

Czech premier resigns, bargains for government

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia -- Premier Ladislav Adamec resigned Thursday while still bargaining with a powerful opposition that demanded the Communists form an acceptable government or suffer another general strike.

Adamec, 63, announced his resignation at a meeting with non-Communist party officials about changes in the government, said Bohuslav Kucera of the Socialist Party. He quoted Adamec as saying a new, younger leader was needed to achieve a compromise.

President Gustav Husak asked Deputy Premier Marian Calfa, 43, to take over and continue searching for a solution, the official CTK news agency reported.

Calfa, a Communist, has attended most of Adamec's recent meetings with opposition leaders, who rejected the Cabinet he formed Dec. 3.

Adamec had been expected to name a new government today that would involve some form of power sharing with the opposition, which in a few weeks has become strong enough to break the Communist Party's 41-

year monopoly on power.

The Civic Forum opposition movement and its Slovak counterpart, Public Against Violence, have threatened a nationwide general strike for Monday if a satisfactory government has not been formed.

Leaders of Civic Forum appeared on the main evening TV newscast with a list of names they had given Adamec as possible Cabinet members only hours before he resigned.

Zdenek Jicinsky, speaking for the opposition, said one proposal was that Slovak dissident Jan Carnogursky be made first deputy premier and other deputy premiers be named from the Socialist Party and the People's Party.

Civic Forum also proposed its current spokesman, Jiri Dienstbier, as foreign minister and economist Vaclav Klaus, also a Civic Forum member, as finance minister.

Jicinsky said Petr Miller, a worker at the CKD industrial plant in Prague and senior Civic Forum representative, was suggested as social affairs minister.

There was no official reaction to the propos-

als.

The ruling Politburo stripped former party chief Milos Jakes and Miroslav Stepan, the former Prague party boss, of party membership Thursday, accusing them of "grave political mistakes in resolving social tensions."

Mentioned specifically was the brutal police action against peaceful protesters Nov. 17, which started the mass protest that brought the party down. Action against those responsible for the brutality has been a key opposition demand.

Kucera said his Socialist Party, formally allied with the Communists but increasingly independent, hoped to have at least two ministers in the new government.

The Peoples' Party, another former Communist ally now asserting independence, has said it wants Calfa to form a government with half the ministries run by people who have no party affiliation.

It wants the other 50 percent divided among the Communists, itself, the Socialists and two small officially recognized parties in Slovakia,

CTK reported.

Adamec left halfway through the two-hour meeting with other parties Thursday, striding grimly toward his official sedan in silence.

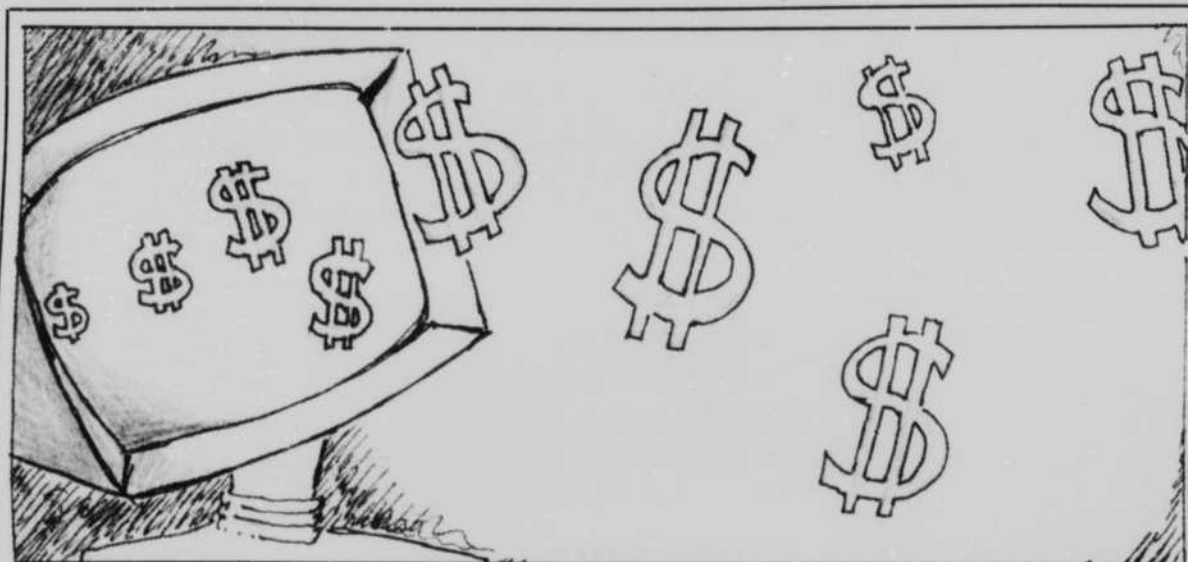
Party chief Karel Urbanek and several members of the ruling Politburo were present at the meeting in which Adamec resigned.

