

Tension continues to build in Moscow

MOSCOW — Thousands of Russians cheered Boris Yeltsin at a concert on Red Square Sunday and at least 10,000 people marched through downtown in the biggest demonstration of support for the president since he disbanded parliament five days ago.



Across town, the hard-liners who have defied the president by refusing to leave the parliament building dug in their heels. "If need be, we will stay here for a year," said parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, leader of the approximately 100 lawmakers who remain holed up in the building, known as the White House.

Late Sunday, in a potentially significant development, the Interfax news agency reported that a top Yeltsin aide had agreed to simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections. No date was mentioned, and the president has not approved the proposal.

Yeltsin has set new parliamentary elections for December and said presidential elections could be held in June. Khasbulatov's parliament, elected in Soviet times, wants simultaneous elections in March.

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, speaking Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press," said that if there is a "growing mood" in the country, Yeltsin might compromise on his plan.

But Kozyrev said he believes simultaneous elections are "very, very dangerous," and could destabilize the country. "Someone has to be in office," he said.

Yeltsin, accompanied by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, waded into surging crowds on Red Square for a free

concert by the Washington-based National Symphony Orchestra and its conductor, former dissident Mstislav Rostropovich.

The president waved and smiled, then took his place at the front of the crowd. He cracked a smile again when earblasting cannons went off during Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

An announcer urged "faith in the president and in Russia's future," and the crowd responded "Hurrah! Hurrah!"

A longtime backer of Yeltsin, Rostropovich has said he wanted the concert to give Russians hope and confidence during the transition to a post-Soviet democracy.

"Yeltsin is one of us and he must succeed," said Nina Shtanina, a 69-year-old pensioner who arrived on Red Square at 8 a.m., four hours early, to get a good view of Rostropovich. Temperatures were near freezing.

"I took part in the Second World War, and if we won that fight, we can win this one," she said.

Later, pro-Yeltsin demonstrators chanting "Yeltsin! Yeltsin!" linked arms and marched down broad Tverskaya Street — Gorky Street in

— **66**
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— Beneslavsky, Russian citizen

Soviet times. A small band headed the procession.

Marchers carried Russian flags, pictures of the president and placards with slogans such as "Shame on the White House," "Boris, You're Right

Again" and "Elections are the Will of the People."

Yeltsin has set new parliamentary elections for December and says presidential elections could be held in June. The hard-line Congress wants simultaneous parliamentary and presidential elections in March.

Khasbulatov's parliament, elected in Soviet times, opposed the president's free-market reforms, saying they were causing undue hardship.

Lawmakers also whittled away at Yeltsin's presidential powers.

"This is the moment you have to be decisive and support Yeltsin because he's a democrat," said Anton Beneslavsky, a 16-year-old student marching in the crowd. "If the Communists return they'll destroy the economy again, and freedom, and peace."

Outside the White House, Yeltsin's rebellious vice president, Alexander Rutskoi, urged 3,000 to 4,000 anti-Yeltsin demonstrators "to stand till the end."

Rutskoi has condemned Yeltsin's actions as unconstitutional and declared himself president.

The demonstrators are a mix of Communists and extreme nationalists, and are mostly older than Yeltsin's supporters. Some diehards stay around the clock, but most people come and go past the flimsy barricades thrown together from assorted debris. Yeltsin's riot police, in bulletproof vests and steel helmets, stand by.

At a news conference, Khasbulatov said he would not deal with Yeltsin, saying elections could be held only if the "former president leaves his Kremlin office" and the press is relieved of "political censorship."

The deputies have little popular support in Moscow, and Khasbulatov said Saturday that they might move to another city.

U.S. asks about POWs

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government has confronted Moscow for the first time with evidence that hundreds of U.S. Korean War prisoners were secretly moved to the Soviet Union, imprisoned and never returned.

The allegation, supported by new information from a variety of American and Russian sources, was made in a detailed presentation by a State Department official at a meeting with Russian officials in Moscow.

