

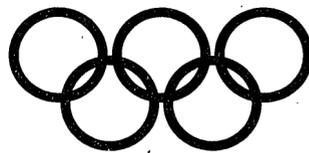
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Chernenko Andropov's likely successor

By ANDREW ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — The Communist Party Central Committee is expected to convene a plenum today that could name a new party chief to succeed Yuri V. Andropov. The late president's body lay in state yesterday near the Kremlin and Soviets lined up for miles in 10-degree weather to pay their respects.

There was no announcement by late last night of who the new general secretary would be. Attention still focused on Konstantin U. Chernenko, the 72-year-old Politburo member who has played the most visible role during the period of mourning, as well as some of the younger members of the ruling body.

These included Grigori V. Romanov, the 61-year-old head of the party disciplinary body, and Mikhail S. Gorbachev, a 52-year-old technocrat whose power is said to have increased significantly under Andropov.

Andropov is to be buried tomorrow, with dozens of foreign heads of state and government leaders in attendance, and considering usual practice in the Soviet Union it seemed unlikely that the party would delay proclaiming a new leader until after the funeral.

There were unconfirmed reports circulating among Western correspondents in the Soviet capital that the plenum would be convened this morning in time for the expected afternoon arrival of most foreign dignitaries.

Japan's Kyodo News Service quoted the Soviet Ambassador to Japan, Vladimir Y. Pavlov, as saying the meeting would be today.

Andropov, who suffered severe kidney disease and diabetes, died Thursday at the age of 69 and his death was announced Friday. Soviet mourners by the thousands lined up to pay their respects at Andropov's casket for a second day in the red-and-black-draped Soviet House of Unions.

A half-mile to the southeast, dozens of official cars were parked outside the Central Committee offices. Other cars bustled in and out of the parking lot and driveway. The activity was uncommon for a Sunday, but not surprising for a transition period. It was the only outward sign of what was certain to be intense discussion within the party's upper echelons.

The ultimate authority in the Soviet Union rests within the ruling Politburo, and the new party general secretary will be chosen from among its 12 surviving members.

Chernenko was designated head of Andropov's funeral commission, a post that in the past has gone to the man who succeeded a deceased party leader. Chernenko was first in the line of Politburo members who filed past Andropov's funeral bier on Saturday and offered their condolences to his family.

Andropov was funeral commission chairman for his predecessor, Leonid I. Brezhnev. He led the Politburo in viewing Brezhnev's body about one hour before his appointment as general secretary was announced on Nov. 12, 1982.

Chernenko wields significant power in the Politburo and is believed to have sought Brezhnev's job before it was awarded to Andropov. But there were factors — including his advanced age and the rise of others within the

Politburo — which left Western observers uncertain about whether Chernenko has indeed taken the top party post.

Some believed the Politburo might appoint a younger man who might hold power longer. Andropov died after 15 months in office.

Chernenko said in an article published Sunday that improving relations with the United States is "more important than ever before."

But Chernenko warned that the Soviet Union will not tolerate the United States' gaining military superiority.

The article, published by The Sunday Times of London, was written before Andropov's death Thursday. It is intended as an introduction to a collection of Chernenko's speeches to be published in Britain on March 5.

Chernenko said in the article that Moscow harbors "no secret intentions or malicious designs. "We are open to the world," he said. "In its foreign policy, the Soviet Union attaches top priority to safeguarding and strengthening peace and is determined to end the arms race."

"We are in favor of an active and fruitful dialogue with nations living under a different social system to ours, the United States and Great Britain in particular," Chernenko wrote.

But he stressed, "The Soviet Union has great military might. We are capable of meeting any challenge effectively."

"We hope, however, that nobody will be tempted to test the Soviet Union's strength again. We are not seeking military superiority, of course, but we will not concede to any nation gaining such superiority over us."



Geidar Aliev



Grigory Romanov



Mikhail Gorbachev



Konstantin Chernenko

Soviets may realign Politburo

By MIKE NETHERLAND
Collegian Staff Writer

Besides a change in leadership in the Soviet Union, the death of Yuri Andropov may provide a catalyst for changing the power structure in that 67-year-old state, two University experts on Soviet affairs said during the weekend.

Although The Washington Post yesterday reported that 72-year-old Politburo member Konstantine Chernenko is likely to succeed Andropov, both political science professor Vernon Asparturian and history professor George Enteen see a greater role for the younger members of the aging Politburo.

If the Communist Party leadership looks to the long term, Asparturian said Friday, it will appoint a younger member as party General Secretary and one of

the old guard as head of state — two different posts traditionally held by the same man. Asparturian said the leadership is badly skewed toward the older crowd (one-half of the 12 Politburo members are more than 70 years old) and there may be pressure to allow for a more youthful leader.

While doubting that two posts might be divided, Enteen believes there is potential for rearranging the Politburo to allow younger members to acquire foreign relations experience. The youngest member, 52-year-old Mikhail S. Gorbachev, while well traveled, is chiefly concerned with domestic agricultural affairs. Leningrad party chief Grigory V. Romanov, 61, only recently increased his role in foreign affairs and has been distant from the Moscow power center.