In a televised address Wednesday, Adamec had said he would quit if the opposition did not stop presenting "ultimatums."

On Thursday, opposition leaders rejected charges that it had put Adamec under pressure to change the Communist-dominated Cabinet sworn in last Sunday, which they rejected because it included only five non-Communists.

They want a new interim government to build the legal basis for parliamentary democracy and hold free elections by July.

On Monday, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in Prague and Bratislava, Czechoslovakia's two largest cities, against Adamec's new Cabinet. He reopened negotiations with the opposition Tuesday.



Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

Congressman: Nintendo's games unfair

WASHINGTON -- The chairman of a House antitrust panel charged Thursday there is "strong evidence" that unfair marketing practices by Nintendo of America Inc. have monopolized the home video game industry and kept the prices of Super Mario and his buddies artificially high.

Rep. Dennis Eckart, D-Ohio, asked the Justice Department's antitrust division to investigate Nintendo, the U.S. subsidiary of a Japanese manufacturer that revived the domestic electronic game industry and now controls 80 percent of the \$3.4 billion market.

Nintendo officials angrily disputed the charges and accused Eckart of denying them an opportunity to defend themselves.

"This guy is just grandstanding," said Howard C. Lincoln, senior vice president of Nintendo.

Eckart, chairman of the House Small Business subcommittee on antitrust, accused Nintendo of intimidating retailers to keep competitors' games off the toy store shelves.

He said Nintendo has used exclusive software arrangements and physical computer-chip barriers to control the market, and he charged Nintendo had created artificial shortages of some games sold by licensed software producers.

He said the result of Nintendo's marketing practices is that only games licensed or sold by Nintendo can be played on the Nin-

tendo players, blocking independent software publishers and inflating the costs of games to consumers by an estimated 20 percent to 30 percent.

"They have done a brilliant job in marketing their product, but the simple fact remains that our subcommittee investigation has revealed there is no competition among competitors," Eckart said.

Eckart sent an 11-page letter to James F. Rill, assistant attorney general and head of the antitrust division of the Justice Department. It described the subcommittee staff investigation findings and asked the Justice Department to review or investigate under antitrust laws.

Gunman carried suicide letter explaining motives

MONTREAL -- The gunman who ranged through the University of Montreal's engineering school and killed 14 women carried a suicide letter complaining that women had spoiled his life and he was seeking revenge, police said Thursday.

In his rampage Wednesday afternoon, the young killer -- identified only as "Marc" -- also wounded nine women and four men before killing himself.

As he roamed through the modern, six-story engineering building, firing a rifle, he shouted at one point, "You're all a bunch of feminists!"

One of the wounded remained in critical but stable condition Thursday. The rest were out of danger.

Jacques Duscheneau, a Montreal police senior investigator, told a news conference that police hoped the .223-caliber Sturm Ruger semi-automatic assault rifle the killer used would lead to his identification.

Police said the rifleman also carried a hunting knife and sheath, two boxes of bullets and a 30-bullet clip.

The gunman was described as being about 5-foot-9 inches, weighing about 160 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes.

Duscheneau said the rifle "is the type of weapon you can buy for hunting reasons" in Canada with proper certification.

