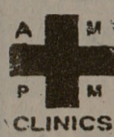


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New East German leader says he'll resist following democratic trends

BERLIN (AP) — Protesters may fill East German streets again unless the new leader, Egon Krenz, proves false his hard-line record and begins the kind of reforms under way elsewhere in the Soviet bloc, pro-democracy activists said Thursday.

Krenz made clear almost immediately after replacing Erich Honecker on Wednesday that the Communist Party would resist the democratic trends evident in Poland and Hungary. "Krenz stands for the continuation of neo-Stalinist politics," Reinhard Schult, a founder of New Forum, the largest pro-democracy group in East Germany, said.

Speaking on RIAS radio of West Berlin, he said Krenz "did not have one word to say about the causes of the current crisis and made no offer for talks with the opposition."

Author Rolf Schneider, a critic of the government, told RIAS: "The crisis will keep dragging on."

A Lutheran church leader said privately "the demonstrations will start again soon" unless the government changes its course. The church has been in the forefront of reform efforts in East Germany.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany, to which tens of thousands of East Germans have fled in search of freedom, urged Krenz to make "fundamental reforms." He said East Germans demand "their basic rights."

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, a champion of reform, sent the new leader a telegram expressing confidence he would "respond to the demands of the time, following a course of renewal and continuity."

In Poland, the only Soviet bloc nation with a non-Communist government, both pro-Solidarity and Communist Party newspapers described Honecker's departure as a welcome change.

Newspapers in Hungary, which is moving rapidly from communism toward Western-style democracy, said Krenz was seen as a "transitional figure."

Reform activists in East Germany said 100 people held a peaceful protest in the northern city of Greifswald hours after Krenz, 52, was named Communist Party chief. He is a protégé of Honecker, 77, who led the party for 18 years.

More than 120,000 pro-democracy protesters marched in Leipzig on Monday, demanding free elections and other reforms in the largest demonstration of East Germany's 40-year history.

On Thursday, many residents of East Berlin were skeptical about the leadership change.

"Krenz just wants to calm us down," a worker in his mid-20s said. "We'll have to see if there's going to be anything more than words this time."

Relief aid pours into California after killer earthquake strikes

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Americans touched by scenes of devastation, of people left homeless by disaster, sent what they could to earthquake victims in Northern California on Thursday just one month after shipping aid to those in Hurricane Hugo's wake.

Even Charleston, S.C., still reeling from last month's pounding by

Hugo, sent a plane load of bottled drinking water.

Private groups and officials sent search dogs and special equipment to hunt for survivors, donated blood and money and offered their expertise. A Southern California man donated a \$15,000 sports car he won in a radio contest.

Wyoming remembered the help it

received from California firefighters in the 1988 fires at Yellowstone National Park. Gov. Mike Sullivan asked emergency officials to help with structural inspections and search and rescue.

"While we are few in number and they are many, their needs are many, and we stand ready to help in any way," Sullivan said.

The Wyoming Red Cross sent a mass feeding van to California from Casper to join other Red Cross units delivering hot food door to door. The Red Cross also took cash donations for the relief effort.

Missouri Red Cross officials said about a dozen staff members and volunteers were still on the East Coast helping victims of Hugo, but one person is preparing to head to San Francisco.

"It's been the double whammy," spokesman Colleen McQuillan said. "We're still trying to raise money to pay for Hugo and now we need money for this."

The international headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene, located in Kansas City, told its churches to pass the plate for earthquake victims at Wednesday night services.

"We're getting calls from all over, 'What are we going to do to help?' We tell them to get money," Steve Weber, coordinator for the church's charity services, said.

The Japanese Red Cross Society sent \$35,000 to its American counterpart for earthquake victims.

Colorado death linked to suspect in Texas killing

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — A man whose body was exhumed this week at a concrete plant apparently was lured to his death there by a suspect in a Fort Worth killing, authorities said.

Arapahoe County authorities on Wednesday identified the victim as James Davis, 51. Officials say his murder Sept. 20 may have stemmed from a dispute over \$7,000 in robbery loot with his Denver halfway house roommate, Steven Staley, 27.

Staley, Tracy Duke, 23, of Arapahoe and a third person are being held for investigation of murder in the slaying of a Fort Worth restaurant manager Saturday night.

Police say their interviews with Staley and Duke have linked the two and Davis to at least eight holdups along Colorado's Front Range.

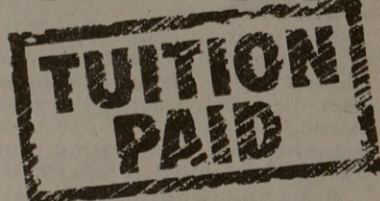
"They were the three muscle-teers," Arapahoe County Sheriff Pat Sullivan said.

Sullivan said Wednesday that Davis was lured to his death by the promise of hidden loot.

"(Staley) phoned him, and Davis complained because he didn't think his old (car) could make it all the way out there," Sullivan said.

But he said that about 8 p.m. on the day of the slaying, Davis met Staley and Duke east of Aurora in Arapahoe County.

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