Enteen said a more gradual shift in the power structure would allow a more orderly and smooth transition. Despite seeing a need for change, both professors admit that any attempt to shift power and prestige away from the old guard will meet resistance. Asparturian said that Politburo status is highly coveted for its privileges and recognition. The former Politburo member becomes a "non-person."

Although neither Asparturian nor Enteen see a dramatic increase in the military's role at the Kremlin, Asparturian said it is possible that Marshal Nikolai V. Ogarkov could be made a Politburo candidate. Ogarkov's unusual press conferences after the downing of the Korean airliner last year is an indication of his growing prominence and influence.

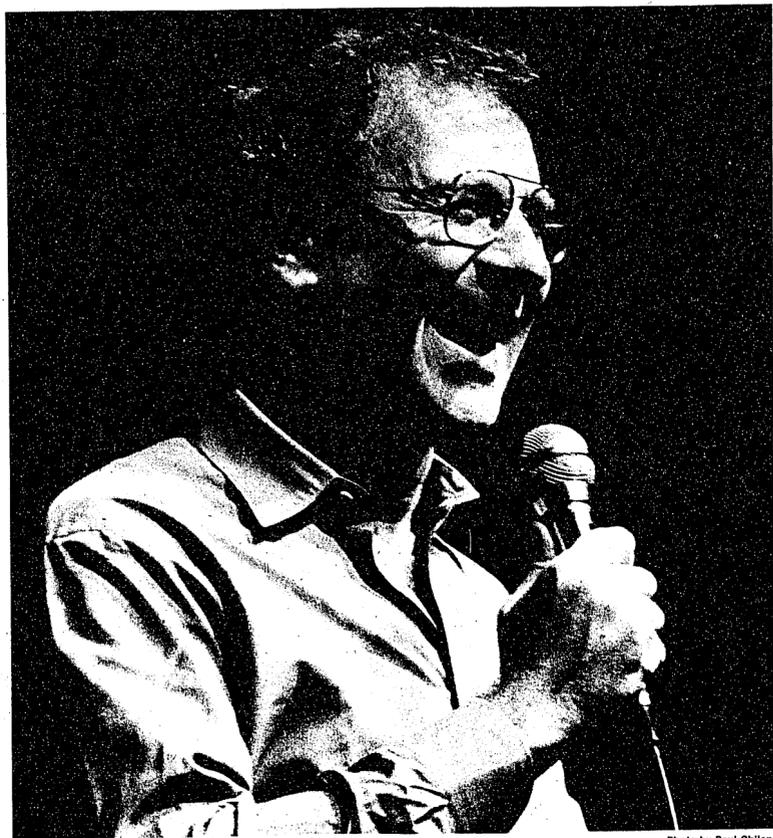


Photo by Paul Chiland

All laughs

Steve Landesberg wowed the crowd Saturday night in Eisenhower Auditorium with his biting wit. Please see story, Page 18.

Marines may return to Lebanon if necessary

By GREG MYRE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said yesterday the administration has not ruled out sending U.S. Marines back into Lebanon after they are withdrawn to Navy ships off shore.

Weinberger said that if all factions in Lebanon agree to withdraw troops, "you would well need some neutral force and it could well be the Marines."

'If we can get an agreement by Syria to withdraw, and the Israelis continue to adhere to their agreement to withdraw, then again there will be a necessity for . . . a neutral peacekeeping force.'

— Caspar Weinberger, defense secretary

Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Weinberger said a necessary precondition for the return of U.S. troops to Lebanese soil would include a Syrian agreement to withdraw troops from the war-torn country.

"If we can get an agreement by Syria to withdraw, and the Israelis

continue to adhere to their agreement to withdraw, then again there will be a necessity for . . . a neutral peacekeeping force," he said.

If the Syrians agree to leave, Weinberger said, the neutral force will be required "to give confidence to the withdrawing troops . . . You would well need some neutral force and it could well be the Marines as part of it."

Weinberger's comments follow President Reagan's order last week that the roughly 1,500 troops at the Beirut airport be redeployed to U.S. naval vessels off shore.

The defense secretary said that action has not altered the original U.S. mission of "providing a stabilizing force for troops withdrawing," but added, "how we achieve it may indeed differ from time to time."

Weinberger said it is "perfectly feasible" that the entire withdrawal of U.S. troops can be completed within 30 days. But he said the actual date "depends on consultations with other members of the multinational force" countries, which include Britain, France and Italy.

Other administration sources have said that all but a force of 200 Marines assigned to guard the U.S. Embassy in Beirut will be removed within a month.

Weinberger reiterated testimony he gave on Capitol Hill last week, saying: "The United States is not leaving Lebanon in any sense. When you have one battleship, two carriers and 23 competent vessels, you haven't left the area."

monday

inside

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weather

Morning fog will give way to some afternoon sunshine. It will be very mild with a high of 58. Becoming cloudy early this evening with occasional rain likely tonight. Low of 40. Cloudy tomorrow with showers continuing. High near 53.
.....by Glenn Rolph