

Tuesday, December 5, 1989

Bush visits NATO after Malta summit

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — President Bush said Monday it's too early to proclaim an end to the Cold War, but added that Mikhail S. Gorbachev's acceptance of sweeping reform in Eastern Europe "absolutely mandates new thinking" by the West.

Wrapping up his weekend summit journey with a stop at NATO Headquarters, Bush also told reporters the United States would maintain significant military forces in Europe as long as our allies desire our presence.

The president said he wants a treaty making initial cuts in superpowers' conventional forces in Europe "in the bank" before seeking deeper reductions. He told NATO leaders he hoped a multinational summit could be convened in Europe next summer to sign such an accord.

Conventional forces aside, the United States and Soviet Union are negotiating a proposed 50 percent cut in long-range nuclear weapons, as well as a proposed ban of chemical weapons.

The president spoke as Gorbachev was convening a meeting of a radically reordered Warsaw Pact in Moscow to review the weekend summit.

The dramatic change in Europe continued uninterrupted during the day, as the Soviet Union and the four other Warsaw Pact nations condemned their own invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. In Leipzig, East Germany, about 200,000 demonstrators broke into wild rounds of applause as speakers called for German reunification.

Soviet military detained Americans in E. Germany

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soviet military personnel in East Germany detained a team of U.S. military officers for seven and a half hours on the eve of President Bush's summit with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Pentagon said Monday.

"There were no U.S. or Soviet injuries," Pentagon spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ken Satterfield said. "U.S. personnel were released later that day. The incident is under investigation."

Satterfield said the U.S. team was "on their assigned mission" which involved observing installations in East Germany. It was not immediately clear how many U.S. and Soviet personnel were involved in the incident.

The spokesman said the vehicle in which the U.S. team was riding was detained and "a tire was punctured with a bayonet."

Bush and Gorbachev agreed at an unprecedented joint news conference before leaving Malta that their meeting heralded a new era of cooperation in East-West relations, including arms control and trade. They intend to meet again in the United States in the second half of June.

Satterfield said the team was not threatened by the Soviets.

The incident, which was confirmed by several other Pentagon officials, has raised tempers among some military officers.

The U.S. military mission in Potsdam was established under a 1947 accord.

The incident had not been announced by U.S. authorities, and Pentagon officials offered information about it when queried by the Associated Press.

"They don't want to elevate this," said one Pentagon source, referring to efforts by U.S. officials to minimize the incident at a time of improving U.S.-Soviet relations.

Bush and Gorbachev met over the weekend in Malta and said their talks heralded a reduction in East-West tensions.

At his news conference, Bush said, "We stand at the threshold of a new era . . ." but declined to assert the Cold War has ended as Gorbachev suggested.

"That day hasn't arrived," the president said when asked about Gorbachev's statement declaring an end to the "epoch of the Cold War."

Barring a utopian development, Bush said, "the United States must stay involved" by keeping troops massed against Warsaw Pact forces.

"If you want to project out 100 years, or take some years off of that, you can look to a Utopian day when there might be none (U.S. troops in Europe)," he said. "But as I pointed out to them (NATO leaders), that day hasn't arrived — and they agree with me."

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said he was impressed by the United States' "extraordinarily positive attitude" toward events in Europe.

"It has nothing to do with a 'we are pulling out' attitude," he told reporters. "On the contrary, they are again promising a meaningful presence (in Europe)."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Bush's speech "was so full of meat that we really should consider it very carefully before we reply to it." She has urged a more cautious attitude than some allies toward events unfolding in Eastern Europe.

The president began his news conference with a statement that said a "peaceful revolution" was taking place in Eastern Europe, where five headline communist regimes have fallen in recent weeks.

Bush, apparently referring to disagreements about Central America, said "all was not sweetness and light" at the Malta summit, but took pains to applaud Gorbachev's handling of the change in Eastern Europe.

E. Germans attempt to protect evidence

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germans outraged by the corruption of ousted Communist Party leaders tried to storm secret police offices Monday to make certain evidence for criminal cases is not removed.

Prosecutors blocked access by the former officials to evidence that could be used against them in the widening corruption investigation.

State television showed pictures of people joining police at luxurious government guest houses and at warehouses in East Berlin and Potsdam to block any efforts to remove documents.

Officials appealed for calm as people tried to force their way into secret police offices in Erfurt.

In Leipzig, where about 200,000 people attended a rally calling for German unification, 30 demonstrators were allowed inside the secret police headquarters, including opposition leader Wolfgang Schnur.

