

THE HISTORY OF THE
SOVIET BLOC
1945–1991

A Chronology

PART V

1988–1991

SECOND ENLARGED EDITION

EDITED BY

Csaba Békés

Cold War History Research Center
Budapest 2019

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1988

Soviet Union / Estonia / Phosphorite war - 1987 (EST)

The planning and building dates of the mine were kept secret from the Estonian population until 1987. Early that year it turned out that the mine was already being planned and the work was supposed to start in the second half of the 1990s. The information that was revealed caused fierce discontent amongst the people. The press, gradually shaking off the Communist Party's control and censorship, supported the people's resistance to the phosphorite mine. The Soviet Estonian leadership came under severe criticism, because they had concealed the information. People demanded a stop to the whole undertaking. The antagonism culminated in spring 1987, when students organized two peaceful protest demonstrations in Tartu, carrying posters against the mine and also wearing protest T-shirts. The protests did not spread all over the country.

The protest movement known as the Phosphorite War subsided in the second half of 1987, when, under public pressure, the Estonian leadership managed to reach an agreement with the Soviet government to halt the planning of the mine. It became clear that the Soviet Union, suffering in an economic crisis, could not afford a new mine.

Soviet Union / Estonia/ Latvia/ Lithuania/ Singing Revolution - 1987-1991 (EST)

A series of peaceful demonstrations and protests in the Baltic republics occurred in the 1987-1991 years, main goals of which was the restoration of sovereignty of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. One of the most remarkable events of such a nature was Estonian Song, organised at the Tallinn Song Festival Grounds in September 1988 by the Popular Front, and filling the Festival Grounds with an audience of at least 100,000 people. Songs were also sung at the Baltic Way (the human chain of nearly two million people, which united the three Baltic countries from Tallinn to Vilnius) in August 1989 and at other patriotic mass events.

The goals were achieved almost without victims and destruction, with three exceptions of violence cases between citizens and state workers.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia / Karabakh movement - 1988-1992 (PAN and NV)

An ethnic movement that advocated for the transfer of the Armenian populated Nagorno Karabakh region from the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan to Armenia. Initially, the movement had no anti-Soviet sentiment in it, no calls of independence of Armenia. However, after Gorbachev refused the demands and the riots began, Soviet troops moved in and the movement began more of an independence movement that included the disputed region as part of Armenia. These events include the Sumgait pogrom (February 1988), where some ethnic Azerbaijanis ganged up to attack Armenians in the streets and in their homes until the Soviet military forces ended the situation. The Nagorno Karabakh region is still a center of dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan today.

January

Czechoslovakia – January 1988

Alexander Dubcek, former President of Czechoslovakia –notes in an interview the Italian periodical *l’Unita* that ‘restructuring’ will only be possible in Czechoslovakia if the regime seeks reconciliation with the members it expelled in 1968.

Czechoslovakia – January 1988 (OSA)

Alexander Dubcek, former President of Czechoslovakia, makes a historic four-page interview with *L’Unita* published by the Italian CP daily to mark the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Prague Spring. Also, he points out its similarities to Gorbachev’s reforms and endorses the USSR’s new course.

Hungary – January 1988 (PTH)

Judit Ember completes her three-parted documentary film "Menedékjog" (Right of asylum) on the fate of the Imre Nagy group at the Yugoslav embassy and later in the Rumanian exile. The film is banned.

Hungary – January 1988 (PHT)

The Hungarian League for Human Rights publishes a summons in Irodalmi Újság (Literary Newspaper) in which they call for the support of a memorial to be erected in the Père Lachaise cemetery in Paris to honor the martyrs of the revolution and remember the Imre Nagy trial. Following the call from France the architect István Nyíri and the electrical engineer Gábor Németh establish the memorial Committee for Imre Nagy and His Fellow Martyrs. The samizdat publisher Magyar Október (Hungarian October) publishes Tibor Tollas's anthology "Gloria Victis", a collection of poems on the Hungarian revolution by authors from 35 different countries.

Yugoslavia – January 1988 (KCA)

Yugoslav Life reports in January 1988 that an agreement between the authorities in Serbian and in Kosovo and Vojvodina is reached on delimitation of their future jurisdictions under amendments to the republic’s Constitution.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 1988 (KCA)

The U.S. administration reaffirms that it remains opposed to Soviet membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) unless significant moves are made towards establishing free markets.

Soviet Union / IHF – January 1988 (KCA)

The official Soviet Social Commission for International Cooperation on Humanitarian Problems and Human Rights invite representatives from the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF) to pay a week-long visit to the Soviet Union at the end of January, which includes meeting with senior officials and leading dissidents in Soviet Union.

Hungary – January 1988 (PTH)

A communiqué is issued in Budapest, signed by several hundred intellectuals, in which they condemn the Ceausescu regime and offer their solidarity to those fighting against the dictatorship. An international press conference is held at Lajos Für's home lead by Miklós Vásárhelyi in which the communiqué is made public. On January 29 a Refugee-committee is established in order to give aid to the Rumanian refugees who fled to Hungary.

Hungary – January 1, 1988 (PTH)

The new laws on turnover tax, personal income tax and the new passport are put into place; consumer prices go up. According to official calculations the prices of goods and services purchased by the people increased by 53%.

Hungary – January 1, 1988 (KCA)

The introduction of value added tax is implemented, which leads to substantial rises in prices.

Soviet Union – January 1, 1988 (KCA)

The new law on state enterprises is put into effect, when 60 percent of industrial enterprises transferred to the new system of financial autonomy. All enterprises are due for transfer to the new self-financing system by 1990.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 1, 1988 (KCA)

An exchange of televised New Year messages by President Reagan and Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the CPSU general secretary, takes place.

Czechoslovakia – January 2, 1988 (OSA)

Charter 77 appoints its three spokesmen for 1988 from differing political and ideological backgrounds in an effort to represent the mainstream of dissent. Last year's spokesmen are replaced by Milos Hajek, Bohumir Janat and Stanislav Devaty.

In its second document this year, Charter 77 appeals for European solidarity with the suffering Romanian populace and criticizes Nicolae Ceausescu.

Czechoslovakia – January 2, 1988 (OSA)

The Jazz Section's leader, Karel Šrп, is released from jail which has received considerable international attention. However, the Czechoslovak regime has shown no signs of moderating its treatment of this independent cultural group.

Czechoslovakia – January 2, 1988 (OSA)

Late in December 1987, a group of Moravian Catholics prepared a 31-point petition calling for religious freedom in Czechoslovakia. On January 4, Cardinal Tomasek adds his name to the document and issues a strong appeal to Czech and Slovak Catholics.

GDR – January 2, 1988 (OSA)

Cardinal Joachim Meisner, Bishop of Berlin and Chairman of the East German Bishops' Conference appeals for religious freedom for Czechoslovak Catholics. He says East German Catholics are concerned by what he calls "the tragedy of our brothers and sisters in the faith" in Czechoslovakia.

Hungary – January 4, 1988 (PTH)

For the first time in Hungary applications for world-wide valid passports are submitted to police offices nationwide.

Yugoslavia – January 4, 1988 (KCA)

Tanjug reports that a total of 1,570 strikes involving 365,000 workers have been registered in 1987, compared with around 900 strikes in 1986.

Yugoslavia / U.S. - January 4, 1988 (OSA)

In an interview broadcasted by Voice of America, John Scanlan, the U.S. ambassador in Belgrade, said that last year American-Yugoslav relations had developed in a traditional, friendly, and mutually useful atmosphere. In reply to question on the economic situation in Yugoslavia, Scanlan said that the U.S. were interested in offering Yugoslavia all possible help to stabilize its economy.

Soviet Union – January 4, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet has adopted a statute on conditions and procedures for the provision of psychiatric treatment, which establishes legal guarantees against possible errors and malpractices, including the right of appeal against the judgment of psychiatrists, and amendments to the penal code making committal of a sane person to a psychiatric clinic a criminal offence.

GDR – January 4, 1988 (MNC)

In the German Democratic Republic, the letter of E. Honecker to H. Kohl, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, from December 17, 1987 was released, in which, on behalf of the Warsaw Pact, he proposed to begin negotiations about the dismantling of nuclear weapons in Central Europe, and the creation of a nuclear weapons-free corridor between the borders of the two German states.

Romania – January 4, 1988 (OSA)

A correspondent's report from Brasov and Bucharest reveals that 25 workers have been sentenced to prison terms of up to three years; this most likely refers to individuals who participated in the Brasov protests of November 1987. The government has maintained complete silence on the matter of arrests and trials, refusing to comment on them at international meetings or when meeting the Western press.

Romania / Hungary – January 4-7, 1988 (OSA)

The Hungarian National Office for the Control of Foreign Citizens withdraws residence permits from several Romanian citizens and gives them a week to leave the country. Unofficial sources place the Romanian refugees at about 10,000. In turn, Romanian authorities set up penal camps for those Romanians caught trying to escape to Hungary, but also those who have been expelled from Hungary.

Romania / Hungary – January 5, 1988 (OSA)

The *Hungarian Press of Transylvania* reports that Ceausescu had threatened to remove ethnic Hungarians from Transylvania if nothing were done to remove Romanian refugees in Hungary.

Czechoslovakia - January 5, 1988 (MNC)A government-level Czechoslovakian-American agreement was born about the monitoring in Czechoslovakia of the execution of the Soviet-

American treaty of dismantling of the INF- missiles.

Poland – January 5, 1988 (KCA)

The Polish government announces that it is willing to take part in a dialogue with the Solidarity leadership, provided that the trade union renounces its illegal activities and its ‘policy of negation’. In a statement Mr. Urban comments that the reform programs create a broad platform for dialogue.

Soviet Union – January 5, 1988 (KCA)

The Soviet Union undertakes international public borrowing on Western capital markets for the first time since the 1917 revolution, when the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs launched in Switzerland a 10-year SFr 100 million bond issue.

Romania / Poland – January 6, 1988 (OSA)

An issue of *Tygodnik Mazowse* (Polish independent press) writes that leaflets by Free Romania (a group of ethnic Romanians living in Hungary) appear “every day [...] in Bucharest schools and subway trains demanding Ceausescu’s resignation.” On the same day, an article by Jezry Lewicki appears in *Przegląd Wiadomosci Agencyjnych* (Polish independent press). In it, he describes the dire situation in Romania preceding the 1987 Brasov protests and then applauds the protesters as “people who have stopped being afraid” and have “become a real threat to the authorities.”

Soviet Union – January 6, 1988 (KCA)

The official Soviet news agency Tass reports that the CPSU central committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers have revoked a resolution passed in November 1982 whereby the town of Naberezhnyye Chelny, Moscow’s Cheremushki district, and squares in Moscow and Leningrad have been renamed after the late President Leonid Brezhnev. The restoration of the name Naberezhnyye Chelny has been requested by residents in September 1987.

Czechoslovakia – January 6, 1988 (OSA)

After 19 years of so-called normalization, the first issue of the new periodical of the Czech Writers’ Union, *Kmen*, is published in Prague on January 6.

Yugoslavia - January 6 - 7, 1988 (OSA)

Directorate and Secretariat Member of the Italian Communist Party Giorgio Napolitano arrived in Yugoslavia on January 6, after the invitation of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia Presidency. He met with LCY Presidency President Boško Krunić and LCY Presidency Member Vasil Tupurkovski on January 7. The talks covered further cooperation between the two parties and trends in international communist movement. During the news conference, Napolitano said that Yugoslavia, as a nonaligned and nonbloc country, could contribute to solution to the international economic problems. He also said that one of his aims with the visit was to carry out exchanges of views on Yugoslavia’s relations with Italy and European Community.

Hungary – January 7, 1988 (PTH)

Daily papers inform their readers that as of January new houses and apartments can be bought or built under new terms. Allowances for new housing are increased in proportion to the social and financial conditions of the family, but bank loans will be available only for higher interest rates.

Bulgaria - January 7, 1988 (OSA)

Hristo Kulichev, former pastor at the Congregational Church in Sofia, refuses to accept a conditional offer to release from internal exile made to him by the authorities in Bulgaria. The condition was to change to other order different from the one that he belonged to.

East Germany / France – January 7-9, 1988 (KCA)

Herr Honecker pays a state visit to France. This is the first visit by an East German head of state to one of the three powers with a military presence in West Berlin. The French President, M. Francois Mitterrand tells Herr Honecker that the visit is a sign of the post-war reconciliation between French and Germans ‘wherever they may live’.

Hungary – January 8, 1988 (PTH)

Five cities are given permission to publish an independent newspaper.

GDR – January 9, 1988 (OSA)

Erich Honecker’s visit to France from January 7 to 9 is his first to one of the three Western powers with military and legal responsibility for Berlin. Although no consensus is reached between the East Germans and the French over human rights and arms control, the visit appears to improve political and economic relations between the two countries.

Bulgaria - January 9, 1988 (OSA)

Turkish television films a series that shows the plight of ethnic Turks living in Bulgaria.

Romania / U.S. – January 9-11, 1988 (OSA)

Two US Congressmen (Christopher Smith and Frank Wolf) visit Bucharest and speak with government officials, religious leaders, and, according to them, “a number of people facing reprimands and harassment from the Romanian authorities.” They also discuss Romania’s MFN (most favored nation) statues with Foreign Minister Ioan Totu, whose stand they describe as “almost arrogant” and who they report saying that Romania “did not care whether the US takes MFN [status] away”.

Romania / Hungary – January 10, 1988 (OSA)

A letter is sent to the Hungarian Prime Minister Karoly Grosz from the leadership of the Council of Clubs for Social Policy and Patriotic Knowledge; it protests against the National Office for the Control of Foreign Citizens, which had withdrawn residence permits from several Romanian citizens and given them a week to leave the country.

Poland / West Germany – January 10-13, 1988 (RFE)

West Germany’s Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher pays an official visit to Poland. Genscher holds talks with government officials, including General Jaruzelski, Jozef Cardinal Glemp and Lech Walesa. All these meetings highlight the significant improvement in relations between the two governments. The talks are reported to have been concentrated on economic relations above all.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - January 11, 1988 (DCR)

General Secretary of the CPCz CC Miloš Jakeš visits the Soviet Union. At a meeting with the foremost Soviet representative, Mikhail Gorbachev, he voices, in the name of the CPCz, full support for Soviet policy, and reports on the situation regarding the leadership of the CPCZ.

Another subject of discussion is the attitude towards 1968. Gorbachev tells Jakeš that Italian Communists are demanding a constructive re-evaluation of the role of Alexander Dubček, but agreed with Jakeš's view that such a re-evaluation would destabilize the CPCz, and should therefore be avoided.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia – January 11, 1988 (MHC)

Gorbachev agrees with Jakeš that there are no grounds to reassess the events of 1968, including the Soviet-led intervention. He adds that the attempts by supporters of the “Prague Spring” to present themselves as “legal heirs of Soviet *perestroika* are nothing more than a blow at our *perestroika*. We are carrying out *perestroika* within the framework of socialism to reinforce socialism.

Hungary – January 11, 1988 (KCA)

It is officially announced that the government will relinquish control of most consumer prices at the end of March, prompting fears of price inflation in excess of the government's 15% forecast.

Yugoslavia – January 11, 1988 (KCA)

The resolution and the 1988 federal budget, set at 5,659,900 million dinars, are approved by the chambers of the Federal Assembly.

Czechoslovakia / USSR – January 11-12, 1988 (OSA)

Secretary-General Milos Jakes has an inaugural visit to Moscow. Statements made during the visit indicate that the departure of Gustav Husak as CPCS leader in December 1987 has not led to change in the Soviet and Czechoslovak authorities' negative attitude to the Prague Spring.

Czechoslovakia / USSR – January 11-12, 1988 (RFE / VVR / KCA)

Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Miloš Jakeš visits Moscow. He meets Gorbachev, in a meeting intended to smooth relations between the two countries, which have been strained recently by disagreement over the ‘restructuring’ initiative.

Jakes declares at a dinner toast: ‘like the Soviet people, we in Czechoslovakia are seeking to further perfect socialism though all-round restructuring and democratization’.

Hungary – January 11-13, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh in Dacca. He met the Deputy Ministers of the Ministries of Trade, Transportation, and Youth. He was received by Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed. He was also received by Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Choduhuri.

USA / Soviet Union, January 12, 1988 (MNC)

In Geneva, the negotiations for the prohibition of chemical weapons and the destruction of the remaining stocks were renewed on the disarmament negotiations.

Soviet Union / China – January 12, 1988 (KCA)

In response to the Laiowang interview on December 28, 1987, the Chinese Foreign Ministry issues a statement which says that China's elder statesman leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping, has previously made the condition ‘quit clear’ for a high-level meeting between China and the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union – January 12, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Inamszhan Usmankhodzhayev, the first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party (CP), is removed from his post. It is believed that his removal comes from the failure to control extensive official corruption in Uzbekistan.

Yugoslavia / Paris Club - January 12, 1988 (OSA)

The presidency of the group for consolidating Yugoslavia’s debt (Paris Club) and a Yugoslav delegation assessed at informal talks, that a reprogramming of the Yugoslav debt was necessary. The Yugoslav delegation, headed by Federal Finance Secretary Svetozar Rikanović, returned from Paris on January 12. While in Paris, the delegation informed the Paris Club presidency of Yugoslavia’s program for consolidating its foreign debt. (Paris Club - 15 developed Western countries and Kuwait - Yugoslavia’s greatest creditors)

Romania – January 12, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian media repeat Ceausescu’s proclamation on December 16, 1987, in which he promised end of year bonuses, totaling 2,200 million lei and given out to approximately 6,700,000 nonagricultural wage earners.

Romania – January 13, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian academic and dissident Doina Cornea endorses workers’ protests and attempts by small groups of workers to set up independent labor unions.

Hungary – January 13, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian National Bank, the National Economic Chamber and 22 financial institutions make an agreement on harmonizing the trading of securities.

Poland - January 13, 1988 (RFE)

Poland’s official trade union federation, the National Alliance of Trade Unions, issues a harsh statement, rejecting the government’s prices and incomes program for 1988. The Union contends that the government’s plans will lead to a decline in both living standards and real wages.

Yugoslavia - January 13, 1988 (OSA)

In an opening speech to the 12th plenum of the LCY Central Committee, Vidoje Žarković (one of the Montenegro’s representative on the 23-member CC presidium), said that the League of Communists would not permit the reestablishment of multiparty system, and that the same demands are “undemocratic and unacceptable” and “were aimed at turning back the wheel of history.” Numerous intellectuals and workers are more and more vocal about the need for the pluralism in the politics. They think that that is the way towards the recovery of Yugoslav crisis. However, Žarković and many other politicians believe that multiparty system will not cure Yugoslavia, but that crisis must be dealt through constitutional changes.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union - January 13, 1988 (OSA)

A three-member delegation of the All-Union Lenin Komsomol of the USSR arrived on an official and friendly visit in Belgrade at an invitation of the Presidium of the Conference of the Yugoslav Socialist Youth Federation.

Poland - January 14, 1988 (RFE)

After just days in office as Poland’s first civil rights spokesman, Ewa Letowska has received 5,000 complaints in writing from Polish citizens, who believe that their civil rights have been violated. This is already more than the yearly tally for ombudsmen in Sweden, France and the United Kingdom. These protests reflect a high degree of social frustration at the current economic and political climate, and at the Polish authorities’ floundering attempts to remedy the situation.

Soviet Union – January 14, 1988 (KCA)

It is officially revealed that the total cost of the Chernobyl accident has been nearly 8 billion rubles, which is about four times higher than the last estimates.

Hungary – January 14, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers establishes the Committee for Economic Planning.

Yugoslavia / U.S. - January 14, 1988 (OSA)

Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, has received a message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan, containing expressions of gratitude for the support that SFRY Presidency gave to the U.S.-Soviet treaty on eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles, including their warheads.

Yugoslavia / Italy - January 14, 1988 (OSA)

Members of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Chamber of Deputies in the Italian Parliament agreed on a greater technological and financial opening to the Yugoslav economy.

Hungary – January 14-17, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Burma in Rangoon. He met the Deputy Ministers of Ministries of Trade, Industry, and Agriculture. He was received by Foreign Minister U Ye Goung, and Deputy Prime Minister U Tun Tin. He was also received by Prime Minister U Maung Kha. Following this, from January 18-20, he negotiated in the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka. He met the Ministers of Trade, Shipping, and Finance and Prime Minister Y. R. Dzayavardene.

Soviet Union - January 14-16, 1988 (MNC)

Soviet Prime Minister N. Ryzhkov had an official visit to Norway; in his speech in Oslo, he presented the Soviet Union’s Proposal for the Security of Atlantic Ocean and the Northern Seas.

Hungary – January 15, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Transportation of the Federal Republic of Germany Jürgen Warnke negotiated with his counterpart, Lajos Urbán, in Hungary.

Yugoslavia – January 15, 1988 (KCA)

The budget of 1988 is reduced by 109,981.5 million dinars after the Federal Assembly has rejected the original budget bill on December 30, 1987, because of principally Croatian objections.

GDR – January 15, 1988 (OSA)

Communist East Germany slaps sharp new currency exchange restrictions on its citizens for visits to Czechoslovakia. East German visitors can exchange only 40 East German Marks a day for Czech money, with a maximum visit of 11 days.

Hungary – January 16, 1988 (PTH)

The first open meeting of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth Organization is held. The topic of the session is the challenges young people have to face for the future.

Romania / Bulgaria – January 16, 1988 (OSA)

A Bulgarian radio commentary in Radio Sofia, on the 40th anniversary of the Bulgarian-Romanian treaty on cooperation, speaks reassuringly about the problem of air pollution in the Ruse area: “whenever there is good will, all problems can be solved [...] during the last few months the Romanians have initiated steps aimed at preserving the purity of the air in the Ruse-Giurgiu region.”

East Germany – January 17, 1988 (KCA)

A total of 113 human rights activists are reportedly detained by police after they tried to join an official rally in East Berlin.

GDR – January 17, 1988 (OSA)

The arrest on January 17 and during the following week of a number of East Berlin’s most prominent dissidents constitutes the biggest crackdown on the GDR’s political opposition in at least a decade.

Soviet Union – January 17, 1988 (KCA)

Tass reports a party and government resolution setting up a new State Committee for Nature Protection (Goskompriroda). The new committee assumes the functions of environmental control formerly exercised by the State Committee of Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control.

Czechoslovakia - January 17, 1988 (DCR)

On the agenda of the third Charter 77 forum is a discussion of the current political situation, the possibilities of improving it, and the role of the Charter and other independent initiatives in this process. The forum is meant to be attended by nearly sixty Charter signatories, but is disrupted by an extensive StB operation launched two days earlier.

Yugoslavia / Iraq - January 17, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslav-Iraqi negotiations began on economic cooperation for year 1988. Yugoslav delegation stressed that that Iraq is one of the most important economic partners that Yugoslavia has among developing countries. Over 100 Yugoslav work organizations took part, with almost 8,000 specialists, in the implementation of Iraqi economic plans.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - January 18, 1988 (DCR)

During an official visit to Czechoslovakia –several members of a delegation from the US Congress meet with Charter 77 signatories Zdeněk Urbánek, Jiří Ruml, and Rudolf Zeman.

Hungary / Israel - January 18, 1988 (MNC)

An official Hungarian statement was released (via the HTO) about the situation in the Middle East. According to this, the Hungarian public was worried about the state of affairs in the areas occupied by Israel. Hungary disapproves of the violence used against the civil population and urges – with the involvement of all affected parties – the cessation of the conflict.

Yugoslavia – January 18, 1988 (KCA)

Nine ethnic Albanian soldiers in Skopje (the Macedonian capital) are sentenced to prison terms of between 18 months and eight years for “association for the purpose of hostile activity”.

Yugoslavia - January 18, 1988 (OSA)

Vasil Tupurkovski, a member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, spoke in Bitola to the Political aktiv about international relations and international position of Yugoslavia and LCY. He stressed that despite positive developments in relations between the superpowers, the acquisitions of armaments continue to be fundamental characteristic of these events. He claimed that the only way forward is through cooperation, and confrontation has no prospects. He then added that the incoming Balkan conference of foreign ministers is the confirmation of the Yugoslav foreign policy - based on search for good relations with neighbors, Europe, and beyond.

Soviet Union / Israel – January 18, 1988 (KCA)

Dr. Yosif Begun, one of the most prominent Soviet Jewish dissidents, who was released from a labour camp in February 1987, immigrates to Israel with his family.

Soviet Union – January 18, 1988 (KCA)

Pravda accuses the Communist Party leadership in Armenia of permitting widespread corruption and deliberately sabotaging the policy of perestroika (restructuring).

East Germany – January 19, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the investigation over 113 human rights activists, who have been detained since January 17, has been instituted against six of those detained for alleged “illegal rioting”. (See January 17, 1988)

Hungary – January 19, 1988 (PTH)

The first securities trading session takes place in the International Trading Center in Váci Street.

Soviet Union – January 19, 1988 (KCA)

The CPSU central committee, the Council of Ministers and the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU) adopt a joint resolution to ensure full employment.

Romania / Hungary – January 19, 1988 (OSA)

A statement of solidarity addressed to “Romanian Friends” and signed by 350 Hungarian Intellectuals is issued at a news conference in Budapest. The signatories reach 700 within a week, mainly comprised of dissident intellectuals but also including some establishment ones. The statement harshly criticizes “Ceaurescu and his clan” and calls for Hungarian-Romanian cooperation to secure “the most basic interests and needs” of the Romanian people. At the same press conference, the Free Romania group (comprised of Romanian emigres to Hungary) distribute a statement praising Chapter 77’s initiative for a day of European solidarity with Romania.

Yugoslavia / Israel - January 19, 1988 (OSA)

The Yugoslav Federal Assembly Foreign Policy Committee strongly condemned the prosecution and genocide Israel was conducting against the Palestinian population. As stated in the committee’s

meeting, such conduct by Israel affect Yugoslavia’s commitment to the development of the two country’s relations.

Yugoslavia / EEC - January 19, 1988 (OSA)

SFRY Assembly delegation met representatives of several groups of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Vinko Radišić, head of Yugoslav delegation assessed the talks as useful for Yugoslav-EEC relations. The exchange of opinions helped groups of various political orientations in the European Parliament to understand conditions in Yugoslavia more realistically.

Yugoslavia / Austria - January 19, 1988 (OSA)

Dušan Čkrebić, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium held separate talks with Leopold Gratz, president of the Austrian Lower House, and Alois Mock, foreign minister. Issues of bilateral cooperation were considered - some are: economic relations, implementation of the new 3-year program of cultural cooperation.

Hungary – January 20, 1988 (PTH)

Mikhail Gorbachev's new book, "Perestroyka and Glasnosty", printed in 25 thousand copies, is reviewed and put on display.

Romania – January 20, 1988 (KCA)

The establishment of a Farm Produce Contracting and Acquisition Ministry is announced with Mr. Constantin Zanfir as its Minister.

Yugoslavia – January 20, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Stambolic is named as the new Director of the Yugoslav Bank for International Economic Co-operation.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 20, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that two U.S. citizens, Mr. Theodore Branch and his wife Mrs. Cheryl Branch, are granted political asylum in the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union – January 20, 1988 (KCA)

The CPSU newspaper Pravda discloses a police scandal in the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Odessa involving a conspiracy with officials of the State Security Committee (KGB) and corrupt members of the police force and judiciary to frame a senior Odessa police officer, Mr. A. Malyshev.

Hungary – January 20-21, 1988 (MNC)

SecretaryState Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn took part in consultation of the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the socialist countries before the 3 Extraordinary Disarmament Summit of the UN General Assembly.

India- January 20, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi visited Pakistan.

Cambodia- January 20-21, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, negotiated with leader of the emigrant Cambodian opposition Prince Norodom Sihanuk in Paris, for the second time.

The Delhi Six- January 21-22, 1988 (MNC)

The meeting of the leaders of the “Delhi Six” (India, Argentina, Greece, Mexico, Sweden, Tanzania) was held for the possibilities of the restraint of the arms race.

Hungary – January 21, 1988 (PTH)

A joint communiqué is issued by the HSWP, the Finish Social Democratic Party and the Italian Socialist Party calling for European disarmament.

Poland / Sweden – January 21, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Witold Grabiec, a vice-consul, asks for political asylum in Sweden, which will be followed by Mr. Marek Lewicki, an embassy second secretary, on February 3.

Czechoslovakia – January 22, 1988 (KCA)

The Federal Statistical Office publishes figures showing that in 1987 national income has risen by 2.3%, while gross industrial production has also risen by 2.3% and gross agricultural production by 0.90%. Trading with other socialist countries increases by 3.5%; total foreign trade grows by 2.4%, while exports grow by 1.4% and imports by 3.4%.

Czechoslovakia – January 22, 1988 (OSA)

In an interview with West German journalists, Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal explains his concept of the country’s “independent” reform course and emphasizes his desire for thoroughgoing change.

Hungary – January 22-23, 1988 (MNC)

The Summit of the Hungarian-Czechoslovakian Joint Committee of Economic and Technical-Scientific Cooperation was held in Prague, with leadership of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai, and Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Hrivnak. József Marjai was received by Prime Minister and member of the Charimanship of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Lubomir Strougal.

Soviet Union – January 22, 1988 (KCA)

Details of the Soviet economic plan’s fulfilment in 1987 are announced. They show that development has fallen short of the plan in almost every sector of the economy. The official news agency Tass attributes this to “the failure to accomplish tasks for saving financial resources, lagging agricultural production and a decline in foreign trade revenues”.

Soviet Union – January 22, 1988 (KCA)

A group of 14 Estonian dissidents propose the formation of the National Independence Party of Estonia.

GDR / Czechoslovakia – January 22, 1988 (OSA)

Tourist traffic between the CSSR and the GDR has considerably increased over the past years. According to the wishes of the government of both countries, this should not change in the future. In 1987 alone some 6,7 million GDR citizens visited the CSSR.

Romania / Poland – January 22, 1988 (OSA)

The leaders of the polish socialist party are the first independent group to take up Chapter 77's call for a day of European solidarity with the people of Romania. It announces its members would demonstrate outside the Romanian embassy in Warsaw on that day to protest the "party dictatorship" that had pushed Romania "to the edge of civilization and toward biological disaster."

Romania / UK – January 22, 1988 (OSA)

A letter by Queen Elizabeth the II, congratulating Ceausescu, appears in the Romanian foreign affairs magazine "Lumea". The letter proves to be a fake and British Foreign Minister David Mellor protests to Romanian Ambassador Stan Soare. He acknowledges the protest but gives no explanation.

Yugoslavia / FGR - January 22, 1988 (OSA)

The talks between the FGR parliament's Foreign Policy Committee and delegation from SFRY Assembly Foreign Policy Committee took place in Bonn. Mijat Šuković, head of the Yugoslav delegation, said that the West German counterparts had expressed an interest in the closer cooperation between the EC and Yugoslavia, but while maintaining Yugoslavia's nonaligned and non-bloc position.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union - January 23, 1988 (OSA)

Ilija Djukić, an assistant of the federal secretary for foreign affairs, had a meeting with Vadim Loginov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs. They discussed the development of Yugoslav-Soviet affairs.

Yugoslavia / Spain - January 23, 1988 (OSA)

Azem Vlasi, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium and President of the Provincial Committee Presidium of the LC of Kosovo, conveyed a message from the LCY Central Committee to the 31st Congress of the Spanish Socialist Worker Party. The message expressed a desire for the success of the congress and stressed a friendly relations between the two parties.

Hungary – January 24, 1988 (PTH)

The journal Új Tükör (New Mirror) republishes the memorandum written by writers and journalists in 1955 in which they demanded the abolition of administrative measures in cultural matters.

Hungary – January 24-27, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, György Fejti, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP visited the Soviet Union. He negotiated with Victor Chebrikov, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Committee of State Security, and Dmitri Yazov, reserve member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Minister of Defense, and Anatoli Lukyanov, Secretary of Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Hungary – January 24-27, 1988 (MNC)

SecretaryState Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Iran in Tehran. He met Minister of agriculture and Iranian co-chairman of the Hungarian-Iranian Joint Committee of Economic Cooperation. He was received by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Prime Minister Reza Moayeri. From January 27-28, he stayed in Damascus. He was

received by Syrian Foreign Minister Farukh as-Saraa and Vice President of the Syrian Arab Republic Ab-delhalim Khaddam. On January 29, he consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in Aden.

Hungary / Romania – January 24, 1988 (OSA)

The RCP daily *Scinteia* publishes an article marking the 40th anniversary of the Hungarian-Romanian Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Agreement. The article goes through the history of the ties of solidarity which unite the two countries and anticipates future cooperation, noting especially that it can only come “through strict observance of the principles of independence and national sovereignty...”

Czechoslovakia / Romania – January 25, 1988 (OSA)

Czechoslovak Secretary General Milos Jakes and President Gustav Husak congratulate Ceausescu before his birthday, saying that the Czechoslovak people know him as “a significant politician and statesman who devotes his life to socialism and social progress”.

Romania / Hungary – January 25, 1988 (OSA)

In an interview on Radio Budapest, HSWP CC Secretary Matyas Szuros (in charge of foreign affairs) is asked whether Hungary has adequate legislation to take care of the Romanian refugee problem. He replies that the government was working on a legal solution and expresses regret that some measures which “upset the public” had been taken in the meantime (referring to the expulsion of Romanian refugees 4-7 of January by the Hungarian National Office for the Control of Foreign Citizens). He says that until a legal solution has been found, Hungary will not “take administrative steps against those staying temporarily”, hinting, but never directly admitting, that the deportations have ended.

Romania / U.S. – January 25, 1988 (OSA)

King Michael, Romania's exiled king, visits Southern California, meets with Romanian emigres and speaks at two churches. He denounces the horrible situation in his home country and calls for greater international awareness.

Federal Republic of Germany- January 25-February 26, 1988 (MNC)

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany H. Kohl had an official visit to Czechoslovakia.

