

Wednesday, November 15, 1989

Bush embraces idea of liberated Europe, unrestricted travel

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush declared his confidence Tuesday that "Europe will some day be whole and free," saluting a decision by Czechoslovakia to ease travel restrictions as just one more sign.

Bush said he was not concerned about the dizzying pace of change sweeping Eastern Europe. "I don't think it's moving too fast and I don't know of anybody in my administration that feels that it's moving too fast."

The White House said the administration was reviewing developments in Eastern Europe with that process.

The president left open the possibility he will stop in Brussels to brief NATO allies after his shipboard summit in the Mediterranean with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev on Dec. 2 and 3.

"We're thinking right now how we might stay in touch with our allies," Bush said.

Bush made his remarks in response to the announcement that Czechoslovakia, one of the last hard-line Soviet Bloc nations, no longer will require its citizens to obtain exit visas to travel outside the country. No date for the change was given in the Czech announcement.

"Gorbachev talks about a common home," Bush said. "We talk about a Europe whole and free. And it's a most exciting time."

Bush spoke about Eastern Europe during several appearances during the day. "I am delighted with the new moves towards democracy in Eastern Europe. We're all caught up in this," he told foreign ministers from the Organization of American States.

During a meeting with members of Congress, Bush also said

he will press Gorbachev next month to halt the shipment of East bloc arms to the leftist government of Nicaragua.

In preparation for the summit, Bush and his national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, had dinner Monday night with former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, who has expressed fears that Gorbachev will try to enlist the United States "as a partner with him in the division of Germany."

Separately, Bush told reporters that his wife, Barbara, will not accompany him to Malta.

Bush is being pressured by Democrats to respond more strongly to the changes sweeping Eastern Europe, dramatized last week by the opening of the Berlin Wall and the promise of greater democracy in East Germany.

To comment on the announcement from Prague, Bush broke his own rule against answering questions from reporters during photo-taking sessions. On Capitol Hill, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said it was regrettable that Bush, through his spokesman, had rejected the idea of going to Berlin to express American satisfaction with the "symbolic destruction" of the wall or to normalize trade relations with the Soviet Union.

White House officials said the low-keyed approach taken by Bush was intended to lend support and encouragement to developments in Eastern Europe while guarding against doing anything that might provoke a crackdown or slow the pace of reforms.

Meanwhile, the White House signaled its approval of a \$738 million aid package for Poland and Hungary.

Walesa accepts 8-year-old award in front of exuberant U.S. crowd

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lech Walesa, weeping with joy at his hero's welcome to America, said Tuesday his native Poland needs massive Western investment to "make her way to the shore of freedom."

"I know that the pioneer spirit which made this country big and free is still around," Walesa told a convention of the AFL-CIO labor federation. "I would like you to transplant this spirit to Poland."

"If you engage in any activity in our country, others will emulate your example," Walesa said. "The world is awaiting your signal, it is watching you. Do not let the world and us wait any longer."

Walesa, weeping after a 15-minute standing ovation that welcomed him to the convention hall, thanked the American people, the labor group and the government for providing

"to be our most steadfast allies in the trade union struggle for human freedom."

"Today, when we are threatened by recession and inflation rather than police repressions, we need this international solidarity no less than in the past."

Walesa was in Washington to accept the AFL-CIO's George Meany Human Rights Award, which he won in 1981. He did not collect the award earlier, at first because he feared he would not be allowed to return to Poland, then because he was incarcerated, and finally because he was engaged in the eight-year struggle that led this year to the creation of the first non-Communist government in the Soviet bloc.

"This is a meeting that has been a long time coming," Walesa said to tumultuous applause.

The mustached 46-year-old trade union leader, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, arrived in Washington on Monday, and went straight to the White House where President Bush presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest U.S. civilian award.

Elsewhere in Washington, the Senate reached a compromise to authorize \$657 million for Poland over three years and \$81 million for Hungary. The House was voting separately on a fiscal 1990 appropriations bill that targets \$533 million in aid and credits for the two East Bloc countries struggling to build democracy and market economies.

On Wednesday, Congress planned to honor Walesa by allowing him to become the first non-governmental foreign citizen to address

a joint session of the House and Senate since 1824.

Walesa, addressing the AFL-CIO, apologized to his fellow trade unionists for encouraging American capitalists to flock to Poland.

