

Aquino ordering court martials for soldiers acting in coup plot

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino on Thursday ordered the prosecution of soldiers and civilians who took part in an attempted coup and said the "gravity of the crime" was not lessened by their peaceful surrender.

The government also said it thwarted an attempt by former President Ferdinand E. Marcos to return to the Philippines from his exile in Hawaii.

One Cabinet minister linked Marcos to the coup plot.

A few hours after about 250 rebel troops and civilians surrendered at a downtown television station, Aquino said, "While we continue to cherish the virtue of compassion, we shall have justice in its case for we must have respect for the law."

The mutineers were the last holdouts from about 500 rightist soldiers who tried to take over key communications and military installations around Manila on Tuesday. It was the most serious challenge to Aquino's government since she took power last February.

She has faced down other rebellions, the most serious of which was a coup bid last November by soldiers linked to then-Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile. Some of her supporters have criticized what until now has been an apparent willingness to pardon the plotters, saying it could foster mutinous tendencies.

Except for the group at the studios of Channel 7, the rebels were quickly neutralized, with one rebel soldier killed and 16 others wounded in a brief battle at an air

force base adjacent to the Manila airport.

"The gravity of the offense is not lightened and the damage inflicted on persons and property is not diminished by the perpetrators' change of heart," Aquino said in a speech at the installation of a university president.

She said she had ordered Defense Minister Rafael Ileto to begin court-martial proceedings against the soldiers and instructed Justice Minister Neptali Gonzales to charge the civilians with rebellion before the civil courts.

Trade Minister Jose Concepcion, interviewed from Manila on NBC's "Today" show was asked if he believed Marcos was behind the coup attempt.

"Probably so, because you cannot have three simultaneous attacks in

three different places without any master plan," he said.

Vice President Salvador Laurel said Marcos planned to board a chartered Boeing 707 at Honolulu Airport Thursday to return to the country he was forced to flee 11 months ago after a civilian-military uprising.

Government spokesman Teodoro Benigno said the plan was blocked by the Philippine consul general in Honolulu, Tomas Gomez III. Benigno said the government received reports that Marcos and his wife Imelda "were preparing to fly back to the Philippines in a special plane."

In Honolulu, an angry Marcos told reporters he felt like a prisoner because two State Department officials, Carl Taylor and Elwood J. MacGuire, visited him at his home and told him not to leave Hawaii.

Wall Street stock prices close lower

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices abruptly fell late Thursday in heavy trading, hurt by investors who used fears of a stronger U.S. dollar and renewed airline fare wars as excuses to cash profits from the mighty 1987 rally.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks, higher for most of the day, dropped in the last half hour of trading, finishing with a loss of 3.38 points to 2,160.01. It was the first time since last Friday that Wall Street's best-known barometer has ended lower.

Most broader measurements of stock activity also fell, but the American Stock Exchange's market-value index eked out a slight gain for its third-straight record high, closing at 299.80, up 0.31. Declining stocks outran gainers in the New York Stock Exchange by about 8-7, with 756 up, 838 down and 379 unchanged.

Top Soviet analyst criticizes former Kremlin leadership

MOSCOW (AP) — A top Soviet commentator has published stinging personal attacks on two former Kremlin leaders, saying Leonid Brezhnev became a "monument to himself" and Nikita Khrushchev betrayed the hopes of a generation.

The article by former Brezhnev protégé Alexander Bovin appears in the latest issue of the state-run New Times weekly, which goes on sale Friday. A summary was carried Thursday by the Tass news agency.

The article contains the harshest personal criticism ever to appear in the Soviet Union of Brezhnev, who headed the nation's Communist Party from 1964 until his death in 1982.

Brezhnev's tenure is now routinely linked to stagnation and corruption, but most criticisms don't mention the late Kremlin leader by name. In his speech to the Communist Party Central Committee on Tuesday, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev was critical of the Brezh-

nev and Khrushchev years but did not mention their names.

Bovin's article accused "conservatives" of blocking change and was clearly linked to the campaign waged by Gorbachev against the party's old guard.

Although Bovin's article was unusual in criticizing the personalities of the two late party chiefs, it is typical in Soviet history for a Kremlin leadership to denounce its predecessors. Khrushchev attacked Stalin in 1956, three years after Stalin's death, and Brezhnev denounced Khrushchev after he was ousted in 1964.

Bovin's article follows this week's meeting of the party Central Committee, at which two Brezhnev-era stalwarts, Dinmukhamed A. Kunayev, 74, and Mikhail S. Zimyanin, 72, were ousted from the party's top echelons.

Since coming to power in March 1985, Gorbachev has criticized stagnation of the economy under Brezhnev and the grandiose projects and

sudden shifts in policy linked to Khrushchev.

Bovin, who writes for the government newspaper Izvestia, is one of this country's best-known political analysts. His article was certain to be carefully read by Soviets wanting to know how current Kremlin leaders re-interpret the past.

Bovin said a group of "Soviet socialist conservatives" stand in the way of Gorbachev's changes.

"Already twice in my lifetime they rolled us back, twice blocked the way of long overdue and essential change," he wrote.

He said the party's 20th congress in 1956, at which Khrushchev shocked many Soviets by denouncing Stalin, was "a cleansing storm which gave us a hope of the future."

And he described Brezhnev as "a man who undoubtedly had innate common sense, (but who) allowed himself to be turned into a monument to himself."

U.S. drops plans for European goods tariff

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration announced Thursday it was dropping plans to impose steep tariffs on selected European goods after a last-minute truce was negotiated in a trans-Atlantic trade war over farm products.

U.S. Trade Representative Clayton K. Yeutter said Reagan would rescind his order imposing duties of up to 200 percent on European gin, cognac, cheeses and vegetables under a compromise reached the day before the tariffs were to take effect.

Yeutter said in a statement that, as part of the agreement, the 12-nation European Economic Community promised "full and fair compensation" to the United States for an estimated \$400 million in lost U.S. grain sales to Spain.

The sales were lost when Spain joined the EEC last year and adopted its tariff system.

"This is the first time that the United States has received full compensation following an enlargement of the EEC," Yeutter said.

However, U.S. farm groups said the compromise does not go far enough because part of that compensation will be in the form of reduced tariffs on non-agricultural products.

Bill Wilson, a spokesman for the U.S. Feed Grains Council, said, "We're rather disappointed. We were hoping the numbers would be higher."

And, while the agreement appeared to signal at least a temporary halt in an escalating trade war with Europe, deep frictions remained.

For instance, Deputy Trade Representative

Alan Woods told a news conference that the compromise would have no effect on other ongoing trade disputes.

In Brussels, Willy de Clercq, the EEC's chief negotiator, said he was satisfied with the accord, calling it "an honorable compromise."

And U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard E. Lyng said the agreement would help avoid "a trade war with our major trading partner" while clearing the way for an upcoming round of global trade liberalization talks in Geneva.

Under the four-year agreement, the EEC promised to ensure annual imports of 2 million metric tons of corn and 300,000 metric tons of sorghum into Spain from the United States and other nations, U.S. officials said.



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