Hungary – January 25, 1988 (PTH)

Mátyás Szűrös, foreign secretary of HSWP admits that the issue of Transylvanian refugees has sound grounds and that immediate action will be taken.

Hungary – January 26, 1988 (PTH)

At a press conference the Hungarian National Bank announces that - though the financial balance has improved considerably - the country's debt burden is still significant.

Romania – January 26, 1988 (KCA)

To mark President Ceausescu's 70th birthday, the State Council passes a law further granting an amnesty for all those sentenced to up to 10 years' imprisonment, having prison sentences of over 10 years and commuting death sentences to 20 years in prison.

Romania – January 26, 1988 (OSA)

Ceausescu’s birthday is lavishly celebrated. He receives medals from China and the USSR, and several Romanian Awards. In his speech to the Solemn Homage Meeting, Prime Minister Dascalescu suggests that Ceausescu is made party and state leader for life, claiming that only thus can Romania’s true interests be realized.

Romania – January 26, 1988 (KCA)

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Soviet Union – January 26, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that Lt. Gen. Yury Churbanov, the son-in-law of President Brezhnev and a former deputy to Gen. Shcholokov, is to stand trial later in the year on charges of corruption and bribery.

Czechoslovakia / FDR – January 26-27, 1988 (RFE / DCR)

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl visits Prague. The two sides sign an inland shipping agreement, and plans are made for further cooperation in trade, disarmament, science and infrastructure. The Czechoslovak government agrees to stop jamming the West German radio station Deutsche Welle, and before the visit releases a number of political prisoners.

In addition to meeting with the main government leaders, Kohl spends one hour with Czech Primate Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek. Kohl tells journalists afterwards that he told the Czechoslovak party leadership that its treatment of the Catholic Church is of decisive importance for shaping its relations with the West.

Members of Kohl’s delegation also meet with supporters of Charter 77.

In an interview with West German journalists, pro-reform Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal admits that there is significant disagreement over the restructuring programme within the CPCS, but there is ‘no alternative to change’.

Czechoslovakia / West Germany – January 26-27, 1988 (KCA)

Dr. Helmut Kohl, the Federal Chancellor of West Germany, visits Czechoslovakia. This is the first visit by a West German chancellor since that of Herr Willy Brandt for the signing of the 1973 treaty normalizing relations between the two countries.

Yugoslavia / Ethiopia - January 26-29, 1988 (OSA)

Admiral of the fleet Branko Mamula, federal secretary for national defense, left at the head of a Yugoslav military delegation on a working visit to the Armed Forces of the People’s Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on January 26. While there, Mamula visited several military establishments. Possibilities for further promoting inter army cooperation were emphasized

Soviet Union – January 27, 1988 (KCA)

An unprecedented open meeting on Soviet human rights observance is held, although the meeting is disrupted by heated exchanges between the representatives of the International Helsinki

Federation for Human Rights (IHF) and members of the official Soviet human rights commission over the inclusion in the IHF delegation of Mr. Lev Timofeyev, a prominent Soviet dissident and the leader of the unofficial Soviet human rights group Press-Club *Glasnost*.

Bulgaria - January 27, 1988 (OSA)

In Hamburg, an ethnic Turk reportedly applies for political asylum in West Germany.

Hungary – January 28, 1988 (PTH)

Open discussion is conducted on the issue of publicity, and a call is made for establishing the Publicity Club.

Bulgaria – January 28-29, 1988 (KCA)

The ruling Bulgarian Communist Party (Bulgarska Komunisticheska Partiya – BCP) holds a special conference to discuss the progress of the policy of preustroistvo (restructuring) and to clarify the objectives outlined at a central committee plenum in July 1987.

Yugoslavia – January 28, 1988 (KCA)

The Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina approves writing-off Agrokomerc’s debt by almost a half of the total of 335.2 million dinars.

Yugoslavia / EC - January 28, 1988 (OSA)

The resolution on economic relations between the European Community and Yugoslavia, recently adopted by the European Parliament, has been assessed by Yugoslav side as an expression of the community’s political readiness to raise the cooperation to another level, as was said by Yugoslav Government Spokesman Aleksandar Stanić.

Yugoslavia / Italy – January 28-30, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Branko Mikulic, the President of the Federal Executive Council (Prime Minister), visits Italy for talks with the Italian President, Signor Francesco Cossiga and with the Prime Minister, Signor Giovanni Goria.

Poland – January 29, 1988 (KCA)

The Rzeczpospolita daily newspaper publishes that the national income of Poland has risen by only 2%, the shortfall being attributed to a 3% decline in agricultural production. Meanwhile, gross industrial production grows by 3.3%, in line with the plan. Furthermore, the level of national income is still approximately 5% below the 1987 level in real terms.

Romania / Hungary – January 29, 1988 (KCA)

Speaking at a press conference, the Hungarian government spokesman, Mr. Reszoe Banyasz, states that the number of ethnic Hungarians from Romania granted asylum in Hungary has almost doubled from 3,284 in 1986 to over 6,400 in 1987. Most of them are granted asylum for ‘humanitarian reasons’.

Yugoslavia / Romania - January 29, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian first deputy chairman Ion Dinca and Yugoslav deputy Prime Minister Miloš Milosavljević discussed the use of the Danube hydro energetic potential in Timisoara, as part of preparations for concluding a Yugoslav-Romanian-Bulgarian tripartite agreement on the building of

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Romanian-Bulgarian hydrotechnical complex Turgum Vagurele Nikopolje.

Soviet Union – January 29, 1988 (KCA)

A demonstration of around 100 Jewish refuseniks in the center of Moscow takes place without police interference.

Poland - January 29, 1988 (RFE)

Poland’s Main Statistical Office (GUS) publishes a report on the country’s economic performance in 1987. It shows that despite a token increase in overall economic growth, there has been no real improvement in the Poland’s economic standing or the population’s living standards.

Bulgaria - January 29, 1988 (OSA)

A two-day National Communist Party conference takes place in which a reform program was ratified by 3,225 delegates, focusing the new political course on the economy reforms.

Romania / Bulgaria – January 29, 1988 (OSA)

A Reviewer in the Bulgarian leading cultural weekly comments on the exhibition “Ecology – Ruse ‘87”, which began in December 1987 and ran through January 1988, saying “no other art exhibition [in Ruse, close to the Romanian border] has ever been visited by so many people.” The exhibition seeks to show the effects of air pollution from the Soviet-built (1982) Giurgiu chemical plant in Romania and includes pictures along with statistics (previously only known to few medical experts and hidden from the population).

Romania / Hungary – January 30, 1988 (OSA)

A 4,500-word article by Ferenc L. Gaszo entitled “Transylvania: The Largest Minority” is published in the Hungarian press, which indirectly criticizes Romanian policies. The article also touches on the plight of the Romanians and of the German minorities, as a result of economic hardship. Above all, it focuses on the dwindling educational and cultural opportunities for Magyars in Transylvania.

Poland - January 30, 1988 (RFE)

The Polish government announces another round of drastic price increases, to go into effect on February 1. Food prices will rise by 40%, gasoline by 60%, and long-distance bus and train fares by 50%. The increases are a modified version of the package originally announced in November 1987, but have been presented as part of a “compromise” agreement, taking into account the public’s rejection of the government’s reform program in November’s referendum. However, the Polish authorities continue to emphasize the paramount importance of changes in the price system as an essential part of their economic reform program.

Hungary – January 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) holds its public meeting in the Jurta Theater.

Yugoslavia / Vatican - January 30, 1988 (OSA)

The head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, received in the Vatican Branko Mikulić (during his 3-day visit to Italy). The main international questions were covered during a private meeting. Both concluded that relations between the Vatican and Yugoslavia were good.

Yugoslavia / Non-Aligned Movement - January 30, 1988 (OSA)

The meeting of Coordinating Bureau on Non-Aligned countries took place in New York. The dates of future Movement consultative and ministerial meetings were discussed.

Poland / U.S. – January 30-February 4, 1988 (KCA)

The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. John Whitehead, visits Poland. He cautions that U.S. economic aid to Poland will not be renewed until the Polish government’s economic recovery program proves successful and is accepted by a broad spectrum of Polish society and until a stabilization program is agreed with the IMF.

Finland – January 31-February 1, 1988 (KCA)

There is the first direct election for presidency in Finland under constitutional reforms which were ratified in mid-1987. Dr. Mauno Koivisto loses by 65,791 votes to win the necessary overall majority.

Poland – January 31, 1987 (KCA)

Solidarity’s National Executive Commission (KKW) criticizes the price rises as ‘grave for every group but downright tragic for some’ and liable to increase social tensions, but it announces that it will not call for large-scale protests, although a spokesman indicates that the union will support local workers who demand better wages than ZI 6,000 a month promised by the government.

Poland – January 31, 1987 (KCA)

The announcement of the price increases in Poland prompts demonstrations by an estimated 1,500 people in the capital, Warsaw, and by around 3,000 people in Gdansk.

Czechoslovakia – January 31, 1988 (OSA)

The Federal Statistical Office issues its report on the country’s economic performance in 1987 which suggests that the authorities’ expectations of the economic modernization program have not been met, that there is no viable mechanism for controlling the economy and that the five-year plan for 1986-1990 is unlikely to be met.

February

Soviet Union – February 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Anatoly Karabayev, former Transport Minister in Kazakhstan, is sentenced by the Soviet Supreme Court to 13 years after being found guilty of taking bribes.

Hungary – February 1988 (PTH)

In response to the flood of refugees from Transylvania an inter-ministerial committee is set up to deal with the matters of refugees immigrating to Hungary.

Hungary – February 1988 (PTH)

György Marosán writes a short article for Mozgó Világ (Moving World) entitled "Inventory-

testament". From his perspective "there is only one fix point" in the history of Hungary after 1945, and this is "the program of the Revolutionary Workers'-Peasants' Government issued after November four, 1956."

Czechoslovakia – February 1988 (OSA)

Charter 77 supports Hungarian plea for minorities rights in Europe.

Czechoslovakia – February 1988 (OSA)

Charter 77 has published the results of an unofficial opinion poll that was conducted in April and May of 1987. People have a limited knowledge of the activities of Charter 77 and VONS. A large proportion of the respondents agreed that Charter 77 should concentrate on its original purposes and devote less attention to political goals.

Czechoslovakia – February 1988 (OSA)

In s speech to celebrate 40 years of communist rule in Czechoslovakia, the CPCS Secretary-General says that the party would continue to draw inspiration from its seizure of power then. Grand festive meetings are being organized throughout Czechoslovakia in an effort to admit economic failure and the continued existence of social problems that communist rulers vowed to eradicate once and for all.

Poland – February 1, 1988 (KCA)

The złoty is devalued against the US dollar by 15.8% to a new rate of \$1 = ZI 380.

Poland – February 1, 1988 (KCA / MHC)

Implementation of the austerity program begins when the authorities raise the price of basic foodstuffs by an average of 40% and retail prices overall by an average of 27%, while low- income rents are raised by 50%.

Hungary – February 1, 1988 (PTH)

A demonstration is held in front of the Rumanian embassy in Budapest criticizing Ceausescu's policy.

Romania – February 1, 1988 (KCA)

There are reports of Romanian demonstrations in several European capitals in response to Chapter 77's (the Czechoslovak independent human rights group) decision to name February 1 as a day of European solidarity. They protest the deteriorating living conditions and lack of food, heating and lighting in Romania.

Romania / Poland – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

Fifty people are detained in Warsaw as they attempt to demonstrate outside the Romanian embassy, following Charter 77's calls for an international day of solidarity with Romania. They include members of the Polish Socialist Party, well-known dissidents, and members of Solidarity's National Executive Commission. Banners proclaim "Solidarity with Brasov" and "Human Rights for Romanian Citizens".

Romania / Czechoslovakia – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

In Prague, 60 members and supporters of Charter 77 hold a 24-hour hunger strike as a token of solidarity with the people of Romania. Seven are arrested when trying to hand over a message to the Romanian embassy, while 100 are held for a few hours by the police for attempting to demonstrate outside the embassy.

Romania / Hungary – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

Human rights activists in Budapest hold a 20-minute vigil outside the Romanian embassy, without serious interference from the police. An estimated 350 gather and are addressed by the philosopher Gaspar Miklos Tamas.

Romania / Soviet Union – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

Soviet human rights activist Andrei Sakharov issues a statement in support of the protest actions in Warsaw, Budapest, and Paris. Four other Soviet dissidents endorse the statement (Lev Timofeyev, Sergei Kovalyon, Raisa Gogaro, Naum Meiman).

Romania / France – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

In Paris, approximately 150 protestors gather outside the Romanian embassy. They carry candles and include members of the Force Ouvriere Union, the communist-led CGT union, as well as Soviet, Hungarian, Polish and Bulgarian emigres. On the same day, the Paris-based League for the Defense of Human Rights says more than 500 people have signed an appeal to end repression in Romania.

Romania / U.K. – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

East European emigres demonstrate outside the Romanian ambassador’s house in London. The approximately 100 protesters are mainly made up of Romanians, Czechoslovaks, Hungarians, and Poles. They are joined by members of the British-based Czechoslovak human rights group “Naarden” and together chant “To hell with Ceausescu!” Ion Ratiu, the president of the “World Union of Free Romanians” issues a proclamation in behalf of the Romanian people, denouncing Ceausescu and calling for true freedom in Romania and international solidarity. On the same day, Robin Gedye, Eastern European correspondent for The Daily Telegraph publishes an article called “An Orgy of Civic Vandalism: Cathedrals and villas are being razed to make way for Romania’s ‘socialist capital’”

Romania / Italy – February 1, 1988 (OSA)

In Rome, a dozen Eastern European exiles and some members of the radical party chant anti-Ceausescu and anti-Gorbachev slogans outside the Romanian embassy. They carry placards that say, “civil rights for East and West.”

Yugoslavia – February 1, 1988 (KCA)

An alleged Croat nationalist, Mr. Jurat Pilko, is sentenced to six years in prison in Zagreb for contacts with the Movement for Croatian Statehood, an Ustasha organization based in West Germany.

Warsaw Pact / NATO - February 1, 1988 (MNC)

During the negotiation between the countries of the Warsaw Pact and the NATO (the “twenty-threes”) in Vienna, a Soviet proposal was submitted, which would have required the double-purpose weapons to be included in the negotiations.

Hungary – February 1-5, 1988 (MNC)

Vladislav Kutirkin, Deputy Prime Minister of the Moldavian SSR, President of the National Planning Office of Moldova, visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was János Hoós, President of the National Planning Office. He held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai.

Hungary – February 2, 1988 (MNC)

Accepting the invitation of Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense, his counterpart in Czechoslovakia –Milan Vaclavik visited Hungary.

Warsaw Pact – February 2-5, 1988 (MNC)

The Summit of the special committee of disarmament issues of the member of the Warsaw Pact was held in Warsaw. On the behalf of Hungary – Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács took part in the Summit.

Soviet Union – February 2, 1988 (KCA)

The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Gennady Gerasimov, confirms that the Council of Ministers has ordered a ban on independent publishing houses and printing cooperatives which have proliferated in 1987 for the establishment of the dissident bulletin Glasnost.

Soviet Union – February 2, 1988 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet decrees amendments to procedures for consideration of citizens’ proposals, statements and complaints whereby unsigned communications in the future will be ignored.

Hungary – February 2, 1988 (PTH)

A committee for employment management is set up in the capital city. Its task will be to help unemployed people to find a new job.

Czechoslovakia – February 3, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Milos Jakes is elected to replace Dr. Husak as Chairman of the National Front, the umbrella organization which unites Czechoslovakia’s four other authorized political parties and other mass bodies behind CPCz policy.

Hungary / Soviet Union – February 3, 1988 (PTH)

Péter Várkonyi, foreign minister negotiates at the UN Center in Geneva, while József Marjai, deputy Prime Minister visits Moscow.

Yugoslavia – February 3, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Bosko Budimirovic (a Serb) is expelled from the Kosovo LC. He is accused of “abusing the justified dissatisfaction” of Serbs and Montenegrins by organizing protest rallies.

Bulgaria - February 3, 1988 (OSA)

A magazine called *Voice of the Bulgarian Turks* is created with the intention of illustrating the plight of ethnic Turks in Bulgaria and raising the concerns of the outside world.

Yugoslavia / Libya - February 3, 1988 (OSA)

Muammar al-Gaddafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, received Milutin Galović, the Yugoslav ambassador in Libya, who delivered a message from Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency. On this occasion they spoke about the current activities of the nonaligned and other developing countries and the state and development of bilateral relations.

Hungary – February 3-5, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the Summit of the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. On February 4, he addressed the Summit. During his stay in Geneva, he consulted with Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia B. Chnoupek.

Hungary / Soviet Union – February 4, 1988 (PTH)

The Supreme Court of the Soviet Union rehabilitates Buharin and his associates 50 years after their execution.

Romania – February 4, 1988 (KCA)

Details of the economic plan’s fulfilment in 1987 are published in *Scinteia* on February 4, 1988.

Romania / U.S. – February 4, 1988 (OSA)

Tom Lantos, a Member of the US House of Representatives, speaks in the House about a document by Chapter 77 which calls for international solidarity with Romania. He harshly criticizes the Romanian government and inserts the full text of the Chapter 77 document in the Congressional Record.

Romania / Bulgaria – February 4, 1988 (OSA)

A new gas emission from the Soviet-built Giurgiu plant is detected on the Ruse (Bulgarian-Romanian border). The levels of air pollution are worrying, and the Bulgarian authorities contact their Romanian counterparts, who send their own experts to assess the situation. Although, such emissions have been going on since 1982, Bulgarian media report this is the first time Romanian authorities “acknowledge invitations to carry out joint studies.”

Yugoslavia – February 4, 1988 (KCA and OSA)

Mr. Budimir Lončar, a Deputy Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is sworn in as Mr.

Dizdarević’s successor as Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Budimir Lončar is Yugoslavia’s 11th foreign minister since 1945, and first not to hold an official party post. Lončar is a former ambassador to the United States and to West Germany, and he has been described as Western oriented politician, which can suggest that Yugoslavia may be seeking to strengthen its links with the West. RFE describes how Yugoslav foreign policy was mainly oriented toward the Third World, and that this is the time Yugoslavia is re-orienting itself toward more “realistic” foreign policy.

GDR – February 4, 1988 (OSA)

More than 250 activists in the Soviet Union and four eastern countries sign a petition asking East Germany to release human rights and peace activists imprisoned there. Eastern Europe’s two most industrialized economies, East Germany and Czechoslovakia, are growing more slowly than though according to a West German think tank. East Germany said recently that economic growth in 1987

was 4%, but an analysis published yesterday by the German Institute of Economic Research (DIW) in West Berlin said actual growth was 3.6% while the target was 4.5%.

Hungary – February 5, 1988 (PTH)

The Democratic Union of Hungarian Germans signs an agreement with representatives of the German Democratic Republic.

Hungary / Romania – February 5, 1988 (OSA)

At a plenary session of the National Council of Working People, Ceausescu says relations with Hungary cannot be termed “good” and that Hungary should understand Romania would settle its own problems.

Finland – February 5, 1988 (KCA)

Helsinki home service reports that Mr. Reijo Kaekelae has announced his intention to resign as secretary-general of the SKDL at the latter’s congress in May.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union - February 5, 1988 (OSA)

A meeting of the intergovernmental Yugoslav-Soviet working group for the development of new forms of economic, scientific and technological cooperation was held in the SFRY Chamber of the Economy in Belgrade, during which Yugoslav and Soviet experts discussed legal, material, and financial aspects of the formation of joint enterprises and joint investments.

The Soviet delegation is led by Boris Grigoryevich Shakhnazarov, head of the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Machine-Building.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union - February 5, 1988 (OSA)

Dragutin Kosovac, president of the Energoinvest composite organization of associated labor management committee and Iveriy Varlamovich Prangishvili, director of the Control Problems Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, have signed an agreement in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) worth \$6 million on joint work on a project to develop a nuclear power plant automatic control system.

Czechoslovakia – February 5, 1988 (OSA)

CPCS presidium candidate member and CC Secretary Jan Fojtik struck a moderate note in discussing the Prague Spring in an interview for the Hungarian Television program. He also tells some plain untruths about the purges and victimization that ensued.

Soviet Union – February 6, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Nikolai Talyzin is relieved of his duties as Chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Planning Committee (Gosplan) and replaced by Mr. Yury Maslyukov, who is promoted from Deputy Chairman to First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - February 7, 1988 (DCR)

In Prague, American Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead meets with Charter 77 representatives Václav Benda, Václav Havel, Václav Malý, and Jan Stern.

Poland / Czechoslovakia - February 8, 1988 (DCR)

The General Secretary of the CPCz CC, Miloš Jakeš, attends talks in Warsaw with the First

Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party, Wojciech Jaruzelski, where they discuss the situations in their countries and mutual cooperation.

Soviet Union / Afghanistan – February 8, 1988 (MHC)

Gorbachev announces on national television a plan to withdraw troops from Afghanistan beginning May 15, 1988, and ending February 15, 1989.

Hungary – February 7-10, 1988 (PTH)

Among others, the following films are shown at the XXth Hungarian Film Festival: Gyula Gulyás-János Gulyás: "No breach of law"; Bálint Magyar-Pál Schiffer: "At the river Danube"; Ferenc Kósa: "The other man"; Sándor Sára: "A thorn under the nail."

Hungary – February 8, 1988 (PTH)

The Danube Circle organizes a protest walk at Bem square.

Austria – February 8, 1988 (KCA)

An international commission of historians (set up in September 1987) publishes its finding that there is no evidence to suggest that Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Federal President of Austria, was involved in Nazi war crimes during the Second World War, but it concludes that he has been fully aware of events in the Balkans.

Bulgaria - February 9, 1988 (OSA)

Mufti Talyat Tadzhudinov, Chairman of the Muslim Board of the European part of USSR and Siberia, says to multiple journalists that Bulgaria is one of the countries that respects the freedom of religion and the performing of the religious rites the most.

Yugoslavia / Iraq - February 9 - 10, 1988 (OSA)

The foreign ministers of Yugoslavia and Iraq, Budimir Lončar and Tariq ‘Aziz, began talks, which were expected to be devoted to developing bilateral, primarily economic cooperation, and on international themes, to the Gulf war and efforts to end it, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and Non-Alignment Movement activities. ‘Aziz came to Belgrade on a 2-day visit. He also met with the President of the SRFY Presidency Lazar Mojsov, and with Janez Zemljarič, the vice president of the FEC.

Yugoslavia / Canada – February 9-14, 1988 (KCA and OSA)

Mr. Branko Mikulic, Yugoslav Prime Minister, visits Canada.

Branko Mikulić met with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on February 10. As a result of last year's impressive rise of 72% in Yugoslav exports to Canada, the two sides concluded that there is readiness for economic relations to be further promoted. They discussed many other topics, such as Yugoslavia's role in East-West and North-South relations, as well as in the Non-Aligned Movement.

Hungary – February 10, 1988 (PTH)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy announces that the reorganization of the coal mines in the Mecsek, in Tatabánya and in Nógrád County running a deficit will start this year.

Austria / Jordan – February 10, 1988 (KCA)

King Hussein of Jordan arrives in Austria for the first official visit by any head of state since Dr. Kurt Waldheim has taken office as the Federal President of Austria. King Hussein, however, declines an invitation to accompany Dr. Waldheim to the Opera Ball in view of the “unspeakable suffering of the Arabs in the Israeli-occupied territories of the Gaza Strip”.

Soviet Union – February 11, 1988 (KCA)

The most serious ethnic unrest in the Soviet Union begins when massive street protests and intercommunal violence erupts in the southern Caucasian republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The protest will go on throughout the month. The protests concern the status of the autonomous oblast of Nagorny Karabakh, which is part of Azerbaijan, but is populated largely by ethnic Armenians.

Yugoslavia / Greek Communist Party - February 11, 1988 (OSA)

Boško Krunić, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, received a delegation of the Greek Communist Party, headed by Orestis Kolozof.

European Economic Community – February 11-13, 1988 (MNC)

The Summit of the heads of states and Prime Ministers of the members of the European Economic Community was held in Brussels, where a decision was born about the integration of the community, planned for 1992.

Hungary – February 12, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian foreign spokesman holds his first press conference.

Romania / U.S. – February 12, 1988 (KCA)

Apparently in response to U.S. protests, Mr. Liviu Bota, a Romanian employee of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, is allowed to return to his U.N. post after having been prevented from leaving Romania for two years.

Romania / U.S. – February 12, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu tells visiting US Republican Congressmen Christopher Smith and Frank Wolf that Romania did not care if the USA removed its MFN status.

Bulgaria - February 12, 1988 (OSA)

Gazi Abdulmecit enters Bulgaria and is immediately detained.

Soviet Union / U.S. – February 12, 1988 (KCA)

The Soviet authorities issue a formal protest over a collision between two U.S. warships and two Soviet frigates inside the 12-mile limit claimed by the Soviet Union as its territorial waters in the Black Sea.

GDR – February 13, 1988 (OSA)

At least 300 people demonstrate in Dresden for the right to emigrate. The demonstrators carried banners and chanted slogans demanding the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and freedom to leave the GDR.

Czechoslovakia - February 13, 1988 (DCR)

The Society of Friends of the USA, which the Czechoslovak authorities has refused to register as a lawful organization, renames itself the Community of Friends of the USA, and declares itself an informal citizens' initiative.

Soviet Union / U.S. – February 13, 1988 (KCA)

Soviet Defence Ministry officials deny U.S. allegations that the Soviet vessels have deliberately rammed the intruding U.S. ships and state that the collisions between the two countries' warships are the results of dangerous manoeuvres by the U.S. vessels.

Soviet Union – February 13, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Igor Belousov, hitherto Minister of the Shipbuilding Industry, is appointed a Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Romania – February 14, 1988 (KCA)

It is reported that Mr. Dinu has been released from the post of Minister of the Heavy Equipment Industry and has been replaced by Mr. Radu Paul Paunescu.

Romania – February 15, 1988 (ADC)

Libération, a French newspaper, publishes an interview with famed Romanian football manager Dan Petrescu in which he states it would be easier "to kill Ceaușescu than to change the regime" in Romania.

Hungary – February 15, 1988 (PTH)

Ceremonies are held simultaneously in Budapest and Moscow to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Soviet-Hungarian and the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Societies.

Finland – February 15, 1988 (KCA)

Dr. Mauno Koivisto is re-elected to the president office by the 301 members of the Electoral College had on January 31 to February 1.

Poland – February 15, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Jan Jozef Lipski and four other leadership members of the Polish Socialist Party (PPS) resign from the party, leading the party into disarray. Mr. Lipski claims that police have infiltrated the leadership and are attempting to discredit the PPS by manipulating policy.

Hungary – February 15-18, 1988 (MNC)

Accepting the invitation of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, head of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee visited Italy. After his negotiations with the President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies, he met Secretary of foreign affairs of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) Margherita Biniver, and General Secretary of the Christian Democracy (DCI) Ciricao e Mita. He also visited the Vatican, where he met state Secretary Cardinal Argentino.

U.K. / Soviet Union - February 15-19, 1988 (LBC)

British foreign minister Howe has talks in the Soviet Union with Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders. Gorbachev accepts an invitation to London. Howe announces that his country is not

contemplating the reduction of its nuclear arsenal. (October 20.)

Bulgaria / Sweden – February 16, 1988 (KCA)

An official at the Bulgarian embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, is expelled from the country after being accused of engaging in industrial espionage.

Poland – February 16, 1988 (KCA)

Police in Wroclaw detain around 150 members of the Orange Alternative, an opposition group which specializes in satirical street theatre mocking government policies. The group has been attempting to hold a carnival parade in Wroclaw satirizing the economic reform program.

Soviet Union – February 16, 1988 (KCA)

The 70th anniversary of Lithuania’s declaration of independence from Russia is marked by an unofficial demonstration in Kaunas, the temporary Lithuanian capital during independence, which is said to have 3000 people, and around 40 demonstrators are detained by police.

Hungary – February 17, 1988 (PTH)

The People's Patriotic Front discusses issues of publicity in the press.

Romania / France – February 17, 1988 (OSA)

An article appears in the French newspaper *Le Quotidien de Paris* harshly criticizing Ceausescu’s decision to demolish cathedrals in 1977 / 1983.

Romania / France – February 17, 1988 (OSA)

An article by Henry Kamm, entitled “Mother NATURE, Not Ceaucescu, Makes Life Easier”, appears in the *New York Times*. The article bitterly describes the everyday hardships and routine repression experienced by the Romanian people.

Hungary / Romania – February 17, 1988 (OSA)

Magyar Nemzet, a Hungarian daily, runs an article which carefully satirizes Ceausescu’s personality cult, especially the forged letters from foreign party leaders congratulating him on his birthday.

Bulgaria - February 18, 1988 (OSA)

A report that criticizes the treatment that Muslim minorities receive in Bulgaria is presented to the United Nation Human Rights Commission.

Poland – February 17, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Artur Jan Slupski, a man who staged a hijack attempt at Warsaw’s Okęcie airport on May 15, 1987, is sentenced by a court in Warsaw to 10 years in prison.

Soviet Union – February 17 – 18, 1988 (KCA)

The CPSU central committee devotes a plenary meeting to secondary and higher education policy.

Poland – February 18, 1988 (RFE)

Some 1,500 students hold a demonstration in Cracow, demanding the legalization of the Independent Students’ Association (NZS), which was banned on 2 January 1982, are gaining

momentum. This protest action is part of the growing popular movement, along with other demonstrations and a petition drive. The Independent Students' Association had pressed for educational reforms to increase the autonomy of universities and expand self-government privileges, and also campaigned for the release of political prisoners.

Albania – February 18, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Ismail Ahmeti is appointed Minister of Construction in place of Mr. Farudin Hoxha, who is transferred to the new post of Minister of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers.

Hungary – February 18, 1988 (PTH)

The Ministry of Social and Health Affairs holds a press conference about the fees to be paid for medical services.

Soviet Union – February 18, 1988 (KCA)

During the closing session of a two-day CPSU central committee plenum, Mr. Maslyukov and Mr. Georgy Razumovsky, a central committee secretary, are elected as candidates central committee politburo members, whereas Mr. Boris Yeltsin is removed as a candidate politburo member.

Italy / Czechoslovakia - February 19, 1988 (DCR)

The Academic Board of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, at the University of Bologna, confers an honorary doctorate on Alexander Dubček.

Soviet Union - February 19, 1988 (MNC)

A Soviet-Belgian treaty was signed about the local monitoring of the dismantling of American medium range weapons installed in Belgium.

Hungary – February 19, 1988 (PTH)

Ákos Mester talks with Iván Darvas about his career, the years he spent in prison and the role he played in the '56 revolution in Radnóti Theater. Hungarian Radio gives permission to broadcast the talk only in 1989 June.

Yugoslavia / Romania - February 19, 1988 (OSA)

Two Yugoslav-Romanian agreements on the joint exploitation of the hydro-energetic potential of the river Danube were submitted for ratification to the Yugoslav parliament. The agreement provides for the constitution of new power facilities as part of a joint hydro-electric system Djerdap.

Poland – February 19-20, 1988 (KCA)

Police in several Polish cities act to prevent a meeting of the Solidarity KKW in Gdansk by detaining at least seven of its 13 members, including Mr. Bogdan Lis, Mr. Zbigniew Bujak and Mr. Wladyslaw Frasyniuk, and the chief Solidarity spokesman, Mr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz. All are released on February 21.

Bulgaria – February 20, 1988 (KCA)

Le monde reports that four senior academics at Sofia's Kliment Ohridsky University, including the head of the department of political economy, Professor Nicola Popov, are dismissed from their posts and expelled from the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) in late November 1987 for publicly

expressing doubts about the prospects of preustroistvo and other aspects of party policy at an official meeting of BCP on November 18, 1987.

Bulgaria / Romania – February 20, 1988 (KCA)

The Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, Mr. Georgi Atanasov, meets Mr. Constantin Dascalescu, his Romanian counterpart, in the Bulgarian border city of Ruse to approve measures to eliminate pollution of the city by clouds of chlorine gas emanating from a chemical complex on the Romanian side of the border at Giurgiu. A serious leak of gas has occurred on February 2, 1988; More than 2,000 people have demonstrated against the pollution in Ruse on February 10, 1988.

Hungary – February 20, 1988 (PTH)

A new corporate body is established under the name of The National Alliance of Entrepreneurs.

Soviet Union – February 20, 1988 (KCA)

In Nagorny Karabakh, the Soviet region in Azerbaijan, there is a vote requesting that the region’s administration be transferred from Azerbaijan to Armenia due to the majority of the population of the region being Armenian. This leads to a big protest in the region.

Hungary / Romania / U.S. – February 21, 1988 (OSA)

An article by Henry Kamm, commenting on deteriorating Hungarian / Romanian relations appears in the *New York Times*. Kamm especially notes a Hungarian source telling him that Romania has banned the importation of all Hungarian newspapers and magazines since January 1. He also reports a Hungarian Trade Official being detained for 90 minutes at Bucharest airport because he carried a Hungarian economic weekly.

U.S. / Soviet Union - February 21-22, 1988 (LBC)

Schultz has talks in Moscow with Shevardnadze, Gorbachev and Prime Minister Rizhkov. Topics: strategic arms reduction, observation of the ABM treaty and the solution of local conflicts. (April 21-22.).

Hungary – February 21-24, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a military delegation, Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense visited the Soviet Union. His negotiation partner was D. T. Yazov, reserve member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Minister of Defense.

Greece – February 22-23, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Greece A. Papandreu had a friendly visit to Bulgaria, where they released a joint statement about the Balkans.

Hungary – February 22-24, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Republic of Singapore. He negotiated with Foreign Minister and Minister of National Development Suppih Dhanabalan. He was received by Head of State Vi Kim Vi.

Hungary – February 22, 1988 (PTH)

György Bence, István Eörsi, Ferenc Kőszeg and Vimos Sós establish the Passport Committee which intends to eliminate the remaining anomalies of the new passport regulations.

