

World and Nation

Party unrest flares in Yugoslavia

From Associated Press reports

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia — Communist Party chief Stipe Suvar battled calls for his resignation Monday and told the Central Committee the country faces a stark choice between more democracy or "neo-Stalinism."

As liberals and hard-liners clashed, Adm. Petar Simic of the armed forces warned the military might play a more active role in "the battle for Yugoslavia."

The action took place at a key meeting of the policy-setting Central Committee, called to discuss demands for Suvar's resignation and a possible shake-up in the ruling elite.

Suvar indirectly hit out at his chief political rival, Serbian party leader Slobodan Milosevic, although he did not identify his opponent in keeping with the convention of party solidarity.

But his speech was a scathing attack on "dogmatic" policies gener-

ally attributed to Milosevic, party chief in the largest of Yugoslavia's six republics.

"Socialist political pluralism or neo-Stalinism — those are the two alternatives" offered by different factions in the Communist Party leadership to guide Yugoslavia out of its economic and political crisis, Suvar said.

Speaking hours later, Milosevic defended his stands and called for sweeping changes in the leadership he blames for the current crisis.

"It would be honest and intelligent that those who have clashed with the people should allow themselves to be replaced by better and more capable men," Milosevic said.

Serbs demand Suvar's resignation and accuse him of opposing the people's will by criticizing recent mass rallies organized by Milosevic supporters.

The street gatherings have torn at the country's fragile ethnic balance

and led to the ouster of several opponents of Milosevic, who defends the rallies as a popular instrument of change.

Milan Kucan, party chief of liberal Slovenia, told the meeting "a feeling of revolt can be expressed on the streets, but a way out of the crisis cannot be found there."

"Yugoslavia will become a democratic community, or it will not exist," said Kucan.

The pragmatic Suvar is supported by Slovenia and his native Croatia, which favor political pluralism, more democracy and radical market-oriented reforms as a solution to Poland's protracted crisis.

Yugoslavia's woes include a 250 percent inflation rate, a sharp drop in living standards and an alarming increase in labor and ethnic unrest.

Milosevic, who has called for more centralized party control over the country's affairs, draws his support from Yugoslavia's poorer southern

regions.

They fear that market-oriented reforms would end state subsidies for their loss-making industries and lead to massive layoffs.

Milosevic supporters suffered an initial setback at Monday's meeting, which in a show of hands overwhelmingly voted down a proposal to air calls for Suvar's resignation before the party chief's speech.

Suvar called for more "political pluralism which is conditional on the competition of ideas" as against "the dictatorship of the Communist Party."

Adm. Simic, the political chief of the armed forces, appealed to the meeting for party unity and indicated the army might take a more active role "in putting a stop to confrontations between the republics."

"What some describe as the battle for Yugoslavia will not be waged without the Yugoslav army," he said.

Report calls for changes in math education

By KARI BARLOW

Staff Writer

The quality of mathematics education in the United States has fallen sharply in the areas of teaching, curriculum and testing, according to a report released Thursday by the National Research Council, a branch of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

The report, "Everybody Counts," is a product of a three-year study conducted by 70 teachers, school administrators, parents and executives on mathematical education from kindergarten to graduate school, said Marcia Sward, executive director of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board.

"What we feel is needed is a curriculum that is more strongly related to the real world, so they (students) can experiment with the kinds of thinking they'll need as adults," she said.

"The way that mathematics is taught is almost exclusively by lecturing," Sward said. "Namely,

students are supposed to take notes and regurgitate what they hear. That's an ineffective way to teach mathematics."

Mathematics education should move away from passive learning and toward a more experimental method involving exploration and trial and error, she said.

Sward said the tests now used in the school system also need to be changed. "We need to move into a setting where students are working on a problem that will involve a number of techniques," she said.

A shortage of qualified teachers is another part of the problem. "There are many school districts that are unable to get certified teachers," Sward said.

Mathematics education in North Carolina compares favorably to other states in the South, said Robert Jones, director of the mathematics division of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

"This report is right on target. The whole nation is going to be less competitive because our work force

does not have the appropriate skills that are required in this technological world," Jones said.

"From the teacher's standpoint the weak link is at the elementary level. We have to involve the parents more," Jones said. Students are often labeled slow-learners in elementary school and do not receive access to several kinds of mathematics, he said.

The report proposed that students eventually be required to take a math course every year of school. However, Jones said the state should not put that requirement into any kind of legislation. Instead it should try to sell the idea to the school districts as a valuable policy.

"I think as we raise public awareness of the problem it will generate interest and concern," he said. "We all need a little algebra. Basic mathematics is very important."

"We've got too many people coming out of schools with minimal skills who need massive retraining," he

Reagan

Not all of Reagan's appointments were poor, and he deserves credit for his better choices, Smith said.

