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WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE

7 to 13 December 1989

BULGARIA

December 7 At a meeting in the Academy of Sciences, nine independent organizations joined together to found the Union of Democratic Forces in Bulgaria (UDF). The UDF later announced that it would campaign for political pluralism, a market economy, and observance of the rule of law in Bulgaria. Zhelyu Zhelev was elected as UDF Chairman and Petar Beron as Secretary. The nine organizations participating in the UDF are: the Club for Glasnost' and Democracy, Eco-Glasnost' the Independent Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Bulgaria, the Committee for Religious Rights, the Podkupa Independent Labor Federation, the Club for the Illegally Repressed after 1945, the Independent Students' Union, the Bulgarian Workers' Social Democratic Party (Unified), and the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Union. By December 18 a further ten groups had said that they would join the UDF.

A Committee for National Reconciliation was founded in Sofia to combat racial and religious discrimination and promote equal civil rights in Bulgaria. Its founders included writer Sadey Salin and prominent dissidents Petar Beron, Iskra Panova, Deyan Kyurekov, and Antonina Zhelyazkova.

Two National Assembly commissions published recommendations for legal reform, including repealing or amending articles in the Penal Code on state secrecy and 'antisocialist' activity and extending an amnesty to those convicted under them.

Miners at the Pirin mine near Sofia staged a rally to press claims for better pay, food, and working conditions.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

In the weekly *Literatures Front*, the Union of Bulgarian Writers published an appeal by 107 of its members for free elections and a market economy.

December 8

A previously unannounced BCP CC plenum made further changes in the party leadership. Four full and two candidate members of the Politburo were released--Puncho Kubadiniski, Ivan Pavev, Necho Japazov, Yordan Yotov, Grigor Stoichkov, and Georgi Yordanov. Aleksander Liliev, purged in 1963 by Todor Zhivkov, was reinstated as a Politburo member and CC Secretary; Finance Minister Balcho Balchev was also elected full Politburo member. Two regional BCP officials--Ivan Ivazov from Stara Zagora and Petko Danov from Varna--were elected candidate Politburo members; Dimo Ganchev from Varna was appointed CC Secretary.

The plenum expelled 28 people from the party CC, including Todor Zhivkov and former Politburo member Ognyan Boykov. Aleksander Liliev was re-elected to the BCP CC. The plenum revoked the vote of thanks to Todor Zhivkov for his services as state and party leader included in the resolution of the November 10 BCP CC plenum.

The daily *Trud* published a letter from some 70 voters in Sofia's Dimitroveski ward demanding that Todor Zhivkov be replaced as their parliament deputy.

Leaders of 15 of the constituent unions grouped in the formerly official Bulgarian Trade Unions (BTU) issued a declaration supporting political and economic reform in Bulgaria and criticizing the BTU leadership for making only "extremely inadequate and cosmetic changes" in the organization.

Petar Mladenov wrote to Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Karamanlis asking Greece to help Bulgaria achieve closer cooperation with the European Community.

Some 30 writers founded the Provincial Union of Bulgarian Writers at a meeting in Gabrovo (central Bulgaria).

December 9

Between 2,000 and 3,000 people joined a pro-democracy march in Sofia that surrounded the National Assembly building and called for free elections, a new president, and an end to the BCP's leading role. Government Spokesman Filip

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

Bobov later criticized some of the marchers' slogans as 'extremist' in a statement on Bulgarian Television.

Pro-democracy rallies were held in Kyustendil in western Bulgaria and in Burgas and Rousse in eastern Bulgaria. In Pleven (north Bulgaria) the two-week-old local branch of the Club for Glasnost' and Democracy held its first public meeting.

Georgi Gulgurov was elected First Secretary of the Sofia City BCP Committee in place of Ivan Panov, who was released from the Politburo on December 8.

The official news agency BTA set up a press service Courier which will issue information and a regular bulletin on independent political groups and activities in Bulgaria.

Interior Minister Georgi Tosev signed an agreement with Italy on cooperation in fighting drug trafficking.

December 10

Some 50,000 to 100,000 people joined a pro-democracy demonstration in Sofia organized by the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF). UDF Chairman Zhelyu Zhelev was cheered as he called for round-table talks between the BCP and the opposition. A rally at the end of the march passed a resolution calling for an end to the BCP's leading role and disbanding of party cells in workplaces, the police, the military, the courts, and the Chief Prosecutor's Office. The resolution also called for the resignation of the entire BCP CC, along with the heads of all CC departments and all regional and municipal party committees, and for a comprehensive open audit of the BCP's and other public organizations' finances. The march called on the National Assembly to set up a special commission to look into inter-ethnic tension.

More than 3,000 ethnic Turks and Pomaks joined the UDF demonstration in Sofia. They carried banners and placards calling for an end to the national assimilation policy and demanding religious and cultural rights.

Lalyu Dimitrov resigned as Chairman of the Union of Bulgarian Journalists at a session of the union's Governing Board in Sofia. The meeting called a special congress of the union in January 1990.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1988

December 11 At the start of a three-day NCP CC plenum, party leader Peter Mladenov pledged to abolish constitutional guarantees of the leading role of the NCP and hold free elections by June 1990. He said a new constitution would be adopted in 1990, together with a new electoral law. Mladenov outlined an economic austerity program, which, he said, would be worked out in detail and presented to the National Assembly in January. He also revealed previously secret information on the size of Bulgaria's foreign debt and trade and budget deficits.