Soviet Union / U.S / Afghanistan / Pakistan – February 22, 1988 (MHC)

Shultz meets with Gorbachev in Moscow to discuss the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Gorbachev rejects Shultz’s presentation of Pakistan’s desire for an interim government in Kabul.

Soviet Union – February 22, 1988 (KCA)

The vote to move the administration of Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan to Armenia is rejected by the CPSU central committee (see also February 11, 1988).

Warsaw Pact – February 23, 1988 (MNC)

The Committee of Foreign Minister of the members of the Warsaw Pact was informed about the results of the Soviet-American negotiations of 1988 in Prague by Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze. Representing there Hungary was SecretaryState Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn.

Bulgaria / Turkey – February 23, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Petur Mladenov, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, and Mr. Mesut Yilmaz, the Turkish Foreign Minister, signs a protocol on promoting better bilateral relations through regular meetings of working parties on political and economic issues.

Soviet Union – February 23, 1988 (MNC)

The withdrawal of the Soviet tactical-military missile units from Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic has begun.

Hungary – February 23-27, 1988 (MNC)

Andrei Gromiko, member of the Political Committe of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union took an official, friendly visit to Hungary. His host was Károly Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary. He consulted with János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Károly Grósz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – February 23-27, 1988 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP had an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. He consulted with Prime Ministers of Bavaria Franz Josef Strauss and of Baden-Württemberg Lothar Späth. He also held talks with the President of the parliamentary faction of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) Wolfgang Mischnik, and Vice President of the parliamentary faction of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) Wolfgang Roth, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation Hans Klein, and other Ministerial leaders, and also with the leaders of the business and banking life. He was received by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Hungary – February 23, 1988 (PTH)

Miklós Németh, secretary of the CC of HSWP visits Moscow.

Hungary / Soviet Union – February 23-27, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium (de facto the Soviet head of

state) officially visits Hungary.

Bulgaria - February 23, 1988 (OSA)

Bulgaria's Foreign Minister, Petar Mladenov, signs with his Turkey's counterpart, Mesut Yilmaz, a protocol in which they accord to create two mixed commissions which are to work toward a normalization of their relations.

Bulgaria - February 24 - 26, (OSA)

The Balkan Foreign Ministers conference in Belgrade ends with a reconciliation between Turkey and Bulgaria, which had been in conflict since January 1985.

Yugoslavia / Balkans - February 24-26, 1988 (JIS)

For the first time the conference of the foreign ministers of the Balkan countries takes place in Belgrade. Foreign ministers of Albania, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania – Turkey and Yugoslavia take part in the conference. Both bilateral and multilateral political, economic, humanitarian, and cultural cooperation is discussed. Mutual respect of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, equal rights, and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs are among the principles outlined as precondition for fruitful cooperation. It is concluded that the Balkan countries should cooperate in the fight against terrorism and drugs smuggling.

Yugoslavia - February 24, 1988 (OSA)

According to the Zagreb weekly *Danas*, the order to remove 95,000 copies of the latest issue of the Belgrade magazine *Svet* from Yugoslav newsstands, was given by Živorad Minović, Executive Director of magazine's publishers. The issue had contained a critical report on how certain high-ranking officials of the socialist republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina had been allowed to build seaside villas for themselves, usually using state funds.

Czechoslovakia – February 24, 1988 (PSCZ)

The removal of some Soviet missiles from Czechoslovakia is initiated.

Czechoslovakia – February 24, 1988 (OSA)

CPCS Secretary-General Milos Jakes's proposal to create a “zone of confidence and cooperation” between the member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact is, together with similar East European proposals, another attempt to promote a unilateral interpretation of peace and detente in Europe. There have been indications that these proposals will not meet with a favorable response from the West.

Hungary – February 24, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz visits the National Association of Hungarian Journalists.

Hungary – February 24-27, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Republic of Indonesia, where he met Foreign Minister Mochtar Kushutmaatamdy. He was received by Head of State Suharto.

Warsaw Pact / NATO - February 24, 1988 (MNC)

Czechoslovakia proposed to create the zone of trust, cooperation and neighborly relations along the meeting line of the NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

GDR / Soviet Union – February 24, 1988 (OSA)

The withdrawal of Soviet SS-12 missiles from Waren and Bischofswerda Bases in the GDR, is imminent, according to the GDR Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Wolfgang Meyer. Meyer underscored this step was renewed evidence of the constructive peace policy of the USSR, the GDR and the other socialist states.

Hungary – February 25, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers sets up an inter-ministerial committee to handle the matters of Rumanian citizens coming to Hungary.

Hungary / Romania – February 25, 1988 (OSA)

Hungarian government spokesman Rezső Bányász announces that the Hungarian Council of Ministers has set up a special committee to ease the integration of people emigrating from Romania and other countries. He says Hungary is not “instigating” the emigration but that it is their “national and human responsibility to help those wishing to settle” there.

Romania / Soviet Union – February 26, 1988 (OSA)

Ceausescu receives Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Gennadii Vedernikov in Bucharest. They do not refer to the decision on Romania’s MFN status, but emphasize the possibilities for greater trade relations between the two countries, as their trade relations had declined in 1986-1987.

Hungary – February 25-26, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy had an official visit to the Soviet Union. He negotiated with the first Deputy Prime Minister, and President of the National Planning Office Y. D. Maslyukov and Minister of Finance B. Gostev. He was received by N. Slunkov, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Secretary of the Central Committee.

Hungary – February 26, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom in London.

USA - February 26, 1988 (MNC)

The government of the United States announced that they will withdrew the principle of most favored nation in trade from Romania beginning on July 3,1988.

Azerbaijan/Armenia- February 26, 1988 (MNC)

This is the beginning of ethnic tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Hungary – February 26-March 3, 1988 (MNC)

Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP took part in the meeting of the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committees of the Sister-Parties of the Socialist Countries, in Cuba.

U.S. / Romania - February 26, 1988 (LBC)

The State Department announces that Romania renounces the most favored nation status. Romania is no longer eligible for export credit from the Commodity Credit Corporation and Export Import Bank. The US Congress was deliberating on depriving Romania of the privilege when Bucharest renounced it. (March 9, 1989.)

Czechoslovakia – February 26, 1988 (KCA)

The CPCz newspaper *Rude Pravo* reports that Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union have agreed on a limited convertibility rate between their currencies in their bilateral commercial relations. This is the first such agreement to be concluded by partners within the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON or Comecon), where all trade is previously based on a common accounting unit, the transferable ruble.

Romania / U.S. – February 26, 1988 (KCA)

The U.S. government issues a statement making the renewal of Romania’s MFN status contingent upon greater respect for human rights.

Soviet Union – February 26-27, 1988 (KCA)

The personal intervention of Mr. Gorbachev manages to suspend the protest in Yerevan, the capital city of Armenia. The protest asks for the transfer of the administration of Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan to Armenia due to the Armenian majority in the region. Mr. Gorbachev meets two members of an unofficial “Karabakh committee” which is nominated by the demonstrators to make a discussion. He successfully makes an agreement with the committee and the demonstrators agree to stop the protest for a month.

Romania / U.S. – February 26-28, 1988 (PER / CEC)

The U.S. revokes Romania’s “most favoured nation” status as a result of Ceaușescu’s persistent disrespect for the rights of Romanian citizens.

Romania / U.S. – February 27, 1988 (KCA)

The Romanian government announces its decision to renounce the renewal of Romania’s MF status.

Bulgaria - February 27, 1988 (OSA)

Former Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister, Vahit Halefoglu, says that the secret diplomacy between Turkey and Bulgaria had proven fruitful.

Romania – February 27, 1988 (OSA)

Ceausescu suggests limiting the death penalty in Romania.

Hungary – February 27, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai consulted with Minister of Foreign Trade-Relations Konstantin Katushev in Moscow.

Hungary – February 27-March 1, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Republic of India. He held talks with Minister of Finance and Trade N. D. Tiwari, Minister of Energy and Telecommunications V. Shote, Minister of Industry Vengala Rao and State Minister of Science and Technology Narayanan. He was received by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Iraq/Iran - February 28, 1988 (MNC)

Iraq and Iran renewed the air strikes against each others' capitals.

Bulgaria – February 28, 1988 (KCA)

The new regulations are applied for the first time for elections to be held on February 28, 1988, for the councils in the recently reorganized regions (oblasti) and municipalities.

Soviet Union – February 28, 1988 (KCA)

The official disclosure reports that in the previous week two Azerbaijanis were killed in fighting with Armenians near the town of Agdam. It is the catalyst for an anti-Armenian riot in Sumgait on February 28 – 29.

Poland – February 29, 1988 (KCA)

A former journalist with the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita, Mr. Mariusz Dastych, is found guilty by a military court in Warsaw of illegally passing information to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and another Western intelligence service. He is sentenced to eight years in prison.

Bulgaria – February 29, 1988 (MHC)

Bulgaria holds regional and municipal elections allowing, for the first time, more than one candidate per position.

Hungary – February 29, 1988 (PTH)

A conference on church history is organized at Eötvös Lóránd Univeristy in Budapest on the life of Péter Pázmány.

Hungary – February 29, 1988 (PTH)

The presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions makes public its February 26 statement in which they strongly refute any attempt "to establish organizations in opposition to the trade union movement."

Hungary – February 29, 1988 (PTH)

The delegation of the North-Atlantic Assembly arrives in Budapest.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union – February 29, 1988 (KCA)

It is confirmed that Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, will visit Yugoslavia in the middle of March.

Yugoslavia / U.N. - February 29, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslavia is to hold the U.N. Security Council Presidency in the month of March. The chair of the president was turned over by the U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters to his Yugoslav counterpart Dragoslav Pejić.

Yugoslavia / Iraq - February 29 - March 2, 1988 (OSA)

Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi side to the Iraqi-SFRY joint Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation arrived in Yugoslavia on February

29 for a 3-day visit. The meetings of the Committee were held from March 1 to March 2. The SFRY delegation is led by Janez Zemljarič, FEC vice president and president of the FEC Planning and Current Economic and Social Policy Commission. On March 1, Mahdi Salih met Branko Mikulić, president of the FEC. They concluded that relations between two countries are successfully developing and that great possibilities exist for raising the level of trade and higher forms of economic cooperation.

Soviet Union – February 29, 1988 (KCA)

The first official disclosure of the rioting in Sumgait by the Soviet news agency Tass states that “hooligans” provoked disturbance in the city, and that violence has followed.

Hungary – February 29-March 2, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Finance Miklós Villányi was in Moscow for meeting of the Ministers of Finance of the members of COMECON. During his stay in Moscow he engaged in bilateral talks with Minister of Finance of the Soviet Union, V. Gostev.

Hungary – February 29-March 3, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the joint Parliament of the members of NATO (NATO Parliamentary Assembly) Tom Frinking visited Hungary. His host was János Péter, Vice President of the Parliament. He met the leaders of the Foreign Ministry. The delegation was received by István Sarlós, President of the Parliament.

Bulgaria – late February 1988 (KCA)

A relaxation in passport regulations is announced. Now Bulgarians can hold passports valid for five years, and can only be refused a passport if their travelling abroad poses a threat to Bulgaria’s security and social order.

March

Soviet Union – March 1988 (KCA)

It is announced at the end of March that a policeman in Turkmenia’s Chardzhou oblast, Col. K. Soltanov, has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for arranging the murder in December 1987 of Mrs. Halima Rozibayeva, a local CP official whose denunciation of police corruption contributed to the dismissal of 63 officers.

Soviet Union – March 1988 (KCA)

At the end of March, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Aleksandr Vlasov, tells the CPSU theoretical journal *Kommunist* that in 1987 more than 9,000 police officers were dismissed for corruption.

Czechoslovakia – March 1988 (OSA)

For 34 years March has been celebrated as the month of Czech and Slovak literature. This year the Czech Republic’s celebration of “The Month of Books” concentrates on two themes: the importance of the 40th anniversary of the so-called “Victorious February” (of 1948) for the development of communist literature; and efforts to increase the number of undoubtedly successful

Czech books for children and young people.

Finland – March 1, 1988 (KCA)

Dr. Mauno Koivisto begins his second six-year term as Finish President.

Czechoslovakia / East Germany / Poland – March 1 – 3, 1988 (KCA)

Deputy Premiers of Czechoslovakia –Mr. Obzina, East Germany, Dr. Hans Riechelt, and Poland – Mr. Jozef Koziol, meet in the Polish town of Jelenia Gora to discuss the effects of industrial pollution on the environment in their three countries. They authorize the preparation of a tripartite agreement on environmental protection, to be signed before the end of 1988.

Hungary – March 2, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Finance Miklós Villányi took part in the consultation of the Ministers of finance of the members of the COMECON, where he negotiated with Minister of Finance of the Soviet Union, B. Gostev.

NATO - March 2-3, 1988 (MNC)

The summit of the heads of states and Prime Ministers of the members of NATO in Brussels released a statement about their stance on conventional weapons.

Hungary – March 2-4, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Siddhi Savetsila. He held talks with President of the Natonal Assembly Ukrit Mongkolnavin. He was received by Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda. He was also received by King Bhumibol.

Yugoslavia / Peru - March 2 - 5, 1988 (OSA)

Peruvian Foreign Minister Allan Wagner Tizon arrived in Belgrade on a 3-day visit. Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Budimir Lončar, met Tizon on March 2. The topics discussed were current international events, the activity of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the development of the relations between Yugoslavia and Peru.

During his visit, Tizon also met with FEC President Branko Mikulić, President of the SFRY Presidency Lazar Mojsov, and with Raif Dizdarević, vice president of the SFRY Presidency.

Hungary – March 3-4, 1988 (MNC)

First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan Shazid Amanudin Amin visited Hungary. He negotiated with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade József Marjai. He met Minister of Agriculture and food Jenő Váncsa. He consulted with the leaders of the Foreign Ministry. He was received by Károly Grósz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Warsaw Pact / NATO – March 3, 1988 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Romanian Head of State N. Ceausescu proposed the following in his speech in Bucharest: create a corridor of 100-150 kilometres between the memberstates of the NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and from there withdraw troops and weaponry.

Romania - March 3, 1988 (OSA)

At the National Conference of Chairmen of People’s Councils, Ceausescu announces that a nationwide plan for rural resettlement was underway “to reduce the number of villages radically, from about 13,000 at present to between 5,000 and 6,000 at most.”

Hungary – March 3-4, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Norway Karin Gjesteby consulted in Budapest.

NATO - March 3, 1988 (LBC)

NATO leaders decide to concentrate on the reduction of military equipment rather than that of troops at the conventional arms reduction talks.

Czechoslovakia - March 3, 1988 (OSA)

Charter 77’s Document NO.9/1988, dated February 29, 1998 and released on March 3, 1988, in entitled “An Expression of Support for the Moravian Catholics’ Action” which supports petition for religious freedom.

GDR / Czechoslovakia / Poland – March 3, 1988 (OSA)

Deputy Prime Ministers from Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany agree to expand cooperation on environmental protection. They sign the agreement after three days of talks in Jelenia Gora, South-West Poland. The Polish News Agency reports that they agreed to make their cooperation “even more effective.”

Hungary – March 4, 1988 (PTH)

The Central Statistics Agency holds a press conference on consumer prices. In January the price rose by 8% with respect to December.

Hungary – March 4, 1988 (PTH)

An international stock exchange conference is held in Budapest.

Czechoslovakia – March 4, 1988 (RFE)

Around nineteen Charter 77 members and Catholic activists detained, including Augustin Navratil.

Hungary – March 4-8, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Commonwealth of Australia. He met Foreign Minister William George Hayden, Senator John Button, Minister of Trade Michael Duffy and Minister of Science, Tariffs and Small Businesses Barry O. Jones. He was received by President of the Senate Keriw Walter Sibra and Governor-General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen. He was also received by Prime Minister Robert Hawke. (This was the first official visit in Australia by a Hungarian Foreign Minister.)

Soviet Union – March 5, 1988 (KCA)

The official Soviet news agency *TASS* names Mr. Lev Vasilyev, who has hitherto been Minister of Machine Building for Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, as a Deputy Chairman of an unspecified state commission and announces his appointment as a Minister of the U.S.S.R.

Czechoslovakia - March 5, 1988 (OSA)

12 people who are members of a group of activists called the Democratic Initiative are detained by

the police. This new group has begun issuing statements and petitioning the authorities.

Czechoslovakia / UK – March 5, 1988 (RFE / DCR)

The British government complains that a number of Czech citizens, some of whom are Charter 77 activists, have been arrested on their way to attend a dinner at the house of a British ambassador in Prague, where they were due to meet David Radfort, the Assistant Under- Secretary of State at the Foreign Office responsible for relations with Eastern Europe.

The statement declares that several of the guests were ‘arrested shortly before setting out for the dinner’ while ‘others were physically prevented by uniformed police from entering the house where it was to take place, and some of them were also assaulted’.

This scandal takes place at a time of extensive police measures on the eve of the unauthorized pilgrimage to Saint Vitus Cathedral on that day.

Yugoslavia / Egypt - March 5, 1988 (OSA)

Budimir Lončar, Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has received Fu’ad Shukri, Egyptian ambassador in Yugoslavia, who presented a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for President of the SFRY Presidency Lazar Mojsov. The message contains a report from Mubarak on his talks with statesmen from Western Europe and the United States and on his contacts with Arab statesmen, which are part of his efforts to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East. That work would ensue the realization of the Palestinian people’s national rights

Czechoslovakia - March 6, 1988 (DCR)

In St Vitus’s Cathedral, Prague, a special mass for people on a pilgrimage is held in honour of the Blessed Agnes of Bohemia. (Agnes, or Anežka Přemyslovna, was the sister of Václav 1, king of the Bohemian lands)

Despite feverish attempts by the StB to prevent them from attending the mass, about 8,000 people manage to make their way into the Cathedral. Some representatives of Charter 77 and other independent initiatives are taken into custody or kept under house arrest.

Czechoslovakia – March 6, 1988 (KCA)

An unofficial rally attended by an estimated 5,000 Roman Catholics takes place without police intervention in Prague outside the residence of the Czechoslovak primate, Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek.

Czechoslovakia - March 6, 1988 (OSA)

Augustin Navratil, a well-known Catholic activist and Charter 77 signatory who is one of the main authors of the 31-point for religious freedom in Czechoslovakia, has been charged with disturbing the peace and slandering a public organization. This move comes in the wake of the pilgrimage of Czech and Moravian Catholics to Prague on March 6. The pilgrim occasions three major events: the authorities’ countermeasures to control the gathering, the British diplomatic intervention after the arrest of some dissidents and a service in the cathedral at which Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek officiated.

Soviet Union – March 6, 1988 (KCA)

Details of a draft law on workers’ cooperatives which is intended to guarantee them equal rights

with the state sector is published in the CPSU newspaper *Pravda*. The law is intended to encourage the establishment of cooperatives in order to meet the growing demands of the national economy and the population for food, consumer goods, various technical production products, jobs and services.

Hungary – March 7, 1988 (PTH)

An international journalism conference on glasnosty is held in Budapest.

Yugoslavia / U.N. - March 7, 1988 (OSA)

Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Budimir Lončar, received Gerald Hinteregger, executive secretary of the U.N. Commission for Europe. They discussed ways of further promoting cooperation between Yugoslavia and the U.N.

Poland – March 7-8, 1988 (KCA)

Several thousand students demonstrate in Krakow, Warsaw, Lublin and elsewhere to commemorate the anniversary of the suppression of student protests against censorship and political repression in 1958, and of the anti-Semitic campaign which followed the protests. There are clashes between demonstrators and police in Krakow; up to 100 demonstrators are reportedly arrested.

Hungary – March 7-8, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Finland Ake Wihtol consulted in Budapest.

Poland – March 8, 1988 (KCA)

The Polish government threatens to cut all credits and subsidies to enterprises which are raising the prices of their products ‘unjustifiably’ in order to cover the cost of such wage increases.

Soviet Union – March 8, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that a new State Committee for Public Education has been created, incorporating the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education.

Soviet Union – March 8, 1988 (KCA)

The moratorium on demonstrations in Yerevan is interrupted when a rally to mourn the Armenian victims of the rioting in February is held at a memorial for the Armenians massacred by Ottoman Turks in 1915.

Soviet Union – March 8, 1988 (KCA)

An attempt is made to hijack a Tupolev 154 airliner belonging to the Soviet national carrier Aeroflot during an international flight from Irkutsk in Southern Siberia to Leningrad, and to divert it to London. It ends with the death of five of the 11 hijackers, a stewardess and three other passengers when a police anti-terrorist unit storms the plane at a military airfield outside Leningrad.

GDR / Czechoslovakia / Poland – March 8, 1988 (OSA)

Polish Government Spokesman, Jerzy Urban says Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany will probably sign an agreement on environmental protection in October. As reported by Radio Warsaw, Urban says the anti-pollution cooperation between the three countries has no precedent in the Comecon countries.

Yugoslavia / Algeria - March 8 - 9, 1988 (OSA)

Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Budimir Lončar, arrived in Algeria for 2-day visit, at the invitation of DR Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of FLN Politburo. Particular attention was paid to the Mediterranean nonaligned countries. On March 9, Budimir Lončar met with Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the republic and FLN general secretary. They discussed the current international situation, especially the questions of modernizing the Non-Aligned Movement.

Poland – March 9, 1988 (KCA)

Trybuna Ludu, the newspaper of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party (Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza-PUWP) says that it is receiving frequent reports from around the country that enterprise managers are giving in to workers’ demands for pay increases to offset the higher cost of living.

Soviet Union – March 9, 1988 (KCA)

A meeting in Moscow attended by Mr. Gorbachev and other senior CPSU figures, which pledges to investigate the Sumgait rioting in February and the basis of the Nagorny Karabakh dispute.

Bulgaria - March 9, 1988 (OSA)

A viewer of the Bulgarian TV asks why there are “at least” 50,000 official cars around Sofia’s streets and other city centers, calling for a reduction of their numbers. The channel replied that he was wrong because the number was 8,000. The channel emphasized that the number is still high and that sometimes they aren’t used in the correct way.

Bulgaria - March 9, 1988 (OSA)

The Bulgarian Economics Minister, Ovcharov, says that changing Bulgaria’s economy at the moment would be painful, but at the same time it would give it strength. He wanted to change from a producers economy into one more focused on services.

Hungary – March 9-11, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to New Zealand. He held talks with Prime Minister David Lange, Minister of Foreign Trade Mike Moore and Minister of public company issues Richard Prebble. He was received by President of the Parliament Kerry Burke. He gave an interview to a radio in Wellington. (This was the first official visit in New Zealand by a Hungarian Foreign Minister.)

Bulgaria - March 10, 1988 (OSA)

Pope John Paul receives 10 pilgrims from Bulgaria. The Pope emphasizes the importance of the reemergence of Christianity in Bulgaria and explained this marks a victory against the Turkish invasion and survival against their culture.

Hungary – March 10, 1988 (MNC)

The Cabinet created an interdepartmental committee in order to harmonize the handling of the issues of the people who fled to and wanted to settle down in Hungary.

Hungary – March 10, 1988 (MNC)

Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans- Dietrich Genscher took part in the ceremonial opening of the cultural centre of the Federal Republic of Germany in Budapest. He consulted with Minister of Education Béla Köpeczi.

USA/Soviet Union - March 10, 1988 (MNC)

During the disarmament negotiations of the United States and the Soviet Union in Geneva, the Treaty for the Creation of the Nuclear Risk Reeducation Centres and the two attached protocols were jointly resubmitted.

Hungary – March 10, 1988 (KCA)

Police raid the homes of several leading dissidents in search of clandestine leaflets and printing equipment. Unofficial reports claim that Mr. Miklós Haraszti, a dissident writer, has been beaten up by police and that others have been threatened with violence during the raids.

Hungary – March 10, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers sets guidelines for keeping the rise of prices under control. The government spokesman states that the Council of Ministers does not recognize HDF, which was established months before.

Czechoslovakia / GDR – March 10, 1988 (RFE / OSA)

Milos Jakes, Secretary-General of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –holds talks with Erich Honecker in East Germany. Topics discussed included bilateral economic co-operation, perestroika and plans to increase tourism between the two countries.

Soviet Union / Cuba – March 10, 1988 (MHC)

At a Politburo meeting Gorbachev announces that the USSR will provide 42 billion rubles of annual assistance to socialist countries and clients around the world, including 27 million rubles to Cuba.

Hungary – March 11, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg of the Federal Republic of Germany Lothar Späth visited Hungary. He negotiated with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai. He consulted with Miklós Németh, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP. He was received by Károly Grósz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union - March 11, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslav-Soviet talks on economic cooperation opened in Belgrade. FEC Vice President Janez Zemljarič, and Ivan Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers ware at the head of their respective delegations. They discussed the possibility of solving the trade imbalance problem in the economic exchange, with the aim of providing conditions for its unhindered development.

Soviet Union – March 12, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gennady Yagodin, hitherto Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, is named Chairman of the new State Committee.

Soviet Union – March 12, 1988 (KCA)

The Nagorny Karabakh regional soviet repeats its vote calling for transfer of the region’s

administration to Armenia.

Hungary – March 12, 1988 (PTH)

Sándor Gáspár, president of the National Council of Trade Unions gives an interview to the journal Képes 7): "After 1956 order was restored and it is still functioning."

Soviet Union – March 13, 1988 (MHC)

Sovetskaia Rossiya publishes the “Nina Andreyeva letter” attacking perestroika in language borrowed from the speeches of Andrei Zhdanov.

Soviet Union – March 13, 1988 (KCA)

The appointment of Mr. Fedor Morgun as Chairman of the State Committee for Nature Protection is announced.

Soviet Union – March 13, 1988 (KCA)

More than 1,000 Armenians stage a protest in Moscow against an alleged cover-up of the true Sumgait death toll (see also the demonstration in February 1988).

Hungary – March 14, 1988 (MNC)

In Budapest, within the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation, in Tel Aviv, within the Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden, the advocacy offices of the two countries (the People’s Republic of Hungary and the State of Israel) opened.

Hungary / Romania – March 14, 1988 (OSA)

Grósz meets with the leaders of Hungarian churches in the Parliament in Budapest and the conversation is reported by Radio Budapest. He says that over 10,000 Romanians had already entered Hungary and asked to settle there, noting that this creates new dimensions and therefore a new negotiating pattern with Romania is needed.

Hungary – March 14-16, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn negotiated in Vienna.

Soviet Union / Yugoslavia - March 14-18, 1988 (MNC and RWE)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to Yugoslavia, where they released a joint statement about the principles of the state- and party-activities, international actions and pursuit of the two countries. They signed a treaty about economic and technical-scientific cooperation, effective until 2000. On March 16 in an address to the Federal Assembly he stressed the legitimacy of the separate development of socialist systems, reiterating this point in a joint declaration at the end of a visit in which he spoke of the need to respect the autonomy of socialist parties and governments and for broad international co-operation regardless of ideological differences.

Hungary – March 14, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz meets with church leaders.

Hungary – March 14, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers sets new directives in which they state that no further centrally initiated rise in prices is to be expected for the rest of the year.

Hungary – March 15, 1988 (PTH)

On the morning of the national holiday the police effectuate "preventive" arrests. Some 15 thousand people demonstrate in Budapest along the route of Petőfi square - Batthyány sanctuary lamp - Lajos Kossuth square - Bem square - Batthyány square. Miklós Gáspár Tamás evokes the spirit of the 56 revolution on the pedestal of the Kossuth sculpture, the speech prepared by the arrested Gábor Demszky is read out by Róza Hodosán, and Dénes Csegey talks at the Ráday College. Several participants of the various events are arrested.

Soviet Union – March 15, 1988 (KCA)

It is disclosed that a former Interior Minister of the Uzbek Republic, Mr. Kudrat Ergashev, his former deputy, Mr. G. Davydov, and a former first secretary of Uzbek Communist Party (CP) in Kashkadarya oblast, Mr. Ruzmet Gaipov, have committed suicide while they are under investigation for a major corruption scandal.

Hungary – March 15-17, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Culture of Greece Milena Mercouri arrived to Budapest. She met Minister of Education Béla Köpeczi. She was received by Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - March 16, 1988 (DCR)

The Soviet armed forces, as part of Soviet-American agreements, complete its withdrawal of SS- 12 strategic missiles from Czechoslovak territory.

GDR – March 16, 1988 (OSA)

East Germany lifts currency restrictions for its citizens traveling to Czechoslovakia. East Germans will be able to buy an unlimited amount of Czechoslovak crowns. The move replaced an annual exchange limit of 1,320 crowns imposed two months ago.

Soviet Union – March 16, 1988 (KCA)

The State Committee for Forestry and the Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper and Wood Processing Industry are reorganized into the State Committee for Forests and the Ministry of the Timber Industry.

Hungary – March 17, 1988 (PTH)

A call is made for establishing the Network of Free Initiatives (NFI). It is established on May 1. János Kádár meets with leaders of industrial companies. In a follow-up interview he states that there is no crisis whatsoever in Hungary.

Soviet Union – March 17, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the first secretary of the Sumgait city CP committee, Mr. Dzhangir Muslim-Zade, and the city mayor, Mr. Tavakkula Yagub Ogly Mamedov, are dismissed from their posts.

Soviet Union – March 17, 1988 (KCA)

Another vote for the transfer of administration of Nagorny Karabakh in Azerbaijan to Armenia is held at a regional CP committee plenum which has been preceded by a demonstration of around 70,000 people in Stepanakert.

USA - March 17, 1988 (MNC)

By the decree of American President R. Reagan, 3200 American soldiers arrived in Honduras.

Arab League- March 17-18, 1988 (MNC)

The “Committee of Seven” of the Arab League negotiated in Moscow and China.

Soviet Union – March 18, 1988 (KCA)

It is disclosed that the general strike in Nagorny Karabakh is paralyzing the regional economy.

Hungary – March 18, 1988 (PTH)

An international scientific conference opens in Győr, discussing alternative routes of reforms in Eastern Europe.

Hungary – March 18, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai took part in the Conference of Ministers of Trade of 27 countries in Konstanz, in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Soviet Union / Jordan- March 18-19, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Jordan Zaid ar-Rifai visited the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria / I.C.O. – March 19-26, 1988 (KCA)

The Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) hears a report on the position of Bulgarian Moslems at a summit meeting in the Jordanian capital, Amman. In the report, an ICO delegation which has visited Bulgaria in June 1987, states that it is convinced by the justification for Turkey’s complaints about Bulgaria’s treatment of its Turkish minority, which has been “deprived of its privacy, freedom and natural rights”. The Bulgarian chairman of the government committee for religious affairs attacks the report as a serious attempt to mislead the ICO and to place its prestige at the service of self-seeking pan-Turkish objectives.

Soviet Union – March 21, 1988 (KCA)

An article in the CPSU central committee newspaper Pravda declares that a transfer of Nagorny Karabakh to Armenian administration will be an anti-socialist solution which will imperil the fraternal union of peoples and the national economy.

Bulgaria - March 21, 1988 (OSA)

Bishop Metodi Dimitrow Stratiew goes to Rome to represent approximately 7,000 Byzantine-rite Catholics.

Poland - March 21-24, 1988 (RFE)

The United Peasants’ Party, Poland’s official farmer’s party holds its tenth congress in Warsaw. Despite party representatives rejecting its tradition of passivity, the congress is largely uneventful and the party’s ability to defend farmers’ interests appears to remain limited.

Hungary – March 21-23, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Finance Miklós Villányi – during the meeting of Co-Chairmen of a Joint Committee of Economic Cooperation – negotiated with member of the federal government of Yugoslavia Egon Padovan in Belgrade.

Bulgaria - March 22, 1988 (OSA)

Turkish Foreign Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, denounces Bulgaria’s treatment of its 900,000 Turkish minority.

Yugoslavia / Great Britain - March 22-25, 1988 (JIS)

Member of the SFRY Presidency Veselin Đuranović visits London. The Yugoslav delegation is visited both by Queen Elisabeth II and by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The talks are centered on economic cooperation between Yugoslavia and the UK, as well as with the EEC. The British side expresses their readiness to help Yugoslavia overcome financial indebtedness to the West, and to support economic and political reforms in the country.

Hungary – March 23, 1988 (PTH)

The meeting of the CC of HSWP discusses a proposal specifying the enforcement of the leading role of the party and the development of the system of political institutions. The National Conference of HSWP is summoned to meet on May 20.

Soviet Union – March 23, 1988 (KCA)

It is disclosed that Mr. Yury Arakelyan, Pravda’s Armenia correspondent and a co-author of the article on March 21 has disavowed himself of some of its content, and he has been suspended from the newspaper. (See March 21, 1988).

GDR / Czechoslovakia – March 23, 1988 (OSA)

Milos Jake’s third visit abroad, as Secretary-General took him to the GDR. The course of the one-day visit and the topics discussed illustrate the good relationship between the two countries, even though some expectations have clearly not been met.

Bulgaria - March 23, 1988 (OSA)

Abdullah Omar Nasif, who led a group sent to Bulgaria last June, by the organization of the Islamic Conference, affirms that Turks were forced to change their names into Christian names, that they were prevented from celebrating Islamic wedding, and that the Quran was banned.

Bulgaria - March 23 and 24, 1988 (OSA)

The fifth National Conference of Young Writers takes place.

Soviet Union / Hungary – March 23-24, 1988 (LBC)

Hungarian party Politburo member Károly Grósz visits Moscow. Grósz informs press representatives that Gorbachev will not veto the introduction of the muti-party system. (February 11, 1989.)

Soviet Union – March 24-25, 1988 (MHC)

The Politburo holds an intense discussion on Nina Andreyeva’s letter and *glasnost*. There is a split between radicals and more cautious reformers.

Bulgaria - March 24, 1988 (OSA)

A Muslim journalist from Bangladesh, Gazi Abdulmecit, says that Bulgarian authorities tried to kill him during a recent visit to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria - March 24, 1988 (OSA)

During the Helsinki review, multiple diplomats from different countries agree that no Warsaw Pact delegation had ever supported Bulgaria in its attempts to defend the forced assimilation of the million minority that existed in Bulgaria.

