

World and Nation

Officials: Soviet leader took gifts

MOSCOW (AP) — Leonid I. Brezhnev's friend and law enforcement chief, Nikolai A. Shchelokov, accepted lavish gifts and huge bribes, then killed himself when his deeds were discovered, the government charged Tuesday.

The allegations about the former Interior Minister, who died in disgrace in 1984, came on the second day of the bribery-corruption trial of Yuri M. Churbanov, Brezhnev's son-in-law. Churbanov served as Shchelokov's top deputy.

The charges included the first official confirmation of rumors that the 73-year-old Shchelokov committed suicide when he felt the law closing in.

Churbanov and eight former Interior Ministry officials from the Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan are on trial before a Soviet Supreme Court military tribunal. Their highly publicized trial is being used to further leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev's drive against corruption and cronyism.

A 1,500-page indictment against

the accused charges Churbanov with accepting the equivalent of \$1 million in bribes, and its passages about Shchelokov, read aloud by a clerk to a full and silent courtroom, gave the most detailed account yet of corruption in the top ranks of the Brezhnev regime.

Recent newspaper reports have said Shchelokov, the Interior Ministry chief for 16 years, lined his pockets with 700,000 rubles (\$1.1 million) in state funds and lived an extravagant lifestyle, giving foreign luxury cars to his children and buying furs and crystal chandeliers for himself and his family.

Six times a year, food shipments from Uzbekistan arrived at a Moscow airport and were taken to Shchelokov's country home outside the capital, the indictment said. The shipments contained cognac, tomatoes, melons, apricots and other fruits and vegetables unobtainable in Moscow most of the year.

The court documents said boxes

of money were left on Shchelokov's desk. One of the nine defendants, former Uzbek Interior Minister Khaidar Yakhyaev, was quoted in the indictment as acknowledging that he gave his Moscow-based superior boss 105,000 rubles (\$170,000), and neckties, gold jewelry, precious stones and other valuables.

Yakhyaev explained the payments by saying they were necessary to "win protection in the successful struggle against crime in the republic," the indictment said.

Shchelokov was one of the confidants of Brezhnev, Communist Party chief until his death in December. Under his tenure, the Interior Ministry became notorious for corruption, and he was fired by his successor, former KGB chief Andropov.

World briefs

Jetliner makes emergency landing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Continental Airlines jetliner with 283 people aboard made an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport on a flight from Houston after the crew manually lowered the landing gear, authorities said Tuesday.

Continental Flight 475, an Airbus A-300, landed safely at 8:46

p.m. Monday, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman O'Donnell said.

The pilot radioed on the hydraulic system to help the landing gear had failed, O'Donnell said.

"Basically they had to manually extend the landing gear," O'Donnell said.

Hispanic population in U.S. increases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hispanics have increased by more than one-third in this decade, growing nearly five times faster than the rest of the population, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday.

And more than half of all Hispanics in this country reside in just two states — California and Texas — the bureau said. It estimated that there were 19.4 million Americans of Hispanic background as of last March, representing 8.1 percent of the nation's population.

That is 34 percent more than the 14.5 million people who listed themselves as Hispanics in the

1980 census. By comparison, the nation's non-Hispanic population increased by about 7 percent the same period.

About half the Hispanic increase was a result of immigration and half from the excess of births over deaths, the bureau said.

While people of Spanish ancestry made up a growing share of the nation's residents, they were extremely concentrated geographically, the bureau said. About one-third of Hispanics live in California, and 21 percent live in Texas, meaning that two states account for well over half of all Hispanics in the United States.

Bakker gets extension in PTL purchase

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Former PTL leader Jim Bakker received a two-day extension Tuesday on a deadline to produce a \$3 million line of credit supporting his bid to regain control of the television ministry and religious theme park.

At a news conference outside the Heritage USA park offices, bankruptcy court trustee M.C. "Red" Benton said he gave Bakker until Thursday to prove he has the money to regain the empire he lost in a sex-and-money scandal.

Benton, who had set today as the deadline, said the reason for the delay was that attorneys were still working out final details of

the contract for Bakker to buy PTL.

Benton said he was convinced that Bakker had the \$3 million but said the contract would not be completed until Wednesday the earliest.

Benton said Bakker's total now is \$172 million, up from \$165 million that had been reported, and that Bakker must present him with a bond for \$74 million of the final bid by Friday.

Bakker's bid is scheduled to be presented to U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Rufus Reynolds on Friday. Benton said he would rule on the possibility that offers also would be presented to the judge.

