

Thursday, June 14, 1990

Soviet leaders agree to reduce embargo on Lithuania's gas supply after 2 months

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin agreed Wednesday to ease the 2-month-old economic embargo on Lithuania that Moscow had hoped would force the Baltic republic to drop its declaration of independence, the Lithuanian Parliament said.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene met with Kremlin officials Wednesday and was told the Soviet government would restore 15 percent of the republic's natural gas needs, Rita Dapkus, a parliamentary spokeswoman said.

The gas shipments, promised by Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, would allow a Lithuanian fertilizer plant to reopen and would bring Lithuania back to 30 percent of its regular supplies, said parliamentary spokeswoman Rita Dapkus.

Ryzhkov made no promises on restoring other supplies, Dapkus said. The Soviet Union cut off the republic's entire oil supply, most of its natural gas and some raw materials on April 18, to pressure the republic into rescinding pro-independence laws. The embargo put 26,000 peo-

ple out of work. Tass quoted Prunskiene as saying after meeting Ryzhkov that, "We have no doubts the economic blockade will be lifted."

But Dapkus said the Kremlin offered to end the embargo only if

"We welcome this announcement. Together with the beginning of the dialogue yesterday, these are positive steps."

—Marlin Fitzwater, presidential spokesman

Lithuania agrees to stop implementing its March 11 declaration of independence for the duration of negotiations with the Soviet Union on the issue.

Lithuania has said it was willing to negotiate on rolling back its independence laws but steadfastly had

refused to revoke its declaration of secession.

The Soviet news agency Tass quoted Ryzhkov as describing Wednesday's encounter with Prunskiene as "the beginning of a concrete dialogue on the question of future negotiations."

The reported breakthrough in the impasse between Lithuania and Moscow was hailed Wednesday by the White House. "We welcome this announcement," said a spokesman for President Bush, Marlin Fitzwater. "Together with the beginning of the dialogue yesterday, these are positive steps."

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and Ryzhkov met with the presidents of the three Baltic republics Tuesday and offered Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia deals that would lead toward negotiations on their demands for independence.

The republics want independence lost when they were forcibly annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. Latvia and Estonia have taken more cautious steps toward independence than Lithuania.

Ryzhkov said negotiations could lead to full independent statehood for Lithuania, such as that enjoyed by Finland, Dapkus reported Prunskiene as saying.

But, she said Ryzhkov favored an alternative in which Lithuania would remain part of a transformed Soviet Union, with a new union treaty granting the Baltic republic special status or privileges.

Ryzhkov reportedly suggested that negotiations on independence would take two to three years, Dapkus said.

The Lithuanian Council of Ministers will discuss a response to the Soviet proposal Saturday, the parliamentary spokeswoman said.

Friday marks the anniversary of the day in 1941 that 36,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberia and the Far North by Soviet secret police. They were accused of anti-Soviet activities just days before Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union in World War II, Dapkus said.

AIDS activists ignore White House move Groups plan to boycott international conference

WASHINGTON (AP) — A White House move to ease immigration restrictions for an international AIDS conference has not swayed the more than 100 groups that plan to boycott next week's event, AIDS activists said Wednesday.

The activists, releasing the American edition of an international study on AIDS discrimination, said the U.S. immigration limits are part of a worldwide pattern that's spreading fear "as widespread and destructive as the virus itself."

Martin Foreman, author of the Panos Institute report, said more than 100 groups are boycotting the conference despite a new 10-day visa the United States announced in April for AIDS-infected foreigners who want to attend the conference.

Groups listed as boycotting the 6th International Conference on AIDS include the International League of the Red Cross, the European Community, the Ca-

nadian Public Health Association, the World Council of Churches and the Roman Catholic Church's charity group, Caritas International.

The San Francisco meeting is June 20-24.

"One of the purposes of the conference, which is the free international exchange of information, has already been defeated," Foreman said.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service had denied entry to the United States to anyone with acquired immune deficiency syndrome, one of a handful of diseases that bar entry to the country.

Those applying for the new visa don't have to reveal whether they are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS. But AIDS activists said the limited visa sends the wrong message to those already facing discrimination.

Romania experiences explosion of violence Soldiers fire on demonstrators

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Soldiers fired on anti-government demonstrators outside the former secret police headquarters Wednesday night after protesters attacked state TV offices and burned another police building, witnesses said.

The reports of shooting capped a day of violence that began with the police clubbing and dragging away protesters who had staged a 53-day anti-Communist demonstration in a central Bucharest square.

It was the worst outbreak of violence in the capital since Romania's bloody December revolution that toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

One witness reported seeing at least two bodies outside the old headquarters of Securitate, Ceausescu's hated secret police, but this could not be confirmed. Witnesses said at least seven people were wounded outside the building, which is used by the Interior Ministry.

The demonstrators say Communists still dominate the National Salvation Front, which has been in power since the December revolution and which won last month's free elections by a landslide.