Hungary – March 24, 1988 (PTH)

It is announced that Béla Bartók's remains will be taken home from the United States in June 1988.

Soviet Union – March 24, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the politburo has approved the investment of 2,000 million rubles to finance a seven-year plan of improvements in industry, housing and social services in Nagorny Karabakh, to make available Armenian-language television and radio broadcasts and to restore Armenian monuments.

Soviet Union – March 24, 1988 (KCA)

There is a publication of news in Armenia stating that any street demonstrations are banned unless it is notified to the authorities at least 10 days in advance. On the same day four members of the “Karabakh committee” are detained by police.

Czechoslovakia – March 24, 1988 (OSA)

The Secretariat of the CPCS Central Committee has approved new measures to improve the flow of information inside the party, but mainly from the top to the bottom rather than the reverse. Central control will be preserved and ideological constraints will remain in place.

Hungary – March 24-25, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of France Jean-Bernard Raimond had an official visit to Hungary. He consulted Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai and Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He met Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, head of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party and Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Czechoslovakia – March 25, 1988 (RFE)

Around 2,000 Catholics gather before the National Theatre in Bratislava holding candles. The so-called ‘Candle Demonstration’, organized by independent Roman Catholic groups in Slovakia, calls for the regime to cease religious and political persecution and to allow vacant bishoprics to be filled. The Czechoslovak police, having declared the demonstration illegal beforehand, engages the crowd with water cannon and detains over a hundred, including a number of Western journalists.

Bulgaria -March 25, 1988 (OSA)

The Bulgarian bishop Metodi Dimitrow Stratiew celebrates a liturgy in the Byzantine-Slavic rite for showing eastern rites.

Hungary – March 25, 1988 (PTH)

The Office of Information and the Office of Councils are dissolved. The Office of the Council of Ministers is set up.

Hungary – March 25, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister István Őszi took part in the conciliation meeting of the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Sofia.

Hungary – March 25-26, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy visited Austria, where he was received by Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Alois Mock, Minister of Economy Robert Graf, and Minister of Finance Ferdinand Lacina.

Soviet Union – March 26, 1988 (KCA)

Instead of renewing street demonstrations, protesters in Yerevan organize a mass stay-at-home protest, although the city is reported to be returning to normal on March 28.

Soviet Union – March 26, 1988 (KCA)

An official ceremony is held at a national monument on the outskirts of Riga in memory of some 43,000 Latvians who had been branded as Nazi collaborators, bourgeois nationalists, saboteurs or class enemies and had been deported to labor camps in Siberia in 1949. The ceremony is organized by the Latvian Writers' Union and is attended by officials of the Latvian CP and by members of the republic's government.

Hungary – March 26, 1988 (PTH)

The ministry of finance announces that as of April 1 the interest rate of long-term savings will be raised, and import tariffs will be decreased.

Hungary – March 27-April 2, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Parliament of the Republic of Ireland Sean Treacy visited Hungary. His host was President of the Parliament István Sarlós.

Yugoslavia - March 27, 1988 (OSA)

The Serbian Writers' Association met at the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade for its first major gathering of the year. A 19-point document entitled "A Contribution to the Public Debate on the Constitution--Hypotheses and Principles of Constitutional Changes" was approved by majority of association members. The resolution suggests changes to the proposed constitutional amendments currently being debated in numerous forums in Yugoslavia. The strongest language in the text called for the introduction of a multiparty system as the first step toward the abolishing the communist party's political monopoly. The text of the document has been formulated on March 2 at a joint session of the governing councils of the Serbian Writers', Philosophers', and Socialists' Associations. What makes this call for radical changes unusual and significant, however, is that these officially sanctioned associations have done so jointly and in a formal statement.

Bulgaria - March 28, 1988 (OSA)

The Editor in Chief of Literaturen Front, Evtim Evtimov, forced to resign accused on April 28th of

demagoguery.

Soviet Union – March 28, 1988 (KCA)

One of the four detainees who were caught by police on March 24, Mr. Paruir Airikyan, is charged with spreading false information and slandering the state because of a press conference he gave to foreign journalists in Moscow on March 19 at which he disputed official reports of the scale of the Sumgait violence. (See also March 24, 1988).

Soviet Union – March 28, 1988 (KCA)

The Kazakh Supreme Court sentences Mr. Duysetay Bekezhanov, an assistant to the former Kazakh CP first secretary Mr. Dinmukhamed Kunayev, to eight years in a labour camp for bribery, embezzlement of state property and protectionism.

Hungary – March 28-30, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the summit of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Sofia.

Hungary – March 29-30, 1988 (MNC)

Willi Stoph, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, President of the Cabinet of the German Democratic Republic took an official, firendly visit to Hungary. His host was Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party.

Soviet Union / Hungary – March 29, 1988 (LBC)

Grósz reveals that Gorbachev pledged not to interfere in the reform processes under way in Hungary and other East European states. (February 8, 1989.)

Bulgaria - March 30, 1988 (OSA)

The Turkish Foreign Minister, Mesu Yilmaz, tells the Turkish Parliament that the Islamic Conference Organization was in full solidarity with the ethnic Turks in Bulgaria.

Czechoslovakia – March 30, 1988 (OSA)

Five days after the brutal police repression of a peaceful religious demonstration in Bratislava, the Italian Communist Party’s newspaper has published an article by a leading Czechoslovak dissident also a Charter 77 signatory, Erika Kadlecova, on the challenge that religious revival poses to the regime.

Hungary – March 30, 1988 (PTH)

In the Tinódi film theater, thirty-seven young university students and graduates establish the Federation of Young Democrats (FYD).

Hungary – March 30, 1988 (KCA)

An independent students’ group is formed as an alternative to the official Communist Youth Union (*Kommunista Ifjúsági Szövetség* -KISZ).

Hungary – March 30, 1988 (PTH)

Péter Medgyessy, deputy Prime Minister announces that the Council of Ministers intends to introduce real interest rates.

Czechoslovakia – March 31, 1988 (KCA)

It is officially announced that plans for a dam and hydroelectric power station on the Berounka River at Krivoklat in Central Bohemia have been shelved for environmental reasons.

Zaire / Yugoslavia - March 31-April 2, 1988 (JIS)

President of Zaire Mobutu Sese Seko visits Yugoslavia. Economic cooperation is the central topic in the talks between Mobutu and Mojsov. International issues are discussed as well, especially the situation in Africa, and the challenges the Organization of African Unity is facing.

Yugoslavia / Algeria - March 31 - April 1, 1988 (OSA)

Politic talks between the delegation of FLN party led by the head of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, and the delegation of LCY, led by chairman of the league, Boško Krunić took place in Belgrade on March 31. Messaadia was invited to Belgrade by LCY Central Committee.

Messaadia also met with the Secretary of the LCY Presidency, Radiša Gačić, the Yugoslav State Presidency President, Lazar Mojsov, and with Boško Krunić, president of the Presidium of the LCY CC. It was concluded in the last meeting with Boško Krunić, that this visit has provided the opportunity for exchange of views on internal development of both countries, and on many international issues. The stress was put on the bilateral cooperation, especially in the sphere of economy and the nonaligned politics.

Yugoslavia / Malaysia - March 31 - April 1, 1988 (OSA)

Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, has received Malaysian foreign minister Abu Hassan bin Omar in Belgrade on March 31. They stressed the usefulness of contacts and political dialogue between the two countries. Future Yugoslav-Malaysian economic relations anticipate a growth in trade and closer ties between the two countries banking in order to promote business cooperation. Thus, a protocol was signed between Yugoslavia and Malaysia on April 1.

Poland – March 31, 1988 (KCA)

There are demonstrations in Warsaw and Gdansk over the price increases in Poland.

Soviet Union – March 31, 1988 (KCA)

The politburo of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) discusses measures for creating a co-ordinated structure for the organization of Communist Party cells in the different departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

April

Czechoslovakia – April 1988 (VVR)

The Central Committee negotiates the limitation of the Communist Party’s impact on the State.

Romania – April 1988 (ADC)

Ceaușescu presents a plan regarding the development of rural regions. According to it, 12,000 villages and 7,000 districts must have an agricultural base by the year 2000.

Soviet Union – Beginning of April 1988 (KCA)

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers in Latvia, Mr. Yury Ruben, and two of his deputies are officially reprimanded at the beginning of April 1988 by the Latvian CP leadership in connection with the preferential allocation of state housing to government staff.

Hungary – April 1, 1988 (PTH)

János Kádár gives an interview to the journal Magyarország (Hungary), also published in the soviet journal Ogonyok. Kádár evaluates the events in 1956 and his own role, and states that "Imre Nagy was not a counter-revolutionary from the beginning either."

Czechoslovakia – April 1, 1988 (KCA)

The federal Finance Ministry introduces new regulations, allowing Czechoslovaks to hold hard-currency bank accounts, providing that the money is acquired legally.

Czechoslovakia / U.K. – April 2, 1988 (KCA)

U.K. police arrest Mr. Edwin van Haarlem, who is described as a Czechoslovak national resident in London, on suspicion of espionage.

Bulgaria - April 2, 1988 (OSA)

The Turkish Daily *Gunes* reports that the family of an ethnic Turkish weightlifter who defected from Bulgaria to Turkey in 1986 is expected to arrive in Turkey next month.

Soviet Union – April 2, 1988 (KCA)

In an interview with official Soviet news agency Tass, Gen. Anikiyev says that during the stagnation of the 1970s and 1980s there have been ugly, negative processes requiring the authorities to cleanse the cadres of workers who have compromised themselves and are not trustworthy.

Bulgaria - April 3, 1988 (OSA)

The Bulgaria's ambassador in Ankara, Simon Radoykov, says that the BCP was considering a bill which, if approved, would enable Bulgaria's citizens to travel more freely abroad.

Bulgaria - April 4, 1988 (OSA)

The trial at the Supreme Court of the People's Republic of Bulgaria is put into action against a group of 7 members who were accused of perpetrating terrorist crimes during 1984 and 1985.

Bulgaria - April 5, 1988 (OSA)

Turkish foreign minister, Mesut Yilmaz, says that he expects improvements in the treatment of the ethnic Turks who are living in Bulgaria.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - April 5, 1988 (DRC)

Six US Senators, led by John Glenn, meet in Prague with Charter 77 signatories and former spokesmen Ladislav Lis, Eva Kantfirková, and Václav Malý.

GDR – April 5, 1988 (OSA)

West Germany’s opposition Social Democrats jointly call for talks on a Chemical Weapons-Free Zone in Central Europe with the ruling Communist Parties of East Germany and Czechoslovakia. West Germany, East Germany and Czechoslovakia should agree in coming talks not to produce, base or allow the deployment by others of chemical weapons on their soil, the statement said.

Yugoslavia / Spain - April 5-6, 1988 (JIS)

President of the Presidency Lazar Mojsov leads Yugoslav delegation to Spain. This is the first time a Yugoslav head of state visits Spain after 1945. Bilateral as well as international issues are being discussed, including the East-West relations, the CSCE, the policy of Non-Alignment, and the cooperation between Yugoslavia and the EC.

Central Europe – April 5, 1988 (MNC)

The Czechoslovakian, East German and West German ruling parties released a joint statement at the same time in Prague, Berlin and Bonn, in which they proposed the cretion of a chemical wepons-free zone of Central Europe for an incentive for a treaty of the cessation of such weapons.

United Kingdom - April 6-8, 1988 (MNC)

British Prime Minister M. Thatcher had an official visit to Turkey. (This was the first visit by a British Prime Minister since the estabilishment of the Republic of Turkey in 1923.)

U.S. / Soviet Union - April 6, 1988 (LBC)

Secretary of Commerce William Verity Jr. is empowered by the administration to negotiate the increase in US trade with the USSR. The five areas involved: energy, food processing, equipment for the construction industry, services like insurance and medical products. Verity wants to raise the bilateral trade turnover to 5 billion dollars a year. The departments of state and treasury supported the plan, only the Pentagon was opposed.

Hungary – April 6, 1988 (PTH)

Gábor Demszky, Ferencz Kőszeg, Imre Mécs, Ottilia Solt and Tibor Philipp issue the foundation statement for the Independent Legal Aid Service.

Yugoslavia / Poland - April 6, 1988 (OSA)

Jerzy Urban, under secretary for press and information of the PPR Government, arrived at the FEC’s invitation on a 4-day visit to Yugoslavia. The visit is about widening the cooperation in the area of information between the two countries.

Yugoslavia - April 7, 1988 (OSA)

In an apparent move to reassure Albania of its good intentions, the authorities in Belgrade have publicly repudiated the concept of an Albanian-Kosovo “confederation” introduced by prominent Zagreb professor Branko Horvat. He proposed this concept in an interview with the Priština (Kosovo) daily *Rilindja*. In his interview, Horvat sketched out a plan in which a confederation with Albania could take place within 10 years. This was no likely to occur yet, he said, as Enver Hoxa died only recently, and Albania needs more time to open up to the world.

By this repudiation, Yugoslav officials wanted to assure Tirana that Belgrade disavowed Horvat’s proposal, which, if carried out, could be seen as injurious to Albanian independence and sovereignty. Belgrade is thus pursuing a friendly policy with Albania that reached a new high point

during a recent conference of Balkan Foreign Ministers in February.

Hungary – April 7, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers submits a proposal to the Presidential Council to modify the decree regulating the operation of cooperative societies dealing in the procurement and marketing of consumer goods.

Hungary – April 7, 1988 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milos Yakes took a friendly visit to Hungary. He consulted with János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party.

Soviet Union - April 7, 1988 (MNC)

M. S. Gorbachev and Afghan Head of State Nadjibullah negotiated in Tashkent, where they released an Eight-Point Statement about the possibility of the settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet Union / Palestine - April 7-10, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Executive Committee of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, visited Moscow.

Hungary – April 7-8, 1988 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP traveled to Poland. He negotiated with Józef Czyrek, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’ Party, Secretary of the Central Committee, Marian Wozniak, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’ Party, and Zbigniew Michalek, reserve member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’ Party.

Hungary – April 7-8, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, Vice President of the Socialist Party of Austria (SPÖ) Ernst Höger arrived in Budapest. He negotiated with Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, and Géza Kótai, Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee of the HSWP. He also held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai.

Czechoslovakia – April 8, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Milos Jakes, the secretary general of CPCz, makes a further statement about *prestavba*, including specific proposals about changes in the role and organization of the CPCz, at the opening of a two-day central committee plenum. He declares that making fundamental reforms to the economy and developing a worker’s sense of personal and collective responsibility in production results are indispensable for ‘deepening socialist democracy’.

Hungary – April 8, 1988 (PTH)

János Kádár receives Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the unified armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

Hungary – April 8, 1988 (PTH)

Mihály Bihari, professor of law at the Law School of Eötvös Lóránd University, Zoltán Bíró, chief

research assistant of the National Széchenyi Library, Zoltán Király, editor of the Szeged regional studio of the Hungarian Television, and László Lengyel, chief associate of the Financial Research Company Ltd. are expelled from HSWP.

Bulgaria - April 8, 1988 (OSA)

Stefan Solakov, a journalist with Bulgaria's Sofia press agency, says in an interview published in Turkey, that Bulgaria is working on a new law which would allow people to emigrate wherever they wanted. Also, an emigre Bulgarian academic of Turkish origin affirms that Bulgaria's Government had killed ethnic Turks who didn't submit to Bulgarian demands.

Bulgaria - April 8, 1988 (OSA)

Turkish and Bulgarian authorities agree to allow their planes spreading pesticides, to approach within 200 meters of the border between both countries.

Czechoslovakia – April 8-9, 1988 (DRC)

The CPCz CC, at its ninth session, debates personnel questions. It resolves to replace Jan Fejes with Jan Pjesák in the function of Prosecutor General of the CSSR, and to coopt ten young Party members into the CC (Jan Gajdosik, Rudolf Hegenbart, Ivan Knotek, Vladimír Kunovjanek, Otto Liska, Václav Pětek, Stefan Rybék, Ondrej Saling, Miroslav Stépén, and Miroslav Zajíc). It relieves Antonin Kapek of his position in the Presidium and Josef Haman, Josef Havlin, and Jindřich Poledník of their functions as secretaries of the CPCz CC. It elects Jan Fojtlík and Ignác Janák to the Presidium, and Vasil Mohorita and Miroslav Štěpán.

Romania / Indonesia / People's Republic of Mongolia / North Vietnam – April 8-21, 1988 (PER)

The Ceausescu couple visits Indonesia, People's Republic of Mongolia and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Czechoslovakia – April 9, 1988 (KCA)

At its closing session, the central committee plenum approves changes to the composition of the presidium (the CPCz equivalent of a politburo) and to the secretariat. Observers claim that the changes establish greater unity in the leadership and strengthen support for Mr. Milos Jakes, the secretary general of CPCz.

Czechoslovakia - April 10, 1988 (DRC)

The StB breaks up a meeting of Charter 77 spokesmen, which is being held in a private Prague flat and attended by 29 Charter 77 representatives.

Poland - April 10, 1988 (OSA)

Soviet Press campaigns against Poland's Solidarity Trade Union. Notably, an influential Soviet weekly magazine accused Solidarity of having links with Fascists in Britain and West Germany.

Hungary – April 10-11, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Executive Council of Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Branko Mikulić had an official friendly visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Károly Grósz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Károly

Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic.

Hungary – April 10-14, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Industry Frigyes Berecz had an official visit to Pakistan. His negotiation partner was Minister of Industry Hussein.

Third World- April 11-13, 1988 (MNC)

On the conference of the “Group of 77” of the developing nations in Belgrade, the treaty about the global system of trade favors was accepted.

Yugoslavia / Group 77- April 11-13, 1988 (JIS)

The Ministerial meeting of the Group 77 takes place in Belgrade. It is attended by 62 member states, 11 observers, and China as special guest. The Agreement on a Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) is reached. All participants agree on the necessity of intensifying economic cooperation among the developing countries. A resolution on the special assistance for the PLO is adopted, as well as a resolution on Panama, calling for lifting of economic sanctions against it.

Hungary – April 11, 1988 (PTH)

The prices of certain items produced by the paper-industry are raised by 7.1%.

Poland – April 11, 1988 (KCA/RFE)

The Council of Ministers orders the creation of nine new credit banks in order to decentralize the Polish banking system and to encourage competition. The banks, to be formed from regional organizations of the National Bank, are to begin operations in January 1989, and will each have headquarters in a different regional center. Wladyslaw Baka, the Chairman of the Polish National Bank, implies that after the reorganization, there should be greater freedom of movement and choice within the system.

Czechoslovakia – April 11, 1988 (OSA)

CPCS CC officials tell journalists at a press conference in Prague that Lubomir Strougal would probably be asked to form a new government next week and would retain his post as Federal Prime Minister, but they apparently intimated that the case is not quite settled. Also they give journalists some clarification about the new division of responsibilities in the CPCS leadership.

Czechoslovakia / USSR – April 11-15, 1988 (RFE / OSA)

President Gustav Husak visits the USSR on his first trip abroad since December 1987, when he was replaced by Milos Jakes as CPCS Secretary-General. Gorbachev criticizes the tentativeness of the Czechoslovak reform programme, stating: ‘creating the conditions for people’s initiative and self-government is precisely the essence of democratization; to fear this means not to believe in people. And not to believe in people means not to believe in socialism’.

Netherlands / Czechoslovakia - April 12, 1988 (DRC)

While on an official visit to Czechoslovakia –a delegation of the Standing Committee for Foreign Relations of the Lower House of the Estates General of the Netherlands led by J. J. P. de Boer, meet with Charter 77 signatories Miloš Hájek, Václav Havel, Martin Palouš, Petr Uhl, and Alexandr

Vondra.

Bulgaria – April 12, 1988 (KCA)

Problems in the agricultural sector are discussed in the BCP newspaper, Rabotnichesko Delo. The newspaper states that bad farm management is as much to blame as inclement weather conditions for the 1987 shortfalls and consequent food shortages.

Hungary – April 12-20, 1988 (MNC)

During the 46 and also Jubille (40. anniversary) Summit of the Danube Commission the following stayed in Budapest: Rudolf Streicher, Federal Minister of Transportation and State Industry from Austria, Jürgen Warnke, Federal Minister of Transportation from the Federal Republic of Germany, and Y. M. Volmer, Minister of Maritime Affairs from the Soviet Union. (The other members represented themselves via their Ambassadors.) At the Summit, Hungary was represented by Minister of Transportation Lajos Urbán.

Hungary – April 13-15, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the German Democratic Republic in Berlin.

Hungary – April 13-15, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen Shaye Mohsin consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary – April 14-15, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai – during a co-chairman meeting of a Joint Committee of Economic Cooperation – negotiated with Alexandr Antonov, Deputy Prime Minister of the Soviet Union in Moscow.

Afghanistan- April 14, 1988 (MNC)

Treaties for the settlement of the issue in Afghanistan were signed in Geneva by the representatives on behalf of Afghanistan and Pakistan on the one hand, and the United States and the Soviet Union on the other. According to these, the Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan; the foriegn interference in the interior affairs of Afghanistan will be ceased; the issue of refugees will be dealt with.

Soviet Union / Afghanistan – April 14, 1988 (MHC)

The Geneva Accords on Afghanistan are signed, calling on the USSR to remove half of its forces by August 15, 1988, and the remainder by February 15, 1989.

Slovakia / Czechoslovakia - April 14, 1988 (DRC)

Jozef Lenárt is relieved of his function as First Secretary of the CC of the Communist Party of Slovakia, and Ignác Janák is named in his place. The new Secretary of Ideology of the CPS CC is now Gejza Šlapka, replacing Lubomír Pezlar.

Slovakia / Czechoslovakia - April 14, 1988 (OSA)

The session of the Slovak CP CC in Bratislava follows the pattern of the CPCS CC plenum in Prague that preceded it. It makes some personnel changes and repeats the call for party members to 60

show more activism, responsibility and discipline.

Soviet Union / U.S. – April 15, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. William Verity, the U.S. Commerce Secretary, comments at the end of his visit to Moscow that any dramatic expansion of trade through granting the Soviet Union most-favored-nation trading status remains dependent upon improvements in the Soviet record on human rights observance.

Hungary – April 15, 1988 (PTH)

A meeting is held in Debrecen under the title "Politics and publicity."

Hungary – April 15-22, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Agriculture and Food Jenő Váncsa visited the United States of America. His negotiation partner was Minister of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng.

Nicaragua- April 16-18, 1988 (MNC)

In Nicaragua, negotiations took place between the leaders of the Contras and the representatives of the government for the first time.

Czechoslovakia - April 16, 1988 (DRC)

The Independent Peace Association—Initiative for the Demilitarization of Society (Nezávislé mírové sdružení—"Iniciativa za demilitarizaci společnosti or NMS—IDS) issues its first statement, introducing itself as an informal community of people, not associated with any political party, ideology or religion, and trying to bring about open discussion on all questions in society, particularly those related to arms and the military.

Czechoslovakia – April 16, 1988 (KCA)

A new dissident group calling itself the Independent Peace Association publishes a document calling on the authorities to promote freedom of information and to recognize the right of conscientious objection of military service.

Iraq-Iran – April 17, 1988 (MNC)

Iraqi military forces recaptured a peninsula and a city which were under Iranian control since January 1986.

Hungary – April 18-20, 1988 (MNC)

N. I. Rizhkov, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Cabinet of the Soviet Union had an official friendly visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Károly Németh, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic.

Soviet Union – April 18, 1988 (KCA)

Tass announces the appointment of Mr. Feliks Peregudov and Mr. Vladimir Shadrikov, who are named as First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Public Education, as Ministers of the U.S.S.R.

Czechoslovakia – April 18-19, 1988 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia approves a bill on reorganizing the federal government and reducing the number of ministries.

Hungary / Soviet Union – April 18-20, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Kikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, officially visits Hungary.

Hungary – April 20, 1988 (PTH)

A report prepared by an expert committee on the request of Ófalu in Baranya county states that placing radio-active waste near the village involves high environmental risks.

Czechoslovakia - April 20, 1988 (DRC)

As part of the changes in the structure and content of the work of the central authorities (carried out according to the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution, ratified 19 April 1988) a number of changes are effected in the Federal Government. Seven ministers leave the Government; Marián Čalfa is named Minister for Legislative Affairs; the number of members of the Government is reduced from 26 to 20.

Slovakia / Czechoslovakia - April 21, 1988 (DRC)

The Presidiums of the Czech National Council and the Slovak National Councils (the Czech and Slovak legislatures) accept the resignation of five members of the Czech Government and five members of the Slovak Government. Two new members of the Czech Government and two new members of the Slovak Government are named in their place, thus reducing the number of members of the Czech and Slovak Governments.

Czechoslovakia – April 20-21, 1988 (KCA)

The Federal Government of Czechoslovakia resigns and on the following day a new government is appointed. In addition, there are reorganizations of the governments in the Czech and Slovak SRs on the same dates.

Hungary – April 21, 1988 (PTH)

Mátyás Szurös delivers a talk in Balassagyarmat. He talks about issues of foreign policy, including the Hungarian-Rumanian relations.

Hungary / Romania – April 21, 1988 (PTH)

41 Mátyás Szurös delivers a talk in Balassagyarmat. He talks about issues of foreign policy, including the Hungarian-Romanian relations.

Poland - April 21-25, 1988 (RFE)

Three major strike protests, particularly in response to the recent drastic price increases and continued decline in living standards, in the space of a few days indicate the precarious state of social peace in Poland. On April 21, 5,000 workers at the steel plant in Stalows Kola attend a Solidarity-organized rally, threatening strike action if their demands for wage increases are not met. On April 25, several hundred transport workers hold a strike in Bydgoszcz, halting public transport for more than twelve hours. On April 26, at least 4,000 workers go on strike at the Nowa Huta steel

mills.

U.S. / Soviet Union- April 21-22, 1988 (LBC)

Schultz makes a visit in Moscow, where he discusses issues of human rights, local conflicts and the acceleration of the Geneva talks on strategic arms reduction. The factors that impede progress: SDI, cruise missiles and the question of monitoring.

Hungary – April 22, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers discusses the draft of the law regulating associations. A scientific advisory committee is set up to work with the Council of Ministers.

Hungary / Austria – April 22, 1988 (PTH)

In Austria a bill is passed by the Parliament regulating tariff reductions on Hungarian goods.

Hungary / Romania – April 22, 1988 (OSA)

Mátyás Szurös meets with a delegation of the Central Committee of the RCP, led by Nicolae Mihai. They agree to further meetings and increased cooperation between the countries in the years 1988-1989. The Hungarian side stresses the need for negotiation on the issue of Hungarian minorities living in Romania.

Netherlands / Czechoslovakia - April 22, 1988 (DRC)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Hans van den Broek, meets in Prague with Charter 77 signatories (including former spokesmen), Jiří Hájek, Václav Havel, Ladislav Hejdlének, Václav Malý, Jan Dus, and Petr Uhl, and Jazz Section representative Karel Šrp.

Czechoslovakia – April 22, 1988 (OSA)

Charter 77 issues a letter commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted (VONS).

Hungary – April 23-24, 1988 (PTH)

A two-day higher educational parliament is held in Veszprém at the University of Chemical Industry. The higher educational youth parliament decides that youth organizations engaged in political activities may be formed at universities.

Czechoslovakia – April 23, 1988 (RFE)

Cardinal Tomasek, archbishop of Prague, sends a letter to Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal protesting against the state media’s denunciation of the signatories of a petition calling for religious freedom. Tomasek sends another letter to the Catholic people as a whole in Czechoslovakia, calling for them to speak up, or else he will be seen as ‘a general without troops’.

Bulgaria – April 25, 1988 (KCA)

A three-week trial by the Bulgarian Supreme Court sentences three people to death from firing squad and four others to prison terms of between one and five years in connection with bomb attacks on August 30, 1984, and March 9, 1985, in which eight people were killed. No motive for the bombings is disclosed.

Hungary – April 25, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz is interviewed by Der Spiegel. Among other things he says: "In 1956 we were very close to reintroducing a multiparty system. More than 70 different parties emerged that year. Only one of them wanted socialism, and this was the one that survived."

Poland – April 25, 1988 (KCA)

A major wave of strikes begins when bus and tram drivers in Bydgoszcz and the nearby town of Inowrocław abandon their vehicles, causing widespread traffic disruption. After a 12-hour stop authorities concede to a 63% pay increase.

Romania – April 25, 1988 (OSA)

An article by Viorel Popescu appears in the RCP's theoretical monthly *Era Socialista*. It attempts to integrate Ceausescu's pronouncements on reform into a coherent socialist construction position, arguing that his policies based on "objective" general laws that applied to every socialist polity. Examples of these laws are said to be the acquisition and consolidation of political power by "toiling workers"; the party's leading role in all spheres of society; the abolition of private property; and "the development and perfecting of socialist property." Socialism can be "renewed," says Popescu, only if its intrinsic principles are not contravened; and respect for these principles necessarily leads to a rejection of “so-called market socialism” (essentially the reforms the USSR is seeing under Gorbachev). This, Popescu emphasizes, is “Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's main argument about socialist renewal.”

Soviet Union / U.S. – April 25, 1988 (KCA)

The president of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council (ASTEC), Mr. James Giffen, tells a House of Representatives subcommittee on trade that the value of annual trade between the two countries can rise from around 1.6 billion dollars in 1987 to 15 billion dollars providing that there is a true political rapprochement.

Poland – April 25-27, 1988 (MHC)

Thousands of Polish workers strike demanding higher wages. Strikes spread across the country, including the shipyards in Gdansk, and continue until mid-May.

Bulgaria - April 25, 1988 (OSA)

The trial of a group of seven Bulgarians who, during 1984 and 1985 carried out different terrorist crimes in Sofia and other places in the country, ends. Three were sentenced to death by shooting.

Bulgaria - April 25, 1988 (OSA)

Bulgaria says to the United Nations that a recent report by the Islamic Conference Organization about the Muslim minority in Bulgaria was biased. The Bulgarian ambassador, Alexander Stresov, objects that the delegation that visited Bulgaria ignored what it observed there, and failed to take into consideration information provided by the Bulgarian side.

Bulgaria - April 26, 1988 (OSA)

At the 16th army party conference, Colonel Orlin Orlinov, defends the government, stating that it cares about Bulgaria and that it is aware about the environmental problems that were occurring, so he rejects any criticism of the party or the government.

Middle East-April 26, 1988 (MNC)

Saudi Arabia cut its diplomatic ties with Iran.

Poland - April 26, 1988 (LBC)

Strike breaks out in the Lenin Steel Plant of Nowa Huta, Poland. An estimated 15 thousand workers participate. The strike spreads to other cities, on May 1 the demonstrators clash with police, on the 6th of May police forces end the Nowa Huta demonstrations by force. The Polish government rejects talks with Solidarity.

Czechoslovakia – April 26, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Pavel Wonka, a 35-year-old dissident, dies in detention. He has been sentenced on April 21 to five months' imprisonment for breaking the rules of a three-year sentence of protective surveillance. Mr. Wonka has been arrested on April 5, little more than a month after completing a one-year prison sentence for attempting to stand as an independent candidate in the Federal Assembly election of 1986.

Poland – April 26, 1988 (KCA)

A strike begins at the Lenin steelworks in Nowa Huta, near Krakow, where some 12,000 of the 32,000 workforce stop work and occupy the plant to demand a 50 percent pay increase. Also on the same day, management at a machine-building works in Stalowa Wola dismisses two Solidarity activists for organizing a mass meeting of workers at the plant on April 21.

Soviet Union – April 26, 1988 (KCA)

It is reported that Mr. Feliks Sanakoyev has been dismissed as first secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia regional committee in the autonomous oblast of South Ossetia, following three days of demonstrations in the regional capital, Tskhinvali, against the insanitary condition of the town's water supply which recently led to an epidemic of typhoid fever.

Bulgaria - April 27, 1988 (OSA)

A document by Zhivkov, titled “Some problems and tasks related to the restructuring of the cultural sphere” is published on the press with multiple obvious cuts to his record. This document was pronounced and prepared to be published for the 27th March, but because it was a controversial declaration in which he propulsed Glasnost, he had problems with the politburo.

Bulgaria - April 27, 1988 (OSA)

There is an announcement of the plenum in *Tabotnichesko Delo* for May, but it never occurred until 19th July.

Bulgaria - April 27, 1988 (OSA)

The Deputy Defense Minister and Chief of the Bulgarian General Staff, General Atanas Semerdzhiev goes for three in an official visit to Athens. During this visit he treated with the Greek chief of the General Staff, General Nikos Kouris, about different military issues which were in the interest of both countries.

Bulgaria - April 27, 1988 (OSA)

Bulgaria reportedly asks Turkey for a one million dollar transfer fee for a champion weightlifter who defected to Turkey in 1986.

Bulgaria - April 28, 1988 (OSA)

The Foreign Affairs Minister of Bulgaria and chairman of the Committee on issues of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, Lyubomir Popov, explains in an interview that the conclusion of the report carried out by Islamic Conference Organization was a defense of the ideas of the extreme Turkish citizens of Bulgaria, who believed in the old Ottoman Empire. Popov also explains that this conference did not bring any data at all, and that it only listened to the Turkish and not to all the Muslims that lived in Bulgaria.

Hungary – April 28, 1988 (PTH)

Leaders of HSWP and the National Council of Trade Unions discuss the further development of political institutions and the relations between the party and the trade unions with a view to these changes.

Poland – April 29, 1988 (KCA/RFE)

Tensions are growing as the strike at Nowa Huta enters its fourth day. There are now approximately 16,000 striking workers, and the talks between the striking committee and the management were broken off on April 27, making an imminent agreement unlikely. Both the Polish media and the official trade union organization are stressing that the strike is illegal.

