

Gorbachev returns to power after coup

MOSCOW - Mikhail S. Gorbachev reclaimed power Wednesday, just 63 hours after hard-liners in the Communist Party, KGB and military ousted him.

The coup leaders dropped from sight, with some reportedly leaving the capital.

As the coup collapsed, tanks withdrew from Moscow, leaders of the national legislature invalidated all decrees by the coup leaders and press restrictions were lifted. Even the Communist Party denounced the coup.

Tens of thousands of anti-coup demonstrators outside the Russian Parliament building, Boris Yeltsin's stronghold since the coup began

Monday, waved red-white-and-blue Russian flags and roared with approval at the hard-line retreat. Some wore shredded Soviet flags as arm-bands and bandanas.

Gorbachev told President Bush in a telephone call at 7:19 p.m. (12:19 p.m. EDT) that the coup was over.

In a later statement read on state TV, Gorbachev told the nation he was in full control and credited the "decisive actions of the democratic forces of the country." He left for Moscow from his vacation retreat in the Crimea, where he had been detained since Monday.

The coup's failure could deal a fatal blow to efforts by hard-liners in

the Communist Party, KGB and military to thwart reforms favored by Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Its failure also could significantly alter the balance of power between conservatives and reformers that has characterized Soviet politics during the six-year Gorbachev era.

The country's future course depends on who remains in power. Although Yeltsin supported Gorbachev during the coup, the two men maintain different approaches to Soviet reforms and have fought bitterly in the past.

Yeltsin emerged from the crisis triumphant, having rallied his people to resist the coup leaders from the

streets of major Soviet cities to the mines of Siberia. Even before the coup, he was arguably the nation's most popular politician.

"Freedom and democracy have prevailed," Bush said. He said Gorbachev was "elated" and expressed appreciation to the United States for its support.

Other world leaders also welcomed the coup's failure. On world financial markets, stocks surged while the dollar and oil prices fell.

Gorbachev's foreign minister, Alexander Bessmertnykh, who had dropped out of sight during the coup, reappeared and called the takeover unconstitutional and said it was a

page in Soviet history that "has got to be turned."

The Soviet prosecutor opened a criminal investigation into the actions of the men who ousted Gorbachev, the state Tass news agency reported. Gorbachev said the "adventurists would be held fully and completely responsible for their unlawful actions."

Outside Yeltsin's headquarters Wednesday, jubilant crowds cheered and waved flags, following a night in which at least four people were killed in clashes with Soviet soldiers. Pro-Yeltsin soldiers, their tanks strewn with flowers, waved at television cameras.

Student charged with murder count

VERDIGRE - Bond was set at \$250,000 on Tuesday for a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student from Verdigre charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of an Atkinson man.

Frances L. Thompson, 41, appeared in Knox County Court, where the bond was set and Bloomfield lawyer Gregory Neuhaus was appointed by the court to represent her.

A second court appearance for the UNL arts and sciences major is set for Thursday.

Authorities say Dean J. Frank, 45, was shot Sunday night at Thompson's home northwest of Verdigre. He died while being taken to a hospital.

New therapy may reverse cystic fibrosis lung defect

BOSTON - An experimental new treatment for cystic fibrosis could reverse the inherited defect that destroys the lungs, researchers report.

The treatment, still untested, combines a blood pressure medicine with one of two naturally occurring compounds. Together, they could be capable of correcting a foul-up that clogs victims' lungs with sticky mucus.

"I think we are talking about having a profound impact on the quality of life and longevity. Maybe

cystic fibrosis no longer has to be a fatal disease," said Dr. Robert Beall, vice president of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

The treatment will not cure cystic fibrosis. But if it works, it will block the disease's most destructive effects.

Despite their optimism, researchers caution that the double-barreled approach has yet to be tested.

Studies have begun to see if the natural substances, known as triphosphate nucleotides, can be safely breathed into the lungs.

Cuban detainees take over section of Alabama prison

TALLADEGA, Ala. - Cuban inmates who came to the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift took over a high-security section of a federal prison Wednesday and were believed to be holding 10 hostages, authorities said.

Seven members of the prison staff and three U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service workers were missing and apparently taken hostage, said Ed Crosley, a spokesman for the Talladega Federal Correctional Institution. Three of those missing were women, he said.

The takeover occurred in a part of the prison housing 121 Cuban detainees and 23 American inmates. Thirty-two of the Cubans were scheduled to be sent back to Cuba on Thursday, Crosley said.

It wasn't immediately known whether the impending deportations were a reason for the rebellion, he said. Officials also didn't know how many inmates were taking part in the uprising or how the staff members were taken hostage.

One prison employee was slightly injured during the takeover and was released after being held for about two hours, Crosley said. He was treated for bruises at a hospital.

Negotiators were communicating with the inmates, who had made no specific demands, Crosley said.

Dozens of Cuban detainees were sent to the prison, about 40 miles east of Birmingham, after rioting at prisons in Oakdale, La., and Atlanta 3 1/2 years ago. Some were returned to Cuba, but others remained.

The riots erupted in November 1987 after the State Department said that Cuba had agreed to take back more than 2,500 of the 3,800 Mariel refugees imprisoned nationwide. At the height of that crisis, more than 100 prison workers were held hostage.

The takeovers lasted eight days at Oakdale, 11 at Atlanta, and ended only after the government agreed to halt deportations while the Immigration and Naturalization Service reviewed each case.

Deportations resumed in late 1988. Inmates involved in Wednesday's uprising don't have keys that would allow them to escape to any other part of the prison, Crosley said.

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