

World and Nation

Motion to confront Communist rule

From Associated Press reports
BERLIN — An East German political party said Wednesday it would ask Parliament this week to abolish the Communists' 40-year lock on power, the first direct challenge to the Communist rule. And it predicted an easy victory.

Communist officials spurned Bonn's offer of an economic bailout, saying they prefer their own recovery course and hinting at reforms to encourage free-enterprise investments.

In West Berlin, hundreds gathered at the enormous Brandenburg Gate, hoping the East Germans would break through the Berlin Wall in front of the 200-year-old "symbol of unity." A West German TV network said as many as 7,000 East German refugees were expected to return to their communist homeland.

The East German constitution's guarantee of a "leading role" for the Communist Party will be challenged at Friday's sitting of the increasingly independent-minded Parliament, said Manfred Gerlach, head of the Liberal Democratic Party.

It was unclear whether a vote on the constitutional change would come the same day.

"I figure it will pass with a large

majority," Gerlach told West Germany's ARD radio network. His party, once closely allied with the Communists, has been at the forefront of calls for change in East Germany.

The new speaker of Parliament, non-Communist Guenther Maleuda, on Tuesday urged a constitutional change to allow a true multiparty government.

The East German constitution specifies that constitutional changes must be approved by a majority of the lawmakers in the 500-member Parliament, or People's Chamber.

Despite Gerlach's prediction, a majority of the chamber is still believed to be made up of orthodox members likely to reject the measure.

Parliament, however, has shown increasing signs of independence, engaging in once-unthinkable debates and casting 26 "no" votes against naming the new Communist Party chief Egon Krenz as president on Oct. 24.

Gerlach for weeks has urged the Communists to abandon their "leading role," but Friday's motion will be the first direct challenge.

Gerlach also predicted free elections as early as next year and said the Communists would fail to win a majority. Krenz has promised free elections but has not set a date.

Krenz's leadership on Wednesday weighed the latest pledge of economic aid from Bonn, offered in exchange for sweeping political and economic reforms.

West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann on Tuesday announced the offer of massive economic aid, which he likened to the U.S. Marshall Plan that helped rebuild Western Europe after the Nazi defeat in World War II.

There was no formal government response from East Germany to Haussmann's offer, but officials have made it clear they do not favor a full free-market system.

The Communist-aligned National Democratic Party outlined measures to attract private investment.

Deputy Finance Minister Martin Maassen called for tax breaks for East Germans who want to privately produce goods and services to fill the nation's vast consumer void.

East Germany's state-run newspapers printed doubtful comments on the prospects for accepting handouts, declaring no interest in a "sellout" of their socialist state.

Economist Karl-Heinz Arnold told the Communist Party newspaper Berliner Zeitung that East Germany could

manage its own recovery, an indication that Bonn's offer may be rejected.

The government-run Bauern-Echo newspaper, geared toward East Germany's farmers, warned against too much influence from West Germany.

"Yes to unrestricted travel. No to an East German sellout," the newspaper said. It deemed the two German states "politically and economically too diverse."

West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper cautioned against excessive West German involvement in East German affairs.

"East Germany needs no patronage," Momper said in West Berlin.

In Washington, a White House spokesman said the United States has "no apologies" for extolling capitalism as a remedy for Eastern Europe's economic woes. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev had warned the West against gloating about the demise of socialism or attempting to "export capitalism."

"We certainly are proud of the capitalist system and the rewards that it has offered," Marlin Fitzwater said. "We hold it up as an example to all, but we have not tried to dictate it to any of these countries."

American, Israeli leaders to continue talks on PLO

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir took his appeal against a PLO role in Middle East talks to President Bush on Wednesday after making "some progress" in a two-hour session with Secretary of State James Baker.

Standing alongside Shamir in the marble-columned State Department lobby, Baker agreed with the Israeli leader's description of their session. But Baker and Shamir provided no details before heading for the White House.

Their brief remarks left no doubt that final agreement on setting up talks between Israel and Palestinian Arabs was still not in hand.

"I think we will continue the discussions," Shamir said. "I think we made some progress."

Live from inside the heart

NEW ORLEANS — Doctors exploring the body with tiny ultrasound probes say they have embarked on "a fantastic voyage," getting an inside view of the maze of blood vessels and the heart itself.

In scientific presentations Wednesday, doctors described experimental use of the devices to make live cross-sectional pictures that help them see problems and guide tools to fix them.

"It's a fantastic voyage," Dr. Natesa Pandian said. "It's almost like you are traveling inside the blood vessels and looking around."

Several other doctors working with the new technique also likened it to the exploits in "Fantastic Voyage," a 1966 movie starring Raquel Welch in which miniaturized doctors traveled through their patient's bloodstream.

Policeman's trial begins

MIAMI — A policeman who fatally shot a black motorcyclist acted recklessly and in defiance of police regulations, prosecutors said Wednesday in the opening of the trial into two deaths that touched off racial violence in January.

Defense attorneys said their client shot in self-defense.