Around a third of the 18,000 workers begin an occupation of parts of the plant to call for the reinstatement of the two men who have been dismissed on April 26 in Stalowa Wola and for a monthly wage rise of ZI 20,000.

Poland – April 29, 1988 (KCA)

A number of Solidarity members are detained in police operations in several cities, apparently in connection with a Solidarity call for independent May Day rallies.

Soviet Union – April 29, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gorbachev tells the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Pimen, at a formal meeting that there have been mistakes in the past concerning treatment of religious believers. He speaks of a new approach to church-state relations which will uphold the full rights of believers.

Hungary – April 29, 1988 (PTH)

The Presidential Council modifies the decree regulating the operation of cooperatives dealing in the procurement, marketing and production of consumer goods.

Hungary – April 29, 1988 (PTH)

The committee for social and health affairs of the House holds a session in which it is stated that the issue of permitting abortion must be reconsidered and the regulations must be changed.

Czechoslovakia - April 29, 1988 (DRC)

The Presidium of the CPCz CC approves the draft of a letter that is intended for the basic organizations of the CPCz and warns against the activation of the forces of the internal and external adversary (The letter is sent out by teletype on 10 May 1988.)

Hungary – April 29, 1988 (PTH)

The first McDonald's self-service restaurant in Hungary opens in Budapest.

Romania - April 29, 1988 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Romanian Head of State N. Ceausescu announced that the settlement-systematization plan will be executed through 2000, destroying around 7000 villages.

Romania – April 29, 1988 (OSA)

Addressing the Political Executive Committee, Ceausescu says it is necessary to “refer briefly to some problems of socialist construction." Speaking of general problems of "socialist construction," he says that "a series of theoretical and practical deviations, leftist as well as rightist," can be seen at present. "In my opinion, the rightist deviations are currently the more dangerous," he continues, "for they could greatly harm socialist construction." For Ceausescu, it is therefore necessary to "intensify ideological activity, nationally as well as internationally," in order to promote "the powerful assertion of the revolutionary outlook on the world”. His address comes very close to blaming Gorbachev's policies for the Polish strikes in April and May 1988--about which not a word was said in the Romanian media. The "radical changes" taking place in international life, Ceausescu claims, generated "all kinds of ideas and confusion, including mistrust in the forces of socialism."

Romania - April 29, 1988 (OSA):

Ceausescu gives a speech in which he confirms his determination to go ahead with the project of rural resettlement. Seven to eight thousand villages were to be eliminated, some were to be replaced with “agro-industrial centers”, in which the peasants would live in standardized blocks.

GDR – April 29, 1988 (OSA)

Against the background of increasing unrest among East German dissidents and would-be emigres, the state puts pressure on the Evangelical Church to curb its political activities.

USA / Soviet Union-April 29-30, 1988 (MNC)

American and Soviet scientits executed a joint experimental explosion-chain in Nevada to measure the reliability of methods used for monitor nuclear tests.

Poland – April 30, 1988 (KCA)

The authorities unexpectedly release from police custody Mr. Kornel Morawiecki and Mr. Andrzej Kolodziej, two leaders of the radical Solidarity splinter group, Fighting Solidarity.

Hungary – April 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Federation of Young Democrats has its general assembly in the Tinódi film theater.

May

Hungary – May 1988 (PTH)

Gyula Juhász's paper entitled "National identity and Hungarian identity in the 20th century" is published in Új Forrás (New Source). In his view "the events in October and the beginning of November, 1956 were brought to an end by troops of a foreign army, which evoked the image of the war of independence in the majority of the Hungarian public that has remained in our collective memory up to this very day." In the appendix to the journal Medvetánc's (Bear's Dance) two papers are published under the titles "Turnabout and Reform" and "Proposal for the Reformation of Publicity and the Mass Media."

Hungary – May 1, 1988 (KCA)

A new unofficial political umbrella organization embracing independent political, ecological, religious and youth groups and calling itself the Network of Free Initiatives is formed at a meeting of around 200 people in Budapest. Its objectives are to constitutionally guarantee civil rights, freedom of association, a free press, greater powers for elected bodies, and a withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungarian soil.

Poland – May 1, 1988 (RFE/KCA)

Official May Day parades in several cities are confronted by Some 30,000 demonstrators bearing pro-Solidarity banners and chanting slogans in support of striking workers in Nowa Huta, and fighting between police and demonstrators is reported in Gdansk, Warsaw, Krakow, Lodz, Wroclaw, Poznan and Plock.

Czechoslovakia – May 1, 1988 (OSA)

A group of independent activists makes a statement that is planning to hold an international conference in November in Prague on “Czechoslovak in the European Context 1918-1988.”

Hungary – May 2, 1988 (PTH)

The department of the building of the Baranya County Council refuses to give permission to build the nuclear waste base near Ófalu.

Poland – May 2, 1988 (KCA)

An estimated 7,000 of the 12,000 workers at Gdansk’s Lenin shipyard go out on strike in support of the Nowa Huta strikers and call for restoration of legal status to Solidarity. Police react by rounding up nine members of the Solidarity KKW.

Hungary – May 2-5, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn took part on the Summit of the Council of Europe in Strassbourg.

Hungary – May 3-6, 1988 (MNC)

Head of the National Planning Office of Romania (Minister) Ion Ceausescu negotiated with the Deputy President of the National Planning Office in Budapest.

Hungary / Romania- – May 3-6, 1988 (MNC)

Head of the National Planning Office of Romania (Minister) Ion Ceausescu negotiated with the Deputy President of the National Planning Office in Budapest.

Czechoslovakia - May 3, 1988 (DRC)

Charter 77 issues an obituary, several letters of protest, and a statement on the death of human-rights activist Pavel Wonka, who died in the Hradec Krélové prison on 26 April 1988, at the age of 35, a ‘victim of unlawful judicial and prison practices.’ (Wonka’s death is later to become the impulse for the establishment in February 1989 of the Club of Legal Support, whose aim is to ensure legal awareness among the public, to seek justice and to provide legal aid in cases of state organs breaking the law.)

Soviet Union / U.S. – May 3-4, 1988 (KCA)

Soviet and U.S. negotiators fail at a meeting in London to reach agreement to renew the 1975 U.S.–Soviet grain agreement for a further five-years.

Yugoslavia / USA - May 4-6, 1988 (JIS)

The Presidency member Josip Vrhovec visits Washington where he meets with the US President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Schultz, and other high US representatives. The talks are centered on economic cooperation between the two countries. The US expresses its support for the program of economic stabilization of Yugoslavia, and its arrangement with the IMF. Various international issues are discussed as well.

Hungary – May 4, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers sets up a budgetary reform committee.

U.S. / Poland - May 4, 1988 (LBC)

Reagan expresses anxiety over the clashes in Poland between the police and the demonstrators. (October 12, 1988.)

Hungary / U.K. – May 4-7, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Károlyy Grósz visits the United Kingdom for talks with government ministers and industrialists with the aim of improving trade relations between the U.K. and Hungary.

Hungary – May 4-6, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a parliamentary delegation, General Secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan Abe Shintaro visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was István Sarlós, President of the Parliament. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist

Workers’ Party.

Hungary – May 4-7, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet had an official visit to the United Kingdom. He held talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe. He met the leader of the British Labour Party Neil Kinnock and the President and other leaders of the House of Commons of the Parliament, and also the mayor of London. He also met the leading personalities of the business- and banking life of Great Britain.

Poland – May 5, 1988 (RFE/KCA)

Western media correspondents report that ZOMO riot police entered the steel works at Nowa Huta and broke up the ten-day-old strike by 14,000 of the plant’s workers. The strike of 3,000 workers at the Gdansk shipyards continues.

Yugoslavia - May 5, 1988 (RWE)

The trial of 26 businessman, bankers and officials began in Bihać (Bosnia and Herzegovina). They were accused in connection with Yugoslavia’s biggest ever financial scandal concerning the issue of uncovered promissory notes worth up to \$900,000,000 by the management of the Agrokomerc agro-industrial combine, allegedly with the collusion of Bosnian politicians.

Romania – May 5, 1988 (OSA)

Scinteia runs an article calling for that the role of the central economic plan to be increased and, accordingly, that the role of the state (that is, its supervisory role) to be enhanced. However, it clarifies that, precisely because specific conditions always have to be taken into consideration, “there are no universal recipes, no obligatory standards, no preset patterns for socialist construction.”

GDR – May 5, 1988 (OSA)

East German Politburo member Hermann Axen is in Washington for a visit scheduled to last several days. His visit is part of a gradual improvement taking place in East German – American relations. A visit to the USA by Honecker, however, is far from likely in the foreseeable future. The GDR’s interest in improving relations is primarily economic.

Soviet Union – May 5, 1988 (KCA)

Two of the founders of the National Independence Party of Estonia, Mr. Heiki Ahonen and Mr. Ervi Orula, are expelled from the Soviet Union to Sweden.

Hungary – May 5-7, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of Mozambique and Secretary of the Central Committee of the FRELIMO-party Pascoal Manuel Mucumbi had an official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He negotiated with Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP. He was received by Károly Németh, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic.

Hungary – May 6, 1988 (PTH)

The presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions discusses the preparations necessary for the new company law and the issues related to organized holidays supported by the Unions.

Poland - May 6, 1988 (RFE)

The Sejm's socio-economic council approves a draft bill (the Sejm is set to put it into law on May 11), which grants the government "extraordinary powers" to suppress strike action. The bill provides for one year's imprisonment for anyone organizing strikes, and will allow the government to freeze wages, prices and dismiss managerial personnel.

Soviet Union – May 7-9, 1988 (KCA)

More than 100 dissidents gather in Moscow to declare the foundation of a political opposition group to be known as the Democratic Union. The group on May 9 formally adopts a manifesto dedicated to economic and spiritual pluralism, a multi-party system, a legal opposition press and independent trade unions.

Poland - May 7-9, 1988 (RFE)

Talks between the striking workers and the management at the Gdansk shipyards fail to achieve any concrete result. On May 9, Solidarity's National Executive Commission issues a communiqué, urging nationwide action to support the striking workers in Gdansk and to stop the authorities from "again resorting to force."

South America- May 7-19, 1988 (MNC)

During his South American tour, Pope John Paul II visited Uruguay, Bolivia, Peru and Paraguay.

Hungary – May 8-9, 1988 (MNC)

Shimon Peres, Foreign Minister of the State of Israel, President of the Israeli Labor Party (MAI) – in transit, interrupting his tour for his on will in Budapest – took a non-official visit to Hungary. He met Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai and Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Romania – May 8, 1988 (OSA)

RCP's daily publishes an article maintaining that if the party is to fulfill its historical task, it cannot operate on a merely general level but must involve itself in every aspect of society. This appears to be a reaction against calls within the USSR calling for an increase in the local soviets' power at the expense of the party', and proposals for curtailing the party's administrative powers or its supervision of mass organizations.

GDR – May 9, 1988 (OSA)

Eight months after arriving in East Berlin, the East German Jewish community's first rabbi in twenty-two years decides to cut his assignment short. The Polish-born American rabbi Isaac Neumann says that he plans to return to the United States four months earlier than planned, because "the situation is too impossible to work."

Soviet Union – May 9, 1988 (KCA)

Plans to hold the formal inauguration of the Democratic Union at the home of Mr. Sergei Grigoryants, the editor of the independent magazine *Glasnost*, are thwarted by the arrest of Mr.

Grigoryants shortly before the inaugural meeting.

Hungary – May 9, 1988 (PTH)

The meeting of the CC of HSWP makes preparations for the new law of associations.

Hungary – May 9-10, 1988 (PTH)

The Israeli foreign minister Simon Peresz pays a two-day unofficial visit to Hungary and meets with Hungarian leaders.

Hungary – May 9-11, 1988 (MNC)

Swedish Minister of Culture Bengt Goransson visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Minister of Education Béla Köpeczi.

Hungary – May 9-11, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Building of Sweden, Hans Gustafsson, visited Hungary. He consulted with Minister of Building and Urban Development László Somogyi.

Hungary – May 10-13, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of Egypt, Ahmed Hatata, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Soviet Union- May 10-14, 1988 (MNC)

Soviet Head of State A. A. Gromiko had an official friendly visit to Romania.

Poland - May 10, 1988 (RFE)

The strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk ends, as the workers decide to leave the plant “without any agreement with the authorities.”

Romania / Soviet Union – May 10, 1988 (OSA)

TASS (USSR news agency) reports Ceausescu's apparent bewilderment at "'voices' who try to question" the greatest Soviet achievements, namely, "the completion of the socialist revolution..., the transformation [of the Soviet Union] into a great industrial power, and the exceptional role played by the Soviet Union in the victory against fascism.”

Romania / Soviet Union – May 10-14, 1988 (PER)

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Andrei Andreevici Gromiko, visits Romania.

Romania / Soviet Union – May 10-14, 1988 (PER)

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, Andrei Andreevici Gromiko, visits Romania.

Soviet Union – May 11, 1988 (KCA)

Intercommunal clashes are reported in the Armenian town of Ararat.

Poland – May 11, 1988 (KCA)

The Sejm (Polish parliament) approves a bill, effective until the end of 1988, giving the Council of Ministers special powers to intervene in the management of enterprises in order to counteract bureaucratic resistance to economic reforms and to curb wage and price inflation.

Warsaw Pact- May 11-13, 1988 (MNC)

The Summit of the Military Council of the Warsaw Pact was held in Sofia.

Yugoslavia - May 11 - 31, 1988 (RWE)

The federal Prime Minister, Branko Mikulić, on May 11 announced a reshuffle of the Federal Executive Council (Cabinet) designed primarily to streamline federal administration of the economy and involving the creation of new Secretariats for Foreign Economic Relations and for the Economy; other changes included the replacement of Adml. Branko Mamula as Federal Defence Secretary by Col.-Gen. Veljko Kadijević.

On May 15 Mikulić's government survived a vote of no confidence over its economic policies which had been tabled in the Federal Assembly (parliament) by deputies from Yugoslavia's two most developed republics, Slovenia and Croatia, and on May 27 the government launched an economic recovery programme worked out with the IMF which included an end to a six-month wage and price freeze and a 24 per cent devaluation of the dinar.

On May 29-31 an extraordinary conference on the ruling League of Communists heard calls for profound policy changes to tackle the country's deepening economic and social crises and a threat to replace the party leadership unless decisive reforms were introduced within six months.

Hungary – May 12-13, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Berlin.

Hungary – May 12, 1988 (PTH)

Mátyás Szurös, secretary of the CC of HSWP meets with the leaders of ethnic minorities in Hungary.

U.S. / Soviet Union - May 12, 1988 (LBC)

Vice-President Bush delivers a speech on Soviet-American relations. He believes the time has to come to give up the doctrine of containment and proposes that the USSR should be integrated into the Commonwealth of Nations. He pledges that "as the Soviet Union becomes increasingly open and democratic, as soon as they are conform with the norms of responsible international conduct, we shall give the appropriate response. " He proposes two measures for the amelioration of relations: the renewal of the open skies initiative first recommended by Eisenhower in 1955, which would allow the aerial monitoring of military installations and movement. Secondly he proposes the abolition of the Jackson-Vanik amendment so that Moscow can obtain the most favored nation status.

USA - May 13, 1988 (MNC)

The 42 Summit of the UN General Assembly ordered the United States in a resolution, to execute the resolution of the International Court of Justice of The Hague from April 26, according to which, the issue of the closure of the New York (UN) office of the PLO should be brought to a criminal court.

Soviet Union – March 13, 1988 (KCA)

Sovietskaya Rossiya, the newspaper of the Communist party and government leadership in the Russian Federation, publishes a reader's letter defending the leadership of Marshal Stalin and sharply criticizing Mr. Gorbachev's policies as too liberal.

Hungary – May 13, 1988 (PTH)

It is announced that as of June 1 the interest rate and the premium interest of savings by private people will be raised.

Hungary – May 14, 1988 (PTH)

By the new traffic regulations, except for through traffic on a few streets, all cars are banned from the city center of Budapest.

Hungary – May 14, 1988 (KCA)

Several hundred academics and research scientists meet in Budapest to establish Hungary's first independent trade union since the Communist takeover. The new Democratic Trade Union of Scientific Workers (TDDSZ) claims more than 1,000 members.

Czechoslovakia - May 14, 1988 (DRC)

Charter 77's fourth forum on the political situation in the country, the establishment of new independent initiatives (including political ones), and the means of their working together with Charter 77, is attended by about fifty signatories. Shortly after it began, the meeting is broken up by a large number of police, both in uniform and plainclothes.

The Chartists issues a communiqué advocating the creation of a 'community for democracy' as an open political movement that would consider an alternative political program and create the basis for the free political association of citizens.

Yugoslavia - May 15, 1988 (RWE)

Raif Dizdarević of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Stane Dolanc of Slovenia took over as, respectively, President and Vice-President of the Federal Collective State Presidency under the system of annual rotation of these offices.

Foreign relations under new President of FCSP - Raif Dizdarević's stance on foreign relations can be comprised in his statement that Yugoslavia must insist on a good relationship with Europe, without the sacrifice of the relations with the Third World. That being said, he has also rejected domestic criticism that Yugoslavia spends too much of its energy on the Third World issues and on the Eastern Bloc economy. In his in interview for Zagreb daily *Danas* (from the December of 1987), Dizdarević said the possibility of more active role in the Western Europe are often unrealistic as Yugoslavia first needs to build its own united marker economy and to adapt to the standards of the European market.

Soviet Union – May 16, 1988 (KCA)

An Azerbaijani man is sentenced to 15 years in prison for beating an elderly Armenian man to death during the Sumgait riot in February. It is reported that more than 80 other people are awaiting trial in connection with the rioting.

Yugoslavia / Non-Aligned Movement - May 16, 1988 (OSA)

A four day scientific meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement began on the Islands of Brioni in Croatia. It was dedicated to the preservation of security and stability of the nonaligned countries with reliance upon their own forces. The organizers of the meeting were the Yugoslav institutes for the strategic research "Marshal Tito", for the International Politics and Economics, and for the Developing Countries, and the Center for Strategic Studies.

Hungary – May 16-19, 1988 (MNC)

During his stay in Budapest – his participation in the 16 Summit of the Hungarian-GDR Joint Cultural Committee – State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic Herbert Krolikowski consulted in the Foreign Ministry.

Hungary – May 17-20, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Mohammad-Javad Laridjani negotiated in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest. He was received by Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was also received by Károly Grósz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary / IMF – May 17, 1988 (KCA)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approves a standby arrangement for Hungary authorizing purchases up to the equivalent of 265,350,000 special drawing rights. Hungary's quota with the IMF is SDR 530,700,000, and its outstanding financial obligations to the fund resulting from past operations and transactions currently are 498,000,000 SDRs.

Czechoslovakia / Vatican – May 18 and 19, 1988 (KCA / OSA)

A slight easing of tensions between Czechoslovakia and the Vatican is reflected in the endorsement by the Czechoslovak authorities of three new bishops. The appointment of Jan Sokol, Jan Lebeda and Antonín Liska as bishops is formally announced in Prague on May 18 and by the Vatican on May 19. They are the first episcopal appointments in Czechoslovakia for 15 years and followed year-long negotiations between the Czechoslovak state and the Vatican which seems that the regime evidently makes a concession to the Vatican but is still not willing to meet a number of the demands of Czechoslovak Catholics.

Hungary – May 18, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the Union of Civil Servants is to set up its own affiliated Trade Union of Scientific Workers (TDSZ).

Austria / Romania / Hungary - May 18, 1988 (OSA)

The Austrian Action Committee for the Rights of Minorities sends to the CSCE review meeting in Vienna a report by the Hungarian Democratic Forum on the situation of the Hungarian minority in Romania. The report says that Romania's rural resettlement plan was designed "to destroy areas - where the population still speaks Hungarian."

Soviet Union – May 18, 1988 (KCA)

The Writer's Union weekly newspaper *Literturnaya Gazeta* publishes an expose of corruption perpetrated by Gen. Nikolai Shchokolov, who has been Minister of Public Order and then Minister of Internal Affairs under the late President Leonid Brezhnev and has been dismissed in 1982 by Brezhnev's successor, Yuri Andropov.

Hungary – May 19, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers discusses the implementation of the 1987 economic plan and budget, and reviews the issues relating to the restructuring of the industry.

Hungary – May 20, 1988 (KCA)

Members of Fidesz begin court action for libel against journalists of the official Hungarian news agency MTI and the newspaper *Magyar Hirlap* because of reports describing the group’s activities as illegal.

Yugoslavia - May 20, 1988 (OSA)

Slovenian Socialist Youth Weekly *Mladina* has reported about a plan of Yugoslav People’s Army taking actions against reformist elements in Slovenia. The Slovenian government denied this, and the Ministry of Information has issued a statement denying the existence of such plans.

Soviet Union – May 21, 1988 (KCA)

An official rally is held in the center of Vilnius to commemorate the deportation of Lithuanians which followed the country’s annexation by the Soviet Union in July 1940. On the same day some 300 nationalists state an unofficial demonstration in the city.

Hungary – May 22-24, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Energy and Industry of Spain, Luis Carlos Croissier, visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Minister of Industry Frigyes Berecz.

Hungary – May 22, 1988 (MHC)

János Kádár is removed as Hungarian Communist Party secretary and is replaced by Károly Grósz.

Hungary – May 22, 1988 (KCA)

János Kádár, the leader since 1956 of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party (*Magyar Szocialista Munkáspárt* -HSWP), is relieved of the post of general secretary and replaced by Mr. Károly Grósz, the Chairman of the Council of Minister, at the close of a dramatic three-day ideological conference.

Hungary – May 22, 1988 (LBC)

János Kádár is forced to resign from his post as party general secretary and is succeeded by Károly Grósz. Kádár is given the honorary title of party president.

Hungary / Soviet Union – May 23, 1988 (PTH)

Mikhail Gorbachev sends a telegram congratulating János Kádár and Károly Grósz in their new posts.

Asia / Czechoslovakia - 23-31 May 1988 (DRC / OSA)

General Secretary of the CPCz CC Miloš Jakeš visits China, North Korea, and Mongolia.

Visit to China (May 23 - 26), appears to strengthen the two countries’ relations and confirm that the dialogue between East European member of the CMEA and China on the party level would continue.

Poland – May 25, 1988 (KCA)

All of the activists detained by police during the strikes in May are released, although 19 workers lose their jobs at the Nowa Huta steelworks, including the leader of the strike coordinating committee, Mr. Andrzej Szewczuwaniec.

Hungary – May 24, 1988 (PTH)

Ronald Reagan sends a telegram congratulating Károly Grósz in his new post.

Hungary – May 24, 1988 (PTH)

After a visit by the minister it is concluded that the building of the dam in Bős-Nagymaros is well on schedule.

Hungary – May 24-26, 1988 (MNC)

The 5 Summit of the Joint Parliamentary Working Group of Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party and the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) was held in Budapest, lead by Rezső Nyers, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, and Wolfgang Roth, President of the parliamentary faction of the SPD. The representatives of the SPD were received by Miklós Németh, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee.

Hungary – May 25, 1988 (MNC)

During his stay in Budapest, Wolfgang Roth, President of the parliamentary faction of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) met János Berecz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee, to whom he handed over the greeting letter from President of the SPD Hans-Jochen Vogel to Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – May 25, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Péter Kővári consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the People’s Republic of China in Beijing.

Hungary – May 25-28, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Prem Tinsulanonda had an official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Károly Grósz, member of the Politcal Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and member of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic, and István Sarlós, President of the Parliament.

Hungary – May 26, 1988 (PTH)

The joint parliamentary work-team of the German Social Democratic Party and HSWP issues a statement expressing appreciation for the beneficial influence of economic cooperation on Western-Eastern relations.

Yugoslavia / Non-Aligned Movement - May 26, 1988 (OSA)

The preparatory part of the ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned coordinating bureau started in Havana.

Hungary – May 26-28, 1988 (MNC)

Vice-chancellor, and Federal Foreign Minister of the Republic of Austria Alois Mock stayed in Budapest, where he held talks with Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi, Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee. He met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai, Deputy Prime

Minister Péter Medgyessy, and Minister of Finance Péter Miklós. He was received by János Kádár, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, member of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic and Károly Grósz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Soviet Union – May 27, 1988 (KCA)

A press exposé of rigged selection procedures for delegates leads to the forced resignation of the party first secretary on the island of Sakhalin.

U.S. - May 27, 1988 (LBC)

The US Senate passes the INF treaty by a vote of 93:5. Only one significant amendment is added to the treaty, which restricts the possibility of presidential reinterpretation of the treaty.

USA/Soviet Union- May 27-28, 1988 (MNC)

The INF-Treaty of December 8, 1987, about the dismantlement of medium range and tactical-military missiles, which came into effect on June 1, was ratified by the American Senate on May 27 and the Soviet Supreme Soviet on May 28.

Czechoslovakia - 28 May 1988 (DRC)

The newly established independent initiative Bohemian Children publishes its manifesto in support of royalist and Christian values and the traditions of the Kingdom of Bohemia.

The Bohemian Children, similarly to the Independent Peace Initiative and the John Lennon Peace Club organizes public discussions in the streets and squares, and from August 1988 appeals regularly to citizens to join in demonstrations against the régime.

Hungary – May 28, 1988 (KCA)

An estimated 2,000 people march on the Austrian embassy in Budapest to present a petition calling for the Austrian government to withdraw its financial and technical support for the controversial Gabčíkovo–Nagymaros hydroelectric scheme, which had been agreed to in 1977 and is jointly funded by Hungary – Austria and Czechoslovakia. Environmentalists claim that the scheme will destroy the ecosystem in the Danube flood plain and will spoil some of the most picturesque countryside in Hungary.

Yugoslavia - May 29 - 31, 1988 (OSA)

The first conference of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia at Sava Convention Center in Belgrade. A 38-page report was issued stating that “the party is capable of seeking and finding a way out of the economic and political crisis.” (Radio Zagreb) The conference had 809 participants (795 delegates and 24 guests), 400 Yugoslav reporters and 150 foreign journalists (the foreign press was not allowed into the conference room but had access to close-circuit television coverage).

The conference produced a lot of accusations and numerous solutions for Yugoslavia's problems. Delegates spoke frankly about the party's shortcomings, about the corruption, possibility of leadership changes, changing the party's monopoly of power. In the end, the conference showed the deep divide in the party over the measures needed for country's economic and political revival.

Soviet Union / U.S. – May 29-June 1, 1988 (MHC)

The Gorbachev-Reagan summit takes place in Moscow.

Hungary – May 29-June 1, 1988 (MNC)

Accepting the invitation of Minister of Education Béla Köpeczi, Dutch Minister of Education and science W. J. Deetman stayed in Hungary.

USA / Soviet Union- May 29-June 2, 1988 (MNC)

American President R. Reagan had an official visit to the Soviet Union. During the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the protocol about the exchange of the ratification documents of the INF- treaty was signed. They also signed several other lesser agreements and intergovernmental treaties. The Ministers of Defense and Foreign Ministers negotiated with each other. The results of the summit were stated in a joint statement.

Hungary – May 30-31, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Finance Miklós Villányi visited Czechoslovakia –where his host was Minister of Finance, J. Zak.

Japan – May 30-June 7, 1988 (MNC)

Japanese Prime Minister Takeshita Noboru took part on the Summit of the UN General Assembly and took official visits to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Belgium.

Soviet Union – May 30, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Boris Yeltsin, in a television interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), attacks Yegor Ligachev as an opponent of changes in issues of social justice. He suggests that it would be possible to develop the process of perestroika more actively. He also advocates Ligachev’s dismissal.

GDR – May 30, 1988 (OSA)

The GDR, which claims to have made a complete break with Germany’s fascist past, is faced with a neo-Nazi problem. Skinheads roam the streets, attack civilians, and shout fascist slogans. The state adopts a harsh approach to such behavior.

UN – May 31-June 26, 1988 (MNC)

The 3 Extraordinary Disarmament Session of the UN General Assembly was held.

U.S. / Soviet Union - May 31, 1988 (LBC)

Nine bilateral agreements are signed. One of these provides that the launching of all SLBMs and ICBMs must be announced 24 hours in advance. Reagan says “my personal impression of Mr. Gorbachev is that he is a serious man seeking serious reform”. He adds “now the allies are strong and [Soviet] expansionism is receding around the world...There is hope and we look for this trend to continue. Let us embrace honest change when it occurs, but let us also be wary. Let us be strong. And let us be confident too.”

Soviet Union – late May-early June, 1988 (KCA)

A series of large-scale rallies take place in Yerevan.

June

Romania – June 1988 (ADC)

Romania opposes a human rights agreement signed by 35 European states at the Conference of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE).

Hungary – June 1988 (PTH)

The journal Alföld (Plain) publishes excerpts of the film script "No breach of law" made by Gyula Gulyás-János Gulyás. János Nemes's paper entitled "The Rákosi documents" appears in Mozgó Világ. József Lengyel's book "Confrontation" is out. The Journal Világosság (Brightness) organizes a roundtable talk under the title "Twenty years after..." The participants are Gábor Nemes, Rezső Nyers, Béla Köpeczi, Endre Gömöri and Miklós Almási. A comparison is made between 1956 and 1968.

Hungary – June 1, 1988 (PTH)

The savings interest rate is raised by 3%.

Soviet Union – June 1, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gorbachev suggests at a news conference that Mr. Yeltsin will be called upon to explain himself to the CPSU central committee, and states that there is no problem concerning Ligachev's position within the leadership.

Hungary – June 1-2, 1988 (PTH)

The secretaries of economic policy of communist parties whose countries are members of Comecon meet in Budapest for two days.

Yugoslavia – June 2, 1988 (HR)

The IMF approves a "stand by" arrangement with Yugoslavia worth 1.2 billion dollars.

Hungary – June 2, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers discusses issues of developing higher education and introducing a unified taxing system for entrepreneurs.

Hungary – June 2, 1988 (PTH)

Hungary is awarded a 70 million USD loan by the World Bank to develop its food industry.

Hungary – June 2, 1988 (MNC)

The secretaries of the Central Committee of Economic Affairs of the Communist- and Workers' Parties of the Members of COMECON consulted in Budapest. They were received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and President of the Cabinet.

USA – June 2-3, 1988 (MNC)

American President R. Reagan informed the leaders of the Western countries about the results of the Moscow summit in London.

Antarctica – June 2, 1988 (MNC)

The signing countries of the Antarctica Treaty of 1959 accepted the regulations of the exploitation of the mineral resources of the continent in Wellington.

Hungary – June 2-4, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Transportation Lajos Urbán visited Finland. His negotiation partner was Minister of Transportation Pekka Vennamo.

Hungary – June 3, 1988 (PTH)

The Mormon Church is legally recognized in Hungary.

Hungary – June 3-4, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the festivities of the 10 anniversary of the foundation of the Alps-Adriatic Working Group in Austria (Klagenfurt).

GDR – June 3 – 5, 1988 (OSA)

In a document circulated at the Evangelical Church Congress in Goerlitz, activist groups associated with the Church say that “current events in the Soviet Union have prompted us to consider certain fundamental questions concerning a social and political renewal.” The document identifies the lack of political pluralism in the GDR as society’s main problem and calls upon all East German Christians to take steps to pressure the state to heed the call for the democratization of society.

Czechoslovakia – June 4, 1988 (OSA)

A group of Moravian Catholics issues an appeal to other Catholics in Moravia to take part in a vigil of prayer for the nomination of bishops to the Moravian dioceses of Brno and Olomouc. The appeal is in response to the appointment in May 1988 of two auxiliary bishop for Prague and one bishop and apostolic administrator for Trnava.

USA - June 4, 1988 (MNC)

The United States granted the principle of most favored nation to Hungary and China for one more year.

Soviet Union – June 4, 1988 (KCA)

About 200 Meskhetians clash with police in the Georgian town of Borzhomi while demonstrating in support of their demand that the whole Meskhetian community be allowed to return from exile. The incident will be reported on June 14 by AFP.

Soviet Union – June 5-16, 1988 (KCA)

The 1,000th anniversary of the conversion of the Russian people to orthodox Christianity is celebrated. Church services and rallies in Moscow and other religious centres are attended by Soviet state officials and leaders from many other world faiths.

Soviet Union – June 5, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the authorities are to return to the Russian Orthodox Church the Monastery of the Caves in Kiev, one of its oldest and holiest shrines.

Hungary – June 5, 1988 (PTH)

The Historical Justice Committee (HJC) issues a communiqué entitled "We want justice!" to mark its foundation. The statement becomes public only through Western press. The National News Agency issues a confidential news item on the foundation of HJC. The communiqué is signed by five descendants of those executed in the Imre Nagy trial and 34 convicted revolutionaries - then

belonging to different parties and of various different occupations. HJC, the Inconnu group and the Network of Free Initiatives also publish a communiqué: they appeal to the public to demand that those executed after the 56 revolution be given fair burial, that a national memorial be erected and that the criminal records of those convicted in 56 be abolished. They invite everybody to attend a memorial to pay tribute to the heroes of the revolution on June 16, on the 30th anniversary of the execution of Imre Nagy and his companions.

Hungary – June 5, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Education Béla Köpeczi negotiated with Minister of Culture of Czechoslovakia M. Kymlicka in Prague.

Hungary – June 5-12, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the third extraordinary, disarmament summit of the UN General Assembly in New York. On June 6, he made a speech in the summit.

Hungary – June 6, 1988 (MNC)

Albert Vlasov, head of department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, as the personal representative of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev, informed Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet, about the Soviet- American summit between May 29 and June 2, 1988.

Hungary – June 6-8, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Republic of Finland Mauno Koivisto (and his wife) had an official visit to Hungary and gave a lecture on the summit of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament. He was received by János Kádár, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, member of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic. He was also received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist People’s Party, President of the Cabinet, who also gave a banquet in his honor. Finnish Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa – accompanying the President – signed a health care agreement with Judit Csehák, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Social and Health Minister, and an investment protection agreement with Miklós Villányi, Minister of Finance. Finnish Political Director of the Foreign Ministry (Deputy Minister rank) Matti Kahiluoto – accompanying the Head of State – consulted in the Foreign Ministry.

