

Cease-fire, evacuation begin in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines -- Government and rebel forces declared a temporary cease-fire today and began evacuating foreigners from the embattled financial district where they had been trapped for four days by fighting in the bloody attempt to oust President Corazon Aquino.

It was not known if Americans were being released. On Tuesday, a rebel officer said all the estimated 215 Americans might not be set free because of U.S. support for Aquino. "I just want to report that we have successfully evacuated the tourists and the guests here at the Manila Garden," said Narzalina Lim, an undersecretary of tourism. "I hope the other hotels will follow suit."

Max Motchmann, a West German expatriate who helped in the negotiations, said the rebels and government forces agreed to a cease-fire until the evacuation is complete. He expected the operation to be complete by mid-day.

He said rebels were allowing only two buses at a time to enter the battle zone. They were shuttling back and forth between the hotel district and a staging area a short distance away.

Manila radio stations said about nine busloads of foreigners had been taken out of the area, located in the fashionable suburb Makati. It was unclear how many foreigners were aboard the vehicles.

About 2,000 foreigners were believed trapped in the hotels and apartments in the area, which the rebels seized Saturday on the second day of their coup attempt.

Vice President Salvador Laurel suggested that he, Aquino and Congress all resign as a means of ending the battle and schedule new elections.

Reports said the leader of the main pro-Aquino party had suggested she dismiss her Cabinet as a gesture to the rebels.

Rafael Alunan, undersecretary of tourism, negotiated for hours with the leader of rebels in Makati about the foreigners trapped in three luxury hotels and condominiums.

The talks at the Intercontinental Hotel ended at sunset, and Alunan said they would continue today. The rebels offered Monday to let the foreigners leave.

After the negotiations Tuesday, Alunan said: "They've decided to

postpone . . . because it's nightfall and we don't want the tourists to be mistaken for soldiers." He said some details remained to be settled, but would not be more specific.

Capt. Albert Yen, one of the insurgents, said "the intention is not to release Americans."

"U.S. meddling has caused the failure of the first wave of our assault, so we hold them liable," Yen said. "It is the responsibility of the U.S. government if we take their nationals hostage."

Yen said the rebellion was code-named "Seven Days and Seven Nights in December," and would involve a seven-stage operation. He said the takeover of the financial district, which began Saturday, was the second stage.

In Washington, the Bush administration expressed concern for the trapped Americans and said "some uncertainty" remained about their status.

"You can be assured that the Pentagon has contingency plans for everything," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. He would not say what additional military steps the United States might take.

Brig. Gen. Jose Commendador, leader of the Mactan rebels, said Tuesday there would be a "nation-wide uprising by the military" if the government moved against them.

The coast guard arrested five mutineers on a vessel that arrived Tuesday from Bacolod, 300 miles south of Manila.

Soldiers established roadblocks north of Manila because of reports that rebel reinforcements were coming. Maj. Gen. Alfredo Lim, the Manila police chief, issued "shoot to kill" orders for mutineers who tried to enter the city in civilian clothes.

In a statement issued Tuesday in Hong Kong, Laurel said the government's resignation would allow for "a new mandate" and avert civil war. Although Laurel is vice president, he broke with Aquino in 1987 and has formed an opposition party.

Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan of Bulacan province said Sen. Neptali Gonzalez, chairman of the pro-Aquino Struggle of the Democratic Filipino party, suggested in a meeting Monday with the president and local officials that she dismiss her Cabinet.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Gourmets, gluttons load up on luxury

BLACKHAWK, Calif. -- In this season of conspicuous consumption, gourmets and gluttons alike can load up at a grocery store that offers patrons the use of brass carts and cellular telephones and plays live classical music.

Customers at FJ's Blackhawk Market, a year-old, 33,000-square-foot store, also can sip on fresh-brewed French roast coffee served from gleaming brass urns.

There's no Muzak here. Shoppers stroll down black-and-white-tiled, softly lit aisles to strains of classical music, played by a tuxedoed musician at the keyboard of a shiny black grand piano.

FJ's operations manager Greg Pereira likes to watch new customers do double-takes as they enter the store. He says it borrows a little from other luxury markets while adding his own whimsical spin.

The son of a grocery store owner, Pereira owned several chain markets before embarking on the upscale showplace about 30 miles east of San Francisco, near the exclusive Blackhawk Country Club, home to numerous Bay area

sports stars, executives and personalities.

FJ's was the first store to start up at a shopping complex in the foothills of majestic Mount Diablo, amid a burgeoning suburban population with a median household income of \$90,000 and an average age of 38.

He and store owner Frank J. Straface teamed up to create their own Blackhawk version of Beverly's in Minnesota, Simon David's in Dallas, AJ's in Scottsdale, Ariz. and Harrod's in London.

"We were laughed at. We were ridiculed by the industry. We didn't know if we couldn't do it," Pereira recalled.

But they went ahead, doing away with the traditional fluorescent lights that shine overhead in other supermarkets, and installing black cases and shelves for eye-catching displays of all products but produce and meat. State laws ban black shelves for those two items.

Shoppers focusing on food can find the usual peanut butter, sa-

lami, chips, breakfast flakes and cat food. But it's the unusual that sets FJ's apart from the usual mall market.