A letter from 51-year-old party veteran Tecla Dragoycheva denouncing Todor Zhivkov as a dictator and a corrupt system, was read to the NCP CC plenum.

The GDF held silent late morning and early evening candlelight vigils in September 9 Square in front of the NCP CC building. GDF Secretary Peter Beron said the vigils, attended by some 31,000 people, were to show the NCP that the public was monitoring its work.

A Sofia municipal court approved the registration application of the independent environmental group 'Eco-Glasnost', the first of Bulgaria's independent associations to win legal recognition.

The Journalists' Union weekly Fogled published an interview with Homen Vodenicharov, chairman of the Independent Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Bulgaria.

The Foreign Ministry's Committee on Religious Affairs announced it had set up a working group to prepare amendments to the law on religious denominations. It said the group would collaborate with the Holy Synod, the Chief Mufti's Office, the Committee for Human Rights, and other groups in revising Bulgaria's religious laws.

December 12 In his speech to the NCP CC plenum, Politburo member Aleksander Lilov called for dialogue between the NCP and all independent groups that supported "perestroika, glasnost, democratization, and defense of the environment."

Two further silent candlelight vigils were held outside the NCP CC building in central Sofia. Both

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1988

lasted approximately an hour. According to the Associated Press news agency, the second attracted some 10,000 people.

A Committee for the Defense of Equal Rights for Ethnic Turks was established. It called for the abolition of the national assimilation policy and the release of political prisoners. It also urged that the formerly bilingual newspaper *Nova Svetlina* be allowed to resume publishing in Turkish and become a medium of reconciliation.

In an interview with Radio Sofia, Eco-Glasnost Chairman Petar Klabakov described Bulgaria's ecological situation as "catastrophic," saying that all the country's agricultural produce was contaminated and all its rivers were polluted.

December 12 On the last day of its plenum, the BCP CC voted to expel Todor Zhivkov, his son Vladimir Zhivkov, and former Politburo member and CC Secretary Milko Balev from the BCP. Radio Sofia announced that the decision on the expulsions had been unanimous.

CC Secretary Andrey Lukanov said that in the coming weeks, the CC would closely examine the records and credentials of party officials at all levels. He also gave details of the party and state commission the plenum set up to investigate corruption and abuse of power under Todor Zhivkov.

Deputy Prime Minister Stoyan Mitaylov warned the plenum that the new party leadership was incompetent and would be unable to save the socialist system in Bulgaria.

The BCP CC plenum closed with a short speech by Kludanov and adoption of a resolution setting priorities for political and economic reform. The resolution called for far-reaching democratization within the party and specified that an extraordinary congress would be held on 13 March 1989.

The BCP CC plenum instructed the Politburo to set up a party commission to review the situation of ethnic and religious minorities in Bulgaria. It also decided on the full rehabilitation of former leader Traycho Kostov, executed after a show trial in 1949 for "nationalistic errors" and espionage.

Chairman of the Trade Unions Petar Dyulgerov asked to be relieved of his post as candidate member of

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1983

the Politburo. Dzulgerov said that Politburo membership had become incompatible with his work as trade union chief.

Between 100,000 and 200,000 people demonstrated in central Sofia in a show of support for the new BCP leadership. The rally was addressed by Petar Mladenov, who repeated his pledge to abolish constitutional guarantees of the leading role of the party. Other speakers included Defense Minister Dobri Duharov, actor Stefan Danailov, and Olympic gold-medallist Tanya Bogdanilova.

Some 15,000 people attended a rally in central Sofia organized by the Bulgarian Agrarian Union (BZU). Speakers demanded land reform, the privatization of agriculture, and the rebranding of the long-suppressed Agrarian Youth Union. Speakers included BZU members Pava Genov, Gino V. Dinev, and Asen Karbanski and writer Rodny Kalin.

In an interview with the daily Trud, Chief Mufti Mehdi Gendzhev said the Islamic religion had been repressed, mosques closed, and believers harassed during Todor Zhivkov's dictatorship. Until four weeks ago, Gendzhev had been saying the exact opposite to both the media and foreign dignitaries.

The Club for Liberty and Democracy held a rally in Shumen in northeast Bulgaria.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

December 7 Opposition leader Vaclav Havel said that he would accept the state presidency if that was the only way out of the crisis.

A Civic Forum delegation held talks in Prague with Soviet Embassy officials about the opposition's activities and aims, as well as its view of Czechoslovak-Soviet relations.

Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec resigned, and his First Deputy Prime Minister Marian Calva was named to form a new Federal Government.

The CPCS Presidium expelled former Secretary General Milos Jakeš as well as former Prague Municipal CP First Secretary Kiroslav Stepan from the party.

December 8 The Slovak Ministry of Internal Affairs registered a new independent student organization called the "Slovak University Union".

Following the resignation of the entire Presidium and Secretariat of Slovakia's Freedom Party, the newly elected Presidium called an emergency congress for 13 January 1990.