"Such is the fate of a Polish trade unionist — he has to launch a publicity campaign for private entrepreneurship," Walesa told the cheering crowd. "I would not like anybody to think that I made an about face."

"Nowadays in Poland the defense of workers is not based on demanding more paper money, which in our country has no real value and for which one cannot buy anything," he said.

At a news conference later, Walesa welcomed reforms in other Soviet bloc nations.

Namibians elect leftist party as majority; SWAPO to hold 41 seats in new assembly

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) — The black nationalist movement that fought South African rule for 23 years won a solid majority Tuesday in national elections but will have to bargain with rival parties in drafting a new constitution.

The leftist South-West Africa People's Organization won 384,567 votes, or 57 percent of 670,830 ballots cast, according to results announced Tuesday.

SWAPO's leaders had predicted their movement would easily win the two-thirds majority that would have enabled it to single-handedly write the constitution.

The Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, a multiracial coalition that favors a capitalist economy, finished second with 191,532 votes, or 29 percent.

Thousands of SWAPO supporters filled the streets of Windhoek, the capital, waving flags, singing and honking horns throughout the day. The celebration carried on into the night in Katutura, the main black neighborhood on the edge

of Windhoek.

"We struggled all the years for this day," SWAPO President Sam Nujoma said.

Namibians voted from Tuesday through Saturday for a 72-member assembly that will draft a constitution and declare independence for Namibia after 74 years of South African rule.

SWAPO will hold 41 seats in the assembly, and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance 21.

The United Democratic Front will have four seats, followed by the conservative, all-white Action Christian National, with three. The Federal Convention of Namibia, National Patriotic Front and the Namibia National Front each won a single seat.

The assembly's decisions must be backed by at least 48 members.

"In spite of the difficulties, in spite of all the odds placed in our way to victory, the liberation movement has won," senior SWAPO spokesman Hidipo Hamutenya said.

The election result was seen as promising for a peaceful transition to independence for the sparsely populated region of southern Africa.

Some observers feared that if SWAPO won a two-thirds majority, it might have written a constitution leaning heavily in its favor.

Had the organization won less than 50 percent of the vote, it may have challenged the results and accused South Africa of trying to prevent a SWAPO government.

In Washington, the State Department said it wished the Namibian people well as they start drafting the new constitution.

"We look forward to working with the government that emerges after independence," the statement said.

South Africa captured Namibia from Germany in World War I and ruled it under a League of Nations mandate. That mandate was rescinded by the United Nations in 1966, but South Africa refused U.N. orders to withdraw.

West Germany offers aid to East, demands reforms

BERLIN (AP) — West Germany said Tuesday it was willing to give East Germany massive financial aid in the style of the postwar U.S. Marshall Plan, but demanded political and economic reforms the Communists have so far rejected.

East Germany's new premier said the Berlin Wall must remain, to keep AIDS, crime and other Western problems out of his country. He promised a coalition government but did not say whether the opposition could join it.

After a week of dramatic developments in East European countries, President Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union said in Moscow:

"They have a common direction, which fosters the building of a Euro-

pean home, for it makes the countries closer, more open and creates new opportunities for human contact and an equal exchange."

The Liberal Democrats, an East German party that is allied with the Communists but shows signs of independence, said pro-democracy groups should be invited in "round-table" talks about East Germany's future.

Discussions this spring between Polish authorities and Solidarity, which were given that name, led to a non-Communist government in Poland.

Mayor Walter Momper of West Berlin said the sudden opening of East Germany's borders was creating traffic jams, currency problems and other economic difficulties the two

governments must resolve.

Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann of West Germany announced a six-point aid plan including

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— Hans Modrow, East German Premier

ing investments, joint ventures and modernizing East Germany's dilapi-

dated communications and transport systems.

Haussmann did not name a figure for the aid and said East Germany must achieve "thorough change" in its centrally directed economy.

Reforms promised so far by Communist Party leader Egon Krenz, who took over last month from hard-liner Erich Honecker, have resulted in more questions than answers, Haussmann said in Bonn.

He compared his proposal to the Marshall Plan devised by Secretary of State George C. Marshall, which provided more than \$12 billion in American aid in 1948-51 to help Europe recover from the war.

East German authorities have rejected the idea of adopting a complete free-market system and new

Premier Hans Modrow, a leading reformer, says he wants "step by step" economic changes.

