

Solidarity's referendum call was the last straw

Editor's Note: The writer reported from Poland during the early phases of the crisis there and since has followed developments there from Bonn.

By ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writer

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Solidarity's call for a referendum on the Communist system was probably the last straw for Polish authorities, prompting them to declare martial law and clamp down on the independent union.

The union's 107-member country commission adopted a resolution Saturday calling for a "vote of confidence" on the national leadership by Feb. 15 and free, democratic elections to parliament by mid-1982.

Western observers here said they thought that if such elections were held the Communist leadership would have been swept from power, endangering the security system of "satellite states" which the Soviet Union established in Eastern Europe after World War II.

Throughout the crisis the government has warned Solidarity that it is a political alternative to the Communist Party. In its 1980 agreement with the government, Solidarity officially recognized the party's leadership role in Poland.

Membership in the Communist Party has rarely exceeded 2.5 million in the largely Roman Catholic nation of 36 million, observers here say, and the current social crisis has discredited the party further in the eyes of the people.

Within hours after the resolutions were approved, the Communist Party leader and premier, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, announced that an army committee had taken power, suspending civil rights for what he called the good of the nation.

An undetermined number of Solidarity activists, as well as officials of discredited previous Communist regimes, were arrested, he said. Jaruzelski's decree — unprecedented in the Soviet bloc during peacetime — came five days before a rumored Warsaw Pact summit conference

in Moscow, at which the chronic Polish crisis was expected to be a major topic.

The official Soviet news agency Tass charged twice last week that "counter-revolutionaries" in the union were "prepared for a direct seizure of power" in Poland.

analysis

In the weeks leading up to the decree, radicals in Solidarity outmaneuvered union moderates such as chief Lech Walesa, whose position was undermined by the government's unwillingness to meet union demands for economic and political reform.

Meanwhile, the effects of the economic crisis — including long lines for food, fuel and clothing — built up tensions among Poland's 36 million people.

As a result, hardliners such as Jan Ruzewski and Marian Jurczyk used the meeting of Solidarity's national leadership to present demands for free parliamentary elections and an end to the "leading role" of the Communist Party.

The union also endorsed a call by the militant Warsaw chapter for a national day of protest next Thursday despite appeals by the government against the plan. The union planned to protest "the use of force or threat of force" by authorities against its members.

At the same time, the union's growing militancy apparently played into the hands of hardliners in the Communist Party, such as Politburo member Stefan Olszowski and former Politburo member Tadeusz Grabski.

Olszowski, a former foreign minister, was being behind by Western observers to have been behind a recent press attack against Solidarity and Walesa.

The press campaign resulted in a climax last Monday when the state radio broadcast tape recordings of a union meeting in Radom in which the radio claimed Walesa was heard to say, "Confrontation is inevitable and confrontation will take place." Walesa said his comments at a meeting were taken out of context by the state radio.

The drastic step to martial law came only a few weeks after hopeful signs that the union and the government would be able to negotiate a formula for working together for the economic good of the country.

On Nov. 4, Walesa, Jaruzelski and Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic primate in Poland, held an unprecedented meeting to establish a framework for cooperation.

Following the session, Cardinal Glemp flew to Rome for talks with Polish-born Pope John Paul II. The Polish primate told reporters at the time that he was more optimistic about prospects for overcoming the crisis.

Two weeks later, representatives of the union and government began negotiations in Warsaw on establishing some sort of framework for cooperation.

state/nation/world

Soviets report Polish statements

MOSCOW (AP) — Tass reported yesterday that Premier Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski had declared martial law in Poland and established a "military council" to rule the country.

Radio Moscow said the action was taken in response to the "anarchy facing the country" and because of "extremist actions of Solidarity leaders who are trying to take over the country."

Tass initially carried a one-sentence announcement from Warsaw shortly after 9 a.m. Moscow time yesterday on the declaration of martial law.

The Soviet news agency carried an expanded account of the situation 30 minutes later.

The Radio Moscow broadcast said, "A decision had also been adopted to intern the extremist leaders of Solidarity and also members of illegal anti-socialist organizations."

"A group of persons responsible for the public, political and economic crisis in Poland has also been interned. Among them are (former Communist Party leader) Edward Gierek, (former Premier) Piotr Jaroszewicz, (former party member) Adislaw Grudzien, (former Politburo member) Jan Sztybel and others," Radio Moscow said in the English-language broadcast.

