

Gorbachev orders Lithuanians to give up arms

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. - President Mikhail Gorbachev increased pressure on the breakaway Lithuanian republic Wednesday by ordering its citizens to turn in their guns and telling the KGB to strengthen controls on the republic's border.

In a decree certain to heighten tensions between Lithuania and the Kremlin, Gorbachev also temporarily banned the sale of firearms in Lithuania and said those citizens who do not surrender weapons within a week will have them confiscated.

Premier Kazimira Prunskiene of Lithuania told reporters in Vilnius her government still was counting on negotiations with Moscow on the republic's declaration of independence March 11.

"All these questions should be resolved by negotiations," she said. "We are not getting too worked up about this. We hope common sense will prevail."

Gorbachev has proclaimed the declaration of independence invalid, but Lithuania refuses to recognize his authority.

In issuing the decree, Gorbachev used powers given him when he was elected to the new, more powerful

presidency last week.

"The decree demands that citizens living in Lithuania turn all their firearms in to temporary police custody within the next seven days," the Tass news agency said.

He directed the Interior Ministry "in the event of citizens' refusal to turn in these weapons, to ensure their confiscation."

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directives from the Kremlin, "the Lithuanian parliament and government continue passing bills that violate the rights of Soviet citizens and the sovereignty of the U.S.S.R."

Access to firearms is severely restricted in the Soviet Union, and it is unknown how many weapons might be in the hands of Lithuania residents.

Lithuanians have begun signing up for voluntary defense service, and

some Lithuanians serving in the Soviet armed forces have deserted.

Gorbachev previously said he expected to talk with Lithuanian leaders about the declaration of independence, and senior officials have said the Kremlin does not intend to use force to bring the Baltic republic back into the Soviet fold.

The White House reacted "with concern" to the latest developments.

"It's a matter that we are watching seriously," said presidential press secretary Marlin Fitzwater.

Gorbachev demanded that national and local governments ensure that Soviet law and the rights of citizens be observed and called for KGB border troops to increase security on Lithuania's section of the Soviet border. It ordered the government to "tighten control over issuance to foreigners of

visas and permission to visit Lithuania."

That move apparently was aimed at many ethnic Lithuanians, who have returned recently to help set up an independent government and market economy in the republic.

A draft law outlining requirements for secession passed its first legislative hurdle in Moscow on Wednesday. Deputies said the secession procedure, which requires a republic-wide referendum and a transition period of up to five years, would have to be observed by Lithuania.

But Lithuanian legislator Vaidotas Antanaitis said it did not affect his republic. "The bill doesn't apply to us, we've already left," he said.

On Tuesday night, the republic sent a telegram to the Kremlin complaining about increased activity of Soviet soldiers stationed on its territory.

"The people of Lithuania are deeply disturbed about the actions of the Soviet armed forces: the intense mobilization of armored vehicles and tanks, the intensified flights of military air force planes, and unauthorized sorties into Lithuanian territory by paratroopers involved in intelli-

gence activities," Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene said in the cable to Gorbachev.

A group of Soviet deputies Wednesday complained that Lithuania was planning legislation that "subjects to summary judgment Soviet citizens speaking out for preservation of the existing government structure and the governmental unity of our country," Tass reported.

The Interfax news service of official Radio Moscow reported that the legislation would permit a sentence of up to three years for "calls for the forcible violation of the sovereignty or territorial integrity of the Lithuanian republic, or for the overthrow of the lawful authorities."

A senior Lithuanian legislator, Romualdas Ozolas, confirmed in an interview that such legislation exists, but suggested that the Lithuanian parliament will not approve it. "Such stupidity will get us nowhere," he said of the proposal.

The Soviet deputies, whose group is called Soyuz, appealed to Gorbachev to use the new powers of the presidency to impose direct rule on Lithuania, Tass said.

Census workers meet problems in counting

After sending 15,000 workers into camps and caves, streets and shelters, the Census Bureau declared success Wednesday in its first-ever tally of the nation's homeless. But critics found fresh ammunition to charge that the special census failed to do its job.

Census workers, many of whom were themselves homeless, endured gunfire, robbery, insults and foul weather to count the number of Americans with no fixed address. Past guesses have ranged from 250,000 to 3 million.

The results won't be announced until late 1991, and the debate over the census will continue until then and beyond. It was framed again Wednesday by two men on opposite sides of the country.

In New York, Dwayne Mays stood up for the census, in which he participated both as a counter and as one of the counted.

"Hopefully, it will let people realize there is a whole population of homeless people that is not dehumanized, still maintains self-respect and self-esteem, that is living in conditions that are abhorrent," Mays said. "We're here, and we are counted now."

Not all the homeless were counted, though, even by the Census Bureau's assessment. In some cases, homeless people avoided the census takers; in others, they were apparently overlooked.

In Manchester, N.H., census takers failed to count a man who was sleeping on the steps of City Hall -- he was outside their survey area.

In San Diego County, Calif., a group of farmworkers in a migrant camp said a team of Census "enumerators" walked past them without stopping to count.

In New York City, reporters watched Census workers mill around a newsstand on the ground floor of the Port Authority bus terminal, apparently avoiding the upper floors where hundreds of homeless sleep. Census officials insisted they had canvassed the entire station.

The Census Bureau spent \$2.7 million on the homeless count, which it carried out between 6 p.m. Tuesday and 8 a.m. Wednesday in every city with a population over 50,000.

In several cities, Census work-

ers said homeless people had vanished from their usual spots, apparently to avoid the government.