The evidence is spelled out in a government report titled "The Transfer of U.S. Korean War POWs to the Soviet Union." It was given to the Russians at the Moscow meeting but the Clinton administration has refused to release it.

A copy of the report was obtained by The Associated Press.

"The Soviets transferred several hundred U.S. Korean War POWs to the U.S.S.R. and did not repatriate them," the report said. "This transfer was mainly politically motivated with the intent of holding them as political hostages, subjects for intelligence exploitation and skilled labor within the camp system."

It asserts that the evidence gave a "consistent and mutually reinforcing description" of Soviet intelligence services forcibly moving U.S. POWs to the Soviet Union at a time when the Soviet military, including anti-aircraft units, was

active in North Korea.

It does not assess how long the American servicemen — mostly Air Force aviators — may have lived, or whether any might still be alive in the chaotic former Soviet Union.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said last year that Soviet records showed 59 captured U.S. servicemen in Korea were interrogated by Soviet officials, and that 12 crew members of U.S. aircraft shot down in reconnaissance missions unrelated to the Korean War were transferred to Soviet territory. But the Yeltsin government has yet to concede that Americans were taken from Korea.

The 77-page U.S. report on U.S. Korean War prisoners delivered to Russia gives no specific figure but the analysis seems to indicate it is fewer than 600.

The report describes a program of the Soviet KGB to capture American fliers and other U.S. and allied technical specialists in Korea, interrogate them, and then transfer them into Josef Stalin's notorious gulag system of slave labor camps in Siberia and other parts of the Soviet Union.

"The range of eyewitness testimony as to the presence of U.S. Korean War POWs in the gulag is so broad and convincing that we cannot dismiss it," the report said.



STATE WIRE

Omaha man becomes hero in train wreck

MOBILE, Ala. — In the predawn bedlam of a burning bayou, Michael Dopheide clung to a bridge timber with his left arm and lifted fellow passengers out of a window of a half-submerged Amtrak train with his right.

"He should get a medal for what he did," said Gus Maloney, whose injured wife was among 30 passengers Dopheide rescued. "He's a real hero. If there was any way to reward him, I would. We'll be forever grateful."

Dopheide, 26, of Omaha, had just removed his shoes and eyeglasses to get some sleep after the Sunset Limited left Mobile.

A jolt knocked him from his seat and into action. The train plunged into Bayou Canot and was half-submerged; its 30 dazed occupants choked on smoke from a crew car burning nearby.

"Everybody was moaning and groaning. Someone yelled, 'Oh my God, we're all going to die,'" Dopheide said.

In the inky blackness and minus his glasses, Dopheide borrowed a fellow passenger's key ring flashlight. The thin stream of light was all he had, but it led him out.

A piece of timber from the railroad bridge protruded through a window near the emergency exit at the rear of the car. Dopheide clambered outside,

and in a clear, calm voice, ordered the others to follow.

Clinging to the timber, Dopheide extended his right hand to help passengers squirm through the window and lowered them feet-first into the water — a drop of about six feet. Each had to swim about 10 yards to a bridge piling. For those unable to swim, Dopheide placed them on flotsam perches or cradled them as he swam them to shore.

"I held their hand and kind of led them to floating debris they could hold onto. Some of them hooked onto my neck as I swam," said Dopheide, a former water safety instructor.

One of those who couldn't swim was Sister Adele Maessaro of San Antonio, Texas. Dopheide pulled her to something she could stand on and left her in the care of another passenger.

"The only thing that kept me going was his calm voice. I just followed his voice to safety," she told the Mobile Press Register.

Dopheide never found his eyeglasses or shoes, although he did return to the coach to retrieve bags and purses. "There was no time to think," Dopheide said. "I just did what anybody else would have done in that situation. I just couldn't leave 30 people in there to die."

Issues arise on health plan

WASHINGTON — Fearing that insurers might dump sick patients, President Clinton will ask Congress to impose strict regulations on the insurance industry during the transition to his new health care system.