FJ's boasts almost 70 kinds of mustard, ranging in price from 70 cents to \$10. There is maple syrup from Vermont, cranberry cabernet chutney, wild mushroom caviar, squid ink pasta and bags of grapevine cuttings to impart an unusual flavor to California barbecues.

So do the cellular phones you can check out while shopping. Local calls are free; long-distance calls can be charged to customer credit cards. Periera said the idea was more novel than practical at first, and callers tended to boast to friends, "You'll never guess where I'm calling from!"

But he said the dozen phones are more often used now to check with someone at home about food purchases -- although they have been used to complete a car purchase and conclude stock deals. Capitalizing on the communications boon, FJ's also accepts orders via fax machines.

Republic names non-Communist government

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia -- One of Czechoslovakia's two republics named the first government in 41 years dominated by non-Communists, and talks began with opposition leaders on their demands for a new national government.

Leaders of the Communist-controlled labor organization took the unprecedented step of endorsing a general strike that the opposition has

threatened if the national government is not changed this week.

An Interior Ministry announcement said work on dismantling fortifications on the border with Austria would begin Monday. The government said last week some of the barbed wire, watch towers and trip wires would be taken down.

About 2,000 demonstrating students chanted "Resign! Resign!" as Ladislav Adamec, the Communist premier, met with dissident playwright Vaclav Havel on demands for a new Cabinet to replace the Communist-dominated one chosen Sunday.

Jiri Dienstbier, spokesman for Havel's opposition group, Civic Forum, said the discussions would continue today. Miroslav Pavel, who is head of state television and attended the talks, said they were "very complicated."

Opposition groups say the general strike will take place Monday unless the 21-member Cabinet, which contains only five non-Communists, is replaced before then.

Dienstbier called the new Czech

government "a step in the right direction," but said its composition still was not an accurate reflection of public opinion.

The parliamentary commission investigating the police violence Nov. 17 that started the nation's peaceful revolt, said Tuesday that ousted Communist Party chief Milos Jakes and Miroslav Stepan, the former Prague party boss, "bear direct political responsibility" for the crackdown.

It proposed that six senior police officers be fired to prevent them influencing the investigation.

The Czech cabinet named to serve under Premier Frantisek Pitra, a Communist, includes nine non-Communists and seven members of the party. It is the first government of any kind in Czechoslovakia since 1948 not to be dominated by Communists.

Two ministers are from the Socialist Party and two from the People's Party, both of which had been docile allies of the Communists but are playing an increasingly independent role.

Honecker, other ousted E. German leaders placed under house arrest

EAST BERLIN -- Former Communist Party chief Erich Honecker and other members of his ousted leadership were placed under house arrest Tuesday, and the government disarmed the Communist Party's private army.

Angry East Germans, swept up in a near-frenzy aimed at rooting out past corruption, surrounded police headquarters in several cities to halt the further destruction of secret police documents that could be used in prosecutions. Under Honecker's hard-line rule, the secret police was the main instrument for keeping people under control.

Communist Party leaders appealed for calm to avoid "anarchy and chaos" in East Germany, which in the past two months has seen the ouster of its long-time leaders, mass pro-democracy protests, the historic opening of its borders and promises of free elections and other reforms.

The Interior Ministry said the government was disarming the "fighting groups," the Communist Party-run militia based in the nation's factories.

The ministry said the weapons taken away included automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns as well as armored per-

sonnel carriers. The ministry said it was taking charge of the weapons.

Western estimates said the militia counted 3,000 active members, but could draw on reserves of 500,000 people.

A day earlier, the militia officers urged the rank-and-file to break their oath of loyalty to the Communist Party. The militia is under the party's direct command.

In Czechoslovakia, the army Saturday began disarming the Communists' paramilitary People's Militia, which was created 40 years ago to protect the workplace from counter-revolutionaries and later guarded the Communists' monopoly on power. Opposition leaders had demanded the militia be disbanded.

Also on Tuesday, East Germany's top lawyer, Wolfgang Vogel, was arrested on suspicion of "criminal extortion," the official ADN news agency said.

Vogel for years handled spectacular East-West spy and prisoner swaps, and was a confidant of Honecker. He also represented a top-ranking fugitive East German official, Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski.

ADN gave no further details of the allegations against Vogel, who en-

joyed enormous privileges during the Honecker era.

The country's chief prosecutor, meanwhile, resigned amid allegations he was incapable of leading the investigations into high-level corruption. Guenter Wendland was a hold-over from the Honecker era.

Honecker himself is the target of those inquiries, as are several of his former top lieutenants. The former Communist leader has been tossed out of the party he led for 18 years and three Politburo members are in prison.

Authorities placed Honecker and other former top officials under house arrest in their luxurious Wandlitz compound north of East Berlin. The compound has become a symbol of corruption and abuses of the past.

"The former general secretary (of the Communist Party) and president Erich Honecker is among those who are not allowed to leave their houses in the elegant compound," ADN reported. Wandlitz has 23 houses, once filled with Politburo members and their families.

The house arrests were an act of "national self-defense" and resulted from "the will of the people," said Harri Haarland, the deputy chief prosecutor.

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