

Non-Communists take power; Czechs celebrate

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia -- A government controlled by non-Communists took power Sunday for the first time in 41 years, and tens of thousands of people jammed the nation's streets to celebrate the historic victories of their peaceful revolution.

President Gustav Husak, the nation's last old-guard Communist leader, resigned after swearing in the new government, which includes two men who were persecuted as dissidents until just two weeks ago.

In a key compromise, the Justice Ministry, which runs the nation's hated secret and uniformed police, will be run by a leading dissident, the new Communist premier and a Communist Party member proposed by the opposition.

The new 21-member government contains 10 Communists, two of whom enjoy opposition support, seven non-party members and two members each from the small Socialist and People's parties, which recently broke ties with the Communists.

More than 100,000 people crammed Prague's Wenceslas Square to hear opposition

leader Vaclav Havel, 53, and other dissidents who battled jail and harassment for 13 years catalogue the successes of their fight for democracy.

The embattled Communists have granted stunning concessions, including the opening of borders, the promise of free elections and the elimination of their monopoly on power.

Elsewhere in Eastern Europe Sunday:

- More than 50,000 people chanting "Democracy!" rallied in Sofia, Bulgaria, in the biggest demonstration for reform since the Communists consolidated power there 43 years ago.

- Tens of thousands of East Germans rallied in several cities in support of further democratic reforms. The new East German Communist Party chief said he wants a clear separation of party and government functions.

- Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev warned Communist Party leaders in Moscow that their colleagues' fall from power in Eastern Europe proves they must quickly solve Soviet domestic problems or face similar

"excesses."

Czechoslovakia's Parliament meets Tuesday to pick Husak's successor, and both Havel and Alexander Dubcek, 68, the popular leader of the crushed 1968 reform movement, have said they would accept the post if nominated.

"We haven't won yet," Havel told the cheering crowd in a nationally televised speech. "But it is a great success, giving us great hope. This is a success for all of us, both our nations. Without this spontaneous awakening, this success would not have been achieved."

"This peaceful revolution was . . . against violence, dirt, mafias, privileges, persecutions," Havel said. "Let us preserve its purity, peacefulness, love and merry, friendly flair."

"The years-long, deadly silence of a humiliated people has been drowned out by a multi-voiced popular choir," he said.

Referring to the police crackdown on students Nov. 17 that energized the nation's pro-democracy movement, he said: "After an artificial halt, history began moving with breath-

taking speed which surprised all of us. One day, historians will study this and tell us what happened."

The crowd burst into applause and cheers as Havel listed the achievements of the Civic Forum opposition movement, and its Slovak counterpart, Public Against Violence, which were formed only on Nov. 19.

One hour earlier, Husak, the man responsible for the 21 years of repression and stagnation that followed the Warsaw Pact invasion that crushed the 1968 "Prague Spring" reforms, swore in the new "government of national understanding" the opposition had demanded.

The 76-year-old, hard-line leader -- who ended up conducting the ceremony on International Human Rights Day -- then resigned as he had promised to do.

The government he installed includes men he jailed or stripped of all but the most menial jobs when he was Communist Party chief from 1969 to 1987.

Parliament, which meets Tuesday, has two weeks to choose a new president.

Anti-apartheid leaders announce militant strategy

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -- Anti-apartheid leaders Sunday announced a militant strategy of civil disobedience and political pressure and urged South African whites to join them for the "final onslaught on apartheid."

The plans were adopted late Saturday at a closed session of the largest anti-apartheid conference ever held in South Africa. It was attended by 4,662 black, white, Indian and mixed-race delegates from 2,128 organizations.

Several major black organizations to the left and right of mainstream anti-apartheid groups either boycotted the conference or were not invited.

But Murphy Morobe, one the organizers, said the Conference for a Democratic Future was a "roaring success."

"Business was concluded in a spirit of unity unprecedented in any gathering in the past with such a disparate array of organizations," he said at a news conference.

One resolution urged whites "to break decisively with all apartheid forces and side with the majority." It urged them to conduct solidarity marches into black townships and proposed a campaign to create new municipalities by merging white cities and their adjoining black ghettos.

Another resolution urged an escalation of confrontational activity by black trade unions. It said workers should be prepared to occupy the Johannesburg Stock Exchange if necessary to prevent possible privatization of major state enterprises such as the postal and transport services.

"We call upon our people to reject capitalism and free market system," a resolution on economics said.

Perhaps the most important resolution, Morobe said, was a demand for non-racial elections for an assembly that would draft a constitution establishing a one-person, one-vote system for South Africa.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

America caught in wave of high-tech snooping

WASHINGTON -- There could be a secret microphone on your telephone line, in your table lamp, in that briefcase sitting next to your desk -- or even under your bed.

Your neighbors could be listening in on those intimate calls you've been making on your cordless or cellular telephone.

Or your boss could be eavesdropping on your office at work.

America is caught in a wave of high-tech snooping, according to privacy advocates who blame cheap, easily obtainable gadgets that can be bought through the mail, in electronics stores or in "spy shops."

Some examples:

- One-way wireless intercoms. These tiny devices, which can be secreted inside any household electrical device such as a lamp or electric clock, will transmit conversations to a receiver placed on the same electrical circuit, such as from a conference room to a basement. They're available at electronics stores for \$24.95.

- Spy briefcases. With a flick of their handles, these normal-looking attache cases will record, loud and clear, any sounds in a room for hours. They cost between \$600 and \$900.

