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 Speakers: Dr. George Bates, Ms. Nancy Hardeman and Dr. Ron Knutson

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The Battalion

# WORLD & NATION

Monday, October 16, 1989

## S. Africa grants freedom to anti-apartheid leaders

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Eight leaders of the anti-apartheid movement became free men Sunday, seven of them after at least 25 years in jail, and told rejoicing supporters that equality for blacks in South Africa is in reach.

Walter Sisulu, 77, a friend and colleague of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, proudly presided over the first news conference held by the organization in South Africa since it was banned in 1960.

"Our determination has never been weakened by our long years of imprisonment," Sisulu told scores of reporters and hundreds of ANC followers who packed a church hall. "We have been strengthened by the developments in our country and our own clear vision of the future."

Some in the crowd wept as they freed prisoners, raising clenched fists, led their supporters in singing "God Bless Africa," the anthem of the anti-apartheid movement.

Sisulu and six other ANC members were freed early Sunday. Also freed was Jaftha Masemola, 58, of the Pan Africanist Congress, a smaller guerrilla movement. All were freed unconditionally, having refused previous offers of freedom in exchange for renouncing violence.

The releases are viewed as a tacit acknowledgement by the government of the ANC's influence and popularity among South Africa's black majority. Even relatively conservative black leaders have said they will reject any negotiations with the government unless the ANC is legalized and its jailed leaders freed.

Sisulu and his colleagues, seated in front of a large green, gold and black ANC flag, expressed regret that Mandela remains in prison and said they would press for his release.

They said the ANC, the largest group fighting the white-led government, will continue its military campaign and reject calls for negotiations until the government legalizes it, lifts the state of emergency, and releases all political prisoners.

"If the government doesn't meet our demands, we have no alternative but to continue to fight for our freedom," Andrew Mlangeni, 63, said.

Five of the ANC men, including Sisulu and Mlangeni, were arrested in 1963 and sentenced to life terms in 1964, along with Mandela for plotting anti-government sabotage.

The Fed's action to supply cash on a liberal basis to the banking system serves to reassure nervous bankers that they do not need to be panicked into cutting off credit to brokerage houses and securities firms suffering

plunging the entire country into a recession.

While a Fed move to inject massive amounts of cash into the banking system cannot by itself push stock prices higher, it does provide a measure of confidence that the government is prepared to counteract the damaging effects to the economy from a sudden loss of billions of dollars of wealth in stock prices.

The Fed's action to supply cash on a liberal basis to the banking system serves to reassure nervous bankers that they do not need to be panicked into cutting off credit to brokerage houses and securities firms suffering

heavy losses from a plunge in stock prices.

Brokerage firms, assured of a flow of credit from their bankers, are forced to sell off stocks as the plunges simply to replenish their own dwindling supplies of cash. Such waves of forced stock sales have the unintended effect of driving stock prices down even further.

The Fed official said the U.S. central bank had been in touch with central banks in Japan and Europe and had received assurances from them that those officials stood ready to supply needed cash.

But real reform gathered steam only after Kadar was retired last year after 32 years at the helm.

The collective leadership succeeding Kadar decided liberalization was the only way to counter serious economic problems. It permitted political opposition to flourish for the first time since the Communists consolidated power in 1948, and it pledged to permit the country's first free national elections in 41 years.

Such developments have placed Hungary on the vanguard of democratization within the Soviet bloc along with Poland, the first Warsaw Pact country with a primarily non-Communist government.

The old party decided in September to begin dismantling its government chapters, and the ministries of the interior, finance and trade and commerce already have been formally depoliticized.

After more than four decades of rewritten history, there are plans to write it again — this time reflecting events independent of Marxist coloration.

Reform has been in the wind in Hungary for the past several years, even before Mikhail S. Gorbachev decreed changes in the Soviet Union.

The most blatant Stalinist manifestations — personality cults, workers' brigades, a repressive secret police — were done away with under the late Janos Kadar.

The Greenspan-led effort two years ago was widely credited with keeping the 508-point plunge of October 1987 from wrecking havoc on the banking system and perhaps top-

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## Communist influences will linger in Hungary

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — It only took a three-day meeting for the Communists to scrap their party, but it could take years to remove the influence of more than four decades of Communist rule in Hungary.

The Communist Party, formally the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, was declared dead at a historic congress a week ago that gave birth to the Hungarian Socialist Party.

Spurred by upcoming free elections, the congress heeded reformers' calls for a party with democratic aspirations that would be more appealing to the electorate than a monolithic Marxist-Leninist party. The elections are due by June.

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## 'Presleynost' reaches U.S. Soviet artist gets exit visa to visit Graceland

BOSTON (AP) — "Presleynost" reached U.S. shores Sunday when a Soviet Elvis fan stepped off an airplane in blue suede shoes, clutching an exit visa issued solely for a visit to Graceland, the Memphis, Tenn., home of his hero.

Kolya Vasin, 44, an artist, sculptor and rock impresario from Leningrad, said he's been an Elvis fan since hearing a bootleg copy of "Jailhouse Rock." Visiting Graceland will be the culmination of a 30-year dream, he said.

"I listen to 'Jailhouse Rock' for the first time in 1958. After this shocking moment, I love Elvis forever," said the long-haired, bearded Vasin, who wore bluejeans, a

leader Mikhail Gorbachev, is being sponsored by Elvis Yours, a London-based Elvis fan club with a mailing list of 60,000, club president Sid Shaw said. Elvis fans raised the \$3,500 for Vasin's trip, he said.

Every year, Elvis Yours pays for several handicapped children to accompany the group on a trip to Graceland, Shaw, who has been to Graceland 36 times, said he decided to find a Soviet fan to sponsor.

In his quest, he found an expert on rock 'n' roll music in the Soviet Union at the BBC who told him that Vasin was the biggest Elvis fan in the country.

"He's the Colonel Parker of the Soviet Union," Shaw proclaimed. "He's a living legend in the Soviet Union. Parker was Presley's longtime manager."

Vasin said he had tried to get an exit visa for a year with no luck. But when he was approached by Elvis Yours, his luck changed. The club arranged for an American Elvis club, Suspicious Minds, to extend an invitation to Vasin through Soviet authorities. As a result, he was finally granted a visa.

During his 10-day visit in the United States, Vasin plans to visit Sun Records, Elvis' first recording label in Memphis, and Elvis' birthplace in Tupelo, Miss.

Vasin said he arranges about five rock concerts a year in the Soviet Union. He said he paints, writes poems and sculptures, but his major interest is rock — and Elvis.

"All I want is to love rock and roll," said Vasin, who carried with him a charcoal drawing he did of Elvis, sit in my very small room and listen to rock 'n' roll with my friends and drink vodka."

Vasin said he bought all his Elvis records on the black market. The first Elvis record was sold legally this year, he said.

During his stopover in Boston, Vasin broke into a lusty rendition of Chuck Berry's "Memphis, Tennessee."

"Long distance information, get me Memphis, Tennessee," he said.

"Because his voice, his spirit is God to me. All the good feelings of the human race come out of Elvis."

— Kolya Vasin, Soviet Elvis fan