Gierek has 'heart attack'

Poland chooses Kania

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — A fierce power struggle preded Stanislaw Kania's selection as Communist Party
ief Saturday to replace Edward Gierk, who was
sted for the economic policies that put Poland's works on a collision course with the state, diplomatic

arces said. Kania, 53, was elected unanimously by the 116-ember Central Committee in a midnight session, an cial announcement said.

Gierek, 69, at first held tenaciously to his position as recent wave of strikes rippled across Poland, rked by demands for labor and political reform. But grip began to slip when he lost his power base in the them coal fields, where miners joined the strikes. lis authority was further weakened when his best nd and relative, the former head of Poland's state sion, was embroiled in a multi-million dollar ezzlement scandal.

ontrary to the habit of new party leaders, Kania has made an address to the nation to disclose his prog-, and a speech he made at the Central Committee ting has been kept secret.

Observers and diplomats interpreted this as a sign of lighting at the top.

Even Moscow, in a puzzling delay, waited 16 hours fore sending Kania a congratulatory telegram signed oviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

ording to official accounts, Gierek was removed m office after suffering a heart attack early Friday. But diplomats and observers said they believed Gierek's supposed illness was "political" — a face-saving way of removing him from office.

They noted the statement describing Gierek's condition was nearly identical to the one that ushered in the downfall of his predecessor, Wladyslaw Gomulka, fol-lowing similar but less wide-spread labor strife 10 years

locksmith from a village in the south was made a member of the Central Committee in 1971 and elected to the Politburo — the party's inner circle of power — four

To ordinary Poles, the change at the top was unlikely to mean much. "The party rules above our heads," shrugged one Polish journalist.

Observers said Kania, who is considered somewhat more liberal than the hardline Gierek, was unlikely to depart from existing policy or to take back the concessions that the government gave to workers to end the crippling strikes

These included the rights to strike and to form independent labor unions — rights unprecedented in a Communist state.

Beyond that, Kania was still too much of an unknown to predict how he would face the new facts of Polish life.

A compromise candidate acceptable both to the Soviets and to the hardline and liberal wings of the Polish Politburo, Kania is seen as an "apparatchik," a product of the party apparatus.

Poles'new leader virtually unknown

Until he was chosen to replace ousted Polish leader Edward Gierek, Stanislaw Kania was virtually unknown to most Poles — a quiet middle-of-the-road official who stood close to the inner circles of power, but never in the spotlight.

Official biographies of him reveal only that he is 53 years old and was a locksmith before entering politics 35 years ago, quietly working his way up through party ranks

Observers said Kania's elevation to the top party job appeared to be a compromise — a compromise between the hardline and liberal wings of the Politburo and, perhaps more importantly, a compromise with

Among his colleagues he has a reputation of being more moderate than Gierek, but still to the right of the liberals who were one of the prime forces behind the decision to oust Gierek in the aftermath of the Polish labor strikes.

Like most things about Kania, his attitude towards the strikers who won unprecedented concessions from the Communist state was not immediately known. But observers said they believed he would not go back on the agreement the government reached with the strike

They predicted he would not depart radically from either domestic or foreign policy as they were practiced by the ousted Gierek regime.

Before his appointment, Kania had been responsible for internal security and the police. He kept Poland's militia-police force out of the labor unrest and observers said that may have contributed to the decision to elevate him to the top.

A man who had stayed in the shadow of Gierek and other high-

profile party leaders, Kania was made head of the Central Committee's administrative department in 1968, and entered the inner circle of

power with his appointment to the politburo in 1975.

He evidently has the full support of the Party's Central Committee, which said it had endorsed his choice by unanimous decision.

ent Hostage debate may begin

United Press International ommittee of the Iranian parliant met Saturday to make prepara-s for the long awaited debate on fate of the 52 American hostages, entering their 45th week in cap-

disturbs m

neral, I rec

he meeting of parliament's forerelations commission was the t sign that the assembly was getgready to begin its hostage debate ince Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini harged it eight months ago with de-iding the outcome of the now 308-lay-old crisis.

Tehran Radio said only that the

oblems of the hostages and prepaions for a debate on the issue in an en session of Parliament." No dels were disclosed and no date for edebate was mentioned. But there were indications the de-

fic jam they ran into on their way xisted. Take o Goshen College but, recalling the bate may finally be close to starting. The Islamic hardliners who control the parliament had said they could not begin to consider the hostages' fate until a prime minister had been chosen - now selected - and a cabinet was formed - close to completion.

The radio said Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai has selected 15 cabinet members who were approved by President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr and who will now be submitted to the parliament for

chran Radio said only that the Once parliament approves the mission met to discuss "the cabinet, the hostage debate can begin. Most of the deputies, clerics and other hardliners who belong to the powerful Islamic Republican Party controlled by Bani-Sadr's rivals, have said they favor putting the hos-

cided to eat their first dinner in the

Goshen on teaching English as a

foreign language. In exchange, 20

The group will take a course at

Both Bani-Sadr and Ghotbzadeh have said the hostages should be freed. However, Bani-Sadr has only limited influence and Ghotbzadeh

Both men, moderates by the standards of the Iranian revolution, have criticised Rajai as a total incompetent who has no idea how to run a govern-

'What is extremely important is to end the confrontation with the United States. We have to resolve this problem, get rid of this problem, in order to have Europeans and Third World countries on our side. As long as we have this problem of the hostages they are not on our side — they are not even indifferent or neutral," Ghotbzadeh said in an interview broadcast Friday.

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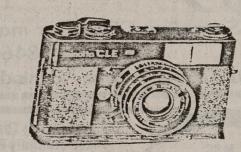
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