The Czechoslovak Government formally proposed to the USSR the opening "in the shortest possible time" of bilateral talks about withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jaromir Johanes said he had proposed the recall of 21 Czechoslovak ambassadors as part of a move to improve and broaden the spectrum of foreign service professionals not affiliated to any party.

The 15-member Slovak Republic government resigned and former Slovak Justice Minister Milan Cic was asked to form a new government.

December 9 Czechoslovak Radio offered jobs to its former employees who quit or were forced to leave the Radio after August 1989 for political reasons.

Czechoslovak Interior Minister Frantisek Pinc apologized for police violence against

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1983

demonstrators in Prague on November 17 and promised that "nothing like this will be repeated in the future".

December 10

President Gustav Husak swore in a new Federal Government with a non-Communist majority, headed by a Communist Marian Calta, and then resigned from office. Under the Constitution, the Federal Assembly (parliament) must elect a new President within two weeks.

Mass rallies organized by the Civic Forum marking the International Human Rights Day took place in Prague and other cities in Czechoslovakia.

Some 108,000 Slovaks and Czechs crossed the border to Austria to attend a rally marking International Human Rights Day. It was jointly organized by Slovakia's Public Against Violence movement and the Hainburg (Austria) town council.

CPCZ Secretary General Karel Urbasak said the emergency party congress scheduled for December 20-21 should break with the ideology, practice, and methods of Stalinism. He added that the party is renouncing its political monopoly and sees its place in the "new democratic social structure."

Austrian Railways began providing a 35% discount in regular fares to Czechoslovak citizens for direct trips between Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The Beta Shoe enterprise, one of Czechoslovakia's most successful businesses which moved to Canada after the 1948 communist takeover, offered to modernize Czechoslovak shoe factories.

Delegates of the Slovak Party of Revival (Strana Slovesakej Obrody) decided to change the party's name to Slovak Democratic Party, the name it had prior to 1948.

December 11

A lawsuit was filed against former CPCZ Presidium member Vasil Bilak over his role in the Soviet-led 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovak troops joined the week-old effort to remove the barbed wire along the Czechoslovak-Austrian border.

The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences appealed to Czechoslovak scientists living abroad to consider helping Czechoslovak science once more become "a

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

significant partner" in the international community, and offered the scientists who left the country legal help in gaining civil and scientific rehabilitation in Czechoslovakia.

December 12 A new Slovak Republic Government, headed by Communist Milan Čič, was named. Although two positions (Interior Minister and Minister of Health and Social Affairs) are yet to be filled, the new government will have a non-communist majority.

Non-affiliated Stanislav Ekštal was elected chairman of the Federal Assembly. Josef Bartoniček, the head of the People's Party was elected chairman of the House of the People, and Communist Anton Blazek the chairman of the House of Nations.

December 13 Opposition leaders agreed with the Communists and other parties that a new President would be elected before the end of January 1990 by the Federal Assembly and that the person chosen must be a Czech (rather than Slovak) who is not affiliated to any political party.

Special Interior Ministry telephone facilities in Prague, so-called "rooms of special assignment," were put under the control of the Directorate of Prague's Telecommunications.

New Czechoslovak Finance Minister Václav Klaus said the current draft of the 1990 federal budget, taken over from the old government, was not acceptable because it did not meet the new government's concept of a balanced budget that is both stabilizing and anti-inflationary.

The Federal Assembly began to abolish laws aimed at suppressing political dissent, such as the law against unauthorized protests. It was announced that Czechoslovakia would faithfully adhere to all its international human rights commitments, and to this end, the legal code would undergo a thorough overhaul.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

December 7 The first session of the round-table talks between the SED, other parties, and the democratic opposition was held. Participants agreed that free and democratic elections should be held on May 8 next year. They also decided to begin drawing up a new constitution to be submitted for approval in a public referendum. The round-table also urged the government to abolish the Office for National Security.

A special position paper issued by the SED in advance of the extraordinary party congress said that the communist party is "responsible for the deepest crisis in the history of the SED." It called for a radical break with "the Stalinist structures of the SED."

Appearing on television, Prime Minister Hans Modrow urged people to be calm and not to use violence in the country's continuing political crisis.

Head of the office for national security Wolfgang Schwanitz said that public anger at official corruption was threatening the lives of his staff. He told reporters that angry people had stormed and occupied security offices in Dresden, Cottbus, Rostock, and Suhl.

East Germany asked West Berlin to extradite former foreign-trade official Alexander Schalk Goloskowski.

December 8 A extraordinary SED congress convened in East Berlin's Dynamo Sports Center. Speaking to the 3,700 delegates, lawyer Gregor Gysi said that the party had to undergo a radical transformation to a "democratic socialist" party to enforce a break with the past. He proposed to reshape the party's role in society, disbanding the workers' militia and party organizations in the workplace. He said that the party would claim to be no more than one of many political forces competing for votes in free and democratic elections scheduled for May.

It was announced that four former senior SED officials were arrested on charges of corruption. They were Erich Mielke, Guenther Kleiber, Werner Krolkowski, and Willi Stoph. Erich Honecker was spared arrest because of the critical state of his

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

health. Hermann Asen was charged as well, but could not be taken into custody as he was in Moscow for an eye operation.

Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer said that the GDR is ready to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. Fischer met with two East German Jewish leaders and told them that the GDR wanted to make a constructive contribution to a Middle East settlement that was fair to all sides.

Acting head of state Manfred Gerlach said he was convinced the Soviet Union will withdraw its forces from East Germany after a successful conclusion of conventional arms talks between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in Vienna.

The Soviet Embassy in East Berlin denied a report in the Washington Post quoting US military officials as saying some Soviet military units in the GDR had been placed on alert to safeguard Soviet bases and weapons depots.

December 9 The extraordinary SED congress elected Gregor Gysi as the new party chairman. The congress also elected Hans Modrow, Wolfgang Berghofer, and Wolfgang Pöhl as his deputies. The congress agreed to reconvene in a week to discuss a new party platform and a new name. In a statement passed by a majority of the delegates, the congress apologized to East Germans for the party leadership's having led the country into the present crisis. It further said that the congress constituted a complete break with the Stalinist past.

Prime Minister Hans Modrow set up a commission to study an overhaul of the economy.

The National Executive Committee of the Federation of Trade Unions (FDGB) resigned. A working committee was formed to manage the FDGB's affairs until an extraordinary FDGB congress scheduled from January 21 to February 3. The committee is headed by Werner Papirowski.

December 10 The new SED leader Gregor Gysi said that he would consider it a good showing if the party got a 25% share of the votes in next May's planned free elections. He said the party's problems are not over with the party congress. He said winning people's trust will be a long process, and the party will need "very good arguments."

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said that the Soviet Union will see to it "with the utmost resoluteeness" that "no harm" comes to the GDR. In a speech to a CPSU plenum, he said that "it is necessary to proceed from the postwar realities--the existence of two sovereign German states. He said that some Western countries were trying to influence the processes now underway in Eastern Europe, but that Moscow was doing everything to prevent and neutralize such attempts--especially with regard to East Germany.

ADN reported that Gorbachev called Gysi on the telephone to congratulate him on his election as SED Chairman. Gorbachev said the CPSU pays "extraordinary attention" to its relations with the GDR. He said that East German sovereignty is essential for European stability.

Tens of thousands of people throughout the GDR held pro-reform demonstrations.

December 11 Representatives of the four powers in Berlin--the United States, Britain, France, and the Soviet Union--met to discuss the future of the divided city. Soviet ambassador to the GDR Vyacheslav Kochnevsky said that the Soviet Union emphasized to the other three powers the need to respect "the political and territorial reality of Europe."

Some 150,000 East Germans demonstrated in Leipzig. Some protesters called for German unity while others booed and shouted them down.

New Forum said that it will contest national elections expected to be held May 6. It will seek mandates in representative bodies, including the Volkskammer.

ADN reported that Soviet troops have been called into the port town Rostock to help secure supplies and to clear backlogs. East German police and troops have been deployed since the emigration crisis began to result in severe manpower shortages.

ADN said that the GDR had stopped shipping arms to Ethiopia.

December 12 US Secretary of State James Baker held talks in Potsdam with Prime Minister Hans Modrow. The talks concerned international issues, relations between the two German states, and economic aid. Baker

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

later told journalists he visited East Germany to let it know that the US supports the reforms there. He said he and Modrow discussed the importance of advancing reforms in a peaceful and stable manner and that this was the "political signal" he wanted to send by his presence. Baker also met with officials from the Evangelical Church.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher held talks in East Berlin with the spokesman of the Democratic Awakening group, Pastor Rainer Eppmanns.

SED Chairman Gregor Gysi rejected German reunification and said that Europe's present borders must be maintained in order to ensure stability.

TASS said that Western leaders, especially those of France and Britain, were worried that a reunification of Germany could destabilize Europe. It further said that the December 11 four-power meeting in Berlin should be seen as a positive step toward stabilizing the constructive development of relations between West and East Germany.

Democratic Awakening called for Hans Modrow and his entire cabinet to step down.

At a press conference Gregor Gysi said that SED membership had fallen to 1,700,000 from 2,800,000 in the last few weeks. On December 9, a SED spokesman had said there were 1,800,000 party members.

New Forum said it wants charges brought against former state and party head Egon Krenz in connection with the alleged destruction of sensitive security papers.

The leadership of the East German Sports Federation resigned in response to calls for far-reaching program and personnel changes.

December 13 In an interview on East German television, West German President Richard von Weizsäcker urged all Germans to stay calm so that the freedom won through the peaceful revolution could be preserved. He said that people should not rush the question of German reunification. He said it was important to fill the new freedom in the GDR with life and later to find ways in which the Germans could live together in the future.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

Klaus Modrow and West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper agreed to set up a commission to solve practical problems such as traffic, tourism, crime, and ecology. Modrow and Momper also agreed to continue talks in West Berlin in January. Modrow's visit will be the first official visit by an East German head of government to West Berlin.

West German Minister of the Environment Klaus Toppfer said that Bonn will contribute nearly DM 1,300,000 to projects to clean up the environment in the GDR. The money is to be matched by an even larger sum in East German marks to go toward 17 projects.