Hungary – June 6-8, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Industry Frigyes Berecz visited the German Democratic Republic. His negotiation partners were Minister of General and Agricultural Machinery, Transportation and Industry Gerhard Tauenhahn, Minister of Electronics and Electronic Engineering Felix Meier, Minister of Günther Wyschofsky, and Minister of Heavy Industry Hans-Joachim Lauck. He was received by first Deputy Prime Minister Werner Krolikowski.

Hungary – June 6-11, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Justice Imre Markója had an official visit to Turkey, where he was the guest of Minister of Justice Mahmut Oltan Shungurli.

Hungary – June 6, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz receives Albert Vlaszov, Mikhail Gorbachev's personal representative. He is informed of the talks in the Gorbachev-Reagan summit meeting.

Hungary – June 7, 1988 (PTH)

Because of anomalies related to the buying up of wine in the region some 2 thousand vine- growers demonstrate in Kiskőrös.

Hungary – June 7, 1988 (PTH)

The first deputy to the U.S. secretary of state confirms in his statement that Károly Grósz has been officially invited to visit Washington.

Hungary – June 7-8, 1988 (MNC)

First Deputy of the Secretary of State of the United States John C. Whitehead arrived in Budapest. He consulted with State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn. He met Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy and Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – June 8, 1988 (PTH)

The Association of Hungarian Architects is the first to protest against the elimination of Hungarian villages in Rumania. (In the course of this month several other organizations give voice to their objection: The National Council of Trade Unions, The Communist Youth Organization, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the National Peace Council, and representatives of the Hungarian churches.)

Hungary – June 8-11, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy had an official visit to Italy, and negotiated with Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianni de Michelis and the leading personalities of the economic and financial circles of Italy.

Soviet Union – June 9, 1988 (KCA)

In a statement released by the official Soviet news agency Tass, it is announced that the state commission set up in July 1987 to study the grievances of the Crimean Tatars has ruled that they should be allowed to resettle in the Crimea, but their former autonomous republic will not be restored.

Venezuela / Yugoslavia - June 9-12, 1988 (JIS)

President of Venezuela Jaime Lusinchi leads an official delegation to Yugoslavia. Bilateral issues, especially economic cooperation between the two countries is discussed. The situation in Central and South America is one of the topics of the talks as well.

Soviet Union – June 9, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that several officials are under investigation for criminal negligence which has resulted in a major disaster on June 4 when a train carrying industrial explosives blew up at a railway station in Arzamas, near Gorky (around 400 km east of Moscow). The explosion killed 84 people.

Hungary – June 9-10, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of the Republic of India Rajiv Gandhi (and his wife) had an official visit to Hungary. He was received by János Kádár, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, member of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – June 10, 1988 (PTH)

A political meeting is held in Budapest on the occasion of the anniversary of the fusion of the two workers' parties.

Hungary – June 10, 1988 (PTH)

The CC of the Communist Youth Organization establishes the Széchenyi Foundation to support young technical intelligentsia. The Council of Ministers also makes a contribution to the basic funds.

Soviet Union – June 10, 1988 (KCA)

Pravda reports that the regional CP organization of Nagorny Karabakh has lost control of the situation of the strike in the region.

GDR – June 10, 1988 (OSA)

US Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead and East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer hold talks in Potsdam on East German payments to Jewish victims of the Holocaust. East Germany has never paid compensation to victims of the Holocaust. But, the Chairman of the Central Council for German Jews, Heinz Galinski, said recently that East Germany's State Council Chairman Erich Honecker had told him East Germany was willing to pay 100 million dollars.

Czechoslovakia – June 10, 1988 (OSA)

26 prominent Polish and Czechoslovak dissidents meet secretly on their countries' border and issues a statement urging all communist authorities to implement a five-point program of individual and collective human rights.

Soviet Union – June 11, 1988 (KCA)

Soviet authorities announce that the work on a new cathedral in Moscow to replace the Cathedral of the Savior, which was demolished on the orders of Marshal Stalin in 1931, is going to begin.

Soviet Union – June 11, 1988 (KCA)

A policeman is shot dead during an anti-Armenian demonstration in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Hungary – June 11-13, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Trade of the United States of America William Verity arriveed to Hungary – and negotiated with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance József Marjai. He met Miklós Németh, member of the Polticial Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and President of the Cabinet.

Germany – June 11, 1988 (MNC)

For the first time since the existence of the two German states, a Foreign Ministerial GDR-FRG negotiation took place on East German soil (in Potsdam, the German Democratic Republic, between Oskar Fishcer and Hans-Dietrich Genscher).

West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) / Romania - June 11, 1988 (OSA):

Two members of the West German Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee, Hermann Scheer (SPD) and Petra Kelly (the Greens), issue a statement via joint press release which describes Ceausescu's rural resettlement plan as "an expression of cynical political megalomania . . . inevitably reminiscent of the methods of the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia of the 1970s."

Soviet Union / Afghanistan – June 12-13, 1988 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Head of State of Afghanistan Najibullah negotiated in the Soviet Union.

Hungary – June 12, 1988 (PTH)

Talking at the meeting of commanders of the Workers' Militia Károly Grósz says that if necessary, "administrative measures" will be taken against the opposition.

Poland – June 12, 1988 (KCA)

Solidarity boycotts the elections around Poland; around 2,000 Solidarity supporters stage an anti-election march in Gdansk. The election turnout in Gdansk is only 27.5 percent, the lowest in the country.

Soviet Union – June 13, 1988 (KCA)

Much of Armenia is brought to a standstill by a general strike called in anticipation of a vote on Nagorny Karabakh’s administrative transfer in the Armenian Supreme Soviet.

Soviet Union / Vatican – June 13, 1988 (KCA)

Cardinal Casaroli talks with Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). They express hopes of an improvement in Soviet relations with the Vatican, but rule out the possibility of a visit by the Pope in the immediate future.

Hungary – June 13, 1988 (PTH)

William Verity, secretary of trade is hosted by Károly Grósz.

Hungary – June 13, 1988 (PTH)

The presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions announces that Sándor Gáspár, chairman, and Tibor Baranyai, first secretary requested retirement.

U.S. / Hungary / Romania - June 13, 1988 (OSA):

US Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead tells Hungarian Television that Romania's plan to destroy villages could not be seen as one country's internal affair. He says the USA would "do everything" to try to stop the program's implementation.

Poland - June 13-14, 1988 (RFE)

The PUWP CC holds a plenary meeting, in which it endorses the Party leadership’s political and economic policies and accepts a limited reshuffle in the leadership. Although the current leadership

has often paid lip service to changing its direction in order to implement effective economic reforms, this plenum serves to demonstrate that party's position has not changed at all. The only sign of any significant change is the election of Wladyslaw Baka to the Central Committee, Secretariat and Politburo. Baka is a veteran economic administrator, specializing in economic reform.

Hungary – June 13-19, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a parliamentary delegation, Vice President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Ali Lotfi, stayed in Hungary – for the invitation of István Sarlós, President of the Parliament.

Czechoslovakia - 14 June 1988 (DRC)

The Federal Assembly passes the State Enterprises Act (which is to come into force on 1 August 1988). In the first stage of its drafting, the Bill is radically worded and resembles a proposal by CPCz reformist leaders in 1969. It is, however, gradually redrafted, and the inclusion of the clause on the leading role of the Communist Party in particular limits the originally broader competencies of any enterprise doing business.

Hungary – June 14-22, 1988 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee visited the United States of America, for the invitation of director of the Information Agency (USA) Charles Wick. He met President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives of the United States Dante Fascell and representative Tom Lantos. He consulted with director of the World Bank Barber Conable and President of the International Monetary Fund Michel Camdessus. In New York, he met the leaders of the World Jewish Congress. He gave a lecture in Brookings Institute in Washington D.C. He was received by President of the United States of America Ronald Reagan.

Hungary / Romania – June 14, 1988 (OSA)

Grósz talks to journalists about his visit to Romania and the latest Politburo session. Referring to Romania, he says “we have things to say to each other; on some issues we think differently.”

Hungary / Romania – June 15, 1988 (OSA)

HSWP daily *Magyar Nemzet* quotes Grósz as saying that he would raise the problem of the rural resettlement plan when he meets with Ceausescu. He expresses agreement with an appeal sent to more than 70 nations by the Hungarian Architects' Association for international protest against the village scheme. “Naturally, the policy of a country with regard to the national minorities living there is its internal affair” he is quoted in saying, “When we raise our voice, we do so [for] the cultural heritage of the people.”

Hungary / Romania – June 15, 1988 (OSA)

At a session of the Executive Commission of the Budapest Metropolitan Council, the question of the Romanian citizens who wish to settle in Hungary is discussed. It is agreed that the most difficult cases are those of family unification applications; at the press conference following the session, it is said that in such cases the only available help is to pass on the application cards to the Romanian Red Cross Organization, but that, so far, not a single reply has been obtained.

Hungary / Romania – June 15, 1988 (OSA)

The Hungarian Attorney’s Association criticizes Romania’s rural resettlement plan, saying it is a serious violation of human rights and proposing to the foreign lawyers group that they also protest. On the same day, Radio Budapest reports on the Attorneys’ proposal and announces that both the Writer’s Union and the Academy of Sciences Literature Institute also consider international intervention necessary.

Hungary / Romania – June 15, 1988 (OSA)

Hungary’s Young Lawyers Group starts a campaign to help refugees from Transylvania, granting counseling free of charge and giving financial aid. A voluntary raising of funds produces 456,000 forints, which are distributed by the Red Cross and Church organizations to those in need.

Hungary – June 15-17, 1988 (MNC)

Political director of the Foreign Ministry of Belgium (Deputy Minister rank) Hollants van Lööcke consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Soviet Union – June 15, 1988 (KCA)

The members of the Armenian Supreme Soviet vote unanimously in support of a motion calling for direct approaches to the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet and the All-Union Supreme Soviet in Moscow to request the transfer of Nagorny Karabakh to Armenia.

Hungary – June 15, 1988 (PTH)

The Congress of the United States holds a memorial session commemorating the 30th anniversary of Imre Nagy's death.

Hungary – June 15, 1988 (PTH)

In place of the dissolved Office of Councils the College of Councils is set up. Károly Grósz becomes chairman of the new body.

Soviet Union – mid-June 1988 (KCA)

The Latvian Writer’s Union publishes a resolution proposing that Latvia be granted a form of internationally recognized national sovereignty including membership to the United Nations and other international bodies, complete autonomy in matters such as economic management and education, an end to censorship and human rights violations, restrictions on immigration by non-Latvians and the right for all Latvians to travel freely or to live abroad.

Czechoslovakia – June 16, 1988 (KCA)

At the close of a three-day session the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia unanimously approves a bill outlining the objectives of management autonomy in state enterprises. The bill stresses that enterprises need to embrace the concepts of competition and “social entrepreneurship” in order to generate income, to improve quality, and satisfy consumers.

Hungary – June 16, 1988 (KCA)

The 30th anniversary of the execution of Imre Nagy is marked on June 16, 1988, by a brief unofficial ceremony, attended by around 300 people, at a Budapest cemetery plot containing the unmarked graves of Mr. Nagy and 324 other people executed for their part in the 1956 uprising.

Hungary – June 16, 1988 (PTH)

A conference on the world economy is held in Washington. Hungary is represented by Miklós Németh.

Hungary / Romania – June 16, 1988 (OSA)

Hungary’s Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, Zoltan Gal, speaks to Radio Budapest and gives details on the situation of Refugees from Romania; he says refugees amount to 5,000, 90% of whom are ethnic Hungarians and 15% of whom are intellectuals. He expressed no hope for the cases of family reunification. He anticipates 10,000 – 12,000 residence permits to be issued by the end of 1988, and thus states that finding residence for such individuals will prove to be a big problem.

Hungary / Romania – June 16, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Budapest cites the Hungarian-language Yugoslav weekly Het Nap as criticizing Romanian’s rural resettlement plan. It says the plan involves the complete demolition of everything in the villages, including houses, churches, cemeteries and artistic monuments. It adds that the main aim of this project is the amalgamation of national minorities.

Hungary / Romania – June 16, 1988 (OSA)

The Central Committee of Hungary’s Communist Youth League sends the Romanian Communist Youth Union a letter calling it to take a stand against the rural resettlement plan in Romania. It says the scheme is against sober reasoning, humanism, and real democracy.

Hungary / Romania – June 16, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Budapest reports that almost 60,000 copies of a book called “Studies on the History of Transylvania” and published in 1988, have been sold. It broadcasts an interview with Endre Bako, director of the publishing house behind the book, who says that originally, they intended only to publish 5,000 copies, but later found the interest was great, for cultural and political reasons.

Poland - June 16-17, 1988 (RFE)

An eventful Sejm session takes place, in which several bills easing restrictions on the operations of private enterprise and the revised version of the military oath, omitting a pledge of loyalty to the Soviet Army are approved.

Czechoslovakia / Austria – June 16-17, 1988 (RFE)

Austrian Chancellor Granz Vranitzsky visits Czechoslovakia. Agreements are signed concerning border relations, and the establishment of cultural institutes in Prague and Vienna.

Czechoslovakia / Yugoslavia – June 16-17, 1988 (RFE)

Czechoslovak Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal visits Yugoslavia. He proposes closer cooperation between Yugoslav and Czechoslovak enterprises, as well as the amelioration of media, scientific and educational programmes.

Yugoslavia - June 17, 1988 (OSA)

Around 5,000 workers from a farm equipment manufacturer *Zmaj* went on strike and marched through Belgrade. They protested against the latest austerity program. They were joined by 5,000 more in front of Federal Assembly building. The actions began in response to pay cuts up to 40% (depending on job qualifications). The average salary of *Zmaj* workers has dropped from \$130 a

month earlier in the year, to about \$100, and is to fall to \$88 in July. *Zmaj* has reduced wages as it could not keep up with its competition factories in Belgrade and Ljubljana.

The militancy in Yugoslav workers gained momentum, as federal government could not deal with economic problems, and since 1987 four separate attempts to launch an economic recovery by government and Prime Minister Branko Mikučič failed.

Soviet Union – June 17, 1988 (KCA)

A major attack on the Estonian leadership is published in the trade unionists’ newspaper *Trud*, which suggests that the failure of bureaucrats in Estonia to respond to popular pressure for faster economic reforms and environmental protection has contributed to the rise of nationalism.

Soviet Union – June 17, 1988 (KCA)

The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet declares that the Armenian vote for the transfer of Nagorny Karabakh’s administration is illegal under Article 78 of the Constitution of the Soviet Union, which states: “The territory of a Union Republic may not be altered without its consent”. The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet rejects the votes by the Nagorny Karabakh regional soviet.

GDR – June 17, 1988 (OSA)

East Germany’s AND news agency says that State Council Chairman Erich Honecker was the first to donate to a fund to build a new Synagogue in East Berlin.

Czechoslovakia – June 17, 1988 (OSA)

The sentencing of Ivan Polansky to a four-year prison term for alleged subversive activities is the first such sentence in years and could indicate either differences of approach toward dissent within the Czechoslovak leadership or the beginning of a new wave of repression.

Czechoslovakia – June 17-19, 1988 (DRC)

Charter 77 and the Independent Peace Association convenes an international seminar on peace, ‘Praha 88’, which is to discuss the function of human rights in the securing of democratic peace, in the surmounting of the influence of military and police ideology and its machinery, the rights of soldiers, and the possibilities of alternative national service.

40 peace activists from 17 countries of Western and Eastern Europe come to Prague for the seminar. The StB repeatedly disrupts both the arrival of participants and the seminar itself.

Hungary – June 18, 1988 (PTH)

The Wall Street journal publishes an article remembering Imre Nagy, entitled "Imre Nagy Remembered" on the occasion of the Burial in Paris.

Hungary – June 18, 1988 (PTH)

Árpád Göncz writes a letter to Károly Grósz concerning the events on June 16. In it he reminds Grósz of his historical and moral responsibility, asking him to distance himself from earlier methods not only in words but in deeds as well.

Poland – June 19, 1988 (RFE / KCA)

The Polish elections to the Peoples’ Councils take place on June 19, 1988, for 108,848 seats on parish, municipal, district and provincial councils there is a nationwide turnout of only 55.01%, the lowest at any time since the installation of the Communist regime. The turn out highlights the

government’s failure to create a real opening for independent involvement in local politics.

G-7 - June 19-21, 1988 (MNC)

The summit of the Head of States and Prime Minister of the seven most developed capitalist countries was held in Canda; a political statement was released.

Hungary – June 20, 1988 (MNC)

During his Central American tour, Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in Mexico, then from June 21-23, he was in Honduras. After that, from June 24-25, he negotiated with Foreign Minister Miguel D’Escoto in Nicaragua. From June 26-28, he was in Costa Rica, where he was received by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nicoto and President of the Parliament José Luis Valenciano. Between June 29 and July 2, he stayed in the Republic of Venezuela, where he consulted in the Foreign Ministry and and was received by President of the Parliament Reinaldi Leandro Mora.

The World - June 20-22, 1988 (MNC)

An international consultation took place in Berlin, with the participation of more than a 1000 public figures of a 113 countries about the creation of nuclear weapons-free zones around the world.

Hungary – June 20-28, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, Inspectorial Minister of the People’s Republic of China, Wen Xinshing, visited Hungary – and met the President of the Central People’s Inspection Committee.

Soviet Union - June 20, 1988 (KCA)

There is a fighting in the village of Masis close to Yerevan. More than 7,000 people are believed to have fled their homes as a result of tensions in communities throughout the two republics. An elderly man will later die because of his injury from the clash in July.

Yugoslavia - June 21, 1988 (RWE)

More than 20,000 people demonstrated in the Slovene capital, Ljubljana, in protest against the arrest on May 31 and June 4 of two Slovene journalists, Ivan “Janez” Janša and David Tasić, and of an Army officer, Sgt.-Maj. Ivan Borstnar, in connection with a newspaper article in *Mladina* alleging preparations for a military coup in Slovenia.

Hungary – June 21, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet made a speech on the International Conference about the Development of East-West economic relations, organized by the press organ Financial Times, with the participation of more than a hundred foreign experts.

Hungary – June 21, 1988 (MNC)

The Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party released their statement about the exchange of lettters between the HSWP and the Romanian Communist Party. According to this, the letter of the Romanian Communist Party includes accusatory elements and does not mention the earlier Hungarian proposals. The Romanian party offered a meeting of General Secretaries for the Development of Economic Relations. The Hungarian party emphasized that the formation of the individual and colective rights of the Hungarians in Romania is an importan issue for Hungary and

will be in the future as well. To solve the disputed issues, they proposed a negotiation on the foreign Secretary level.

Hungary – June 21-22, 1988 (MNC)

During his stay in an international conference in Budapest, State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom David Mellor consulted in the Foreign Ministry.

Vatican - June 21-28, 1988 (MNC)

The second Austrian visit of Pope John Paul II took place (he celebrated a mass for several thousand Hungarian and Southern Slavic tourists as well).

Hungary – June 21, 1988 (KCA)

The board of the Central Council of Trade Unions (*Szakszervezetek Országos Tanácsa* -SZOT) relieves Mr. Gaspar of the post of president and Mr. Tibor Baranyai of the post of general secretary. It appoints Dr. Sandor Nagy, a member of SZOT secretariat, as the new general secretary, but leaves the office of president vacant. Mr. Gaspar continues as President of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Hungary – June 21, 1988 (PTH)

The contents of letters exchanged between HSWP and the Rumanian Communist Party become known. The Hungarian party makes it clear that the situation of the Hungarians in Rumania are of vital importance for Hungary – and proposes a meeting between the foreign secretaries of the two parties.

Hungary – June 21-22, 1988 (PTH)

A two-day international conference is held in Budapest on the world economy organized by the Financial Times.

Soviet Union – June 21, 1988 (KCA)

The Nagorny Karabakh regional soviet requests that the All-Union Supreme Soviet provisionally removes Nagorny Karabakh from Azerbaijan administration and imposes direct rule from Moscow, pending a final ruling on the region’s status.

Hungary / Romania – June 21, 1988 (MNC)

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vital importance for Hungary – and proposes a meeting between the foreign secretaries of the two parties.

Norway / IHFHR / Romania - June 22, 1988 (OSA)

The International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights in Vienna publishes a report prepared by Bjorn Cato Funnemark, a member of the Norwegian parliament, on the situation of the Hungarian minority in Romania. The report, entitled "S.O.S. Transylvania," describes the rural resettlement plan as a serious threat to that minority.

Hungary – June 22, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union Victor Komplektov – during his stay in Budapest for an international conference – consulted in the Foreign Ministry.

Hungary – June 22-24, 1988 (MNC)

Political director of the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands (Deputy Minister rank), Leonardus Viyverberg, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Czechoslovakia – June 22, 1988 (OSA)

The Executive Committee of the Union of Czech Writers appoints a new chairman Michal Cerni to secede Ivan Skala.

Soviet Union – June 22, 1988 (KCA)

In the city of Kuybyshev, on the Volga River, around 10,000 people demonstrate demanding the removal of the local party first secretary, Mr. Yevgeny Muravev, following the signatures of some 6,000 people on a petition claiming that he is elected undemocratically to the conference of CPSU. He is later dismissed on July 30.

Hungary – June 22, 1988 (PTH)

Marshal Viktor Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the unified armed forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization comes to visit Budapest. He is received met by Károly Grósz.

Soviet Union – June 23, 1988 (KCA)

Pravda reports that troops of Soviet Union have been deployed in Nagorny Karabakh to control the situation of rioting and strikes.

Hungary – June 23, 1988 (PTH)

The CC of HSWP discusses the modification of the electoral Bill.

Hungary / Romania / China – June 23, 1988 (OSA)

Xinhua (PRC daily) reviews the Romanian/Hungarian disputes about ethnic problems. It concludes that “fruitful talks at this level will help pave the way for subsequent meetings.”

Hungary / Romania – June 23, 1988 (OSA)

Magyar Ifjúság, the Hungarian Youth weekly, says that a planned demonstration to protest Romanian plans to demolish thousands of villages could be misused by provocateurs seeking Transylvania’s reunion with Hungary. Its reports an unsigned leaflet making such irredentist claims

and calls it provocative. “There is no intention in Hungary at all to heal wounds inflicted by history by sprinkling salt into them.”

Hungary / Romania – June 23, 1988 (OSA)

Magyar Nemzet, a HSWP daily, comments on the fact that Hungary’s Holloko was put on Unesco’s World Heritage list just when Romania announced its rural resettlement plan. Although an obvious occurrence, comments the newspaper, there is an inherent link between the two events in that villages are in fact the bases for cultural history and national identity. It concludes that “there are certain moral limits beyond which respect for human rights turns into an international problem. The fate of the Transylvanian Hungarians [...] is no indifferent matter for Europe and America.”

Hungary / Romania / USSR – June 23, 1988 (OSA)

Panorama, a TV program in Hungary, interviews Yegor Yakovlev, editor-in-chief of *Moskovsje Novosti*. When asked about Romania’s intention to destroy ancient Romanian, Hungarian and Saxonian villages, he says: “Any act motivated by hatred between nationalities will sooner or later hit back upon the person who incited it. Such steps cannot be justified in any way.”

Hungary / Romania / USSR – June 23, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Moscow tells it Romanian listeners about RCP’s complaint to the HSWP about the way the Hungarian media are portraying Romania’s nationality policies. It also addresses the content of the letters exchanged between the two parties, a mix of passive aggression and calls for future cooperation.

Romania / Czechoslovakia / Hungary – June 24, 1988 (OSA)

Slovak Communist Party daily *Pravda* (Bratislava) discusses the situation of ethnic minorities in Romania and specifically the erosion or loss of the Magyar minority's schools and cultural institutions. It also comments sympathetically on official and public protests in Hungary over this situation and on the stream of refugees from Transylvania into Hungary.

Hungary – June 24, 1988 (PTH)

60 thousand Hungarians go on a pilgrimage to Darázsfalva in Burgenland to participate in the mass celebrated by John Paul II.

Hungary – June 24, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz responds to Árpád Göncz's letter. In his view the situation is seen very similarly by both of them, but they have different propositions/methods/ways to seek a way-out. He also says that he cannot deny 42 years of the communist past, he only wants to do away with the distortions and the crimes.

COMECON/EEC - June 25, 1988 (MNC)

A joint statement of the representatives of the COMECON and the EEC was released about the cooperation of the two organizations, in Luxembourg.

Czechoslovakia / USA – June 25 - July 1, 1988 (RFE / OSA)

A three-member Czechoslovak Federal Assembly delegation makes an unofficial visit to the US, the first time such a visit has ever taken place. It’s led by Deputy Chairman of the Federal Assembly Bohuslav Kucera and it is the first visit of Czechoslovak deputies to the United States.

However, it seems that the visit has not helped much to improve Czechoslovak-American relations.

Bulgaria - June 25, 1988 (OSA)

A document about the “restructuring” of the educational system is published.

Czechoslovakia / Austria - June 26-28, 1988 (OSA)

Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky pays an official visit to Czechoslovakia. It is the first visit to Czechoslovakia by an Austrian Chancellor since Bruno Kreisky’s in February of 1976 and the second since World War II.

Hungary – June 27, 1988 (PTH)

70 to 80 thousand people protest in Budapest in Heroes' square against the demolition of villages in Rumania. The Rumanian embassy refuses to take the petition written by the organizers of the demonstration.

Hungary – June 27, 1988 (PTH)

At a meeting of the national presidency of the Patriotic People's Front Károly Grósz brings up the possibility of reconsidering the role of the Front.

Nicaragua - June 27-30, 1988 (MNC)

Head of State of Nicaragua Daniel Ortega visited Cuba for the first time since 1979.

European Economic Community - June 27-28, 1988 (MNC)

The summit of the heads of states and Prime Ministers of the members of the European Economic Cooperation was held in Hannover. The issue of the single market, planned for 1992 was on the agenda.

Hungary – June 27-30-September 26, 1988 (MNC)

Hungary took up diplomatic relations with the European Community on a Ambassadorial level, and following this, they initialed the treaty of trade and economic cooperation between the EEc and Hungary in Brussels, which was signed on September 26.

Hungary – June 27, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Education Béla Köpeczi visited Czechoslovakia. His counterpart was Czech Minister of Education M. Kymlicka.

GDR – June 27, 1988 (OSA)

The SED’s continued resistance to reform prompts speculation about Erich Honecker’s political future. Meanwhile, the Evangelical Church increasingly demands that the SED embark on a course of perestroika and change. So far, however, there is little indication that reform-minded forces are at work in the SED.

Yugoslavia - June 27, 1988 (OSA)

During the session of the Presidium of the Slovene Central Committee, Milan Kučan, Presidium’s President, spoke about Slovenia’s need to continue with the economic, constitutional, and political reforms that were adopted at the party conference in May. He said that Slovenia has a special role in bringing about these changes, as they correspond to Slovenia’s economic power and development.

Kučan also opposed the claims that Slovenia’s actions are counterrevolutionary and directed to secession.

Hungary / Romania – June 27, 1988 (PTH)

70 to 80 thousand people protest in Budapest in Heroes' square against the demolition of villages in Romania. The Romanian embassy refuses to take the petition written by the organizers of the demonstration.

Hungary / Romania – June 28, 1988 (MNC)

The operating permit of the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of Hungary in Cluj Napoca (Kolozsvár) was revoked by the government of the Romanian Socialist Republic.

Romania / Czechoslovakia / Hungary – June 28, 1988 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak CTK news agency, reports in favorable terms on the protest demonstration in Budapest, citing the Hungarian media on the demonstration's legal and peaceful character and on the larger meaning of the protest "against a policy threatening European culture... against the erasure of cultural values transmitted from century to century." Ceausescu's remarks, that Hungary's present conduct was in some ways worse than that of Horthy's Hungary, are cited as well.

Hungary / EC / U.K. – June 28, 1988 (KCA)

The U.K. Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, pledges her support for Hungary’s bid for closer relations with the European Communities (EC) for conclusion of Hungarian-EC trade pact.

Soviet Union – June 28, 1988 (MHC)

In his address to the XIX All-Union Conference of the Communist Party, Gorbachev calls for restructuring the government, putting in place a strong president picked by a more representative legislature that would replace the Supreme Soviet. He also advocates term limits for high officials, more authority for the local soviets, multi-candidate elections, and a ban on Communist Party interference in economic issues.

Hungary – June 28, 1988 (PTH)

The Politburo of HSWP discusses the 1989 national economic plan, then reviews the issues concerning the building of the dam at Bős-Nagymaros and the possibility of establishing local youth organizations at universities and colleges.

Hungary / Romania – June 28, 1988 (PTH)

In Romania – as a response to the Hungarian objections to "reorganizing the structure of settlements" in the country, the general consulate in Kolozsvár is shut down.

Soviet Union – June 28, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gorbachev indicates in his speech to the extraordinary CPSU conference that the central authorities are not prepared to accede to Armenian demands concerning Nagorny Karabakh. He declares that ‘collisions’ between national groups can only be settled by ensuring the greatest possible accommodation within the existing state structure.

Soviet Union – June 28-July 1, 1988 (KCA)

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) holds its 19th All-Union conference. The purpose

of the conference is to debate the progress of perestroika, the program of reforms introduced since Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev has taken office as CPSU general secretary.

Austria / Czechoslovakia - June 28, 1988 (DRC)

During an official visit to Czechoslovakia by Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, members of his delegation meet in Prague with Charter 77 signatories Václav Benda, Jiří Hájek, Václav Havel, Petr Uhl, Roman Catholic activist Marie Kaplanova, and Chairman of the Jazz Section Karel Šrám.

Hungary – June 28, 1988 (MNC)

The operating permit of the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of Hungary in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár) was revoked by the government of the Romanian Socialist Republic.

Hungary – June 28-30, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács negotiated with Deputy Secretary of State Rozanne Ridgway in Washington D.C.

Hungary – June 29-30, 1988 (MNC)

As the guest of Interior Minister István Horváth, Interior Minister of the Republic of Austria Karl Blecha, had an official visit to Hungary.

Hungary – June 29, 1988 (KCA)

On the recommendation of the HSWP central committee, the Országgyűlés elects Dr. Brunó Ferenc Straub to the largely ceremonial post of President of the Presidential Council (head of state) in succession to Mr. Károly Németh, who retires after only one year in office. Also on the same day, the Országgyűlés approves a number of new ministers.

Yugoslavia - June 29, 1988 (OSA)

Under an agreement signed by Yugoslav officials and travel agency, first tourists were allowed to visit Goli Island (Croatia), what the country’s infamous political prison was once located. The prison was originally designed to house Stalinists (Cominformists), after the Cominform expelled Yugoslavia in 1948. In July 1987, the Croatian National Assembly decided to shut down the prison due to high costs of its maintenance. In September 1987, the Yugoslav press reported that some officials had suggested converting the island into a holiday resort.

Yugoslavia - June 30, 1988 (RWE)

Mr Branko Mikulić, the President of the Federal Executive Council (Prime Minister), was received by Pope John Paul II in the Vatican City.

Yugoslavia - June 30, 1988 (RWE)

Stipe Šušteršič succeeded Boško Krstić as president of the presidium of the ruling League of Communists for a one-year term.

Slovakia / Czechoslovakia - June 30, 1988 (DRC)

Two apparatchiks, appointed by the CPCz CC, meet in Bratislava with former First Secretary Alexander Dubček. According to their report, which they send to the Presidium of the CPCz, Dubček is insisting on a constructive evaluation of the politics of the reforms carried out under his leadership in 1968. The apparatchiks reject both Dubček’s complaint about systematic StB

interference in his personal freedom and his demand that he be allowed to express himself openly in the state-controlled mass media.

Hungary – June 30, 1988 (PTH)

The economic and trading agreement signed earlier by Hungary and the European Economic Community is approved in Brussels.

Hungary / Romania – June 30, 1988 (MNC)

The Parliament – acting upon the submission by Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament – took a stand about the issue of the effects of the settlement organization planned in the Romanian Socialist Republic. According to this, the Romanian plan provoked “deep concern and uneasiness” in Hungary. It drew the attention of the Romanian Great National Assembly to the immeasurable cultural and historical value of the villages set for destruction. It firmly expresses its hope that the Romanian party will refrain from the plan and that this issue will not block the relationship of the tow countries in the future.

Hungary / Romania / Soviet Union – June 30, 1988 (OSA)

Grósz says tensions between Hungary and Romania, in the wake of the latter’s expulsion of Hungarian diplomats, were “only temporary.” He also says that this does not mean the cancellation of his planned visit to Romania, rather making it more urgent that he has talks with Ceausescu in the spirit of socialist solidarity and international cooperation.

Hungary / Romania / Soviet Union – June 30, 1988 (OSA)

Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Istvan Oszi summoned the Romanian Charge D’ Affairs, Ioan Chira and told him the expulsion of Hungarian diplomats violates existing bilateral agreements as well as standards of international cooperation as outlined in the Helsinki Final Accord.

Bulgaria - June 30, 1988 (OSA)

Bulgaria and Albania sign a pact in which they agree on the protection of crops and on quarantine.

Soviet Union – June 30, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gorbachev makes another speech during CPSU’s 19th All-Union conference. He reiterates that reform of the economy will not be achieved without political reform. He identifies this as the reason for the failure of the attempts at agricultural reform by Nikita Khrushchev in 1953 and the attempts at reform of industry by Alexis Kosygin in 1965.

Hungary – June 30, 1988 (MNC)

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July

Hungary – July 1988 (PTH)

The journal Nagyvilág publishes a passage from Ilja Ehrenburg's work "People, years, my life" in which the author describes in detail the chronology of events taking place in Hungary in 1956 based on the information received from the soviet news agency, TASS as well as his own personal opinion.