President-elect Ion Iliescu, in a communique Wednesday night, accused the attackers of organizing a "Nazi rebellion."

"We are now facing an organized, pre-planned attempt to overthrow through force and violence the leadership elected in a free and democratic way," said Iliescu, the first ex-

Communist to win a popular presidential election in Eastern Europe.

A Scottish freelance photographer, Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert, said he saw soldiers shooting from inside the old Securitate building in downtown Bucharest and the body of a man who had been shot in the head.

He said other photographers had seen at least one more body near the building, which was ringed by half a dozen armored personnel carriers.

Associated Press reporter Gabriel Paslaru reported that demonstrators who tried to force the main gate of the building were met with automatic rifle fire or single, precise shots.

"I saw one man with a wounded hand who fainted before he was rushed into a car and another man who was hit in the neck," Paslaru said. "His face was a red mask of blood—it is hard to believe he could survive."

He said the building was surrounded by several hundred people.

In the crackdown on the demonstration in the square and the subsequent clashes, police said about 260 people were detained and a policeman was injured. They did not say how many protesters were hurt.

State-run television, scene of fierce fighting during December's revolution, was stormed by the protesters who occupied one of the main studios. An announcer said they might not be able to transmit any longer.

Flag amendment 'sails' through subcommittee House re-launches campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposed constitutional amendment against burning the American flag sailed over its first congressional hurdle Wednesday, two days after the Supreme Court threw out the federal flag-protection law.

Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., complained, "It's unseemly that we're rushing to judgment" as the proposed amendment whisked through the House Constitutional and Civil Rights Subcommittee.

Supporters of the amendment called the flag a symbol of "all that America stands for" and deserving of special protection, while critics said that the plan would "mutilate the Bill of Rights" and the entire issue smacked of election-year politics.

Both sides said if the House were to vote today on the amendment it would be close. The proposal would have to win two-thirds majorities in both houses and approval by 38 state legislatures to take effect.

Wednesday's subcommittee session re-launched, in a fiery burst of congressional rhetoric, the proposed amendment that was set aside last year as Congress

passed the statute overturned by the Supreme Court on Monday.

The House panel voted 5-3 to send the measure to the full Judiciary Committee with an "adverse" recommendation — a symbolic dark cloud that will have no effect on its chances of eventually being adopted.

The three Republicans on the subcommittee, all of whom favor the amendment, voted no on the roll call because they wanted a "favorable" recommendation.

"You don't see that very often," said panel chairman Don Edwards, D-Calif., an outspoken critic of the plan.

President Bush passed up a chance to restate the vigorous support of an amendment that he voiced on Monday — after the court ruling — and again on Tuesday. But his wife Barbara endorsed his views on the subject, saying "You're darn right, I'm always with the president."

Bush himself addressed a number of topics with a group of reporters but didn't bring up the flag.

Vote speeds market economy Soviets delay bread price increase

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet legislature voted to further speed the nation toward a market economy Wednesday, but a government official told lawmakers that a threefold increase in bread prices would be delayed.

Panic-buying has emptied many store shelves since late last month, when the Communist government proposed to cut many price subsidies by January.

Prices on bread, the main staple of the Soviet diet, also will be raised eventually, but "of course, not by

July 1," said Yuri Maslyukov, chairman of the government agency that runs the centralized economy. Bread now sells for less than 30 cents a loaf.

The Supreme Soviet, ordering the fine-tuning of a plan that drew widespread criticism as being too vague and tentative, instructed the Council of Ministers to have drafts of all the laws needed for the switch from a planned to a market economy by October.

The measure also instructed President Mikhail S. Gorbachev to issue a series of presidential decrees begin-

ning July 1 to speed up progress on bringing new laws on ownership, leasing, farming and other key elements of a market economy into effect.

"The main thing now is that now we can begin to work," said leading economist and Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin.

"Three years ago someone who called for a market economy was pointed at — 'There's a man who's betraying the ideals of socialism!'" he said.

Terrorist

(Continued from page 1)

The secret police, once virtually omnipresent, would have known the background of any West Germans resettling in East Germany. Many suspected the secret police, or Stasi, had provided the terrorists with new identities and other help.

If so, Diestel said, it was a "diabolical connection."

The government-run East German news agency ADN said Viett, wanted in several attacks, was captured Tuesday night in the East German city of Magdeburg.

It immediately led to speculation that other members of the Red Army Faction would turn up in East Germany, or that they once lived there.

Ever since the two Germanies started their rapid road to unification last fall, the question of terrorism has become increasingly important.

Officials on both sides of the crumbling barriers have warned that East Germany could provide fertile territory for new leftist terrorist crimes.

Joint efforts were stepped up to capture any Red Army Faction members who may have slipped across the border after a series of attacks that rocked West German industry in the 1970s and 80s.

The West German federal police worked with their counterparts in East Germany to capture Viett unarmed in her apartment in Magdeburg, where she had lived for more than two years.

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