

## Azerbaijan threatens to secede from union

MOSCOW - Hundreds of thousands of wailing, black-clad Azerbaijanis marched through Baku on Monday to mourn people killed when Soviet troops put down a nationalist revolt, and the republic's legislature threatened secession if Moscow did not pull out its soldiers.

In another move in defiance of President Mikhail Gorbachev, local legislators declared Moscow's state of emergency void, and vowed to keep up crippling strikes until troops leave.

Also Monday, Communist leaders from Soviet Armenia and Azerbaijan took a tentative step toward ending 10 days of ethnic warfare, agreeing to withdraw armed groups from areas along their border, Tass said. But activists in Armenia and Azerbaijan said they were skeptical the truce would be kept.

The official Soviet news agency reported 12 more people were killed in ethnic clashes Monday on the border of the two republics, raising the toll since Jan. 13 to 167. Soviet officials said 83 of those were from the Soviet assault on the Azerbaijani capital

on Saturday or skirmishes the previous day.

More than 500 have been wounded in the conflicts.

An emergency overnight session of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet legislature demanded the full withdrawal of Soviet troops from the republic, with the exception of border districts with Armenia, said Baku lawyer Viliyad Mamedov, who attended the 11 1/2-hour overnight session.

Lawmakers also demanded the lifting of the curfew and state of emergency in Baku and other areas of Azerbaijan, which Moscow imposed without the approval of Azerbaijani authorities, Mamedov said in a telephone interview.

If those demands are not met, Mamedov said, the legislature will consider voting to secede from the Soviet Union.

At Monday's mass rally in Baku, demonstrators carried posters reading, "Gorbachev is the butcher of the Azerbaijani people," and "Azerbaijanis will not succumb to tanks," said Shain Gajiyev, a Baku journalist.

Witnesses said throngs of mourners numbering as many as 2 million bore coffins of Azerbaijanis killed in the weekend assault down the narrow streets and major thoroughfares to

**All the people of Azerbaijan and Baku are in tears and mourning.**

official Baku Radio

Lenin Square, now renamed Freedom Square in honor of the Azerbaijani nationalist cause.

The mourners, wearing black and carrying black-bordered portraits of some of the victims, then buried the victims at Kirov Park, overlooking the Caspian Sea.

"All the people of Azerbaijan and Baku are in tears and mourning," official Baku Radio said in a broadcast monitored by the BBC in London.

Soviet troops and police did not

interfere in the funeral, said Leila Yunusov, a spokeswoman for the Social Democratic Group, an informal Azerbaijani political organization.

Foreign reporters were barred from the region, so it was difficult to determine the exact death toll or reconcile conflicting information.

Military officials said no one had been killed in Baku for the last two days, and residents said the Soviet troops seemed to have the city under control. No armed clashes with troops had been reported Monday, Gajiyev said, although there were still reports of scattered gunfire.

There were conflicting reports from the Soviet-Iranian border, where Azerbaijanis have torn down many of the barriers. The newspaper Izvestia said 40,000 Azerbaijanis crossed into Iran on Sunday evening alone, but Iranian media said Soviet troops clamped down on the border and were not allowing any Azerbaijanis out.

Interfax, an affiliate of Radio Moscow, said unidentified extremists threatened Russian residents of the city with violence unless they left,

and continued to threaten to blow up oil tankers in Baku's harbor unless the troops were withdrawn.

Soviet TV on Monday evening suggested the government launch negotiations with the Azerbaijani People's Front, the nationalist organization behind much of the unrest. The nationwide evening news program pointed out that since the People's Front controls some areas of Azerbaijan, it is the logical partner for peace talks.

It was not clear whether the People's Front and Armenian activists participated in the negotiations in the Armenian town of Yeraskh.

High-ranking Armenian and Azerbaijani Communist Party and government officials also agreed to repair disrupted communications lines.

At a protest march by 2,000 Azerbaijanis in Moscow on Monday, one demonstrator carried a sign reading "Comrades! In Baku more than 9,000 people were killed."

A gathering Monday in the Azerbaijani town of Pushkino to mourn those slain ended in mass rioting, Tass said.

## American Indians protest attempts to steal treaty rights

SALT LAKE CITY - More than 200 American Indians marched to the state capitol Monday to protest what they view as a county group's attempts to steal their treaty rights.

The marchers held an incense-burning ceremony at the top of the capitol steps and were awaiting an appearance by Gov. Norm Bangerter. He shunned last week's meeting of the Wisconsin Counties Association, an organization of county officials from 13 states which is forming a coalition on American Indian treaty

issues.

The demonstrators included San Juan County Commissioner Mark Maryboy, a Navajo; Luke Duncan, chairman of the Ute Tribal Business Committee; and Ute medicine man Bear Boy.

"The WCA is trying to stir up the treaties," said Lorenzo Black, a Ute from the Uintah-Ouray Reservation in eastern Utah. "All they're after is the land and the resources. The only thing preventing them from getting

these things is the treaties."

Rosella Hunt, an Ogden, Utah, resident who provides support services for American Indians, said changing the treaties would be a violation of federal law.

"You could call this the 1990 Trail of Tears," she said, referring to the federal government's forced movement of Cherokee Indians from the southern Appalachian Mountains to Oklahoma in the late 1830s.

"We're still fighting for the rights

of our ancestors," Hunt said.

The marchers chanted and carried placards reading, "To abolish treaties is to abolish the Constitution," and "Leave Indian treaties alone."

On the first day of the WCA meeting Thursday, Indian rights activists, protesting the conference's exclusion of American Indian leaders, forced a half-day recess. The meetings resumed Friday behind locked doors and under guard, but members of the Ute Tribe staged another protest. The conference adjourned Saturday.

Leaders from a half-dozen tribes said they would convene a national meeting of all American Indian tribes in Sioux City, Iowa, later this year to counter plans by the WCA to lobby Congress to change federal Indian policy.

But representatives from the Wisconsin association said they will ask for congressional review of recent court rulings on treaty rights, including those involving hunting and fishing and an upcoming decision on timber harvesting.

## Exon leads Daub in senate race poll

LINCOLN - Democratic Sen. Jim Exon, seeking a third term this year, holds a 14 percentage point lead over Republican senatorial candidate Hal Daub in a statewide poll of 450 Nebraskans.

Results of the telephone poll conducted last week by National Research Corp. for the Lincoln newspapers showed Exon was preferred by 52 percent of the 450 Nebraskans polled last week, and Daub by 38 percent. Among the 345 participants who are registered voters, Exon led 53 percent to 37 percent.

In answer to a separate question, 71 percent of those polled said they approved of Exon's performance as a senator. Seventeen percent said they disapproved. Exon's approval rating among the registered voters rose to 73 percent. His disapproval rating remained unchanged.

The poll also surveyed potential voter support for Douglas County Attorney Ron Staskiewicz of Omaha, who has not yet ruled out the possibility of seeking the Republican senatorial nomination.

When Daub and Staskiewicz were matched in a possible GOP primary, Daub was preferred 63 percent to 11 percent by the 320 people not identifying themselves as Democrats. Daub's margin was 69 percent to 11 percent among 180 registered Republicans.

When Exon was matched against Staskiewicz, the former governor led 61 percent to 21 percent in the overall poll, and 63 percent to 21 percent among the registered voters polled.

In the match between Exon and Daub, the former Republican congressman from Omaha ran ahead of the Democratic senator in Daub's old 2nd Congressional District.

The margin of error for the overall survey was plus or minus 4.6 percentage points, and 5.2 percentage points for the smaller survey of 345 registered voters.

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