"We want to make sure that the insurance market doesn't go crazy during the interim period," Ira Magaziner, the president's senior health care adviser, said in an interview.

The reforms would bar insurers from cutting off anyone's health insurance if he or she became sick and would allow workers to stay insured when they switched jobs, even if they or their children have chronic health problems.

Clinton hopes to have a universal health care system in place by mid-1997, with a new rating system making insurance more expensive for the young and healthy and cheaper for the older and sickly.

His advisers expect many small

companies to get out of the health insurance business when they are forced to compete on the basis of managing care rather than avoiding risks.

"A lot of insurers might look at (the future) and say, 'Well, I'm not going to be able to be around two years from now, so I'm just going to raise my prices or drop all my sick people,'" Magaziner said. "We've got to make sure that doesn't happen."

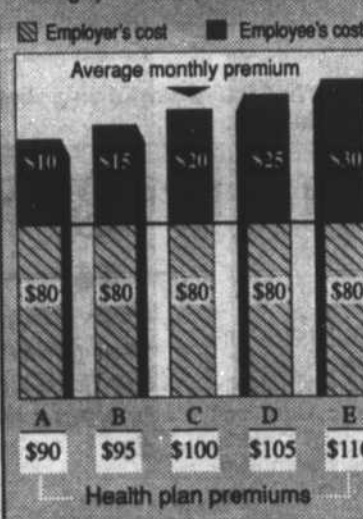
Insurance and health executives expressed alarm at the prospect of tighter regulations.

"If insurers want to withdraw from a whole line of business, they ought to be able to do that," said Ed Neuschler, director of policy development and research at the Health Insurance Association of America.

Whatever the fate of Clinton's Health Security Act, Congress is likely to pass legislation next year forcing changes on the insurance industry and making it easier for consumers.

How coverage is paid for

Under Clinton's proposal the employer pays 80% of the average monthly premium, regardless of what plan the individual chooses, and the employee pays the remaining amount. Here the average plan costs \$100 a month.



SPORTS WIRE

Kickers instrumental once again in Sunday's NFL matchups

In what is fast becoming the Year of the Kicker, the field goals kept coming Sunday.

Kickers made 29 of 34 attempts during games on Sunday. And not only were the kicks going straight, they were going far.

Steve Christie of Buffalo hit from 59 yards, Greg Davis of Phoenix struck from 54, Al Del Greco of Houston from 52 and Fuad Reveiz of Minnesota from 51. Christie's was the third-longest in NFL history.

"When you've got the wind, you've got the confidence to say: 'Oh, why not,'" he said.

Reveiz made five field goals against Green Bay, including the winner from 22 yards with 6 sec-

onds to play, as the Vikings beat Green Bay 15-13.

Jason Hanson of Detroit was 4-of-5, connecting from 44, 22, 33 and 38 yards in the Lions' 26-20 victory over Phoenix.

Kevin Butler made all four of his attempts, from 33, 40, 32 and 31 yards, in Chicago's 47-17 rout of Tampa Bay.

In other games, Miami beat Buffalo 22-13, Indianapolis downed Cleveland 23-10, the Los Angeles Rams defeated Houston 28-13, Seattle stopped Cincinnati 19-10 and New Orleans beat San Francisco 16-13 on a last-second field goal.

In one of Sunday's most exciting games, the Vikings were able to

rally from behind to beat their division-rival Packers.

Reveiz's winning kick came one play after Jim McMahon completed a 45-yard pass to Eric Guliford to put the ball at the Packers' 5. The Green Bay secondary blew the coverage on the third-and-10 play.

"It was a mirage," said Green Bay safety LeRoy Butler, who was responsible for deep coverage on the play. "How we're playing right now, we might never win. We've been giving away more gifts than Santa Claus."

The five field goals were a career high for Reveiz, who had been bothered by an ankle injury. His other kicks were from 35, 19, 29 and 51 yards.

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