Radio Moscow said a "state of emergency" was declared in Poland as of midnight Saturday, and that military commissars had been appointed in all districts to rule the country.

Jaruzelski announced creation of a Military Council of National Salvation "to unite all the patriotic forces of the people in the name of saving Poland," the report said.

The Polish Communist Party chief appealed for public order. He also asked for restored trust in and respect for the state bodies of government.

In his speech, Jaruzelski appealed "to unite the ranks of the party, the leading force in society, which is consistently coming out to consolidate and further build socialism in the Polish Peoples Republic," Moscow Radio said.

The premier "stressed that the Polish people highly value the friendship with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community and their fraternal assistance."

"Poland will remain an indispensable link in the socialist community," Radio Moscow quoted Jaruzelski as saying.

In East Berlin, East Germany's official news agency reported the "state of emergency" in neighboring Poland. It said action had been taken to combat the "activities of criminals and against the people."

The ADN agency quoted Jaruzelski as saying, "The hands of the adventurers must be bound."

Polish pilgrims display this banner in Polish in the crowd at St. Peter's square, Vatican City. Pope John Paul II told them to pray for peace in their country, saying "no more Polish blood can be shed, because too much has already been spilled." The banner says: "Parishoners from Bialski — Homage to the Holy Father."



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Haig conferring on Polish situation with officials

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. delayed his trip to Israel yesterday because of developments in Poland, and has been conferring on the situation with U.S. and NATO officials, his spokesman said.

"Secretary of State Haig has decided to remain in Brussels for the time being," State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said.

Fischer said Haig has been in touch with officials in Washington, including Vice President George Bush, Deputy Secretary of State William Clark and Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

"In addition, he is sending a personal message to all NATO foreign ministers," Fischer said.

He declined to reveal the contents of the message being sent to the other NATO foreign ministers. But there was speculation the message could be called into an emergency session because of developments in Poland.

Fischer said the State Department in Washington has contacted the Polish ambassador there, "seeking clarification of government actions and purposes."

"We are, here as in Washington, watching the situation closely," he said. "As you know, communications with Warsaw are difficult and information incomplete. Our continuing task is to obtain clarification of the situation."

He was met by White House Chief of Staff James A.

Soviet interference would be 'serious'

By ROBERT B. CULLEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said yesterday the United States has made it clear to Moscow "how seriously we would view any interference in Poland" by the Soviet Union.

Reagan made the comment after U.S. officials summoned Soviet and Polish diplomats to the State Department yesterday in the wake of the Polish communist government's crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement.

"Everyone views it seriously," Reagan said upon returning to the White House from Camp David. "We're monitoring the situation. Beyond that I can't have any comment."

The president refused to answer questions from reporters about possible U.S. action in the wake of the crackdown on Solidarity. Nor would he say what message he would send to the people of Poland.

Reagan, clad in a blue windbreaker and faded blue jeans, and carrying a thin briefcase, returned to Washington yesterday after spending the weekend at the presidential retreat in Maryland, where he was kept abreast of the events in Poland.

He was met by White House Chief of Staff James A.

Baker III and Michael K. Deaver, the deputy chief of staff, as he stepped out of a Marine Corps helicopter on the White House south lawn.

"Several times, along with the whole free world, we've made it plain how seriously we would view any interference with them (the Poles)," Reagan said.

Apparently referring to diplomatic exchanges before yesterday's events in Poland, he said messages have

developments as necessary," said spokesman Mort Allen.

Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger, arriving back in Washington about the same time, said he was "moving right now to briefings and meetings on the subject."

"I think anybody has to be concerned about any change in a situation like that," Weinberger said. "But

"Several times, along with the whole free world, we've made it plain how seriously we would view any interference with them (the Poles)."

—President Ronald Reagan



Andrei Sakharov's daughter-in-law, Liza Alexeyeva, receives attention from an American TV crew when she arrived at the Soviet visa agency office in Moscow Friday to get an exit visa. She was told she would receive a Soviet passport to go to the United States and could go to Gorky to see Sakharov and his wife.

Sakharov and wife recovering

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov and his wife appeared weak and shrunken after a 17-day hunger strike in their Gorky exile, but they have eagerly started on the road to recovery, their daughter-in-law said yesterday.

