power to elect an entirely new Central Committee.

Urbanek also asked the Czechoslovak premier and the premier of the Czech republic to submit proposals on changing the functions of their interior ministries -- which are responsible for the police -- in the wake of police brutality against peaceful Prague demonstrators Nov. 17 that touched off the past nine days of mammoth anti-government rallies.

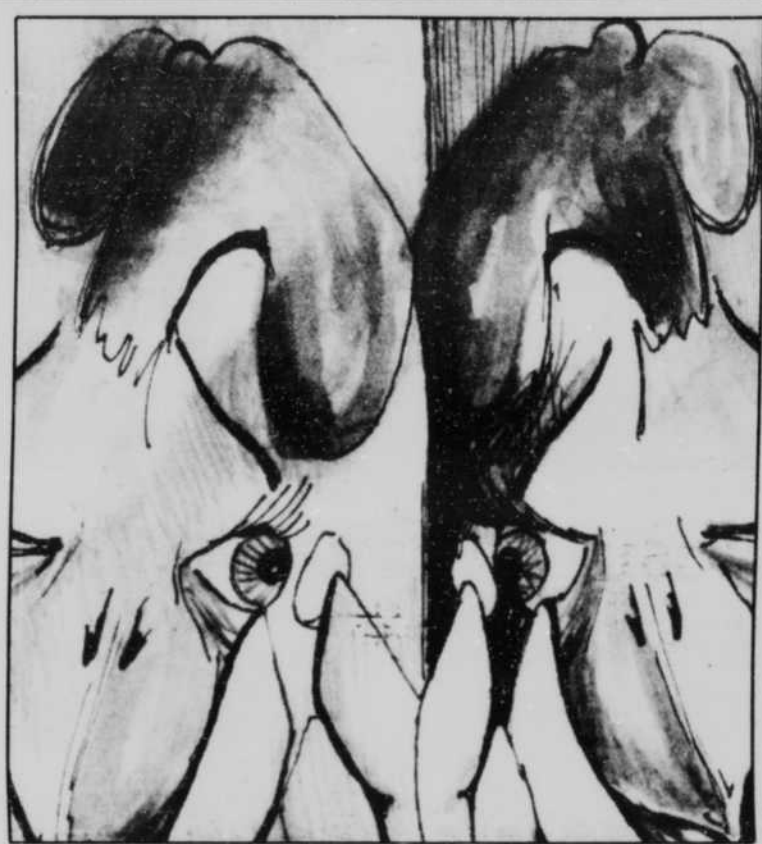
The powerful Prague Communist Party, in a

harsh condemnation of party leadership, demanded that Adamec, dumped from the Politburo along with six others Friday, be restored to the panel.

"Dialogue has begun!" Havel declared triumphantly at the rally, which capped a week of pro-democracy demonstrations and hectic moves by the Communists to regain control.

Demonstrations also were reported in Bratislava, Brno, Plsen, Hradec Kralove, Ceske Budejovice, Kosice and other cities.

State-run television reported 800,000 people at the rally, but reporters estimated no more than about 300,000.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

## Massachusetts man develops contact lenses for chickens

WELLESLEY, Mass. -- Randall E. Wise had it all -- a Harvard M.B.A., a profitable computer software company. But he sold his firm to follow a dream, a dream to one day supply contact lenses to all the world's egg-laying chickens.

Wise's red contact lenses are already on 100,000 chickens nationwide, and his company, Animalens Inc., is growing.

Oh, sure, people laughed at first. "We'd talk to investors. They'd say: 'Sounds neat. Good luck,'" Wise recalls.

But while Wise is willing to joke a little about his enterprise, he's all business when it comes to discussing the future, which he says looks sunny side up.

Before writing Wise off as a cuckoo, understand that there is a sound idea behind his scheme. Chickens become positively mellow when they see the world through rose-tinted glasses -- or better yet, fire-engine red contact lenses.

Scientists aren't sure why, but a rosy outlook eliminates the pecking order among chickens, which normally tend to be pretty ornery critters. Red-eyed birds spend less time fighting and more time laying eggs. They also eat less.

According to Wise's calculations, that translates into an annual savings of at least 50 cents a chicken, or 2.5 cents per dozen eggs. With 1.2 billion laying chickens multiplied by the 20 dozen eggs each yields a year, the savings could be \$600 million.

With such benefits, Wise is sure farmers will soon flock to buy his contact lenses, which go for a modest 20 cents a pair, or 15 cents if bought in bulk. The lenses can be put in place in seconds and stay in place for the life of the bird, or about a year.

"The challenge is to go out and sell the product, especially when

it's new and different," Wise says. "This certainly falls into the category of being new and different."

The idea for the lenses goes back to Wise's childhood on the chicken farm his father managed in northern California in the early 1960s.

Wise's dad, Irvin, tried to produce lenses for chickens after a salesman told him about a farm where chickens afflicted with cataracts behaved better than those with normal sight.

"But the technology didn't exist at the time for the lens to work," explains Wise, 41. "The early lenses blinded the chickens."

The elder Wise's fledgling company folded. His son went off to college, worked in the shipping industry for a time and then founded a computer software firm in Boston eight years ago that prospered.

But the chickens and the lenses were still on his mind. Three years ago he sold his company for several million dollars and set out to pursue his dream.

"I got out of computers because of this," Wise says. "And I still don't miss computers. I've believed in this for a long time."

Not that everything has flown smoothly since jumping from computer software to chicken eyewear.

The lenses had to be painstakingly designed so they wouldn't distort the chickens' vision or irritate their eyes.

Eventually, a usable lens was developed. Wise contracted with several small plants around Massachusetts to produce the lenses, and field tests were conducted on farms around the country.