"I think his most favorable evaluators will give him credit for appointing some good people and letting them do their jobs. He knew his limits," he said. "He will always be remembered as the Great Communicator, even if his administrative skills are questioned."

The mood in Washington was one of great relief to see Reagan leave, not because he was disliked but because there was constant tension

that his administrative style was eventually going to lead to disaster, Leuchtenburg said.

"Everybody was wondering when his luck was going to run out," Smith said.

Reagan's major accomplishments include the improved relations between the United States and Soviet Union and his foreign policy achievements in Western Europe.

"I think he'll be remembered most of all for the easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union," Smith said.

Reagan's image in the Soviet Union has changed significantly since he first took office, mainly because he reversed his opinion of the Soviet people, said Boris Malakhov, first

President escapes subpoena in North's Iran-Contra trial

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Oliver North's Iran-Contra trial will begin Tuesday with President Bush free of a subpoena seeking his testimony but with former President Reagan still "subject to call," the judge in the case said Monday.

Portions of Reagan's diary also might be required as evidence, U.S. District Judge Gerhard Gesell ruled. However, he rejected North's subpoena seeking Bush's testimony in the trial in which North faces 12 criminal charges.

When North, who was indicted last March, walks into the U.S. courthouse near the foot of Capitol Hill, he will become the first figure in the Iran-Contra affair to stand trial.

Many of the same witnesses who testified in the nationally televised congressional hearings two years ago are expected to be called by the prosecutors, including former Attorney General Edwin Meese III and North's secretary, Fawn Hall.

Alaskan cold snap continues

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Temperatures fell as low as 64 degrees below zero again Monday but Alaska's record cold eased in some areas as a mass of frigid air from above the Arctic Circle headed toward the lower 48 states.

Movement of the huge cold air mass that has covered Alaska for about two weeks generated high wind that produced extremely low wind chill factors in southern and south-central Alaska.

And because of the wind, the Coast Guard on Monday closed the continent's northernmost ice-free port, Valdez Harbor, to oil tanker traffic and said it may remain closed for two days.

Jackson plans telethon

MOSCOW — The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Monday he met with

News in Brief

an adviser to President Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials in an attempt to organize a superpower telethon to aid victims of Armenia's earthquake.

Jackson arrived in the Soviet Union on Sunday to promote his plan for the fund-raising broadcast and also to gauge political and economic reforms made under Gorbachev, Soviet leader since March 1985.

He told reporters he hoped the Armenia benefit telethon would raise money to help buy prefabricated housing for some of the 500,000 people left homeless by the Dec. 7 quake that killed 25,000 people.

Jackson declined to reveal details of his plans for the telethon, saying he preferred to have everything organized first. But his spokesman, Eric Easter, said organizers had been in touch with entertainers Cher, Bill Cosby, B.B. King, Eddie Murphy and others.

Product line divestment

NEW YORK — Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. (KKR) said Monday it agreed to divest some duplicate product lines it would acquire in its \$24.53 billion buyout of RJR Nabisco Inc. under a tentative agreement with the staff of the Federal Trade Commission.

The buyout firm said either RJR Nabisco or Beatrice Co., another consumer products firm owned by KKR, would sell some of their assets and businesses after the merger.

Atlanta-based RJR Nabisco accepted KKR's \$109-a-share offer last November over a slightly higher management-led bid. The holding company, RJR Holdings Corp., has since been formed for the takeover.

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that his administrative style was eventually going to lead to disaster, Leuchtenburg said. "Everybody was wondering when his luck was going to run out," Smith said. Reagan's major accomplishments include the improved relations between the United States and Soviet Union and his foreign policy achievements in Western Europe. "I think he'll be remembered most of all for the easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union," Smith said. Reagan's image in the Soviet Union has changed significantly since he first took office, mainly because he reversed his opinion of the Soviet people, said Boris Malakhov, first

secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Washington. "His very anti-Soviet stance when he first took office, calling us the empire of evil, insulted the feelings of the Soviet people," Malakhov said. British public and official opinions may be the most positive anywhere in the world. "Most of us, including Prime Minister (Margaret) Thatcher, believe history will prove him to be one of the greatest presidents in history," said Michael Price, press secretary for the British Embassy in Washington. "The unparalleled economic expansion and the fact that the world is a safer place to live are direct results of the president's policies. He has

made the American dream possible for the entire world," Price said. French opinion has not been as unconditionally positive. "The original French perception was not very good," said Jerome Marchand, a French foreign correspondent. The French slowly began to accept Reagan, and he became very popular with the French people and most of the government by the beginning of his second term, he said. But French historians are often very critical and probably will not be very kind to Reagan, Marchand said. The majority of the French press is still hesitant to give Reagan the benefit of the doubt and is almost as critical as the French Communist party, which considers him the worst president ever. "The attacks on Reagan in the French press were very much like those in America on Dan Quayle, treating him like a complete idiot," he said.

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