West Germany announced that it will give millions of marks worth of medical supplies to East German hospitals and other health institutions.

East Berlin Mayor Eberhard Krack said there are serious manpower shortages in the city's industry, healthcare, and service sectors because of emigration to the West. He said that more than 18,000 of East Berlin's 1,308,000 inhabitants resettled in the FRG in 1989.

West German SPD Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel met with SPD leaders in East Berlin. Vogel agreed to set up a contacts committee between the two parties, and to offer election campaign help, office supplies, and experts on the economy and the environment.

West Germany Republican Party said that it intended to form a party in the GDR and to contest free elections there in May.

East Berlin's police chief Friedhelm Reusch resigned. He was heavily criticized for sanctioning police violence against demonstrators during the country's 40th anniversary celebrations in October.

The Soviet magazine Sputnik returned to East German newsstands with a digest of articles forbidden by the GDR's former leadership in November 1989.

Leipzig opposition groups proposed to hold a silent, candlelight demonstration in Leipzig next Monday night for the victims of Stalinism.

Erich Monecker was stripped of his honorary East Berlin citizenship.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

SUMMARY

December 7 Hungarian National Bank's Chairman Ferenc Mészáros denied an AFP report about the breakdown of negotiations between Hungary and the IMF. He announced that the first phase of negotiations had ended and urged the National Assembly to pass the "hard" 1990 state budget.

Council of Ministers' spokesman disclosed that 50 deficit-ridden state enterprises will be reorganized or closed in the near future. These enterprises have an accumulated debt of 100 billion forint.

Trade Minister Tamás Beck left for Israel to sign a new trade agreement between the two countries.

Soviet economist Alesei Koljakov warned Hungary about the possible limitation of Soviet energy deliveries during the winter.

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn visited Dublin, where he received Ireland's support for EC help for Hungary. He also had talks with Irish business leaders.

December 8 A three-day "national summit" started. The government wanted to consult with the political parties, social organizations and National Assembly committees about the new austerity 1990 budget. A government spokesman warned the political parties that if the National Assembly could not agree at its December 18 session on the new budget and push next year's deficit below 18 billion forint, the consequence would be the collapse of IMF-Hungarian negotiations.

A new "Hungarian Communist Party" was established. Organizers announced that so far about 100 people had applied to join.

December 9 On the second day of the "national summit" it was agreed that general elections should be held in the second half of March 1990, although the Social Democratic Party felt that March elections would be premature.

The results of the by-elections held at the 5th district in Budapest were declared invalid because

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

only 41% of the eligible voters turned out. Miklós Tamas Caspar, member of the Association of Free Democrats, received 45% of the votes cast.

János Berencs said at an HSNP meeting in Szekesfehervar that it is in the "national interest" to have a strong leftist party, because the policies of the National Assembly and the government would otherwise shift too much to the right.

NSP National President member Pal Vastagh announced that party Chairman Szabo Nyers would meet Mikhail Gorbachev in the near future.

- December 10 Prime Minister Miklós Nemes said at the end of the three-day "national summit" that failure by the National Assembly to approve the austerity budget for 1990 would have unforeseeable consequences. Discussing the economic outlook for 1990, he said inflation would reach 18-19.5%, unemployment 20,000-100,000, and ruble exports could fall by 20%. Hungarian Democratic Forum leader József Aszal said his party accepted that the government had no choice but to satisfy the conditions set by IMF.

- December 11 A coalition of environmental groups staged a demonstration in downtown Budapest protesting continuing imports of cars with high-pollution two-stroke engines from East Germany.

Long-time Chairman of the National Council of Agricultural Cooperatives (TOT), Istvan Szabo, resigned his post on the second day of the organization's 8th congress. Tamas Nagy, cooperative president in Gyul, a reformer, succeeded Szabo.

Lajos Fur, presidential candidate of the Hungarian Democratic Forum, announced his withdrawal from the race.

Arriving back in Budapest from a trip to Israel, where he met with Prime Minister Shamir, Minister of Trade Tamas Beck said Israel was ready to provide loans to Hungary.

- December 13 The Budapest Municipal Council rejected the government's proposal to raise rents and interest rates on apartment loans. The increases were an integral part of the proposed 1990 austerity budget.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn left for Brussels to take part in a 14-country meeting on providing aid to Poland and Hungary, and to meet the president of IMF.

Defense Minister Ferenc Karpati announced the withdrawal of Soviet Air Force units from the town of Debrecen. According to Karpati, the fighter units would leave next year for the Soviet Union and only helicopter units would remain.

National Assembly Deputy Janos Betei proposed that parliament authorize the government to start negotiations with the Soviet Union on total Soviet troop withdrawal from Hungary, to be completed before the end of 1990.

The Hungarian Ecumenical Council sent a message to Romanian religious leaders asking for their support of Laszlo Tokes, the persecuted clergyman from Timisoara.

December 13 Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth completed a one-day visit to London to discuss British economic aid to Hungary. He held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who said that if Hungary and the IMF managed to reach an agreement, British help would follow.

