

# World and Nation

## Soviets announce releases of 2 dissidents from prison

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet government announced Tuesday that two more dissidents have been ordered released from prison and that Jewish activist Josef Begun is likely to be freed.

If they are released, it would be in line with Kremlin actions to free dissidents whose imprisonment has been an obstacle to better relations with the West. Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev has launched a liberalization drive and has said the Soviet Union is changing its approach to human rights "for all to see."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Genady Gerasimov said the government has ordered the release of Anatoly Koryagin and Alexander Ogorodnikov and will "most likely" free Begun.

Gerasimov told a news briefing he didn't know whether Koryagin was free yet, but he said a government decision was made Friday to pardon him from charges of anti-Soviet activity.

"Today or tomorrow he will be released," Gerasimov said.

The official news agency Tass issued a report on Gerasimov's brief-

ing, quoting him as saying that Koryagin was to be set free and that Begun's case was under review.

There have been demonstrations in the United States urging Begun's release, and plainclothes police in Moscow broke up a series of demonstrations on Begun's behalf last week in the Soviet capital.

Begun, 55, was sentenced to seven years in prison and five in exile in October 1983 after conviction on charges of anti-Soviet propaganda.

Gerasimov told the Associated Press in a telephone call after the briefing that a list of those who had been granted clemency included Ogorodnikov, 36, who founded a Christian movement in the 1970s.

Sentenced in 1980 to six years in labor camp, Ogorodnikov is serving a second, consecutive three-year sentence for alleged anti-Soviet activity.

Gerasimov said about 150 dissidents have been granted pardons so far in a review of sentences under two laws prohibiting anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda and anti-Soviet slander. He said 140 to 150 cases are still being considered.

He announced about 140 of the releases a week earlier, saying they were made by decree of the Supreme Soviet, the national parliament. Gerasimov said those freed applied for pardons and promised to cease anti-Soviet behavior.

Some of the released prisoners said they had not made such a promise.

Gerasimov evaded a question about whether Koryagin would be required to emigrate in return for his freedom.

"He is now in prison where there is no desk to buy air tickets," Gerasimov replied.

Koryagin, a 48-year-old psychiatrist, was sentenced in 1981 to seven years in prison and five years' internal exile after publishing reports that the Soviet government sent some dissidents to mental hospitals.

Georgy Arbatov, head of the U.S.A.-Canada Institute, said during an interview with American television on Sunday that Begun had been freed.

But Begun's wife, Inna, said she had heard nothing from her husband by Tuesday night.

## 24 killed in fierce Beirut battles, marking third day of faction fights

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Shiites fought an alliance of Druse and communist gunmen for the third day Tuesday in a battle for control of Moslem west Beirut that has caused scores of casualties and set whole neighborhoods ablaze.

Police said at least 24 people were killed and 125 wounded Tuesday in west Beirut's fiercest factional struggle for three years.

They said the toll was at least 30 dead and 150 wounded since the fighting began Sunday.

Dozens of fires raged in residential districts because the intensity

of the battle kept fire engines from getting through.

Several apartment buildings were burned and scores of cars destroyed by gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Grenade explosions and bursts of fire from heavy machine guns shook the city all day.

Thousands of families took refuge in basements and bomb shelters. Syria backs all the factions involved.

In theory they are allied in the 12-year-old civil war with Lebanon's Christians, but they periodically

fight each other for domination of the capital's Moslem sector.

The pro-Moscow communists have crossed swords with the main Shiite militia Amal since the 1982 Israeli invasion, when the Shiites began moving in on the communist power base in south Lebanon.

Last year, the communists joined Walid Jumblatt's Druse militia, the pro-Syrian Baath Party and Lebanon's leftist Syrian Social Nationalist Party in a new coalition called the National Democratic Front.

Syria called cease-fires at daybreak and sundown Tuesday, but the first had no effect and the firing continued long after the second.

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