

Military Takes Over After Syrian Coup

DAMASCUS, Syria—Syria's new military overlords who seized power in a bloodless coup Friday night, warned Saturday they would install a "national front" government unless the civilian faction of the long ruling Baathist Party sacks its leader, Salah Jadid, Arab political sources said.

The military coup leaders conferred Saturday to determine the form of the new government following the coup in which most of the country's civilian leaders were arrested.

Political sources said the coup led by Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Hafez al-Assad turned specifically on the issue of Jadid, who is now in al-Mazza prison. Assad and his chief supporter, Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mustaf Tlas had been ousted from their posts in a Baath Party congress by the civilian wing led by Jadid.

Damascus Saturday was almost normal following the coup. But Assad's military police ringed the radio station, newspaper buildings and the central post office and a

few machine guns were set up on military ministries. More army trucks were seen in the streets than normal, but otherwise life went on as usual.

The Syrian coup came amid the other Mideast developments:

—Beirut press reports said that Iraq, ruled by a Baath party wing opposed to that which ruled Syria, would undergo changes at the top level in both the military and civilian wings.

—In Cairo, President Anwar Sadat's government emerged from its "transition period" with a national mandate calling for a firm stance against Israel and a buildup on Egypt's military strength. The policy declaration was made in the closing session of a Congress of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party.

Assad and his supporters in the military wing of the ruling Baath party were reported delivering an ultimatum demanding "Jadid's ouster to Dr. Nouredin Atassi, who is still Syria's nominal president, prime minister and party secretary-general.

Atassi is under arrest in the French Hospital in Damascus, which he entered to have a cyst removed three days ago.

Assad sprang his coup at 2 p.m. Friday when he sent squads of military policemen against party headquarters.

60,000 Killed In Pakistan Disaster

DACCA, East Pakistan—As many as 60,000 persons were feared lost Saturday in the wake of a cyclone and tidal waves which battered offshore islands and coastal areas of East Pakistan. The government launched a massive relief operation.

Radio Pakistan placed the official death toll at 800 but said 50,000 may have died. All India Radio said the toll had risen to 60,000 and was expected to surpass that figure when communications were restored with devastated areas.

The East Pakistan government said it was the nation's worst disaster of the century, exceeding the death and destruction caused by the scores of other storms down through the years which have whipped across the Bay of Bengal and lashed unprotected lowlands in the area known as the Mouths of the Ganges.

The cyclone battered the area for six hours Friday, some of the tidal waves were 30 feet high.

A pilot who flew over the scene estimated 1 million persons in a 10,000-square-mile area were homeless. He said there were no signs of life in some previously populated areas. Some islands had simply disappeared.

Burger Suggests New Jury Reform

PHILADELPHIA—Chief Justice Warren E. Burger suggested curtailment of jury trials in civil cases Saturday as one way to accomplish a sorely needed streamlining of the judiciary.

Stressing he was not advocating any specific change but only making suggestions for bar and bench to consider, Burger said all automobile and personal injury cases might be removed from federal to state courts and tried without juries.

"Perhaps the time has come to ask whether automobile personal injury cases have any more place in the federal courts than overtime parking or speeding on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia," he said.

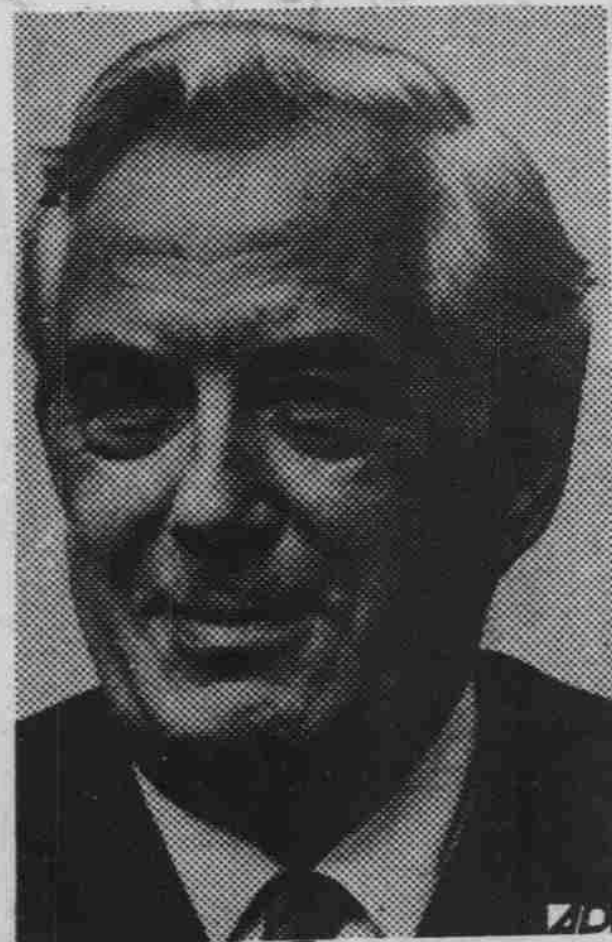
He spoke at a testimonial dinner honoring Pennsylvania Chief Justice John C. Bell, Jr., 78, a harsh critic of some U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Among his "few modest examples" of how the judicial system might be modernized, Burger suggested trying complex and lengthy cases with a judge and two lay experts, as is done in England. Lay experts in chemistry, physics or engineering, for example, could assist the judge and hasten a

"The mere fact that the prolonged trials so common in the United States are virtually unknown in England suggests we ought to at least look more closely at their experience," he said. Burger noted that while the constitution guarantees a jury trial in criminal cases, the supreme court recently ruled that although traditional, a jury of 12 members is not constitutionally required.

He recalled that the federal budget for the courts includes \$14 million for jury fees.

"Ponder a moment on the saving in dollars, saving in time and the reduced confusion, if we could cut that by 40 percent, allowing the full 12-member jury for criminal cases, and devote the saving of time, money and lawyers to better use," he said.



Warren E. Burger



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Workers Begin Voting On Terms

DETROIT—The 375,000 United Auto Workers who have been on strike against General Motors for 61 days began voting Saturday on a new contract which would put them on the same pay scale as junior executives.

Voting began at scattered locals around the country. The UAW said it expected to have the results by Friday, and would present them to GM the next day.

The workers in at least one plant—Local 544 in the Pittsburgh suburb of West Mifflin—voted Saturday to accept both the national and the local contracts, said John McCarrel, president of the local.

Both the production workers and skilled tradesmen must vote to accept the pact for it to be ratified.

Meanwhile, the UAW has scheduled resumption of contract talks with Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. for Nov. 23—the day when the GM contract would go into effect if it is ratified.

Earl Bramblett, GM's chief bargainer, said Friday the tentative pact would cost GM \$2.4 billion in wages alone over its three-year life. He said GM's UAW workers, who now make around \$10,000 per year, would be making between \$12,000 and \$13,000 by the end of the contract's final year.

That would put them in the same pay range as many junior executives.

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