Now, Wise says, the testing is over and it's time for his dream to fly.

## Lebanese president warns Aoun

CHTOURA, Lebanon -- Newly elected president Elias Hrawi said Sunday he will replace Christian Gen. Michel Aoun with a new army commander within 48 hours if Aoun continues to challenge the fledgling government.

The warning came after Parliament approved a new Cabinet that pledged to extend its control over all Lebanon, including the Christian enclave controlled by Aoun.

"If he (Aoun) persists . . . I must say with much regret that he will have to bear the consequences," Hrawi told reporters in this Bekaa Valley town, where he has established temporary headquarters while Aoun refuses to leave the official presidential palace.

"He still is the general of the army, perhaps for no more than 48 hours, after which, if he stays, he will become an officer of this army," Hrawi said. "You will know the name of the new commander of the army by Wednesday morning."

Some parliamentarians speculated Hrawi would resort to military means if Aoun was not forced out by diplomatic pressure.

Hrawi, a 64-year-old Maronite, was elected Friday to succeed President Rene Mouawad, who was assassinated Nov. 22 only 17 days into his term.

Hrawi put himself on a collision course with Aoun by dismissing the general's military Cabinet before

dawn Saturday and forming a national unity government with members from Lebanon's seven major sects.

Aoun, asked Sunday on French television whether he would surrender territory controlled by his 20,000 troops, said: "No, I will defend myself."

During the interview at his bunker in the presidential palace at Baabda, Aoun speculated that Mouawad was killed because he refused to order an attack on Aoun's forces.

He denied responsibility for the assassination and said he sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar "to help us discover who is the author" of the killing.

## Gorbachev supports reform in E. Europe

MOSCOW -- Mikhail S. Gorbachev displayed solid support Sunday for reform in Eastern Europe by endorsing socialism with a "human face" -- the slogan used by the Czechoslovak progressives toppled by a Soviet-led invasion in 1968.

In the Czechoslovak capital, Alexander Dubcek, leader of the ill-fated "Prague Spring" reforms of 21 years ago, read Gorbachev's remarks at a rally as proof of the Soviet president's backing for change.

Two days earlier, the Czechoslovak Communist Party dumped party chief Milos Jakes and some other leaders associated with hard-line policies in an attempt to stem the political crisis that has rocked the country.

With the East bloc in upheaval, the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda published a 2 1/2-page compilation of Gorbachev's thoughts on the future of socialism and his own program for "perestroika," or reconstruction of the economy and society.

Pravda said the article was a synthesis of recent remarks by Gorbachev.

The Soviet leader's major theme seemed to be that socialism must modernize -- even adopt traits of capitalism if necessary -- or risk be-

coming irrelevant. He offered no quick answers but said the process would take years, "into the 21st century."

He also said achievements attained under capitalism, like "equality of all before the law" and general prosperity, should not be dismissed because of ideology.

"In the hullabaloo of our constant confrontation with capitalism, we clearly underestimate the importance of much that has been done by humanity over the centuries," the Kremlin leader said.

On the need for Soviet reform, Gorbachev said: "The people are tired of waiting."

"Many words have been spoken about the interests of man, but they have been little reinforced with material resources and genuine deeds. As a result, in becoming a great and mighty power, the country did not create for the masses of the people the conditions of life that are natural for any civilized state."

"The new face of socialism is its human face, this fully corresponds to the thought of Marx," Gorbachev said. "Because its creation is the chief goal of restructuring, we can with full justification say we are

building humanitarian socialism."

For Communists, the phrase "socialism with a human face" is inseparably linked to Dubcek and his ill-fated reform movement. Gorbachev has previously supported economic and social reform in Eastern Europe and pledged the Soviets would not interfere there, but by appropriating Dubcek's words, he made his point dramatically.

Some in Prague even took Gorbachev's comments as a public admission that the 1968 intervention, which led to Dubcek's overthrow, was a mistake. The Soviet Union has not yet renounced the 1968 intervention, as it has the 1979 invasion of Afghanistan.

In the Pravda article, Gorbachev sounded a note of alarm about socialism by contrasting its present woes with the adaptability of capitalism.

Karl Marx was wrong, Gorbachev acknowledged, when he predicted capitalism's imminent demise.

Gorbachev defended the 1917 revolution that brought the Communists to power in the former Russian Empire as a "world-historical breakthrough to the future," but said socialism has often been perverted since.

## Indian opposition parties edging out Gandhi's Congress Party

NEW DELHI -- Early returns Sunday showed opposition parties edging out Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in parliamentary elections that will determine the fate of the world's only democratically elected dynasty.

Following the bloodiest vote in modern India's 42-year history, tallies showed the governing Congress Party leading in more races than any single opposition party but trailing the combined total of opposition parties. It was falling short of enough seats to form the next government without entering a coalition.

Voting started Wednesday in most of India's 25 states and seven federally governed territories. By the time polling ended Sunday in the states of Punjab, Bihar and tiny Sikkim, at least 136 people had been killed in election-related violence.

The election also was marred by widespread ballot-rigging, voter in-

timidation and murderous assaults that prompted the election commission to order re-votes today in one-fifth of the country's 590,000 polling booths -- including about 18 percent of the booths in Gandhi's own constituency of Amethi.

According to state-run television's "trend reports," based on incomplete counting in 365 of 524 parliamentary constituencies, Congress was ahead in 158 races while major opposition parties led in a total of 173.

"The Congress Party is no longer going to be the majority in the next government," the television declared.

While the Congress Party was expected to sweep the southern states, it appeared to be in serious trouble in the north, its traditional stronghold. It also was losing ground in the east and west.

## Daily Nebraskan

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