Modrow appears to want a streamlining of the bureaucracy, but has given no indication he will urge sweeping changes such as those in Hungary and Poland.

He was quoted Tuesday in the West German newspaper Bild as saying the Berlin Wall can remain open to travel, but will come down.

"In our country there is little criminal activity. ... cases of AIDS and drugs are virtually unknown," he was quoted as saying. "Our people are asking themselves why they shouldn't just leave that as it is."

ADN, the official news agency, said the government might open a part of the wall near the Branden-

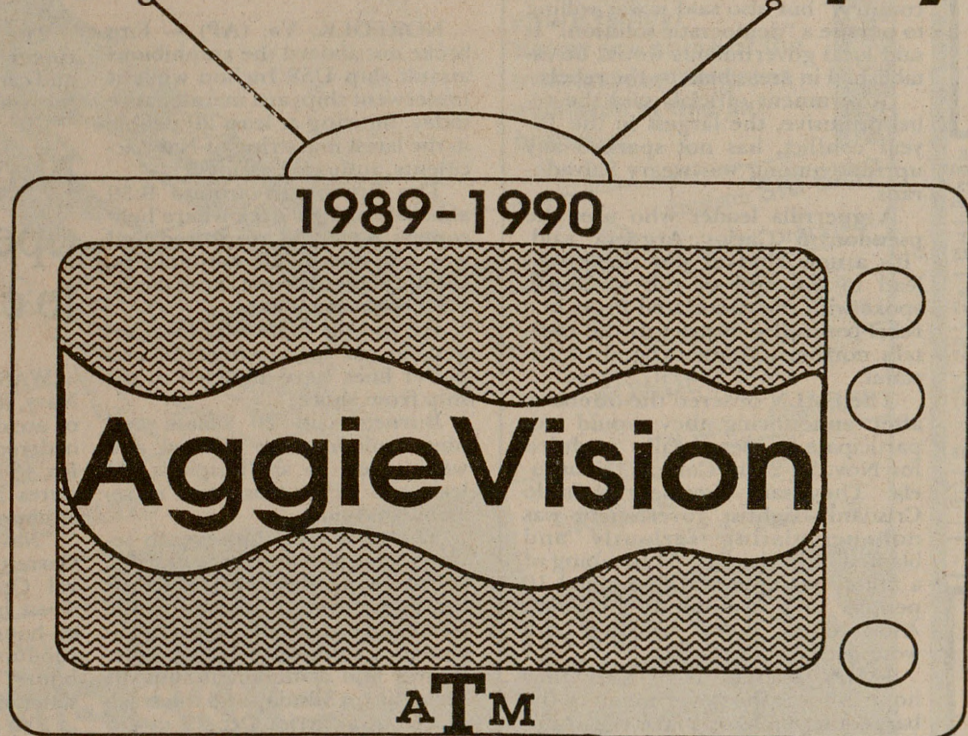
burg Gate as yet another passage between East and West Berlin. The high-columned monument is near the wall in East Berlin and is among the city's best-known symbols.

Before East Germany opened its borders Thursday, the gate had been a major rallying point for demonstrators seeking freedom to travel to the West. Hundreds of West Berliners gathered there Tuesday in hopes a hole would be opened.

A leader of New Forum, East Germany's main opposition group, said it could work with a revamped Communist Party but naming Modrow premier was not enough.

More change could occur at a special party congress in East Berlin on Dec. 15-17.

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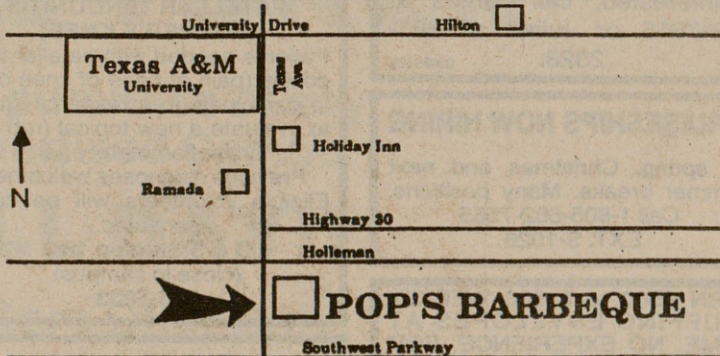


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