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn consulted with the foreign ministers of the OECD countries in Brussels about economic help for Hungary. Asked about the ideological limits of privatization in Hungary, Horn said this depended entirely on the amount of foreign capital inflow.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

POLAND

December 7 In the first half of a two-day session, the Sejm approved a request by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz to postpone presentation of the draft budget law for 1990 until December 28, at the latest. Balcerowicz noted that initial agreement with the IMF could come as early as December 15.

Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski addressed the Sejm on the question of German reunification. Skubiszewski said that the Kohl 10-point plan failed to state explicitly that a unified Germany would respect Poland's present Western border. "The border on the Oder and the Neisse," Skubiszewski said, was "part of the European order." Kohl's silence on the subject "introduced equivocation whereas the real legal situation was completely unequivocal." Poland did not question the right of the German nation to self-determination, Skubiszewski concluded, but this right would not be implemented in a "political void."

The Sejm rejected most of the revisions to a prison amnesty bill that had been proposed by the Senate. Debate between supporters and opponents of these revisions, which would have cut the terms of repeat offenders and prisoners convicted of certain violent crimes, was heated and cut across established political lines.

Three prisoners were killed in rioting at a prison in Szamalin Voivodship which began after the Sejm voted down extending the amnesty bill to cover repeat offenders. Another riot was reported at Golanow prison near Szczecin, with about 700 prisoners involved. Disturbances were also reported at Nowogard and Swinoujście prisons in the Szczecin area, as well as one in Cracow.

Police in Gdanek began a protest action to demand the right to form a trade union.

The government press office issued a statement on the disturbances in Nowe Huty saying that local residents ought to decide, through legally-accepted forms, the fate of the Lenin statue. "Vandalism and hoodliganism will not be tolerated." The regional Solidarity chapter in Cracow called for the removal of the Lenin statue in the interests of "security and order" in the city. Speaking in the

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

Sejm, OGP deputy Edward Nowak demanded the removal of the statue, which he said was viewed as a symbol of Polish subservience to the Soviet Union.

At his regular press conference, Solidarity leader Lech Walasa said that Western countries would be deluged with the "disorder and mess" of migrations from Eastern Europe should the West fail to assist in economic recovery programs. On the question of German reunification, Walasa said that economic integration was welcomed, but "political changes" would be dangerous.

The Reuters news agency reported that Western bankers would consider a \$500,000,000 bridge loan for Poland during a meeting next week in Switzerland. This loan would assist Poland during the wait for IMF and World Bank approval.

Spide Warszawa reported that the mandatory exchange of hard currency by foreign tourists in Poland would be abolished as of 1 January 1990.

Chase Enterprises, a private US firm, announced it would build and operate cable television systems in Poland jointly with the Polish government. First program transmissions for Warsaw and Cracow were scheduled for June 1990.

Nasza Solidarnosc criticized the government's proposed minimum prices for agricultural goods as "inaccurate and not guaranteeing profitability" and demanded immediate talks with the government.

December 8 In a briefing for OGP members, Deputy Finance Minister Marek Dabrowski announced that coal subsidies would be cut off on 1 January 1990, which meant the price of coal would rise 100% and that of energy, 300%. Dabrowski said "we have to decide on this very dramatic program because if we take things step by step, the thread of public patience may break."

The government daily Rzeczpospolita welcomed the development of a democratic movement in East Germany, but warned that calls for freedom had also brought about "a surge of right-wing totalitarian yearnings." "A too hasty and unconditional reunification could tip the balance in a dangerous direction," the paper warned.

Nowa Huta's city council called for the removal of the controversial Lenin statue by December 12.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

Deputy Finance Minister Janusz Szwicki told a press conference that Poland expected to receive IMF agreement in principle for its economic reconstruction plan. Szwicki said that IMF Director Michel Camdessus would arrive in Poland on December 9. "If he accepts the main directions of Poland's economic policy," Szwicki said, "the letter of intent will be issued."

The Deutsche Bank announced it had obtained permission from the Polish Finance Ministry to open an office in Warsaw.

December 9

Riots ended at two prisons where at least eight inmates were reported killed by fellow prisoners. Riots at the Solonow prison near Szczecin surrendered after police and prison guards threatened to storm the prison. A similar outcome was reported at Casawa prison, where up to 2,500 inmates had barricaded themselves inside. Heavy damage was reported to both prisons. Unrest at several other jails continued.

Deputy Prime Minister Jan Jazowski told a press conference in Warsaw that the government was planning to make the zloty convertible against Western currencies on 1 January 1990. Jazowski said the move was conditional on the Sejm's approving the 1990 Budget.

IMF Director Michel Camdessus arrived in Warsaw for discussions on the proposed agreement with the IMF on the shape of Polish economic reconstruction. Camdessus was expected to meet with Jaruzelski, Kozwielicki, and Skubiszewski.

December 9
-10

At a meeting of the central and local citizens' committees held to discuss "the Solidarity echo," Kozwielicki, Walesa, and ODP leader Bronislaw Geremek issued a joint appeal for united effort in coping with the nation's crisis. They urged Poles to support civic initiatives designed to better the country's economic and political condition, to organize efforts to help the poor and the disadvantaged, and to support a fund established to assist the government. Walesa and the citizens' committees also sent a message to Vaclav Havel and the Civic Forum expressing solidarity and support for Czechoslovakia's democratic movement.

