

Wednesday, December 6, 1989

New Czech government dominated by non-Communists for first time

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — One of Czechoslovakia's two republics named the first government in 41 years dominated by non-Communists, and talks began with opposition leaders on their demands for a new national government.

Leaders of the Communist-controlled labor organization took the unprecedented step of endorsing a general strike that the opposition has threatened if the national government is not changed this week.

An Interior Ministry announcement said work on dismantling fortifications on the border with Austria would begin Monday. The government said last week some of the barbed wire, watch towers and trip wires would be taken down.

About 2,000 demonstrating students chanted

"Resign! Resign!" as Ladislav Adamec, the Communist premier, met with dissident playwright Vaclav Havel on demands for a new Cabinet to replace the Communist-dominated one chosen Sunday.

Jiri Dienstbier, spokesman for Havel's opposition group, Civic Forum, said the discussions would continue Wednesday. Head of state television Miroslav Pavel attended the talks and said they were "very complicated."

Opposition groups said the general strike will take place Monday unless the 21-member Cabinet, which contains only five non-Communists, is replaced before then.

Dienstbier called the new Czech government "a step in the right direction," but said its compo-

sition still was not an accurate reflection of public opinion.

A parliamentary commission, which is investigating the police violence Nov. 17 that started the nation's peaceful revolt, said Tuesday that ousted Communist Party chief Milos Jakes and Miroslav Stepan, the former Prague party boss, "bear direct political responsibility" for the crackdown.

It proposed that six senior police officers be fired to prevent them from influencing the investigation.

The Czech Cabinet named to serve under Premier Frantisek Pitra, a Communist, includes nine non-Communists and seven members of the party. It is the first government of any kind in Czechoslovakia since 1948 not to be dominated by Communists.

Administration searches for professional regulator to head savings and loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration began looking for a successor to savings and loan regulator M. Danny Wall on Tuesday, while the chairman of the House Banking Committee said hearings that led to Wall's resignation were "just the beginning" of the investigation.

The administration wants a professional regulator to head the Office of Thrift Supervision, rather than an appointee whose chief qualifications are political connections, said an industry source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Candidates under consideration include longtime officials with the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

The administration, in searching for a successor, is consulting Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady and chief economic adviser Michael Boskin, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

He said a replacement won't be announced before January, when Congress returns from holiday recess.

This fall, more than 50 hours of hearings were conducted focusing on the collapse of Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine, Calif. Lincoln is expected to become the nation's biggest savings and loan failure, at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$2 billion.

The sessions triggered criticism directed at Wall, leading eventually to his resignation Monday.

Bush makes concessions to Soviets

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush made three concessions at the Malta summit that were overshadowed in the euphoria and confusion surrounding the first-ever joint U.S.-Soviet presidential news conference.

Those steps met longstanding Soviet requests and marked a political milestone for a man who had reacted cautiously to the reforms of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Administration officials said Tuesday, however, that the fine print still needed to be written on Bush's offers involving the lifting of trade sanctions against Moscow and a halt in U.S. production of chemical weapons.

Although the summit produced no clear arms control breakthroughs, and was not expected to, Bush gave Gorbachev these welcome bits of news:

- Bush would take steps to ease tariffs on Soviet exports to America.
- He would seek observer status for the Kremlin in a major interna-

Quayle voices hard line against USSR

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House, dealing with aftershocks from the Malta summit, attempted to quell criticism from conservatives Tuesday and play down any differences between President Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle on the Soviet Union.

On another summit topic, the administration said the meeting enabled Bush to look ahead to possible budget savings two years from now as a result of likely arms reductions.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said that if an agreement is signed next year to slash long-range nuclear missiles, "I think that could have an

impact, certainly" on the budget that would be submitted the following January.

Bush, on his first day back in the Oval Office, got a standing ovation from his Cabinet, summoned to the White House for a report on his two days of talks with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Bush ignored questions from reporters about Quayle, who has offered a more guarded and skeptical post-summit assessment of the Soviets than Bush has.

Quayle, in an interview with the *Washington Post*, called the Soviet Union "a totalitarian government" and said, "I don't think they've changed much in foreign policy."

tional trade group.

- He was altering his previous proposal on chemical weapons, seeking to sign a treaty for the June summit to destroy most U.S. and Soviet chemical weapons stockpiles. His previous proposal called for a reduction of the weapons that the Soviets

considered too small.

Several major U.S. and Soviet steps are necessary before Bush grants the Soviet Union most-favored-nation status, easing tariffs on Soviet imports to the United States.

The United States and the Soviets

must reach a commercial treaty, said a U.S. official who expects the American side "to be in talks with the Soviets in the next six or eight weeks." Bush proposed that he and Gorbachev sign such a treaty at the summit they are planning in America in the last two weeks of June.

Officials: Bomb caused plane crash

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Investigators have concluded that a bomb destroyed a Colombian jet that crashed last month and killed all 107 people aboard, and they believe it was hidden under a seat, an official said Tuesday.

Carlos Lemos Simmonds, the minister of government, did not say who may have planted the bomb, but suspicion has fallen on Colombia's drug traffickers, who have bombed banks, restaurants, hotels, schools and other public places.

"All of the technicians who took part in the investigation agreed without exception that it was the work of criminals and that an explosive device was placed in a seat near the gasoline tanks," Lemos said.

The Bogota daily *El Espectador*, quoting the report by Colombia's Civil Aeronautics Authority, said the bomb was in seat 15F, along the right side of the plane.



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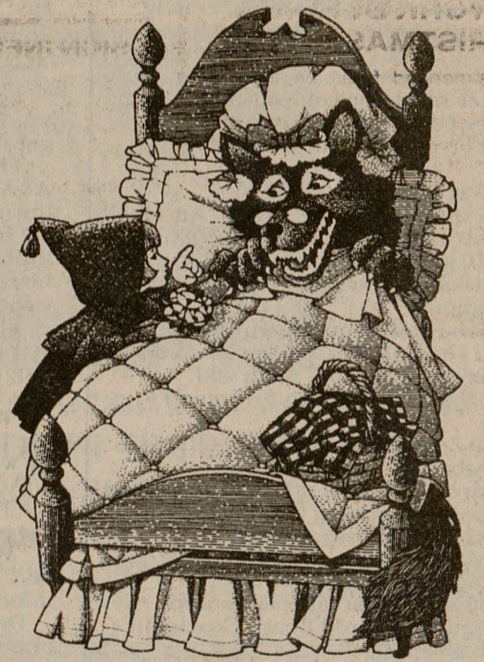
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