

## Soviet tanks roll into Lithuanian capital

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R. - Soviet armor rolled through Vilnius in a show of strength Thursday and leaders of this rebellious Baltic republic appealed for world support to forestall the possible use of force in Lithuania.

In his escalating war of nerves, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev also demanded Thursday that Lithuania stop signing up its own volunteer force.

"It is clear that another republic is going to use force against Lithuania and its citizens," said a Lithuanian government appeal to the world issued late Thursday. "We are asking people to prevent this by protesting the possible use of violence against a member of the world community . . . against Lithuania and its citizens."

The republic's president, Vytautas Landsbergis, in an emotional speech to the Supreme Council legislature, pledged that Lithuanians would keep their drive for full independence from Moscow peaceful.

"If tanks are sent to take away shotguns and hunting rifles, we won't shoot at the tanks," said Landsbergis, a music professor. "Our resistance

will be non-violence." Defense officials in Sweden said the military there was put on higher alert after reports of Soviet troop movements in Lithuania. Defense spokeswoman Kari Hansson said that among other measures, more pilots than usual were on call.

Lithuania, forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940, declared its independence on March 11 in a decision Moscow refuses to recognize.

Fifteen Soviet armored personnel carriers and five trucks towing military equipment rumbled through the capital Thursday afternoon.

Lithuania's parliamentary press office also reported in a statement that three plainclothes officers abducted Soviet army deserter Vidas Valavicius off a Vilnius street Thursday night and that he was being held at the military commandant's office.

Hundreds of Lithuanians left the Soviet armed forces to return home after Lithuania declared independence, and were warned to return to their units by Saturday. But Valavicius' detention was the first such case

reported.

The military vehicles entered Vilnius hours after Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene complained of increased activity by an estimated 30,000 Soviet soldiers here, and after Gorbachev demanded that Lithuanians turn in all their firearms.

Algirdas Saudargas, head of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said Lithuanian officials feared that an effort to round up deserters might give Moscow an excuse to use force.

Lithuanian officials continued to call for negotiations with Gorbachev, and said he had too much to risk by using force.

Prunskiene said Thursday, "A military attack would be the end of perestroika, and Gorbachev's policy and his authority. I don't think Gorbachev would take such a measure."

Ludwigas Sabutis, the republic's parliamentary secretary, said, "We need support, we need help."


The official Soviet news agency Tass said border controls and exit and entry in this republic of 3.8 million people were being tightened.

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## Hazelwood acquitted of major charges

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Exxon Valdez skipper Joseph Hazelwood was acquitted of three major charges and convicted of one misdemeanor Thursday, two days before the first anniversary of the nation's worst oil spill.

The single charge on which Hazelwood was convicted, negligent discharge of oil, carries a maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine, far less than the 70 years and \$61,000 fine he could have faced.

There were bursts of applause in the courtroom as Superior Court Judge Karl Johnstone read the first three verdicts of "not guilty."

Hazelwood's lawyers patted him on the back, and for the first time in the long trial, the normally solemn defendant smiled broadly.

The jurors absolved Hazelwood of all charges alleging that he was drunk and reckless when the tanker ran aground, spilling nearly 11 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound. Hazelwood, 43, is from Huntington, N.Y.

The jurors reached their verdict after only 10 1/2 hours of deliberations.

The jurors returned to their task today, checking in promptly at 8:30 a.m. and delivering the verdict about noon. The trial is in its seventh week.

Meanwhile, an alternate juror who was dismissed once the regular jury began its deliberations told the Alaska Public Radio Network she would have acquitted Hazelwood of all charges.

Terry Turner, an Anchorage bookkeeper, said she doubts the skipper was drunk while in command.

"There were 21 witnesses who said there was no sign of impairment," she said.

She added that she believed Hazelwood had expected "a normal transit" of Prince William Sound on the night of the March 24 grounding, which might explain his decision to leave the ship's bridge.

Asked whether she believed Hazelwood was drunk, she said: "No, I don't think he was. . . . There was a lot more to it than that we had a drunk captain running into a reef. They really didn't have evidence of it."

Turner said she felt Hazelwood's loss of his job and the impact on his life was sufficient punishment for whatever role he had in the disaster.

Saturday will be the first anniversary of the disaster, in which the 987-foot tanker rammed the charted reef in Prince William Sound, gushing nearly 11 million gallons of North Slope crude

oil. The spill wreaked devastation on birds, fish and wildlife, and coated hundreds of miles of rocky shoreline.

The prosecution sought to prove that the fired Exxon skipper was drunk when his ship went aground at Bligh Reef while Hazelwood was below.

Although 150 civil suits were filed and Exxon was indicted in federal court, Hazelwood was the only individual charged criminally. His lawyers complained he was a scapegoat in a disaster with many culprits.

Whether Hazelwood was drunk when his ship grounded remained a muddled issue because authorities failed to do a timely blood alcohol test. When they got around to it 10 1/2 hours after the grounding, Hazelwood had a .061 alcohol reading, lower than the Alaska standard of .10 for drunken driving.

Hazelwood, who chose not to testify, never explained.

His New York lawyer, Michael Chalos, said "We think it's a great victory for Captain Hazelwood." We had great faith in the jury system. The only charge he's been convicted of is a low-level misdemeanor."

Jim Morakis, a spokesman for Exxon in New York, said the company, which has fired Hazelwood, was "pleased that the ordeal of the trial is over for Capt. Hazelwood and his family."

"The verdict would seem to confirm the view that the grounding of the Exxon Valdez was an accident," Morakis said. "In light of pending litigation any other comment would be inappropriate."

## Daily Nebraskan

Editor Amy Edwards, 472-1766  
Professional Adviser Don Walton, 473-7301

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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