"They looked very weak and very pale," said the daughter-in-law, Liza Alexeyeva, who returned to Moscow yesterday morning after visiting the Nobel laureate and his wife, Yelena Bonner, in their hospital suite in Gorky.

Alexeyeva, 26, provided foreign reporters with fresh details of the strike, which ended last Wednesday after Soviet authorities said she would be allowed to emigrate to the United States.

news briefs

Majority approves of first lady

NEW YORK (AP) — A majority of Americans approve of Nancy Reagan as first lady, but an even higher percentage think she is overemphasizing style during hard economic times, according to a poll released yesterday.

Two-thirds of those responding to a poll commissioned by Newsweek magazine said Reagan is too style-conscious and is less sympathetic to the problems of the poor than other recent first ladies.

But 57 percent said they approved of the way she handles her duties as the president's wife.

Rental Santa recalls memories

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — When Glenn Bowland started hiring out his services as a rental Santa Claus a decade ago, it was for the sentiment, not the money.

The 300-pound former trucker wanted to bring the same joy to youths that he had experienced as a child. He did not count on being fondled by middle-aged women while wearing his scarlet costume.

Some he, he. But then, other rental Santas have the same kind of holiday war stories, like the one about an elderly grandmother who asked one young Santa to be a new husband.

Such is the stuff yuletide employment is made of.

collegian notes

• Eco-Action will sponsor an information table with petitions from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the HUB basement to promote public awareness of a potential cutoff of funding to the United Nations Environment Program.

• The Society of Women Engineers will hold a high school program committee meeting at 6:15 tonight in the Kunkle activities lounge of Hammond Building.

• Free University will meet at 5:30 this afternoon in 223 HUB.

• The philosophy department will hold a club meeting at 7:30 tonight at 125 E. Fairmount Ave., apartment C. Nomination of officers, structure of club and philosophical ideas will be discussed.

• The Juggling Club will hold a meeting and practice at 8:30 tonight in 106 White Building.

• The Kung-Fu Club will hold a workout between 6:30 and 9:30 tonight in 133 White Building.

Olympics to be discussed

Problems with and the future of the Olympic games will be discussed tonight at a Colloquy-sponsored program.

The panel discussion will be held at 8 tonight in the HUB, main lounge.

Members of the panel will include: John A. Lucas, an Olympic historian; Ronald A. Smith, University sports historian; Marshall A. Averner, University women's assistant gymnastics coach; and Ellen L. Perry, 1976 University women's swim team coach and a member of the U.S. Women's Olympic Committee.

—by Brian E. Bowers

police log

• Charles Smith, 236 S. Fraser St., told the State College Police Department on Saturday that 35 record albums were missing from his home. The albums are valued at about \$350, police said.

• Stan Figart, Centre Hall, told State College police Saturday that tools, a pair of gloves and a pair of jogging shoes were missing from his pickup truck which was parked at the Penn State Sheraton, 240 S. Pugh St.

The tools, gloves and shoes are valued at about \$146, police said.

• Employees at Roy Rogers Restaurant, 310 E. College Ave., told State College police that a military-type smoke bomb was set off inside the restaurant about 2:35 a.m. on Saturday.

Some food was damaged, but losses have not been estimated, police said.

• William F. Fuller, manager of Associated Student Activities, told University Police Services on Friday that three international flags were missing from a dance held by the International Student Association on Dec. 4.

The flags are identified as being the flags of Mexico, Switzerland and Uganda, police said. The flags are valued at about \$330, police said.

• James F. Lynch, assistant director of international student affairs, told University police Saturday that two international flags were missing from the lobby of Kern Building.

The flags are valued at about \$220, police said.

• University police said that a 10-foot tree was missing on Friday from the Blue Golf Course, west of Carl Street.

The value of the tree is about \$300, police said.

• Guy Michel, 502 Pinchot, told University police Saturday that two speakers and a test light were missing from his car while it was parked in Parking Lot Orange B near Stuart Hall.

The speakers and the light are valued at about \$84, police said.

—by Francine Kaufman

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Attention Local Bands

The IFC Dance Marathon Committee is now accepting tapes of bands interested in playing at the IFC Dance Marathon on February 5, 6, & 7. If interested, please submit tapes to John Bravacos in the IFC office 203-B HUB 865-3455

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