USA / Soviet Union - July 1, 1988 (MNC)

With the participation of each other’s group of experts, the sixty-day local monitoring of the execution of the regulations of the INF-treaty has begun on US and Soviet soil.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1988 (KCA)

At the closing session of 19th CPSU All-Union conference, the conference adopts resolutions endorsing the proposals made in Mr. Gorbachev’s opening speech and covering perestroika; (ii) democratization of Soviet society and reform of the political system; (iii) combatting bureaucracy; (iv) relations between nationalities; glasnost; and (iv) legal reform.

Hungary – July 1, 1988 (PTH)

At the end of the summer session of the Parliament a committee is set up to work on the draft of the new constitution. A communiqué is issued to renounce the abolition of villages in Rumania. The resolution issued by the Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party states that further nationalist and counter-socialist activities took place in Hungary supported by official approval.

Hungary – July 1, 1988 (PTH)

The World Bank and Hungary sign an agreement for a loan of 200 million USD for the program adjusting the structure of industry, and another one of 50 million USD to fund the plan for technological development. To place restrictions on the peculiar ways of "granting credits" common between Comecon countries, the Council of Ministers cuts off the special state subsidies for products of "strategic importance" intended for socialist export.

Hungary – July 1, 1988 (PTH)

After modifying the relevant laws in Austria, Hungary can now enjoy Austrian tariff preferences.

Europe / Romania - July 1, 1988 (OSA):

The European Democratic Union, which includes conservative and Christian-Democratic parties, confers in Helsinki and issues a communique urging European governments and the United Nations to intervene in order to prevent the destruction of villages in Romania.

Hungary / Romania – July 1, 1988 (PTH)

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Hungary / Romania – July 1, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Bucharest broadcasts Ceausescu’s criticisms against Hungary for its responsibility in the deteriorating relations with Romania. It declares that “the entire nation upholds [the President’s] evaluations and comments”, especially commenting on the hurtful comments against Romania appearing in the Hungarian press, which it calls “chauvinistic, nationalistic, and anti-socialist.”

Hungary / Romania – July 1, 1988 (OSA)

Contradicting reports about whether Romania allows or excludes Hungarian travelers appear in the Hungarian press. Some newspapers report that Hungarians were being denied access at the border; however, Hungarian daily *Esti Hirlap* quotes a Hungarian border official saying that “there is no ban.”

Hungary / Romania / U.S. – July 1, 1988 (OSA)

An article on deteriorating Hungarian-Romanian relations appears in the *Times*. It presents Hungarians living in Transylvania as pessimistic about the situation, saying “No one believes that this will go on indefinitely. There is bound to be a provocation sooner or later. Everyone is waiting for something.” It also quotes Ceausescu as saying that he is prepared to close the Romanian embassy in Budapest and break all ties with Hungary should there be further demonstrations. Finally, it comments on the tightening of security measures on the Romanian frontier, saying that anyone found walking off the main roads within 10 miles of the border will be presumed to be leaving illegally and arrested.

Hungary / Romania – July 1, 1988 (OSA)

A new radio station, with broadcasting range of 1,000 kilometers is installed in Szekefehervar, Hungary, about 40 kilometers southwest of Budapest. The station’s signal is strong enough for it to be received by all the ethnic Hungarians living in Transylvania. Its establishment can be understood as a response to the silencing of Hungarian news, opinions, and language by the Romanian state. It broadcasts Radio Budapest’s program on short wave.

Hungary / Romania – July 2, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz says he is still willing to accept the invitation received as Prime Minister to visit Bucharest in order to carry on direct negotiations about the deepened conflicts concerning the plans to reorganize settlement structure. He stresses that Hungary still does not intend to revise the borders shaped after World War II, and does not intend to request any mediation on the part of international organizations to resolve the differences, but it would hinder relaxation of the tension between the two countries if the relationship between two neighboring countries in Central Europe deteriorated permanently.

Romania / Czechoslovakia / Hungary – July 2, 1988 (OSA)

Czechoslovak Communist Party daily *Rude Pravo* comments factually and critically on the potential impact of the rural resettlement plan on Romania's Magyar minority. It observes that the rural resettlement plan adversely affected Romania's small Slovak minority as well.

Soviet Union – July 2, 1988 (KCA)

Seven members of the Democratic Front receive short prison sentences in connection with street demonstrations calling for a multi-party political system which has taken place during the extraordinary CPSU conference ending on July 1.

Hungary – July 2, 1988 (PTH)

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Czechoslovakia – July 2, 1988 (RFE)

280,000 go on pilgrimage to Levoca, despite party media discouraging the event.

Soviet Union – July 3, 1988 (KCA)

Demonstrations resume in Yerevan when a rally rejects appeals for restraint from Armenian delegates to the CPSU conference newly return from Moscow.

Hungary – July 3, 1988 (PTH)

The price of cigarettes goes up by 14%, the price of beers by 13%. According to the Council of Ministers this is the only way to fund the extra costs necessary for health care and for increasing family allowance.

Hungary – July 3-8, 1988 (MNC)

Accepting the invitation of the Senate of Spain and the Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE), Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament visited Spain. His negotiation partners were President of the Senate José Federico de Carvajal, and President of the Congress of Deputies Felix Penso. He was received by the General Secretary of PSOE and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzales.

USA/Iran - July 3, 1988 (MNC)

A US-Iranian incident took place in the Persian Gulf, when the warship “Vinciennes” of the US navy shot down a passener plane of the Iran Air, and 290 passengers died.

Romania / Czechoslovakia / Hungary – July 4, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Budapest comments on the situation of Magyars in Czechoslovakia. Although it had criticized Czechoslovakia’s treatment of minorities in the past, this time it compares it favorably with the treatment afforded by Romania.

Hungary / Romania / Soviet Union / U.S. – July 4, 1988 (OSA)

An article on how deteriorating Hungarian-Romanian relations will be addressed in Gróz’s meeting with Gorbachev appears in *Reuters*. It quotes an unidentified US diplomat as saying that “it’s inconceivable that the issue won’t be raised”, and another as commenting on the Soviets’ previous attempts to smoothen Hungarian / Romanian relations: “They tried to cool it before, but it got them nowhere.”

Hungary – July 4, 1988 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Polticial Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee visited the Czechoslovakian part of the building of the Bős-100

Nagymaros water power plant in Czechoslovakia.

Hungary – July 4, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi met his counterpart Bohuslav Chnoupek in Czechoslovakia (in the border-town of Komarno).

Hungary – July 4-5, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet traveled to the Soviet Union. He held talks with M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Hungary – July 4-7, 1988 (MNC)

On the road of its repatriation from the United States, several public personalities in the United Kingdom, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and Austria paid their respects to the ashes of Béla Bartók.

Hungary – July 4-7, 1988 (MNC)

Interior Minister István Horváth had an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. He negotiated with Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann.

Hungary – July 4-7, 1988 (MNC)

Vice President of the Republic of the Pilippines, Salvador F. Laurel, stayed in Budapest for a private visit. He met Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi, and representatives of other Ministries. He was received by acting President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary Rezső Trautmann.

Hungary – July 4-8, 1988 (MNC)

Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense took part in the summit of Committee of Ministers of Defence of the members of the Warsaw Pact, in Moscow.

Hungary – July 4-8, 1988 (MNC)

Ms. Gunhild Öyangen, Minister of Agriculture of Norway took part in the International Summer University of Environment Protection in Sopron.

Hungary – July 4, 1988 (KCA)

The National Council of the PPF elects Mr. István Huszár to succeed Mr. Pozsgay as general secretary.

Hungary – July 4, 1988 (PTH)

The Czechoslovakian and the Hungarian foreign ministers meet in Komárom. They both emphasize the importance of Leninist policy towards the national minorities.

Soviet Union – July 4, 1988 (MHC)

The XIX CPSU Conference passes resolutions on political reform. In discussions of the draft, Gorbachev insists on including his own language. The resolution represents a political victory for the reformers.

Soviet Union – July 4, 1988 (KCA)

Strikes begin in Yerevan and in other Armenian towns, and Yerevan’s Zvartnots airport is closed after striking airport workers are joined by demonstrators who block access roads and occupy the terminal building.

Hungary / Soviet Union – July 4-5, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Grosz visits Moscow for talks with the Soviet Communist Party leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, which reportedly stresses the similarities between the current Hungarian and Soviet economic and political reforms. Mr. Grosz is warmly welcomed by the Soviet leadership after being appointed as HSWP general secretary.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - July 4 and 8-9, 1988 (DRC)

Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov, on a state visit to Czechoslovakia –is received by Czechoslovak Premier Lubomír Štrougal, General Secretary of the CPCz CC Miloš Jakeš, and Czechoslovak President Gustáv Husák.

Bulgaria - July 4, 1988 (OSA)

A public-opinion survey indicates that a 69% of the participants agreed that there should be more glasnost and 61% wanted more independent associations and work groups. There’s also a survey focused on the intellectuals, of which 87.5% agree that a restructuring in the intellectual sphere is necessary.

Bulgaria - July 5, 1988 (OSA)

Priest named Gheorghi Ivanov Jovcev becomes an apostolic administrator for Sofia and Plovdiv.

Soviet Union – July 5, 1988 (KCA)

Troops fight with around 2,000 protesters who occupy the airport of Yerevan, resulting in the death of one protester by a plastic bullet and at least 36 people suffering injuries. Another protester dies of a heart attack prior to the clashes with police.

Hungary – July 5, 1988 (PTH)

All participants at the meeting of the defense ministers of the Warsaw Treaty Organization in Moscow support the reduction of strategic arms by 50%. Károly Grósz and Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Moscow. They agree that the Hungarian and Soviet reform ideas show similarity in a number of points.

July 5, 1988 Zvartnots airport clashes (BBC and LJ)

A clash between the Armenian protesters and the Soviet troops at the Zvartnots international airport, just outside the capital, Yerevan. After the Soviet government refused the Armenian demands to recognize the Nagorno-Karabakh region as theirs, a wave of demonstrations occurred, and the Soviet government sent in troops to quell the uprisings. When Armenian citizens blockaded the airport to block the entrance to Soviet troops, a clash occurred. The Soviet troops opened fire, killing one and injuring others. The event spread anti-Soviet sentiments across Armenia.

Yugoslavia - July 6, 1988 (RWE)

The Federal Assembly building in Belgrade was briefly occupied by some 1,700 striking footwear factory workers from Vukovar, Croatia, who were protesting the government’s economic austerity

policies. They demanded a 100 per cent pay rise increase and a 30 per cent reduction in factory administrative staff.

Soviet Union – July 6, 1988 (KCA)

It is officially reported that the authorities in Estonia have restored official status to the national flag used between 1918 and 1940 in the independent Estonian republic.

Hungary – July 6, 1988 (PTH)

US president Ronald Reagan conducts negotiations with Marshal Sergei Ahromejev, Soviet Chief of Staff. They set up a joint committee in order to prevent dangerous military incidents.

Hungary – July 6, 1988 (PTH)

Deputy Minister of Finance László Békesi says the Hungarian state finances will collapse in a year or two if, instead of major reforms, only minor modifications are made in the budget.

Soviet Union – July 6-7, 1988 (KCA)

A general strike continues in force in Yerevan and elsewhere in Armenia, whilst troops seal off streets in Yerevan to prevent any further large-scale protests.

Hungary – July 6-8, 1988 (MNC)

Group director of the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany (Deputy Minister rank), Dieter Kastrup, consulted in Budapest.

U.S. / Soviet Union - July 6-11, 1988 (LBC)

At the invitation of the chairman of the JCS Marshal Akhromeiev visits the US. He is the first Soviet military leader that leads a delegation to the US since World War II. He visits several military bases and views the B-1B strategic bomber. He announces a two-year military exchange program with his host. (August 1-4, 1988.)

Hungary / Romania / Soviet Union – July 6, 1988 (OSA)

An article titled “Romania-Hungary, What Is Happening?” appears in *Moskovskiye Novosti*, a Soviet newspaper; it is the first time the Soviet press comments on the deteriorating relations between the other two countries.

Hungary / Romania / Czechoslovakia – July 6, 1988 (OSA)

Lubomir Strougal, Czechoslovakia’s Prime Minister meets Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu and Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Jozsef Marjia. However, his spokesman later denies that Prague was acting as a mediator between the countries on the issue of their recent disputes and claims only economic issues had been discussed.

Austria / Romania - July 6, 1988 (OSA)

The Austrian National Council (parliament) votes unanimously for a resolution condemning Romania's policy toward ethnic minorities and its rural resettlement plan. In a communique issued on the same day, President Kurt Waldheim says he "deeply regretted" Romania's measures.

Romania / Czechoslovakia / Hungary – July 7, 1988 (OSA)

A *Reuters* interview with Czechoslovak officials sees them asked whether Czechoslovakia is positioning itself to mediate between Bucharest and Budapest; they unequivocally deny this.

Europe / Romania - July 7, 1988 (OSA):

The European Parliament in Strasbourg passes a resolution condemning Romania's treatment of its ethnic minorities and its rural resettlement plan.

Hungary / Romania / Soviet Union – July 7, 1988 (OSA)

In the first Kremlin reaction to the Hungarian / Romanian conflict, Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov calls the two countries to settle their differences peacefully without outside assistance.

Hungary – July 7, 1988 (PTH)

Sándor Nagy, the new general secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions states that the right to strike must be regulated in the new law for trade unions in preparation, specifying precisely the ways and the framework of going on strike so that no political overtones should arise.

Hungary – July 7, 1988 (PTH)

According to the statistics of the Central Statistics Agency in 1987 1.9 million people lived under the social minimum wage set at 3,840 HUF, while the income of 600 thousand people did not even amount to the subsistence level of 2,850 HUF.

Czechoslovakia / Romania – July 7, 1988 (RFE)

Charter 77 condemns Nicolae Ceasescu’s plans to forcibly relocate large numbers of peasants to ‘agroindustrial centers.’

Czechoslovakia – July 7, 1988 (OSA)

In its document NO.38 of 7 July 1988, Charter 77 appeals for European and worldwide solidarity with suffering Romanian populace and condemns Nicolae Ceasescu’s plan to raze 7,000 of Romania’s 13,000 villages by the year 2000.

Czechoslovakia – July 7-9, 1988 (OSA)

The 26th International Film Festival is hold in Karlovy Vary, which is among the oldest in the world (second only to Venice). Some high argues that the festival shows signs of glasnost.

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union – July 8, 1988 (KCA)

During a six-day visit to Czechoslovakia –the Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Mr. Nikolai Ryzhkov, says that the 1968 invasion of Warsaw Pact forces into Czechoslovakia has been “justified”.

Soviet Union – July 8, 1988 (KCA)

A partial of protesters return to work in Yerevan and troops are withdrawn from the city centre.

Yugoslavia - July 9 and 23, 1988 (RWE and PTH)

A group of up to 1,000 Serbs from the autonomous province of Kosovo staged a demonstration on July 9 in Novi Sad, capital of the autonomous province of Vojvodina, to protest against opposition by the Vojvodina political leadership to proposed constitutional amendments which would drastically increase Serbia’s authority over Vojvodina and Kosovo. On July 23 more than 4,000

Serb residents of the Vojvodina town of Pančevo demonstrated to demand the dismissal of the provincial leadership. There is a lot of talk about the demonstrations being aimed at Hungarians.

Soviet Union – July 9, 1988 (KCA)

The authorities of Soviet Union announce two concessions to demonstrators’ demands, stating that some of the Sumgait massacre trials will be heard not by courts in Azerbaijan but in the Russian Federation. There will be a judicial investigation into the poisoning of a group of 51 Armenian factory workers in Masis at the end of June, allegedly by Azerbaijanis.

Soviet Union – July 10-11, 1988 (KCA)

Mass rallies in Yerevan resume and strikes bring many of the city’s enterprises to a standstill. Official reports describe the atmosphere in Yerevan as “tense”.

Czechoslovakia / Poland – July 10, 1988 (RFE)

On the eve of a Warsaw Pact summit, Polish and Czech dissidents issue a joint call for a treaty to be signed ruling out military intervention within Warsaw Pact countries.

Hungary / Romania / Italy – July 10, 1988 (OSA)

Hungarian Party Politburo member Imre Pozsgay speaks to an Italian newspaper about the issue of ethnic Hungarians in Romania; he says that “only a regime of terror can take measures like those taken in Romania.” He also says that there can be no socialism without democracy and freedom, a “concept [...] not accepted in these places where socialism is still viewed as a totalitarian system.”

Hungary / Romania / U.K. – July 11, 1988 (OSA)

Domonokos Celas, former Hungarian Consul-General in Transylvania speaks to *Telegraph*, a London daily; he says that the closing of the Cluj-Napoca Hungarian consulate will affect “those left behind: as the ethnic Hungarians who need assistance will now have to rely on the Hungarian embassy in Bucharest, which for many is hundreds of kilometers away. He also criticizes Romania’s rural resettlement plan, calling it “insensitive.”

Hungary – July 11, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz gives an interview to the American journal Newsweek, in which he says: "The demonstration on June 16 instigated fascist propaganda, chauvinism and irredentism. (...) Signs of a civil war were emerging in 1956, and military intervention by the West was impending. The military action taken by the Soviet Union prevented this from happening." He states that it was right to bring Imre Nagy to court, because "a prime minister should not violate the laws and the constitution."

GDR – July 11 – 13, 1988 (OSA)

The West German Minister for the Environment, Klaus Toepfer, pays an official visit to the GDR. It is the first visit by a West German Minister for the Environment to East Berlin. Although both sides agree in principle to boost cooperation in fighting pollution, agreement on practical measures is hampered by the GDR’s insistence that the long-standing conflict over the exact location of the West-East German border along the Elbe River be clarified before East Berlin takes measures to purify the river.

Poland / Soviet Union – July 11-14, 1988 (RFE)

Mikhail Gorbachev pays an official four-day visit to Poland. The visit is designed to be political in nature, rather than economic, is intended to strengthen the authority of Poland’s leadership and improve the public’s attitude towards the Soviet Union. In a Sejm speech on July 11, Gorbachev describes Polish-Soviet relations as “the most fruitful and best developed since World War Two.”

Soviet Union – July 12, 1988 (KCA)

The Nagorny Karabakh Regional Soviet votes for immediate secession from Azerbaijan and incorporation into Armenia as an autonomous oblast. Reports describe the vote as almost unanimous, with only one abstention, but it is unclear whether any of the Azerbaijani deputies have participated. The vote is regarded as an attempt to force a resolution of the dispute.

Hungary –July 12-14, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Public Education and Arts of Austria, Hilde Hawlicek, visited Minister of Education Tibor Czibere during her visit in Hungary.

Czechoslovakia – July 13, 1988 (OSA)

Charter 77 appeals for memorial to victims of Czechoslovak National Stalinist repression.

Poland – July 13, 1988 (RFE)

The government spokesman, Jerzy Urban announces in a press conference that the Soviet authorities have agreed to reschedule Poland’s hard-currency debt of around \$1.5-1.6 billion. Poland also owes the Soviet Union 5.4 billion transferrable rubles as part of its 6.9 billion ruble Eastern foreign debt. The Polish government calculates that it has already paid back a third of its debt to the Soviet Union.

Hungary – July 13-14, 1988 (PTH)

The meeting of the CC of HSWP adopts the more radical program for reshaping the economy of the country. This involves the application of market-oriented measures (liberation of import, devaluation of the forint, the transformation of the price and wage system, predicting that 80 to 100 thousand people may lose their jobs). They consider it to be justified that the right of assembly and the right to hold public meetings be regulated by law. It is the first time that the meeting is broadcast by Hungarian television.

Hungary – July 13-14, 1988 (PTH)

It is officially announced that 6,178 Rumanian citizens appealed for permission to reside in Hungary in the first half of the year. The Council of Ministers sets up a special fund to provide financial support for them.

Hungary – July 13-14, 1988 (KCA)

The HSWP central committee meets in plenary session to decide between two plans for restructuring the economy and to create what Mr. Miklós Németh describes as “a genuine commodity, monetary, capital and labour market”.

Hungary / Romania – July 13-14, 1988 (PTH)

It is officially announced that 6,178 Romanian citizens appealed for permission to reside in Hungary in the first half of the year. The Council of Ministers sets up a special fund to provide financial support for them.

U.K. / Romania - July 14, 1988 (OSA)

The British Foreign Office publishes a review of the observation of human rights in Eastern Europe; it says that Romania's rural resettlement plan "appeared to involve forcible relocation and the loss of homes and lands." Prior to its publication, the report is read to parliament by Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office David Mellor.

Bulgaria - July 14, 1988 (OSA)

The government affirms that after the “okrugs” reform in 1987, they have achieved the complex task of rubricating the administrative workers that existed before these changes in the territorial disposition. It was thought that over 30,000 people would have lost their job, but the government managed to offer all those workers new jobs.

Soviet Union – July 14, 1988 (KCA)

An official rally is held in Latvia to commemorate the Latvian victims of mass deportations in 1940-41 which had followed the Soviet takeover.

Czechoslovakia - 14 July 1988 (DRC)

In its statement marking the 20th anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia – Charter 77 calls upon Czechoslovaks not to be afraid and to express freely their views on the military operation and the destructive policies that have followed in its wake.

Hungary – July 15, 1988 (PTH)

There is a two-day summit meeting in Warsaw attended by the leaders of the member states of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. The issued document acknowledges for the first time that the socialist countries have military advantage in a number of fields.

Czechoslovakia - 15-16 July 1988 (DRC)

Warsaw. At a meeting of the Political Council of the Warsaw Pact, General Secretary of the CPCz CC Miloš Jakeš expresses his unconditional support for the proposals of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hungary / Soviet Union – July 15-16, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Grosz calls for the process of Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe to begin with those stationed in Hungary.

Poland / Soviet Union – July 15-16, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, remains in the Polish capital, Warsaw, after his official visit between July 11 and 14, and attends a summit meeting of the ruling party leaders from the member countries of the Warsaw Pact.

Hungary – July 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

A delegation, led by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet took part in the summit of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact in Warsaw. Members of the delegation were: Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP; Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi; Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense, member of the Central Committee of the HSWP.

Warsaw Pact - July 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

From the summit of the Political Consultative Committee of the members of the Warsaw Pact, a statement was released about the negotiations for the dminishment of military forces and weaponry in Europe and about the harmful effect on the nature by the arms race.

Hungary – July 15-19, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, Giovanni Spadolini, visited Hungary. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – July 16, 1988 (MNC)

During his stay in Warsaw, Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet negotiated with W. Jaruzelsky, first Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’ Party, President of the State Council of the People’s Republic of Poland during a friendly meeting.

Hungary – July 16, 1988 (PTH)

The interest rate of several types of loans for private people given by the National Savings Bank is raised for the second time in half a year.

Bulgaria – July 17, 1988 (KCA)

An official human rights committee is formed, which according to the official news agency BTA is an “independent, public, non-governmental organization” which will work closely with other public organizations in Bulgaria and abroad for the further consolidation of respect for human rights and to guarantee their implementation.

Romania / Poland / Hungary – July 17, 1988 (OSA)

The Warsaw weekly *Rzeczywistosc* publishes an article placing the Romanian-Hungarian dispute in the broader context of the division between pro- and anti-reform forces within the Eastern bloc. It says that “the Romanian-Hungarian dispute is no doubt the most serious one within the socialist community.”

Hungary – July 17-24, 1988 (MNC)

István Szabó, member of the Polticial Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the NCC (National Council of Cooperatives) visited the State of Israel. He consulted with the representatives of businnes life. He met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He was received by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Iraq/Iran - July 18, 1988 (MNC)

Iran announced that it will unconditionally accept the regulations of the 598. (July 20- 1987) resolution of the UN Security Council, which calls for ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. On July 26, with the mediation of UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar, the ceasefire negotiations between Iraq and Iran began.

Hungary – July 18, 1988 (KCA)

The forint is devalued by an average of 6 percent against convertible currencies.

Hungary – July 19, 1988 (KCA)

The Council of Ministers directs that the general secretary of the SZOT should attend its meetings to represent workers’ views.

Hungary – July 19, 1988 (PTH)

One of the main awards at the Karlovi Vary Film Festival is won by Sándor Sára's "Thorn Under the Nail", which sheds light on the abuses of authority by leaders in Hajdú-Bihar county.

Hungary – July 19-28, 1988 (MNC/KCA)

Accepting a government invitation, Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet visited the United States of America. He met the leading personalities of the economic and businnes life in 14 cities including: Chicago, Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York. He negotiated with Governor of Massachusetts and Presidential nominee M. Dukakis, the leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the representatives of the Hungarian emigration organizations in New York. During a press conference he made a statement in front of the representatives of international press. He took part in official negotiations with Secretary of State Geogre P. Shultz and representatives of the committees of foreign affairs from both Houses of the American Congress. He was received by Vice President George H. W. Bush and President of the United States Ronald Reagan.

Hungary / U.S. – July 19-29, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Grosz visits the United States, the first official visit by a Hungarian socialist leader. He meets President Reagan and Vice-President George Bush. He also talks with representatives of the IMF and the World Bank, and with US businessmen and financiers in 14 cities.

Bulgaria – July 20, 1988 (KCA)

The Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) dismisses two of the most prominent reformers in the party leadership: Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov, hitherto a politburo member and the central committee secretary for cadre policy, and Mr. Stoyan Mikhailov, hitherto the central committee secretary for ideology. The dismissals are interpreted by overseers as evidence of a conservative backlash within the leadership.

Yugoslavia - July 20, 1988 (OSA)

Prime Minister Branko Mikulić defined the fundamental motives for altering the existing law on foreign investments during session of Government’s Economic Reform Commission, a body consisting of eminent experts, scholars and economists. He said that Yugoslavia needs to open up its economy towards the world, halt the stagnation of its development, replace traditional credit-based relations with up-to-date firms of joint investments and enable foreign firms to be set up in the country.

US / Hungary – July 20-27, 1988 (LBC)

The general secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, Károly Grósz visits the US. With the exception of Gorbachev, Grósz is the only East European leader to receive an invitation to the US from the Reagan administration. Grósz first visits Chicago where he is present at the signing of a contract on the establishment of a 115 million dollar US-Hungarian glass factory. The Hungarian leader is received by Reagan and Vice-President Bush. Reagan hailed Grósz’s “openness to new

ideas” and announced “a new era” in Soviet Hungarian relations. The President reminds his guest that he saw “a society that is free” in the US “committed to upholding fundamental human rights and open to diverse opinions and talents”. In his response Grósz states “I will reorganize its economy. This can only be done...if the people enjoy more rights, more freedoms. Therefore, we are modernizing our political system and our political practice.” Grósz alludes that in his July visit in Moscow he discussed the withdrawal of Soviet troops with Gorbachev. At the same time, he asserts that there was no agreement on this with Gorbachev and in his view for this to happen a similar measure from the part of the West would be required. (December 6-8, 1988.)

Hungary – July 21, 1988 (PTH)

Jichak Samir Israeli Prime minister receives István Szabó, member of the Politburo of HSWP who visits Israel as an expert on cooperative societies. István Szabó states that Hungary made a grave mistake when it broke relations with Israel.

Hungary – July 22, 1988 (PTH)

In the presence of American observers, the first SS-20 middle-range missiles are destroyed in the Soviet Union.

GDR – July 22, 1988 (OSA)

East and West German efforts to come up with joint projects to combat pollution have been slowed down by the GDR’s insistence that the conflict over the location of the border along the Elbe River first be resolved.

Romania / Poland / Hungary – July 22, 1988 (OSA)

The Warsaw weekly *Polityka* runs two articles in which it explores and Romanian-Hungarian dispute and outlines the historical arguments advanced by each side. It presents itself as skeptical about the claims of Romania's current official historiography and then critically reviews Bucharest's arguments for rural resettlement. Finally, it cites Hungarian protests against the plan.

U.S. / Austria / Romania – July 22, 1988 (OSA):

US Assistant Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs Richard Schifter tells reporters in Vienna, upon his return from Romania, that the rural resettlement plan had started to be put into practice in villages around Bucharest. He describes the Romanian authorities' reassurances on the inhabitants' right to reject the destruction of their village as “questionable, to say the least.”

Bulgaria - July 23, 1988 (OSA)

After a BCP plenum, it is decided that worker congresses will be held in the areas of culture, science and arts. However, the BCP plenum also decides to create three documents which would serve as the main guidelines of the congresses, so the BCP could still have some control over these communities.

Romania / East Germany (German Democratic Republic) / Hungary – July 23, 1988 (OSA)

A regional party newspaper of the German Democratic Republic, the *Saechsische Zeitung* of Dresden, publishes an article reviewing the official Romanian arguments for rural resettlement and drawing attention to the prospective loss of Hungarian and German villages in Transylvania. This is the only known expression of a distinct position on the issue of the Hungarian-Romanian dispute in the GDR press. Moreover, it seems to be the first time in some 25 years that a party organ in the

GDR has expressed interest in the situation of ethnic Germans in Romania. Overall, it expresses worries about the disintegration of the rich historical traditions and distinctive character of German and Magyar villages.

Romania / Yugoslavia – July 24, 1988 (OSA)

The Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia announces its decision to examine the situation of Serbs in Romania at the first session of its newly-founded forum for human rights.

Romania / Yugoslavia – July 25, 1988 (OSA)

Franc Setinc, a member of the Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, publicly criticizes the Romanian leadership's refusal to discuss ethnic minority issues and dismisses its claim that it had resolved those issues in Romania.

Hungary – July 25, 1988 (PTH)

Eduard Shevardnadze Soviet Foreign Minister announces that some details of the military budget will be made public soon. At the same time, he suggests that military industry should be placed under civil control. In his view "the fight between political systems" is a thing of the past.

USSR, July 25, 1988 (MHC)

In a speech to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Shevardnadze rejects the class struggle as the basis for Soviet foreign policy.

Poland - July 26, 1988 (RFE)

The government spokesman, Jerzy Urban announces in a press conference that the Soviet authorities have agreed to reschedule Poland's hard-currency debt of around \$1.5-1.6 billion. Poland also owes the Soviet Union 5.4 billion transferrable rubles as part of its 6.9 billion ruble Eastern foreign debt. The Polish government calculates that it has already paid back a third of its debt to the Soviet Union.

Hungary – July 26, 1988 (PTH)

The presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions writes a letter to the Council of Ministers in which they criticize the government for demanding more and more efforts on the part of the population in order to balance the budget. The trade unions complain that they were not consulted before the new price and interest rate measures affecting a large number of people were introduced.

Hungary – July 26, 1988 (KCA)

MTI reports that the Justice Ministry is currently drafting a new law on assembly and association which will allow the formation of new independent political groups. The new law is expected to be passed by the Országgyűlés in December.

GDR – July 26, 1988 (OSA)

An article praising China's economic reforms appears in the East German press. It was written by Dresden's party leader Hans Modrow, who has been regarded in the West as a possible successor to Erich Honecker.

Yugoslavia - July 27, 1988 (RWE)

A military court in Ljubljana (Slovenia) sentenced an army officer, Sgt.-Maj. Ivan Borstner to four years in prison for passing military secrets to journalists from the Slovene newspaper *Mladina*; the journalists involved, Ivan “Janez” Janša, Franc Zavri and David Tasić, received prison sentences of between five and 18 months. A military document leaked by Borstner had been used in a *Mladina* article which had alleged preparations for a military coup in Slovenia.

Yugoslavia - July 28, 1988 (RWE)

In a reshuffle of the federal government Radoslav Bohinc was named as Federal Secretary for the Economy, Dragi Danev as Chairman of the Federal Committee for Transport and Communications, and Franc Horvat as Chairman of the Federal Committee for Tourism; four new government members without portfolio were also appointed.

Bulgaria – July 28, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Khristo Khristov, formerly the Minister of Trade, is appointed by the National Assembly as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and a member of the Council of Ministers.

Hungary – July 28, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers responds to the criticism by the National Council of Trade Unions. They are still willing to negotiate with the trade unions on comprehensive issues, but not on minor details like the devaluation of the forint or the cut-back on state subsidies.

Hungary – July 28, 1988 (PTH)

The Communist Youth Organization believes that it can no longer take the burden of representing the interests of all young people, therefore it intends to establish the National Council of Hungarian Youth which could integrate the different youth organizations, including the Communist Youth Organization.

Hungary – July 28, 1988 (MNC)

The Parliament sent a message to the Congress of the United States of America about the cooperation of the two countries.

Ethiopia - July 28, 1988 (MNC)

Somalia and Ethiopia agreed with each other on the exchange of the prisoners of war captured in the 1977-78 Ogaden War, according to which, the prisoner exchange started on August 23.

Soviet Union/Israel - July 28, 1988 (MNC)

Soviet-Israeli negotiations started in Moscow about citizenship issues (technical talks of consular nature). Since the diplomatic breaking up in 1967, this was the first governmental contact between the diplomacy of the Soviet Union and Israel.

Hungary – July 28-29, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet stayed in Canada for a non-official visit. He met representatives of the Canadian business and economic life. He held talks with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Yugoslavia / Nigeria / Niger - July 28-31, 1988 (JIS)

President of the Presidency Raif Dizdarević leads an official Yugoslav delegation to Nigeria and

Niger. The talks are centered on economic cooperation. International issues are discussed as well, mainly the crisis in Southern Africa, and the Iran-Iraq war.

GDR – July 28, 1988 (OSA)

East Germans keen to emigrate to West Germany have filled some 300,000 to 400,000 applications to leave their country, political sources say. The sources, with detailed knowledge of such cases said the main reason was dissatisfaction with the conditions in East Germany, notably a reluctance to introduce Moscow-style reforms.

GDR – July 29, 1988 (OSA)

At a time when the Soviet Union is beginning to re-evaluate its history and the role played by its former leaders, the SED's party daily *Neues Deutschland* runs an article praising former SED party chief Walter Ulbricht, long regarded as a Stalinist.

Czechoslovakia – July 29, 1988 (KCA)

It is reported that Mrs. Bozena Devata, the mother of one of the Charter 77 spokesmen for 1988, Mr. Stanislav Devaty, has been expelled from the CPCz for refusing publicly to condemn her son's dissident activities.