December 10

A Justice Ministry official reported that thousands of convicts were staging hunger strikes or refusing prison food in 17 prisons.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

The Lenin statue was removed from Nowa Huta. Radio Warsaw reported the statue had been taken to a nearby town for restoration work. The authorities would decide afterwards where to locate the statue.

December 11 The government discussed the worsening state of public safety and crime prevention. Justice Minister Aleksander Borkowski briefed the cabinet on the recent prison riots; Internal Affairs Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak was questioned about efforts to fight ordinary crime. Geneta Wyborcza reported that Kiszczak came under fire for requesting special powers for the police and for ignoring the role of the Security Service in tarnishing his institution's image. The paper said that independent political committees with advisory powers would be created to monitor the activities of the KGB and the Defense Ministry.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told a press conference in Warsaw that his agency strongly supported the Polish government's economic reconstruction program. He said the IMF was ready to accept the program and that a final agreement should be ready within a few days. This agreement would clear the way for the IMF to set up a stand-by credit fund of at least \$700,000,000 for Poland. Camdessus said that he thought he would be able to recommend the plan's acceptance when the IMF governing body met in January. Camdessus met with Mazowiecki, whom he congratulated on his choice of economic path, and with Jaruzelski, Skubiszewski, and OPIB chief Alfred Miodowicz.

Deputy Finance Minister Janusz Szwicki told Geneta Wyborcza that the agreement with the IMF could be completed on December 12 or 13 and presented to the IMF shortly thereafter.

The AFP news agency reported that the banking chiefs of the ten major industrial powers had agreed to provide Poland with a \$500,000,000 bridge loan.

The government devalued the zloty, this time by 14%, raising the official exchange rate for the dollar from 4,200 to 5,600 zloty.

Jaruzelski's press spokesmen and the presidential ministers of state participated in a press conference for domestic and foreign journalists. The specific responsibilities assigned to the ministers of state were defined. Josef Ceyrek had

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1980

responsibility for foreign policy; Piere Nowina-Konopka, for contacts with the parliament, political parties, trade unions, the Church, and local government; and Josef Hozak, for the appointment of judges, pardons, the justice system, and the supreme bodies of state administration. Many of the questions posed by journalists referred to Jaruzelski's imposition of martial law in 1981. Spokesman Lozinski emphasized that Jaruzelski was unshaken in his view that he bore political and moral responsibility for the decision to impose martial law. Ceyrek said that Jaruzelski had always viewed martial law as the choice of a "lesser evil."

Radio Warsaw reported that Cracow authorities had decided to abolish the city's Lenin Museum and transfer the building to the local music academy. The museum's collections would be transferred to the Cracow Historical Museum.

The Ministry of Justice reported that about 3,800 prisoners in 18 prisons were taking part in hunger strikes to protest their exclusion from an amnesty approved by the Sejm on December 7. Prison officials said that seven convicts were killed, three were missing, and many were injured as a result of the weekend riots. Prison buildings were severely damaged, requiring the relocation of prisoners from two prisons. Investigations were underway.

The NIS organization at Jagiellońska University held a rally in Cracow in support of the democratic movement in the Soviet Union. The students also protested the arrest of Soviet journalist Sergei Kuznetsov.

The PPS-80 concluded its first congress in Wrocław. Jozef Piniar, one of the group's leaders, said that the PPS-80, as a "left-wing socialist self-governing alternative," opposed the Mazowiecki government.

PSL-Renewal leader Kazimierz Działak discussed party unification with Franciszek Kaminiski, the leader of the PSL-Wilanowska group. Radio Warsaw reported that unification commissions would soon begin meeting and that the two groups would begin publishing a joint daily, *Gazeta Ludowa*, at the beginning of 1980.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

December 13

In a statement issued in Gdansk, Lech Walesa proposed that the government be given extraordinary powers to introduce its economic reconstruction program. Walesa said the powers should be set by parliament for a strictly defined period and for specific areas of activity. These would include restructuring the economy, demopolizing state and cooperative enterprises, changing local government structures, and rebuilding the tax, banking, and accounting systems. Walesa said he was fully aware of the controversial nature of his proposal, but argued that it was justified by the worsening economic situation and growing impatience of society.

The government said it was difficult to tell how useful the sort of special powers proposed by Walesa would be. A government spokesman expressed appreciation for Walesa's support, but said the suggestion had not yet been fully considered.

Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz held a final round of talks in Warsaw with the Managing Director of the IMF, Michel Camdessus.

World Bank officials in Washington reported that Poland could receive up to \$1,700,000,000 in loans by the end of 1990 if current discussions with government representatives were successful.

Radio Warsaw reported that Hungarian authorities had prevented about 600 Poles from entering Hungary as new customs regulations were introduced on December 11. Stenard Miodych said the Poles were ordered off their train at the Hungarian border.

The Kyodo news service reported that Japan would give an added \$50,000,000 in technological and food aid to Poland and Hungary.

PAP reported that thousands of young people had demonstrated in front of PZPR headquarters in Warsaw, Cracow, and Bydgoszcz on December 11, demanding the transfer of party buildings to the Health and Education Ministries. The demonstration, organized by the KPM, demanded that the party's assets be put to socially beneficial use.

