

Bulgaria keeps Communist power monopoly

SOFIA, Bulgaria -- More than 50,000 of Bulgaria's newly vocal citizens jeered and whistled in the square outside when Parliament decided Thursday it could not legally repeal the Communist monopoly on power for another month.

New party chief Petar Mladenov, who has promised reform, tried to address the crowd later and was shouted down.

"We will do our best to meet the demands of the people for democracy!" he called out. The crowd re-

sponded, "We don't want you!"

He shouted back: "We want to assure you of our responsibility for the fate of Bulgaria, that we all want democracy! If you do not believe us, this could lead us to tragedy!"

The crowd's answer: "Resign! Resign!"

About half the crowd in the square had heeded a call to disperse from Zhelju Zhelev, an opposition leader, by the time Mladenov and other officials emerged from the building.

Mladenov rose to power when Todor Zhivkov, who ran a Stalinist state for 35 years, was forced out Nov. 10. He has promised dialogue with independent groups and free elections by May.

On Wednesday the policy-making Central Committee voted to relin-

quish the party's leading role, as parties elsewhere in Eastern Europe have done.

Parliament approved a Communist Party motion Thursday to discuss removing Article 1 of the constitution, which guarantees party supremacy, but members said action could not be taken immediately.

Stanko Todorov, the speaker, said the constitution requires that any motion to change must be voted upon between one and three months after it is made.

While the members deliberated inside, the crowd in the square chanted "We are here!" and "Come out! Come out!" Some formed a human chain around the building.

More protesters arrived. Deputy speaker Atanas Dimitrov went out

and accepted a resolution from Zhelev outlining demands for reform: abolition of the party's lock on power, talks with the opposition and free elections.

It was the same manifesto approved Sunday at a cheering, snow-swept rally of 50,000 people in the heart of Sofia.

At the three-day meeting that ended Wednesday, the Central Committee accepted the essence of the demands.

Alexander Dimitrov, a parliamentary deputy, challenged the decision to postpone a vote on the party monopoly.

"If we are talking about a democratic society, (people will) ask what we are about if we don't cancel Article 1," he said. "If our electorate outside is to respect us, the first step is

to cancel Article 1." Dozens of deputies took the floor, a new experience in a chamber where hands had been raised automatically for so many years to approve Zhivkov's orders.

Membership changes also are on Parliament's agenda, which means Zhivkov, his son, Vladimir, and Milko Balev, a close associate, probably will lose their seats. The party expelled them Wednesday.

Members also are to consider removing clauses on anti-state activity from the penal code and passing new laws on assembly and association. Original plans were for a two-day session, but it could extend into the weekend.

After the agenda was adopted Thursday, speaker Todorov declared the assembly should end its practice

Soviets try to break Communist power grip

MOSCOW -- Soviet legislators trying to break the Communist Party's grip on power struggled Thursday over whether to declare themselves a political opposition, a step toward formation of an alternate party.

"We cannot take on ourselves responsibility for what the leadership is doing now," said human rights activist Andrei D. Sakharov, a deputy.

"It is leading the country to a catastrophe, prolonging the process of perestroika many years," he said.

The Inter-Regional Deputies Group, which consists of about 400 of the 2,250 members of the Congress of People's Deputies, has been badly outvoted this week as it tried to raise discussion of the party's constitutional monopoly on power and a series of key economic laws.

Since it was formed in August, the group, made up of some of the Congress' leading reformers, has been

careful to avoid calling itself an opponent of the Communist Party.

But historian Yuri Afanasyev told the group during an emotional three-hour meeting that it was time to change its tactics.

"We are against the so-called leading role of the Communist Party, that is the monopoly on power of the ruling party, leading the country to an unheard-of disaster," Afanasyev said in a statement to the deputies' meeting in the Kremlin.

"We are for a multiparty democratic system," the statement said.

He said that allowing collective and state farmers to freely leave their farms with land, buildings and seed was the only way to stave off "famine threatening the country."

Other East bloc countries, pushed by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, have been swept by political reforms this fall. In Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland, the

Communist monopoly of power has ended, and Bulgaria's Communist Party has proposed a multiparty system.

In related developments Thursday:

● Czechoslovakia's new government said negotiations had begun with Moscow on the withdrawal of 80,000 Soviet troops. About 40,000 people rallied in downtown Prague in support of opposition leader Vaclav Havel's candidacy for president.

● East German reform activists pressured the government into abolishing the Office for National Security, the hated secret police agency that tried to suppress their peaceful revolt.

Several hundred of the Soviet deputies ignored most of the afternoon session of the Congress, devoted to economic reform plans, to debate proposals by Afanasyev and several others.

Many of the deputies who spoke at the meeting questioned Afanasyev's terminology of a "political opposition" that calls itself the "radical-democratic bloc."

They said that could be used against them by conservatives who control the Congress, and could hurt them in local elections with a population that many feel is becoming more conservative because of severe economic problems.

They formed a commission to work out a proposal to bring before a new gathering today.

"The people don't want a declaration of a crisis," said one deputy from the Don River coal basin of the eastern Ukraine.

Afanasyev, interviewed after the meeting, said it was possible that if adopted by the group his proposal could be a step toward formation of an alternate political party.

Soviet dissident Sakharov dies

WESTWOOD, Mass. - Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning physicist who became a symbol of Soviet dissidence, has died at age 68, his relatives reported Thursday.

Sakharov, a human rights leader who later was elected to the Soviet Parliament formed under President Mikhail Gorbachev and became one of its leading voices, died in Moscow, relatives said. Liza Semyonov, 34, the daugh-

ter-in-law of Sakharov's wife, Yelena Bonner, said Bonner called about 6 p.m. Thursday to notify the family of Sakharov's death.

Attempts to reach Sakharov's home in Moscow by telephone were unsuccessful.

Sakharov was a top Soviet physicist and helped develop its hydrogen bomb in the 1950s, but became a dissident leader in the 1970s.

Opposition candidate trounces right wing in Chilean elections

SANTIAGO, Chile -- Opposition candidate Patricio Aylwin trounced Gen. Augusto Pinochet's former finance minister Thursday in voting for a civilian government to end Pinochet's 16 years of rightist military rule.

Election results from about two-thirds of the country's 23,002 polling places showed Aylwin with 2.64 million votes, or 55.5 percent, apparently enough for an absolute majority.

According to Interior Ministry returns, Hernan Buchi, the former finance minister credited with designing a policy of economic growth and low inflation from 1985 until May, was a distant second with 1.39 million votes, or 29 percent.

Motorists honked their horns in celebration and supporters of the 71-year-old Aylwin, a moderate Christian Democrat, rushed into the streets of this capital to hail the victory.

A long-shot third candidate, populist businessman Francisco Errazuriz, had 726,267 votes or 15.3 percent, according to the count. There were 114,000 null and blank ballots, the Ministry said in its second announcement of returns at 9:50 p.m. (7:50 p.m. EST).

Final official returns were not expected until today.

Buchi campaign manager Pablo Baraona conceded that Buchi had lost, but said it was too early to rule out a possible run-off.

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