Andre Tessier, director of operations of the Montreal police, told reporters the man had obtained a permit for the rifle.

Police found where the weapon was purchased, Duscheneau reported, adding, "We have an address; we're still working on the identification."

Canada's gun control laws are generally stricter than those in the United States.

Duscheneau confirmed that a three-page handwritten letter signed "Marc" and found on the gunman's body was a suicide note.

"It was quite clear," the detective said, adding that it specified Dec. 6 as the date for the gunman's death.

E. German parties plan elections in May, revision of constitution

EAST BERLIN -- The Communist Party agreed Thursday to cooperate with the opposition, after 40 years of ruling East Germany with Stalinist orthodoxy, and both sides proposed elections in May and agreed to rewrite the constitution.

The Communist Party may even follow the Hungarian party in changing its name.

The first talks between party and opposition delegations were held after publication of the new Communist program and produced an agreement to recommend that Parliament schedule elections May 6.

They also agreed on the need for a new constitution, but no details were released.

About 2,500 people marched to the site of the talks in a Lutheran Church building and chanted, "Free elections! Free elections!"

Lt. Gen. Wolfgang Schwanitz, chief of state security, said angry citizens had stormed secret police facilities in four cities, inflicting "numer-

ous slight injuries to our colleagues."

He said the situation was at "the threshold of escalation," and aggressive acts against his forces could "have unforeseeable consequences for the country."

The government has warned against growing violence for several days, but few cases have been documented. Opposition leaders in Suhl claimed police dispersed angry citizens with tear gas.

In an interview on East German TV, Communist Premier Hans Modrow appealed for calm while expressing support and sympathy for activists angered by mounting reports of ousted officials thwarting investigations into alleged corruption.

Dresden Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer, representing the Communists at the talks with the opposition, joined other officials in calling on the citizenry to act responsibly.

"I understand the motivation, but such a process can get out of control," he said.

Government talks with rebels break down

MANILA, Philippines -- Talks with rebel holdouts on Cebu Island broke down Thursday after mutineers in Manila laid down their arms, and a political rival predicted more attempts to overthrow President Corason Aquino.

Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, Roman Catholic archbishop of Manila, endorsed an appeal by Aquino for people to join a mass rally today in support of democracy.

"The future of the nation is in your hands," the cardinal said to Filipinos.

Aquino's support has eroded because of rising prices, other economic problems and charges of incompetence and corruption. When rebels marched back to their Manila barracks Thursday from the Makati financial district, after a week-long mutiny, they chanted: "No surrender! The fight goes on!"

At least 79 people were killed and

more than 570 wounded in the mutiny, which began last Friday in Manila and on Cebu, 350 miles south of Manila.

What action will be taken against the rebels has not been made clear. Aquino initially warned them to "surrender or die," and later declared a state of emergency, but in the end allowed loyal military commanders to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Soviet Union's Lithuania legalizes multiparty system

MOSCOW -- The Communist Party suffered a major defeat in the Soviet Union on Thursday when the republic of Lithuania abolished the constitutional guarantee of Communist supremacy and legalized a multiparty system.

Similar action has been taken in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany as part of the wave of political upheaval and reform that is diminishing the role of the Communist Party in those nations.

Lithuania's parliament defied Moscow with a resounding 243-1 vote to end the party's total domi-

nance of all political and social organizations within the Baltic republic. Another 98 deputies abstained or stayed away from the session.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has resolutely opposed a multiparty system for the Soviet Union. The challenge to the Communist power structure comes at a time when he faces a crippled economy, growing nationalism and demands from conservative communists for more order.

The move in Lithuania, one of 15 Soviet republics, thrilled other Soviet activists who are organizing a two-hour general strike Monday to call for

similar action by the national parliament.

"Wonderfully done!" said activist Yelena Bonner on hearing of the Lithuanian action. "You cannot restrain the movement today. This is a good example for the other republics," said Bonner, wife of Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, one of a group of national parliamentarians calling for the general strike.

Estonia's parliament voted Wednesday to delay voting on a similar switch to a multiparty system until next week, to allow time for public discussion.

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