"That tells us something," said Don Weese, manager of the Census Bureau office in Tulsa, Okla. "It tells us there's a large segment of that homeless population that simply does not want to be recognized, known or encountered at all."

The issue is politically important because federal money goes to cities and states on the basis of population. Urban leaders have been fuming for a decade, saying the Census Bureau ignored most of the homeless in the 1980 census.

"Shelter and Street Night appears to have been a success," Census Bureau Director Barbara Bryant said. "I believe our efforts have given us a good start on achieving our goal of a full and fair census of the American people."

Bryant conceded that Census workers had missed some shelters and other homeless hangouts, and would have to try again Wednesday night in a handful of cities. They included Washington, New York, Philadelphia and Cleveland.

Critics found nothing in the tally to change their view.

"You can't use this census with any degree of legitimacy," said Mitch Snyder, an advocate for the homeless in Washington. "Politicians can use these figures to say anything that they want ... because there's no way that you can legitimately count how many homeless people that are in this city or in this country."

For the most part, the census was carried out as planned. There were some frightening moments, however.

In New York City, a group of Census workers scattered when a gunshot was fired from a building they were approaching in Brooklyn. They weren't injured, and Census officials said it wasn't clear whether they were the targets.

In Oklahoma City, police turned back two Census workers who unwittingly stumbled onto a stake-out.

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., two Census workers were robbed at knifepoint by a man in a homeless shelter. Neither was injured.

Judge honors Reagan's privilege



WASHINGTON - The judge in John Poindexter's Iran-Contra trial reversed himself Wednesday, saying that former President Reagan does not have to produce diary entries sought by his one-time national security adviser.

U.S. District Court Judge Harold Greene issued the ruling as the jury began watching eight hours of videotaped testimony by Reagan.

Greene had ordered Reagan to turn over the diary, but said after reading the three dozen entries sought by Poindexter that the material was not "essential to the achievement of justice in this case."

Poindexter said he needed the excerpts because Reagan, in his taped testimony, "professed a total inability to recall" the diversion of Iran

arms sale proceeds to the Nicaraguan Contras and a 1985 Hawk missile shipment.

Defense lawyers also said Reagan was unable to recall Poindexter's activities on behalf of the Contras.

Poindexter is charged with five felony charges of conspiracy, making false statements and obstructing Congress in connection with the Iran-Contra affair.

"Mr. Reagan did testify under oath at great length about many specific activities in his administration - an event that is unprecedented in American history," Greene said in a 14-page ruling.

He granted Reagan's motion to quash Poindexter's subpoena for the entries, which relate to both the Iran initiative and Contra resupply operation, saying they "offer no new insights about these events."

Reagan, later joined by the Bush administration, fought the subpoena by invoking executive privilege.

"If the concept of executive privilege is to retain any meaning, it will surely shield personal presidential papers from production ... on so flimsy a basis," Greene said.

"The inability of a witness to recall ... does not automatically entitle a party ... to rummage through ... personal papers, including his personal diary," he said.

Prosecution witnesses have testified during the 7 1/2 days of the trial that Poindexter destroyed a presiden-

tial document and sent false letters to Congress about covert aid to the Contras.

Reagan's videotaped testimony taken Feb. 16-17 was shown in Greene's courtroom on television monitors, including one positioned in front of the jury.

The jury spent all day Wednesday watching the videotape and was to finish the process this morning.

The jurors watched intently as Iran-Contra prosecutor Dan Webb questioned Reagan in rapid-fire fashion.

"Did you ... give authority to John Poindexter to make any false ... statements?" Webb asked.

"No," Reagan replied. "And I don't think any false statements were made."

"Did you ever ... give authority to John Poindexter to destroy ... records?" Webb asked.

"No," responded the former president.

"Did John Poindexter ever tell you ... he planned on destroying any documents?" the prosecutor asked.

"No," Reagan responded.

"Did John Poindexter ... tell you ... he had learned that Oliver North ... altered and destroyed records?" Webb asked.

"No," Reagan said.

Copies of the Reagan tapes were released Wednesday to the media. Transcripts were released last month and the tapes were shown several times in the courthouse.

Clean air amendment fizzles

WASHINGTON - The Senate turned back a third attempt to strengthen the compromise clean air bill on Wednesday, defeating a proposal supporters said would close "loopholes" in the battle against urban smog.

Opponents argued the amendment, which lost on a 53-46 vote, would burden too many small businesses with expensive pollution controls and require unnecessary federal involvement in urban air pollution plans.

The vote marked the third unsuccessful attempt by a group of senators, mainly from urban areas with the dirtiest air, to add tougher environmental controls to a compromise bill worked out between Senate leaders and the White House.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, argued on each vote that the compromise bill already goes far beyond current federal pollution control laws and that compromises are needed to win approval in the Senate.

But Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., one of the key sponsors of the proposal, argued the amendment would only retain requirements in current pollution laws that are necessary to clean up the air in scores of cities so they meet federal health standards.

Kerry's proposal would have preserved the federal government's authority to impose air pollution reduction plans if states and local officials failed to act. It also sought to eliminate waivers -- based on expense -- for some industrial polluters and broaden the smog-controlling curbs to include smaller polluters.

On Tuesday night, the Senate by 52-46 rejected a plan to tighten automobile emissions controls and require broader use of alternative fuels, including production of 1 million clean-fuel vehicles by the end of the decade.

Earlier, a proposal which would have required a reduction in toxic chemical emissions from automobiles fell by 65-33.

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