Eastern starts laying off 4,000 workers

MIAMI (AP) — Attorneys for Eastern Airlines' unions Tuesday awaited word on when they can return to federal court to argue their case against elimination of 4,000 jobs.

Meanwhile, employees were receiving pink slips, although an Eastern management spokesman emphasized that the post-Labor Day layoffs aren't so dramatic as portrayed by union leaders.

"There's no good time for a furlough," said Karen Ceremask. "We had previously announced the furloughs July 22. It was the unions' court action that delayed them."

Attorneys for the Machinists and Air Line Pilots Association unions hadn't fully decided on their next move, but indicated they wanted to learn first when the federal appellate court would

hold full hearings on their challenge to the layoffs. They seek a temporary injunction from the U.S. Supreme Court against the layoffs, but attorneys say they first wanted to go through the appellate court.

The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington last Friday night solved an order by U.S. District Judge Barrington Parker in Washington, D.C. He had allowed Eastern to cut 12 percent of its flights, including all but from 14 cities, but not lay off workers.

The appellate court allowed Eastern to go ahead with the layoffs, which the company says will cost \$4.7 million bond to pay the laid-off employees if they are reinstated after the court holds a full hearing.

GOP official: TV ads tout phony issue

AUSTIN (AP) — The Dukakis-Bentsen campaign Tuesday previewed a television ad touting the Democrats' efforts to win a plant closing notification law, but a top GOP presidential campaign strategist called that a phony issue.

Tom Cosgrove, state campaign director for the presidential ticket of Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen said, "We believe with this, we're going to bring the debate back to where it belongs — on the issues. This is going to be a campaign based on facts — not innuendo, rumors and lies and distortions as we've seen across Texas over the last couple of weeks."

Cosgrove said the Democrats' commercial reflects an emphasis on "the future of the economy in this country."

The commercial — which starts airing Wednesday in Dallas, Houston and San Antonio — notes that Senate bill sponsor Bentsen "won the fight" for a law requiring 60 days' notice of a plant closing.

Massachusetts Gov. Dukakis pushed one of the first such laws in the country.

A "fact sheet" handed out at the screening said GOP vice presidential nominee Dan Quayle had opposed the plant closing notification bill.

President Reagan first vetoed a trade bill that contained the measure, then allowed a separate bill to become law without his signature.

The Democrats said Vice President George Bush also opposed the legislation.

Charlie Black, a senior adviser to the national GOP presidential campaign and "Texas-specific" consultant, said plant-closing law is "a phony issue."

"Plant closing is a way of them continuing to duck the issues, because they haven't presented anything about the economy that would give people any hope that they could improve on the Reagan performance or the future Bush performance," Black said.

The Republicans and Democrats do not really differ much on the plant-closing issue, said Black, who was in Austin to meet with the steering committee of the Bush Texas campaign.

"The administration originally opposed the plant closing amendment when it was within the context of the trade bill, but when a clean bill was presented, the president let it go into law, and the vice president went along with that."

"So you don't even have a clear-cut difference on that issue," Black said.

Bush encouraged Reagan to allow the bill to become law, he added.

Black said the Bush campaign, in its upcoming television ads, will focus on the economy, defense and the so-called "values issues," including school prayer, saying the Pledge of Allegiance in schools, the death penalty and furloughs for prisoners.

He said the timing of the ads hasn't been decided.

Flood waters recede, but problems rise

RAJBARI, Bangladesh (AP) — The nation's three mightiest rivers began receding Tuesday but the most urgent problem grew: how to provide food, shelter and clean water to at least 21 million homeless people and prevent an epidemic.

"This is the worst flood in the history of Bangladesh," President Hussain Mohammed Ershad said to about 300 men, women and children huddled in front of him on a narrow embankment surrounded by brown water.

A soldier doled out scoops of uncooked rice and Ershad told the people more food would be found.

Floods have submerged three-fourths of the country in the past 10 days and 12 smaller rivers were reported still rising Tuesday, although the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna receded. The flooding began in June with the monsoon season, then abated and resumed last month.

At least 412 people have been killed since June, according to government figures, but that number is considered too low. Daily death reports in Dhaka newspapers, including 32 people who drowned when a ferry sank in the Pabna district 75 miles west of the capital, put the total at 1,154.

Illness from flood-polluted water is increasing. The government health control center reported 10,000 new cases of diarrhea Tuesday, bringing the total to 102,000, and said 79 people had died of it.

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