East Germany's official ADN news agency said the group was let in "after massive demands of demonstrators who had surrounded the building." It said the protesters presented their grievances and departed but 200 other demonstrators who refused to leave were permitted inside later to tour the building.

Parts of the building were sealed off to prevent documents from being smuggled out, and Schnur said citizens would take part in making sure the papers remained there.

Wolfgang Schwanitz, new chief of national security, ordered flights to Romania halted because of reports that sensitive material was being smuggled to the Warsaw Pact ally, whose leader, Nicolae Ceausescu, has rejected reform.

Officials said there was no proof documents were being sent there. Opposition sources said earlier that important documents were taken from party headquarters to Schoenfeld airport

for flights to Romania.

Premier Hans Modrow, who emerged as the leading political figure one day after the entire Communist Party leadership resigned, was not in East Germany. He led a three-member delegation to the Warsaw Pact summit in Moscow.

At the huge Leipzig rally, the crowd applauded and cheered as speakers called for a united Germany. Demonstrators waved dozens of West German flags in front of the secret police headquarters. One flag was draped over a surveillance camera outside the headquarters.

Calls for German reunification dominated the Monday night Leipzig protests, and the demands were more pronounced than ever.

ADN reported 60,000 people rallied in Karl-Marx-Stadt, 10,000 in Schwerin and tens of thousands in Dresden.

Lawmakers seek military spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite a declaration Monday by President Bush that he doesn't expect a "peace dividend" to result from reduced East-West tensions, many members of Congress are urging heftier spending on domestic programs as the military budget is reduced.

"We have a lot of demands at home, and there's no question about that," Bush said at a news conference in Brussels at the end of a summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. "But I think it is premature to speak as some are at home about a peace dividend — take a lot of money out of defense and put it into other worthy causes."

The president said the reason there can be no such windfall was that the Gramm-Rudman deficit-reduction law requires that he produce a budget for fiscal 1991 containing a shortfall of no more than \$64 billion.

The deficit for this budget year, which ends Sept. 30, is projected at about \$110 billion. Bush will present his proposed budget to Congress on Jan. 22.

"There just isn't a lot of 'excess money' floating around there," Bush told a news conference in Brussels, Belgium.

Greenpeace protesters fail to halt missile launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The Navy out-muscled Greenpeace anti-nuclear protestors Monday, crippling their vessels and towing them out of an area where the group tried unsuccessfully to halt the test launch of a Trident 2 missile.

The high seas drama took place in the Atlantic Ocean 50 miles off the Florida coast just before the nuclear-powered submarine Tennessee unleashed the \$26.5 million missile on a test that put the Trident 2 program back on track after two explosive failures in the first three undersea launches.

"We did a perfect launch, just beautiful," Vice Adm. Roger Bacon, commander of the Atlantic Submarine Fleet, said at a news conference.

The Navy said its ships had to "shoulder" aside a large ship carrying protestors and capture and tow

away two high-speed rafts called Zodiacs from the launch area.

Greenpeace USA peace activists said the Navy rammed their ship, aimed fire hoses down its smoke stacks to stop its engines and Navy divers had sliced the fuel lines and punctured the pontoons on the Zodiacs.

Bacon said hoses were used and that Navy sailors in rafts cut the fuel lines on one of the Zodiacs after the other broke down in heavy seas.

Shannon Fagan, a spokesman for the protestors, said a Navy ship, the 254-foot submarine support ship USS Grasp, left two gashes in the hull of the USS Greenpeace, a 190-foot ocean-going tug. She said the largest, about 3 feet long, was stuffed with mattresses to keep water out.

Although members of Congress are split over the question, many believe it is time to impose deep cuts on the nearly \$290 billion defense budget, which comprises about one-fourth of the government's \$1.2 trillion annual spending.

They cite three reasons: the easing of Cold War tensions, the need to shrink the deficit and a desire to replenish domestic programs that

have been hit hard by Reagan-era spending cuts.

"The more you cut from the military, the less damage you do to domestic programs to meet Gramm-Rudman targets," Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., said Monday.

Frank has pressed congressional leaders to slash about \$20 billion off the Pentagon's budget and redistribute most of it among health, hous-

ing, education and other domestic programs.

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has begun considering plans to shrink expected military spending rates by up to \$180 billion over the next three to five years.

The cuts Cheney is examining would not literally cut defense spending.

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