PZPR First Secretary Mieczyslaw Rakowski traveled to Rome on the invitation of Bettino Craxi.

At the close of a two-day session, the PAF leadership approved a resolution saying that the group had in the past given priority to tactics over moral values. "We have erred and we ask for forgiveness," the resolution said.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

December 13 The government press office estimated that about 408,000 people could lose their jobs as a result of anti-inflation measures to be introduced at the beginning of 1990.

Answering an appeal by Solidarity, factories sounded their sirens at noon to mark the 8th anniversary of the declaration of martial law. Majless issued a statement saying that December 13 would remain a symbol of the evil caused by subordinating the good of society to an ideology. "The tragedy of martial law reminds us of the need for culture in politics, pluralism, and tolerance," Majless said. In an interview with Gazeta Wyborcza, Jaruzelski said that Solidarity had not appreciated the strength of the authorities before December 1981, while the authorities had not appreciated the strength of Solidarity after that date.

Demonstrators in Katowice and Szczecin threw rocks and petrol bombs during rallies protesting the imposition of martial law and demanding that the communist party be held accountable. Demonstrations were also reported in Warsaw, Cracow, and Wrocław.

Skubiaszewski and his Hungarian counterpart, Gyula Horn, addressed an OECD meeting of Western foreign ministers held to discuss aid for Poland and Hungary. Skubiaszewski said that Poland was "trying to make a new piece for itself in Europe." Poland was not only looking for assistance, but for "cooperation which can free our potential for better use."

PiO Chairman Yasser Arafat proposed holding peace talks with Israel in Warsaw. The Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman reported that Arafat had made the proposal during a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Jan Majewski in Tunisia. The spokesman said the government would "inform Israel that Poland is ready to welcome both Palestine and Israel in Poland." Majewski was in Tunisia to brief the PiO and the Arab League on Poland's decision to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel in the near future.

A special Sejm commission said that the State Tribunal should determine whether Mieczyslaw Rakowski violated the law by ordering the closing of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1983

ROMANIA

December 7 Romanian human rights activist Doina Cornea started a hunger strike at her home in Cluj to call attention to the plight of the Romanians people.

100 Austrian students demonstrated in front of Romanian Embassy in Vienna to protest human rights violations in Romania.

Acting Hungarian President Matyas Szurocs demanded that the Romanian authorities stop harassing ethnic Hungarian pastor Laszlo Tokes.

The new US Ambassador to Romania, Alan Green Jr., presented his credentials to Nicolae Ceausescu.

Nicolae Ceausescu received in Bucharest Kim Yong Nam, North Korean Political Bureau member, Vice-Premier and Foreign Affairs Minister.

December 8 At a conference in Washington commemorating the 41st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, US Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Richard Shifter said that Romania and Albania were the only old-line dictatorships left in Eastern Europe.

East Germany's largest opposition movement, the New Forum, called on the East German government to clearly dissociate itself from the leadership of Romania and to do all it can to ensure the restoration of basic human rights in Romania. New Forum also asked the government to begin an immediate aid program for Romania, with relief distributed under the control of the International Red Cross.

The party daily Scinteia welcomed the reassessment of the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia by the participating countries. Scinteia added that it would be right and normal for the USSR now to begin negotiations on the withdrawal of its troops from that country.

December 9 A spokesman of the Hungarian Interior Ministry said that 10,858 refugees from Romania have entered the country in the last two years. He added that the flow of refugees was not likely to decrease.

WEEKLY RECORD OF EVENTS
7 to 13 December 1989

The daily *Avanarea Libera* said that imperialist circles were trying to undermine socialism by stepping up their attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of other states, using such means as espionage and diversion.

In an interview published by the Hungarian daily *Magyar Hirlap*, Nina Andreyeva, a Soviet hardline opponent of Gorbachev's reforms, praised Nicolae Ceausescu's anti-market-economy policies.

December 11 The East German opposition group New Forum organized a rally in East Berlin to urge Prime Minister Hans Modrow to speak out against Ceausescu's policies.

December 12 The Political Executive Committee approved the payment of 1,700 million lei from the annual fund for employee participation in the achievement of production, profits and profit-sharing. The Committee also allotted 273 million lei for the organization of the "winter tree celebration."

In order to strengthen party control over the economy and society, the Political Executive Committee approved the establishment of a High Council of Economic, Financial and Social Control as well as of a Court of Justice within this body.

The Political Executive Committee decided to transfer the border-guard units from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of National Defense to that of the Ministry of the Interior.

December 13 A joint plenum of the BCP CC and the Supreme Council
- 13 of Economic and Social Development endorsed the 1990 plan and budget and decided to submit these drafts for approval to the Grand National Assembly. The joint plenum also approved the establishment of a new BCP CC "Commission for Living Standards and Self-Supply", responsible for the "daily" supervision of the implementation of plan tasks in this area.

In a speech to the joint plenum, Nicolae Ceausescu criticized the Warsaw Pact Summit held in Moscow on December 4 for having failed to discuss the "problems" facing the socialist countries. Ceausescu suggested that a meeting of these countries debate these problems "as soon as possible."

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