

Monday, February 26, 1990

Soviet rallies for democracy continue despite state media warnings to disband

MOSCOW (AP) — From Siberia to the southern republic of Georgia, hundreds of thousands of Soviets rallied for democracy in more than 30 cities Sunday, despite official warnings that the Soviet Union's first nationwide protest could explode into violence.

More than 100,000 people turned out in Moscow, and smaller protests occurred elsewhere. The official warnings, which were repeated frequently last week in the state-run media, kept the turnout low in some cities and prevented some protests altogether.

Riot police dragged away people who tried to hold an unsanctioned demonstration in Leningrad, but there were no reports of major unrest.

In Moscow, the crowd grew through the afternoon as initial tension gave way to a relaxed and good-natured atmosphere. One column of marchers was led by a man with a bullhorn who told police and bystanders, "We represent no danger."

Gavril Popov, a member of the Congress of People's Deputies and one of the organizers of the demonstration day, told masses gathered under cloudy skies that the Communist Party and state apparatus had engineered a campaign of fear not seen since Stalin in an attempt to thwart the outpouring of popular sentiment.

The protests were planned after a successful Feb. 4 pro-democracy rally in Moscow in which about 200,000 people demanded the Communist Party give up its monopoly on power. The party did so shortly afterward.

Thousands of uniformed police and internal security troops guarded the authorized march route along the broad Garden Ring Road that circles the center of the city. Sand-filled dump trucks, water trucks and snowplows sealed off all roads leading from the Garden Ring Road into the downtown area where the Kremlin and Red Square were guarded by more police posted about every 30 feet.

Estimates of the number of protesters varied widely, from 200,000 reported by the official press agency Novosti, which had a view of the rally site in Moscow, to a half-million claimed by Popov.

An independent newsletter issued by Radio Moscow quoted unnamed Interior Ministry officials as putting the crowd at 300,000.

Maj. Gen. Georgy Postoyuk of the Interior Ministry, who said he was in charge of security at Gorky Park, estimated 100,000 people gathered at the park. They then marched across a bridge over the Moscow River and met up with a considerably smaller group that had gathered at the Foreign Ministry. Together, they headed to the rally site.

Reports from police, local activists interviewed by telephone and state-run media indicated as many as 276,000 people took part in protest

Lithuanian reform party claims landslide victory

VILNIUS, U.S.S.R (AP) — The leader of the Sajudis reform movement said Sunday that independence for Lithuania could be achieved this year after his group claimed a landslide victory in the Soviet Union's first multiparty election.

In balloting for the Baltic republic's 141-seat parliament Saturday, voters appeared to have chosen the country's first legislature not dominated by Communists.

The main contenders were the Sajudis Popular Front, which has led the drive for independence, and the reformed Lithuanian Communist Party.

On the street outside the Sajudis headquarters, passers-by gathered excitedly around posters announcing the victory.

Unofficial returns showed that of the 90 races decided, Sajudis-endorsed candidates took 72 seats and non-Sajudis candidates took 18, Rita Dapkus, head of the Sajudis information agency, said.

"If that is not a landslide, then what is?" Algimantas Cekuolis, a Sajudis officer, said at a news conference Sunday. "It is a very clear indication of what the people of Lithuania think."

Dapkus said 45 races had no majority winner and will be decided by runoff votes on March 10, while six were invalidated by insufficient voter turnout or other factors. They will be decided in April.

Turnout among the 2.56 million eligible voters was about 75 percent, officials said.

rallies in 32 cities outside Moscow, from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatka in the Soviet Far East to Leningrad on the Baltic Sea coast.

"All was against us," Popov told the crowd in Moscow's Zubovsky Square.

"The City Council was late in announcing the site, time and routes. Television has special entertainment shows on. The authorities have waged a campaign of stepping up tensions, hysteria, rumors, provocations and libel unheard of since 1937," when Stalin's campaign of terror reached its height, Popov said.

Experts search for treatment of cocaine addiction

WASHINGTON (AP) — The war on drugs won't be won until Americans reduce their craving for it, and experts say they're mystified at how to treat cocaine addiction, the nation's No. 1 drug problem.

"We know we're at sea with cocaine" treatment, said Dr. John P. Morgan, director of the Pharmacology Department at City University of New York Medical School. "The truth is, we're at sea with most drug programs."