- Infinity transmitters. Attach one to a phone and call it from another phone. The bugged phone does not ring. Instead it becomes a microphone that will pick up everything within 30 feet. Yours for just \$99.95.

- Baby tenders. These innocuous intercom systems allow parents to monitor an infant's room from another part of the house. Trouble is, these radio devices also put out signals that can be heard by neighbors, or by snoops.

- Voice-activated tape recorders. Put one under a bed to catch an unfaithful spouse, or in your pocket to secretly record a conversation. Cost: \$75 and up.

- Listening aids. Designed to look like small portable radios or tape players, they can, as the ads say, let you hear what people are saying about you across the room. \$49.95.

Devices like these -- plus counter-bugging gadgets -- will be on display this week in Washington at Surveillance Expo '89, which organizer Jim Ross says is the first non-government show to focus on surveillance and countersurveillance.

One exhibitor will show a belt pager that actually is a tiny TV camera.

"He has a transmitter on his back and a beeper on a belt. Wherever he points the beeper he's broadcasting a picture to a receiver." The device has a range of a "few hundred feet, but could be boosted," Ross said in an interview last week.

"He also has one built into a tie clip and another that looks like a sprinkler head. That's a big seller, he tells me," Ross said.

Another exhibitor will show how to use a touchtone telephone to modify computer programs that control sophisticated office phone systems. The exhibitor used it "so he could monitor his boss' phone calls," Ross said.

In many workplaces, interoffice phone systems have replaced traditional clappers and bell ringers with musical tone pulses. The systems require that the phone receivers stay turned on all the time, which turns them into microphones, Ross said.

E. Germans demonstrate for democratic reforms

EAST BERLIN -- Tens of thousands of demonstrators demanded more democratic reforms in East Germany on Sunday, and a state-run labor union urged workers to defy a 40-year-old policy that forbids them to strike.

Gregor Gysi, East Germany's new Communist Party chief, said he wants a clear separation of party and government functions, a radical concept in a country where the party has been all-powerful for 40 years.

In another development, the four World War II Allies -- France, Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union -- announced they would meet today to discuss the role of Berlin in East-West affairs.

Tens of thousands of East Germans took to the streets in protests in Rostock, Erfurt and other cities, the official news agency ADN said. Most were demanding human rights and democratic changes, the report said.

In the southern city of Plauen, 15,000 demonstrators turned out for a pro-democracy rally called by the New Forum opposition group.

Several hundred people in East Berlin demonstrated in favor of human rights and against what they see as a growing intolerance of foreigners. About 15,000 people demonstrated in favor of human rights in the city of Ilmenau, ADN said.

Leaders of the 160,000-member scientists' union, meeting on Saturday in Leipzig, issued the call for recognition of the right to strike, ADN said.

The scientists' union is one of 16 unions belonging to the state-run labor federation Freier Deutsche Gewerkschaftsbund.

The scientists' call amounts to a demand for the federation leadership to recognize the right to strike embodied in the East German Constitution.

The federation has been rocked by a growing financial scandal, and a new leadership took over Saturday to make it more independent.

The prospect of strikes clearly alarmed Gysi, 41, who took over as

party chief only on Saturday. In an interview broadcast late Saturday night on West Germany's ADR television network, he said that given the country's current political instability, strikes would be "irresponsible."

Gysi spent Sunday preparing for next weekend's continuation of the emergency party congress that is expected to give the party a new name.

Late Sunday, the official news agency ADN said Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev had sent Gysi a message of congratulations that also emphasized the "sovereign" nature of East Germany. Gorbachev, whose Soviet reform movement prompted the pro-democracy revolution in the East bloc, recently joined with East German leaders in rejecting German reunification, a possibility that has been debated since the reform movement began transforming East Germany.

East Germany faces its first free elections in May, and party leaders have said they would be happy to receive 20 percent of the vote.

In the interview, Gysi said he was urging a "strict division of party and government." But he added, "This can't be done in one day. It is a long-term job that is being taken very seriously."

The Communists also say they see themselves as one party among several political forces in East Germany, following two months of upheaval that started with the downfall of hard-line ruler Erich Honecker.

Last week, reformist Mayor Wolfgang Berghofer of Dresden said the nation's factories have been hit by politically motivated warning strikes, aimed against Communist Party interference. Berghofer said the unrest could get out of hand and escalate into violence.

On Sunday, he warned that trouble could come from both the extreme right and the extreme left in East Germany. "Violence has not been dispelled," he told reporters. "An escalation is possible at any moment."

Panel: Feds subverted evidence

WASHINGTON -- A congressional panel charged Sunday that the federal government has failed to report evidence of the relative safety of abortions for women.

A report released by a House committee also claimed the federal Centers for Disease Control has censored research on abortion, and urged the Department of Health and Human Services to assure public health research is not affected by political judgments.

It also recommended increased federal support for contraceptive research to help decrease the 1.5 million abortions obtained by American

women every year.

"This report provides important evidence of the relative safety of abortion for women, since more than 90 percent of abortions performed in the U.S. are much safer than pregnancy and childbirth, and even the most dangerous types of legal abortions are equal in risk to carrying a pregnancy to term," said Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y.

His statement was included with the report by the House Government Operations Committee, based on an investigation by its subcommittee on human resources and intergovernmental relations, which Weiss chairs.

Daily Nebraskan
 Editor: Amy Edwards 472-1766
 Publications Board Chairman: Pam Hein 472-2588
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 The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Pam Hein, 472-2588. Subscription price is \$45 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.
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