William Lozano, 31, faces two manslaughter counts in the slayings of the driver, Clement Lloyd, 23, and his passenger, Allan Blanchard,

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24, who died of injuries suffered when the motorcycle crashed after the shooting.

Assistant State Attorney Don Horn told the racially mixed jury that Lozano violated police regulations when he stepped into the street and fired at Lloyd.

"This shooting was not justified," Horn said. "At the time Lozano fired the shot, he was in no danger of being struck by the motorcycle."

Testimony will show, he said, that Lozano fired at the motorcycle as it was about to pass him, not hit him.

Bush backs pay raise

WASHINGTON — President Bush will back a plan to raise salaries for members of Congress and other top governmental officials by more than a third while tightening ethics rules, the Speaker of the House said Wednesday.

Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., told reporters the agreement with the administration had been reached and a statement from the president would be released. White House officials confirmed the statements privately in advance of the statement.

With the president's endorsement, House leaders formally unveiled their plan and scheduled a vote Thursday.

The package would raise salaries from \$89,500 to almost \$125,000 in just more than 13 months and impose new ethics rules on the amount and type of members' outside income.

Capital-gains cut fails

WASHINGTON — Republican efforts to cut capital-gains taxes this year ended Wednesday when the Senate refused for a second time to choke off a Democratic filibuster against the proposal.

A 51-47 vote in favor of limiting debate was nine votes short of the 60 required to end the filibuster. The vote was the same as on Tuesday, with the same six Democrats joining all 45 Republicans in supporting the limitation on debate.

"One day we will have 60 votes to pass the capital-gains tax," said Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., chief advocate of the reduction.

Palestinians observe 'independence day'

From Associated Press reports
MAZRAA ASHARKIYA, Occupied West Bank — Palestinians set off fireworks, danced, flew outlawed flags and launched balloons Wednesday, the first anniversary of the PLO declaration of their independence.

Many celebrations in the occupied lands were peaceful, but Arab reports said at least 18 Palestinians were wounded or beaten by soldiers reacting to stone-throwing attacks. An Israeli man was reported injured in a stoning incident.

Soldiers curtailed many festivities by imposing round-the-clock curfews that confined nearly 500,000 Palestinians to their homes and banned travel to and from the Gaza Strip for a second consecutive day.

The celebrations marked the anniversary of the declaration of an independent Palestinian state on Nov. 15, 1988, during a meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers. The council acts as the legislature of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Young Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza gave up stone-throwing for the day and Israeli soldiers also used restraint, keeping away from dozens of marches and rallies like those held in this hilltop town of 3,500 people 20 miles north of Jerusalem.

Several Israeli newspapers said Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a closed parliament committee session he had information that leaders of the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising had ordered increased use of firearms to attack soldiers.

Palestinians shot a soldier to death Monday in Gaza, but the PLO has directed that firearms not be used. The most common weapons are stones and firebombs.

Forty-one Israelis, including eight soldiers, have been killed since the uprising began Dec. 8, 1987. Israeli soldiers or civilians have killed at least 615 Palestinians.

Whatever the PLO orders, there was a call to arms during a rally in Mazraa Asharkiya.

"We congratulate our people today, and we promise you to continue our struggle! With the gun we will achieve our independence; only with the gun!" a young man in a "popular army" khaki uniform, masked with an Arab head scarf, shouted through a megaphone.

He was applauded by about 1,000 men and women in the main square and on rooftops holding balloons and Palestinian flags, which Israel outlawed.

Many adults clapped rhythmically and children sang the Palestinian anthem "Biladi, Biladi," Arabic for "My Country, My Country."

From the crowd came chants of "Don't be afraid, don't be afraid, the stone will become a Kalashnikov," a Soviet-designed automatic rifle.

About 150 uniformed youths later marched through streets of the village, past houses adorned with photographs of PLO chief Yasser Arafat, and Palestinian guerrilla leaders Nayef Hawatme and George Habash.

Young men daubed "Let's burn the land under the feet of occupation" on

walls. Israeli soldiers manned a checkpoint outside Mazraa Asharkiya during the 90-minute rally, but did not intervene as an army helicopter clattered overhead.

Observances were held in many other towns, including Nablus, the largest in the West Bank. Dozens of masked youths defied an army curfew in Nablus by lighting torches and shouting, "With blood and soul, we will redeem Palestine!"

Balloons in the red, green, white and black of the Palestinian flag hovered over rooftops. A huge red balloon attached to a flag was emblazoned with, "The independent Palestinian state lives on."

At Jebel Mukhaber village in the Jerusalem district, children holding balloons marched to a drum beat on a main street until riot police dispersed them.

Youths in Yatta, near Hebron, danced the Arabic "debka," beat drums and waved Palestinian flags to the applause of children who watched.

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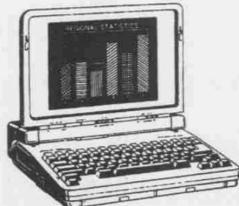


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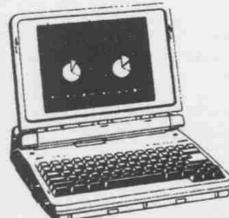


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