Rick Harwood of the Office of National Drug Control Policy led by William J. Bennett gave a more optimistic assessment, saying treatment helps even without any known cure. But he acknowledged that cocaine addiction is a special problem.

"There's recidivism with every kind of drug use, but more with cocaine than with heroin, people using amphetamines, marijuana, PCP or a variety of other things," Harwood said.

Harwood said researchers are trying to develop medications to control the craving, but they are not yet ready for use. In addition, Bennett's office is trying to get Congress to approve rules that would require treatment facilities to provide data that would reveal what efforts produce success.

The nation's largest alcohol and drug treatment chain — CareUnit, run by CompCare Corp. of St. Louis — recently conducted a study of recovery rates for its patients. The study deemed a patient "recovered" if he or she either had abstained from all mind-altering substances for at least a full year or had abstained for at least six months and was abstinent when the survey was taken and the relapse was limited, said Ken Estes, a spokesman for the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers.

The overall recovery rate for cocaine abusers was 54 percent, CareUnit found.

By comparison, for patients using a single substance — alcohol in most cases — the recovery rate was 66 percent, Estes said.

CareUnit is an in-patient facility where the average length of stay is about 22 days, with follow-up care involving group therapy sessions at the clinic once a week for six months, supplemented by attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous or Cocaine Anonymous meetings, Estes said.

James N. Hall, executive director of the Up Front Drug Information Center in Miami, said some cocaine abuse treatment does work, especially long term treatment that allows brain chemicals the many months needed to return to normal levels.

Bill collectors can learn art of intimidation

BEIJING (AP) — A young bill collector is offering China's first course on how to intimidate debtbeats into paying up, according to a news report Sunday.

The correspondence course offered by 28-year-old Sun Zheng is in response to a national crisis in business debt and widespread defaults on loan payments, the official China Daily said.

Sun's two-month \$17 course includes instruction in strong-arm tactics that are legally acceptable in recovering debts, it said.

The newspaper did not provide details but said Sun, who opened the Great Wall Debt Collection Service in the provincial capital of Shijiazhuang last May, commonly sends a five-man squad of "heavies" to pressure a borrower.

One of the five is a legal specialist. The others do not hurt the borrower.

Governors seek federal funds for national education goals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's governors put their stamp Sunday on national education goals, but got no encouragement from the White House for the prospect of financial help from a "peace dividend."

"Our aim is excellence in education," Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas said as he offered the goals to the National Governors' Association for approval.

The Arkansas Democrat added that "I do not believe we will achieve them (the goals) unless we dramatically change our behavior."

The changes referred to by Clinton were included in a series of objectives that would put the governors on record as pressing for specific steps toward implementing the goals first outlined by President Bush in his State of the Union address last month.

The governors also adopted a resolution urging the president to allocate any defense budget savings toward education as well as reducing the federal budget deficit and other domestic needs.

"We have to get this peace dividend," Gov. Roy Romer of Colorado said, "or else we're going to have to make some other change in this country's policies or else we're not going to close the gap that we've created."

Romer worked with fellow Gov. Mario Cuomo, D-New York, in drafting the resolution. Cuomo did not attend the NGA session.

The resolution called on the president "to dedicate the peace dividend in a balanced manner between the federal budget deficit, education and other productivity investments."

Earlier, Romer failed in an attempt to get the governors to adopt a resolution that urged the president to "direct substantial federal resources from defense to educational needs and other productivity investments."

"Otherwise, I don't believe we are going to get the attention of the federal establishment in helping us meet the goals we have today," Romer said.

The governors, whose four-day convention concludes Tuesday, were having dinner at the White House with President Bush on Sunday, and then were scheduled to meet with the president again Monday.

The educational objectives were drafted in consultation with the White House and were broad enough to be acceptable to all.

But on the question of how to pay for improved education, the governors got no commitments from Richard G. Darman, the White House budget director.

Darman reminded the governors that the budget Bush sent to Congress for the next fiscal year included a \$500 million increase in federal funding for the Head Start program.

But beyond that, Darman would only say that "the political system is going to have to have its debate over the division of responsibility."

Romer contended that for the past 50 years the federal government had been taking a growing share of the nation's tax base and using much of it for national security.

"I firmly believe the threat to our security is no longer superior military forces," Romer said.

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