Hungary / Canada – July 30-31, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Grosz visits Canada for two days.

Hungary – July 30, 1988 (PTH)

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, foreign minister of West Germany meets Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow to prepare Chancellor Helmut Kohl's visit scheduled for October.

Hungary – July 30, 1988 (PTH)

In his message to the Hungarian people US president Ronald Reagan expresses his confidence that there will be a good chance to develop bilateral relations between the two nations.

Yugoslavia - July 30, 1988 (MHC)

The Yugoslav government orders an end to recent demonstrations by minority ethnic Serbs in Kosovo who claim mistreatment by the region's ethnic majority.

Yugoslavia / Romania - July 30, 1988 (OSA)

Franc Šetinc, an LCY Presidium member from Slovenia told the press conference that a Romanian authority have ignored repeated requests by Yugoslavia to discuss the question of Serbian minority in Romania. Yugoslav-Romanian relations changed over the years - after the expulsion from Cominform in 1948, Romania and Yugoslavia were in conflict until 1961, after which Tito and Ceausescu cultivated good relations. After 1980 the relation worsened, and the Romanian internal problems started to reflect on its foreign policy, being unable to maintain good relations.

Hungary – July 30, 1988 (MNC)

The Cabinet of the People's Republic of Hungary informed the government of the Romanian Socialist Republic about their standpoint about the Romanian decision to close the Hungarian Consulate General in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár), by diplomatic means. According to this the Hungarian government regretfully noted the Romanian desicion, which would harm the relationship

of the two countries greatly. The demonstrations in Budapest, which the Romanian party used as pretense was not against the Romanian state, but against the restriction of human rights and humanitarian relations and the harmful discrimination of Romanian minorities. The Hungarian party is still ready to further develop relations.

Hungary – July 30, 1988 (MNC)

President of the United States of America Ronald Reagan issued a speech to the people of Hungary (televised speech).

Romania / Yugoslavia – July 30, 1988 (OSA)

The Belgrade daily *Vecernje Novine* (Borba's afternoon tabloid) publishes an article which strongly condemns recent Romanian measures restricting Serbian cultural life and the use of the Serbian language.

Hungary / Romania – July 30, 1988 (MNC)

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Romania / Poland / Hungary – July 31, 1988 (OSA)

The Warsaw weekly *Przegląd Tygodniowy* publishes a feature entitled "Before the Great Tillage," which focuses on the threat of destruction of Magyar villages, churches, and cultural monuments in Transylvania through the "bulldozing policy." The two Polish authors, who had apparently visited both Transylvania and Hungary, report on the "deep despair" prevailing in Transylvania and on the wave of refugees from there to Hungary. The article concludes that the Romanian side has "entirely lost its composure . . . resorting to successive punitive measures and failing to react at all to Hungarian appeals."

Bulgaria - July 31, 1988 (OSA)

Gheorghi Ivanov Jovcev is consecrated as bishop in the cathedral of St. Ludovic.

August

U.S. / Soviet Union - August 1-4, 1988 (LBC)

US defense secretary Frank C. Carlucci visits Moscow where he has talks with Soviet minister of defense Dimitrii T. Iazov. He is taken to several military and naval bases, where he viewed the strategic bomber Blackjack and the MIG-29 fighter. Carlucci recounts that at the airbase he visited his questions were answered with “remarkable frankness”. The secretary met the President of the Supreme Soviet, Andrei Gromyko. At his speech given at the Voroshilov Military Academy Carlucci questions the defensive nature of Soviet military doctrine.

U.S. / Soviet Union - August 1, 1988 (LBC)

The annihilation of INF missiles is started in Kazakhstan.

Soviet Union - AUGUST 1, 1988 (MNC)

In the Soviet Union, the first SS-12 (shorter range) nuclear missile was destroyed.

Albania - August 1-4, 1988 (MNC)

A Turkish-Albanian Treaty was signed on a Foreign Ministerial level about the economic cooperation of the two countries. This was the first and highest level contact between the two countries.

Hungary – August 2, 1988 (PTH)

In Szigethalom, in the presence of representatives of the Hungarian People's Army and the Soviet Southern Army Group, the village community is assembled to discuss the request of the local people to reduce the noise caused by military routine flights and other environmental damages.

Czechoslovakia – August 3, 1988 (KCA)

It is officially reported that Czechoslovakia's net hard-currency debt currently stands at just over one billion USD, which is one of the lowest in Eastern Europe.

Hungary – August 3, 1988 (PTH)

The ministry of trade anticipates that the shortage of paper supplies will be over by November or December, which was caused by the fact that the Soviet Union reduced its scheduled paper export to Hungary by 700 thousand tons. (Later this amount, on Hungarian request, was modified to 500 thousand tons.)

Hungary – August 3, 1988 (PTH)

Under the agreement made between HSWP and the Soviet Communist Party Hungarian scholars are granted the possibility to study the documents related to the Hungarian emigrants living there and those concerning the activities of the Communist International.

Hungary – August 4, 1988 (PTH)

Gyula Borics, secretary of the ministry of justice says in a statement that the ministry will revise the regulations which placed the former 1956 convicts at a disadvantage. Károly Grósz says that "for humanitarian reasons" the Hungarian citizens executed for their role in 1956 might be given a proper burial.

Yugoslavia - August 4, 1988 (RWE)

The government ended a price frieze covering fuel, transport and postal services.

West Germany / Yugoslavia - August 4-6, 1988 (JIS)

West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher visits Yugoslavia and meets with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar. The talks are centered on the cooperation between the EC and Yugoslavia. International issues are discussed as well, mainly the CSCE process, the Iran-Iraq relations, the situation in the Middle East and in Southern Africa.

Hungary / Romania – August 5, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Budapest carries a report from Transylvania; in it, correspondents Szabolcs Udvarhelyi and Zoltán Tamási describe how villagers view the rural resettlement scheme of the government with suspicion and how Hungarian newspapers are not present at hotels and news agents, although other international press is.

Bulgaria - August 5, 1988 (OSA)

A resolution from the BCP calls for the liberation of the press, giving more freedom to the diaries and journalists. By the time it is said that the resolution accepts the critic journalism so they can report the malpractices and crimes that occur.

Hungary – August 6, 1988 (PTH)

In the first half of the year consumer prices rose on the average by 16.5% in Hungary. The price of food products, energy and clothing was 20% higher than the previous year. According to the Central Statistics Agency the inflation rate reached 80% since 1980.

Czechoslovakia – August 7, 1988 (RFE)

The Czechoslovakian government announces a raft of religious reforms, following recent pressure from Catholic dissidents: they promise to allow more religious literature, including Bibles, and to make it easier for children to enrol in religious schools.

Soviet Union, - August 8, 1988 (MNC)

The withdrawal of Soviet troops started from the capital of Afghanistan as well.

GDR – August 8, 1988 (OSA)

According to a recent study on the GDR’s economic performance in first half of 1988, economic growth has slowed considerably.

GDR – August 9, 1988 (OSA)

In an article in the journal *Deutsche Zeitschrift fuer Philosophie* Alfred Kosing, a prominent party ideologist, says that the GDR is not excluded from “the great processes of change.” Although he was careful to praise past policies, his remarks seem to indicate that a discussion of possible economic and political change is underway in party circles.

Iraq/Iran - August 9, 1988 (MNC)

The UN Security Council issued a resolution about the creation of a UN monitoring group for the supervising of the execution of Iraqi-Iranian ceasefire, which came into effect on August 8, at the moment with only a half-year mandate.

Hungary – August 9, 1988 (PTH)

The Politburo of HSWP confirms that it is in Hungary's interest that the agreement concerning the reduction of traditional armed forces be extended in its first phase to the troops stationed in Hungary. The body urges that humanitarian and human rights issues be given more emphasis in the cooperation between socialist countries.

Hungary – August 9, 1988 (PTH)

After Szigethalom the residents of Százhalombatta are given a promise that no more routine flights will be made from the Tököl air base on weekends and holidays; moreover, flights will be stopped even in weekday afternoons.

Hungary / Romania – August 9, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Budapest carries an interview with Szabolcs Udvarhelyi and Zoltán Tamási, correspondents who toured the Romanian countryside on response to an official invitation by the country. They speak extensively about the rural resettlement plan, admitting that this means some “villages are condemned to wither away.” They also reveal they were unable to interview Hungarian nationals in Romania, as such individuals were denied permission by the government to speak to foreign journalists. Finally, they say Romanian economic policy “places great burdens to everyone.”

Hungary – August 10, 1988 (PTH)

The UN requests Hungary to send - for the time being for 6 months - 15 representatives to join the military observer group overseeing the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

Hungary – August 10, 1988 (PTH)

György Marosán jr. becomes the new government spokesman in the rank of deputy minister. At the meeting of the Council of Ministers 10 new committees are set up in order to work on the revision of the constitution.

Hungary – August 10, 1988 (PTH)

The formerly confidential budget of the Union of Pioneer Movement and that of the Communist Youth Organization are made public. In 1987 61% of the almost 1.5 billion forints available for the two organizations came from government sources.

Hungary – August 11, 1988 (PTH)

Because of the building of the dam at Nagymaros the river Danube is diverted into a temporary bed at Visegrád.

Hungary / Romania / U.S. – August 11, 1988 (OSA)

An article, penned by Peter Slevin, appears in the *Knight-Ridder* newspapers. It describes the waves of Ethnic Hungarian refugees from Romania to their home country, estimating them at 1,000 a month, and explains the phenomenon by the Romanian government’s “discrimination” against “Hungarian, Serbian, and Saxon minorities.” He also gives a number of personal stories of refugees, quoting one of them in saying “We are not robots who can be programmed. We could never be Romanians”, and another one professing “I want to live as a person, to question and listen and do what normal people do.”

Hungary – August 12, 1988 (PTH)

The revision of the constitution begins.

Czechoslovakia – August 12-14, 1988 (OSA)

The 125th anniversary of the establishment of the Slovak National Heritage Foundation is celebrated in Martin and the discussions about the institution’s history and purpose is made in the meeting.

Hungary – August 13, 1988 (PTH)

András Hegedüs, former Prime Minister of Hungary gives an interview to Képes 7. He says: "in my view 1956 was a national uprising, initiated not by revolutionaries, but rather by the nameless mass of national resistance. It was this resistance that later gave rise to the national uprising." Képes 7 begins to publish passages from Hegedüs's book entitled "Under the Spell of History and Power" which is to appear soon.

Hungary – August 13, 1988 (PTH)

As part of the St. Stephen memorial ceremony the Saint Right Hand is taken to Székesfehérvár and placed in the Nagyboldogasszony cathedral. On the 950th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Hungarian state László Paskai, archbishop of Esztergom celebrates a mass in the presence of several thousand pilgrims in Fehérvár.

Poland – August 14, 1988 (MHC)

Police in Gdansk clash with protesters marking the eighth anniversary of the founding of Solidarity. Strikers begin anew. Particularly in the mining industry.

Hungary – August 14, 1988 (MNC)

Parliamentary Secretary of foreign affairs of Japan Hamada Takujiro had an official visit to Hungary. He negotiated with State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn. He held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy. He was received by Imre Pozsgay, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, and Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP.

German Democratic Republic - August 15, 1988 (MNC)

The German Democratic Republic picked up diplomatic relations with the European Community.

Poland - August 15-17, 1988 (RFE)

Three Silesian coalmines are reported to have begun strikes in order to support the several thousands miners who started a sit-in strike in Zastrzebie Zdroj on August 15. The striking workers are demanding wage increases and the re-legalization of Solidarity.

Poland – August 15, 1988 (KCA)

Around 3,000 coalminers occupy the Manifest Lipcowy mine at Jastrzebie near Katowice (southern Poland) in support of demands for better pay and conditions, for reinstatement of sacked colleagues, and for official recognition of Solidarity.

Hungary – August 15, 1988 (PTH)

Another small church, the Hungarian Islam community is given official recognition.

GDR – August 16, 1988 (OSA)

An East German newspaper prints an interview with the U.S. Ambassador, quoting him as cautioning that “considerable problems” remain in creating trust between East and West.

Poland – August 17-18, 1988 (KCA)

The strike of miners spreads to other mines in the Silesian coalfield and to shipyards and bus depots in the Baltic port of Szczecin.

Pakistan - August 17, 1988 (MNC)

Head of State of Pakistan Ziaul Hiak died in a plane crash.

USA/Soviet Union -August 17, 1988 (MNC)

Soviet and American experts executed a joint underground nuclear test in the test site in Nevada.

Hungary – August 18, 1988 (PTH)

President Brúnó Strub F. receives archbishop Colasuonno who participates in the ceremony on the anniversary of St. Stephen's death as the personal envoy of the Pope.

West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) / U.K. / Romania - August 18 / September 12 / September 23, 1988 (OSA):

On August 18, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher expresses his government's "great concern" over Romania's rural resettlement plan in a letter to his Romanian counterpart, Ioan Totu. He asks that the letter be brought to President Nicolae Ceausescu's attention. The Foreign Office reveals that it had already raised the issue with Romanian diplomats six times since March 1988, to no avail.

On September 12, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Sir Geoffrey Howe sends a formal letter of protest to his Romanian counterpart Ioan Totu over the rural resettlement plan. The letter says that the plan would violate basic human rights and cause “irreparable damage to Romania's architectural and cultural heritage.”

On September 28, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher meets his Romanian counterpart Ioan Totu at the UN General Assembly in New York and raises the rural resettlement plan. Totu rejects Bonn's concern as unjustified.

Soviet Union – August 19, 1988 (KCA)

In an interview with Pravda published on August 19, Mr. Solomentsev, the chair of the CPSU control committee and of the party commission to re-examine archive materials relating to the Stalinist purges, states that so far 636 people have been cleared of criminal charges and suggests that those responsible for carrying out the purges may yet be called to account.

Hungary – August 19, 1988 (PTH)

In Székesfehérvár, at the ceremony held to commemorate the foundation of the Hungarian state, the president of the Presidential Council states that a new constitution is needed which regulates the relationship between citizens and those in power in a straightforward, clear fashion.

Hungary – August 20, 1988 (KCA)

To mark the 950th anniversary of the death of St Istvan (Stephen), the first king of Hungary – Dr. László Paskai, Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungary – announces that the country’s Roman Catholic Episcopate and the state authorities have extended a joint invitation to Pope John Paul II to visit Hungary. He is among 24 new Cardinals named by the Pope on May 29.

Yugoslavia – August 20-September 18, 1988 (HR)

A series of protests erupt in multiple towns in Serbia and Montenegro. The protests are a show of support to Slobodan Milošević and a show of solidarity with the Serbs in Kosovo. The federal as well as local leadership are heavily criticized for the “lack of readiness” to help solve the Kosovo crisis.

Hungary – August 20, 1988 (PTH)

Independent Hungarian groups send a letter to representatives of the Czechoslovakian civil rights movement on the 20th anniversary of the soviet invasion. On behalf of the Committee for the Administration of Justice the letter is signed by Sándor Rác and Miklós Vásárhelyi.

West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) / Romania - August 20, 1988 (OSA):

The SPD deputy Hermann Scheer describes in an interview Hans-Dietrich Genscher's letter to Ioan Totu as a "by no means satisfactory [West German] answer" to Romania's human rights violations; he says it is time to "isolate Romania diplomatically."

Poland - August 20-21, 1988 (RFE)

The number of coalmines on strike rises to eleven. The authorities seem determined to reject the striking workers’ demands. Lech Walesa announces that the Gdansk shipyard workers will go on strike again on August 22, if Solidarity is not legalized.

Czechoslovakia – August 21, 1988 (RFE / DRC)

Several hundred participate in demonstrations held in Wenceslas Square, Prague, on the 20th anniversary of the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia. The gathering takes place following an appeal by Bohemian Children and the Independent Peace Association. The demonstrators call for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovak soil, free elections, the release of political prisoners, the observance of human rights and the legalization of independent initiatives. They are eventually broken up by the police.

Czechoslovakia / Warsaw Pact – August 21, 1988 (KCA)

The 20th anniversary of the invasion of the Czechoslovakia Warsaw Pact forces is marked on the evening of August 21 by an impromptu demonstration in Prague involving an estimated 10,000 people.

Poland – August 22, 1988 (KCA)

The strike of miners begins in industrial enterprises in several other cities, including the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk. A curfew is declared in Katowice, Szczecin and Gdansk provinces; troops are deployed around at least 10 strikebound Silesian mines, and police and troops move in to evict strikers occupying three transport depots in Szczecin.

Hungary – August 22-23, 1988 (PTH)

People take part in a sitting strike to protest against the demolition of villages in Rumania.

Hungary / Romania – August 22- September 3, 1988 (PTH)

People take part in a sitting strike OUTSIDE THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY, organized by the Free Romania organization to protest against the demolition of villages in Romania. The crowds are made up of both ethnic Hungarians and Romanians and hold posters demanding freedom for Romanians. The police are surprisingly tolerant, requesting only that demonstrators stay two blocks away from the embassy and on the opposite side of the street.

Romania – August 23, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian academic and dissident Doina Cornea sends an open letter to party and state leader Nicolae Ceausescu on the occasion of the regime's anniversary. “Hoping without hope” she urges the regime to enter into a long-overdue dialogue with the public on economic and political reforms. Pointing to "the growing distress of the populace," as "millions suffer from physical debilitation through malnutrition and lack of heating and medicine," Cornea notes that the crisis seems only to reinforce the regime's ideological inertia and its reliance on misinformation and a "crushing apparatus of repression" to forestall popular demands for change. She asks Ceausescu "and that nomenklatura that supports him" to either implement reforms or step down in the interests of the country."

Hungary – August 23, 1988 (KCA)

More than 300 miners at a coal mine in Pecs (south-west Hungary) go on strike in protest against the decline in wage and shift bonus levels because of the personal income tax introduced at the beginning of the year and because anomalies in the calculation of sick payment that miners on sick leave are earning more than those at work.

Hungary – August 23, 1988 (PTH)

The second communiqué of the Historical Justice Committee denounces the rough measures taken by the police on June 16 and welcomes certain promises given by the Council of Ministers (the burial of Imre Nagy and his companions, eliminating the disadvantageous legal treatment of 56-ers, acknowledging the need to do research on 56). They demand that the full list of all victims executed, killed or died in prison be made public, their graves be marked, the bodies be identified, and section 301 be put in order. They complete the task of making the necessary preparations and finding a tombstone appropriate to the one requested by István Angyal in his will. The Committee sets up three sections, one for historical, one for legal, and one for reverence matters.

Hungary – August 23-24, 1988 (PTH)

Miners at the István pit of the Mecsek Coal Mines go on strike because of uncertainties concerning their loyalty money. After negotiating with government commissioner László Kapolyi, minister of industry Frigyes Berecz and deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, the workers are promised to get at least as much bonus money in 1988 as they received in 1987. This has been the first strike since the fall of 1956.

Romania / Hungary – August 23-27, 1988 (OSA)

The telegram of congratulations sent by the HSWP to the RCP on the anniversary of the communists’ “national day” is not published in the Romanian party daily *Scinteia*, although such publication has been established practice for many years. *Scinteia* excuses this by saying it has published only the texts of countries which had in turn published the correspondent Romanian messages, but this is unconvincing as it has not been customary for Hungarian press to carry out such publications, while *Scinteia* had, in the past, nevertheless done so. The real reason behind the lack of publication most likely is the deteriorating relations between the two countries prior to the August 28 Grósz-Ceausescu meeting.

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union – August 24, 1988 (KCA)

The Soviet foreign language newspaper *Moscow News* publishes comments by a number of leading Soviet journalists criticizing the invasion and demanding that there should be no re- emergence of the dangerous nation that military strength can solve the political problems of another nation.

Poland – August 24, 1988 (KCA)

Three of the strikebound mines are stormed by riot police.

Czechoslovakia – August 25, 1988 (OSA)

The Presidium meeting on August 25 is viewed against the background of a certain amount of political nervousness over the general advance of Soviet reforms and the turmoil around the 20th anniversary of the suppression of the Prague Spring.

Poland - August 25, 1988 (RFE)

The Polish media reports that only six coalmines are still on strike, amid independent reports that riot police were called to forcibly evict the striking workers.

Hungary – August 25, 1988 (PTH)

As of October, the pension of those over 70 years of age will be raised by 2% or at least 100 forints. The calculation of sick-pay will also change. The Council of Ministers envisages that in 1989 the personal income tax brackets will be modified in accordance with the change in consumer price index.

Hungary – August 25, 1988 (PTH)

Ilona Tatai, member of the Politburo of HSWP states that Hungarian companies cannot be obligated to produce their goods and export them involving a deficit even if inter-state agreements require such action, since it is the state that has to take responsibility for these agreements.

Hungary – August 25-28, 1988 (PTH)

Opposition organizations and leading opposition figures meet in Balatonszárszó to discuss current political, social, economic and national minority issues. Sándor Rácz gives "a special history class" to several hundred young people on 1956.

Iraq/Iran - August 25, 1988 (MNC)

Direct negotiations have started between Iran and Iraq in Geneva, with the participation of UN Secretary General, Juan Perez de Cuellar.

Nicaragua - August 25, 1988 (MNC)

According the new election law made by the Parliament of Nicaragua, contras who gained amnesty could also participate in the elections.

Hungary – August 26-27, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, Abdul Vakil had an official visit to the People's Republic of Hungary. He held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy and Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by F. Brúnó Staub, President of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic.

Hungary – August 26, 1988 (KCA)

It is announced that the future of the Gabčíkovo–Nagymaros scheme will be debated by the Országgyűlés at its autumn session beginning on October 5, 1988.

Poland – August 26, 1988 (KCA)

The Interior Minister, Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak, announces that he has been authorized to enter into negotiations with representatives of the strikers.

Hungary – August 26, 1988 (PTH)

Imre Nagy, secretary of the CC of the Communist Youth Organization believes that because of the unfavorable political and social forecasts none of the essential program points of the 1984 resolution of HSWP concerning young people will be implemented. In order to facilitate real discussion, many urge that the Federation of Young Democrats should be legalized.

GDR – August 26, 1988 (OSA)

A Jewish Army Chaplain who helped US soldiers liberate concentration camps in World War Two is named temporary rabbi for the East German Jewish Community.

Yugoslavia - August 26, 1988 (OSA)

At its session, chaired by Raif Dizdarević, the SFRY Presidency discussed priorities for directions of action and approved stands for the activity of the SFRY delegation at the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers conference at Nicosia in the September. The SFRY Presidency has stressed the need for the Yugoslav delegation to strive for the continual updating of the substance, method, and manner of work of the Non-Aligned Movement and the development of cooperation with all important factors of international relations.

Hungary – August 27, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a parliamentary delegation, President of the Parliament Lajos Horváth took a three-day vist to the Republic of Indonesia. His negotiation partner was Vice President of the Parliament Shaiful Shulun. He was received by President of the Parliament Kharis Suhud. He was also received by Head of State Suharto.

Western Sahara - August 27-30, 1988 (MNC)

Negotiations started about the position of Western Sahara between Morocco and the Polisario Front, with the mediation and according to the peaceplan of UN Secretary General Juan Perez de Cuellar; the parties gave their principal contribution to the plan.

Hungary – August 28, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet consulted with Aradon Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the Romanian Socialist Republic.

Hungary – August 28, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz and Ceausescu meet in Arad. Their talks end with no apparent results.

Romania / Hungary – August 28, 1988 (PER / CEC)

Ceauşescu holds discussions with Hungarian PM Károly Grósz in Arad, Romania. They sign a “Ten Points Program.”

Poland - August 28, 1988 (RFE)

By the evening of August 28, the Manifest Lipcowy mine in Zastrzebie Zdroj is the only mine still

on strike. This strike, which was the catalyst for 14 more, started on August 15.

Hungary – August 28, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet, and Ceausescu meet in Arad. Their talks end with no apparent results.

West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) / ISHR / Romania - August 28, 1988 (OSA)

The Frankfurt-based International Society for Human Rights announces that it was in the possession of 2 lists with 220 names of villages earmarked for destruction in predominantly Magyar areas of Romania.

West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) / UNESCO / Romania – August 29, 1988 (OSA)

The President of West Germany's UNESCO Commission, Ingeborg Geisendorfer, announces that she had appealed August in early August to her Romanian counterpart to try to prevent the destruction of Romanian villages.

Hungary – August 29, 1988 (PTH)

On Hungarian invitation leaders and disarmament experts of NATO and WTO meet in Budapest to discuss issues of European traditional arms.

Czechoslovakia / FRG – August 29-30, 1988 (RFE / DRC)

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek visits Bonn. He meets West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Working groups are established to discuss humanitarian issues, border relations, student exchange programmes, and the establishment of cultural centres in Bonn and Prague.

Bulgaria - August 29, 1988 (OSA)

The professor Velichko Dobryanov publishes an article in the communist diary, *Rabotnichesko Delo*, in which he defends the socialist pluralism as a way to reach a more democratic society in which the different ideas that exist conduct to a system in which there is a unification in actions and thought. He also affirms that political pluralism (always in the left movement limits) are unstoppable as a development of human being. This kind of article show how the Glasnost politics were taking effect during the openness that Gorbachov had planned.

Yugoslavia - August 29, 1988 (OSA)

A 4-hour demonstration of 500 ethnic Albanians in the town Kumanovo, in Socialist Republic of Macedonia took place. They were protesting against the introduction of a law in June making bilingual education mandatory in schools where lessons have previously been in Albanian alone. During a protest, 9 policemen were injured by some 200 students throwing rocks.

Yugoslavia - August 30, 1988 (OSA)

The edition of Zagreb weekly *Danas* published an attack on Serbia’s party president Slobodan Milošević. *Danas* labeled Milošević’s policies as “unconstitutional” and explained how they pose the most provocative danger to Yugoslavia since World War II. The article is the toughest attack on the high-ranking official still in office, in recent years.

Hungary – August 30, 1988 (PTH)

László Major, spokesman of HSWP says: The Rumanian leaders accepted the idea of a meeting between top level leaders in 1989, and that a joint declaration should be made at this meeting on the nationality issue. The Rumanian party is willing to extend economic cooperation and agrees to send its representatives to the newly summoned joint cultural committee. A joint committee will examine the situation of Rumanian citizens staying in Hungary.

Hungary – August 30, 1988 (PTH)

László Major, spokesman of HSWP says: The Romanian leaders accepted the idea of a meeting between top level leaders in 1989, and that a joint declaration should be made at this meeting on the nationality issue. The Romanian party is willing to extend economic cooperation and agrees to send its representatives to the newly summoned joint cultural committee. A joint committee will examine the situation of Romanian citizens staying in Hungary. Major also reveals that the meeting between Grósz and Ceausescu had disappointed most Hungarians. He says the Hungarian people had expected too much and that the party is conducting public opinion polls on the issue.

Romania / Hungary – August 31, 1988 (OSA)

A HSWP aide (unidentified) admits that the public unhappiness, as seen in protests in Budapest against the Ceausescu regime, was at least partly caused by “the old establishment”, i.e. officials of the HSWP who resented that Grósz had broken the ice with Ceausescu without their advice; the aide notes the Politburo meeting that followed Ceausescu’s invitation was long and contentious, although it finally ended with approval.

GDR – August 31, 1988 (OSA)

Radio Prague reports East German Prime Minister Willi Stoph held talks in East Berlin with Czech Justice Minister Antonin Kaspar and with Slovak Deputy Justice Minister Milos Barta. They discuss the share of the justice bodies in the strengthening of Socialist Democracy and in the development of a Socialist society in both countries.

Poland – August 31, 1988 (RFE/MHC)

Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity, meets with party officials in Warsaw for the first time since the banning of the union in 1982. The meeting is, undoubtedly, a political milestone, and fuels the public’s hope that the government will soon give into public pressure and recognize Solidarity as the true representative of the Polish workers. Walesa meets with General Czeslaw Kiszczak, the Minister of Internal Affairs, rather than First Secretary, General Jaruzelski.

Minister General Kiszczak and notes that progress is being made towards initiating negotiations between the government and the opposition. After the meeting, he urges an end to nationwide strikes. Additionally, Kiszczak has emerged as the principal party and government leader over the last few months, effectively dictating the authorities’ response to the many incidents of industrial unrest in 1988. Given his position as chief overseer of the police and security forces since 1981, many see Kiszczak as the personification of the brutality of police action under martial law. However, he has also gained a reputation for being a skillful, open-minded politician, willing to meet and talk with opposition figures. Kiszczak’s rise also points to General Jaruzelski’s decline in day-to-day political decision-making.

Czechoslovakia – August 31, 1988 (KCA)

The federal government of Czechoslovakia decides to submit to the Federal Assembly a bill to introduce a single rate of exchange for the crown from January 1, 1989.

Poland – August 31, 1988 (KCA)

The Interior Minister, Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak, has preliminary discussions with Mr. Lech Walesa, the chairman of Solidarity. The three-hour meeting in Warsaw is also attended by Mr. Stanislaw Ciosek, the general secretary of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON), and Mgr Jerzy Dabrowski, representing the Roman Catholic Church. Gen. Kiszczak gives guarantees that the government will involve Solidarity in round-table discussions on resolving Poland’s economic and social crisis and the union’s reauthorization, provided that the strikes are called off.

September

Czechoslovakia – September 1988 (RFE)

Samizdat publication *Lidove Noviny* publishes a leaked government memorandum from 25 August in its September edition. The memorandum admits the existence of ‘growing activity by the domestic enemies [of socialism]’; it notes a rise in the distribution of dissident pamphlets, as well as the growing organization of subversive groups. Speaking of the August demonstrations, it says ‘the brazenness of antisocialist forces is increasing. By using young people, they are trying to provoke an open confrontation with the power of the state, and then to capitalize politically on [it]’.

Romania / Egypt / Kenya / Tanzania – September 1988 (PER)

The Ceaușescus visit Egypt, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Hungary – September 1988 (PTH)

The journal Világosság publishes a roundtable talk held under the title "Crisis and self- knowledge" (the participants are: Domokos Kosáry, Gyula Juhász, Rezső Nyers).

Hungary – September 1988 (KCA)

Plans for an amnesty for people convicted for participating in the 1956 uprising are announced. This involves erasing references to those convictions from individual files.

Federal Republic of Germany - September 1, 1988 (MNC)

In accordance with the Soviet-American INF-Agreement, the withdrawal of the American Pershing-2 missiles from the Federal Republic of Germany has begun.

Hungary – September 1-2, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács took part in the consultation of the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Sofia.

Hungary – September 1-4, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentina Susan Mytra Ruiz Cerutti consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary / Romania – September 1-4, 1988 (OSA)

Grósz comes under severe criticism from the HSWP leadership for not taking a harder stance

against Romania in his August 28 meeting with Ceausescu. Even the Hungarian official press admits the bitterness of many Hungarians about Grósz's inability to gain concessions with Ceausescu. A party official (unidentified) tells Janos Kadar, whom Grósz ousted as General Secretary, that even those once most critical of his leadership would have to concede that he was never tricked into a fruitless meeting with Ceausescu.

Hungary – September 1, 1988 (PTH)

According to János Berecz HSWP should enforce its leading role not through power but rather using ideological tools. The secretary of the CC also says in Nádudvar that public feeling has recently deteriorated significantly, which was on a positive route after the May national party meeting.

Hungary – September 2, 1988 (PTH)

An international conference on retaining the dams on the river Danube opens in Budapest organized by the Danube Circle, the World Life Fund for Nature and the International Rivers Networks. The participants provide examples to show how a large dam can damage the environment, and urge to suspend the building of the dam at Bős-Nagymaros immediately.

Hungary – September 2, 1988 (PTH)

Imre Pozsgay, Minister of State says that high politics should show tolerance in judging the newly formed societies in the country, and the local councils should get rid of the bureaucracy that is quite common in dealing with such matters.

Poland – September 3, 1988 (KCA)

The strike at the Manifest Lipcowy mine, is called off, following a visit by Mr. Walesa on the previous day.

Hungary – September 3, 1988 (KCA)

Around 350 people meet in the central Hungarian village of Lakitelek to draft a founding statute for a new political group calling itself the Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF). Its objectives are to build a bridge between the state and society. Meanwhile, the government spokesman states that the authorities have no objection to the new group.

Yugoslavia - September 3 - 4, 1988 (OSA)

More than 100,000 protesters took part in non-violent demonstrations in 4 towns in Yugoslavia: Smederevo, Kovin, Sombor, and Crvenka - all in Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. The protesters claimed that the authorities had abandoned the minority rights of Serbs, Montenegrins, and Turks in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo, and left Albanian nationalism unchecked. They claimed that this was the reason for minorities leaving Kosovo - more than 75,000 people since 1971 (25,000 Serbs relocated to the city of Sombor since 1941).

Czechoslovakia / PRC / DPRK – September 3-12, 1988 (RFE)

President Husak visits China and North Korea in the hoping of improving trade ties.

Hungary – September 4, 1988 (KCA)

A group of Országgyűlés deputies attending a three-day conference organized by opponents of the scheme call for September 4 to be the date for a national referendum to decide whether Hungarian

participation should continue over the controversial Gabčíkovo–Nagymaros scheme.

Hungary – September 4, 1988 (PTH)

János Berecz announces: HSWP has established contacts with HDF. According to the secretary of the CC HDF mainly includes writers who had little possibility within the Association of Writers to voice their opinion in matters of national importance.

Hungary – September 4, 1988 (PTH)

Imre Miklós, Secretary of State carries on talks in Israel on the issue of renovating the synagogues in Hungary. He is met by Prime Minister Jichak Shamir.

Romania / Hungary – September 4, 1988 (OSA)

The RCP daily *Scinteia* attacks Hungarian media for its “defamatory actions directed against Romania.” Its publication claims, “that there are no problems between Romania and Hungary” and attributes the creation of “artificial problems” to malevolent media publications. It also states that Ceausescu and Grósz agreed in Arad, on August 28, that Romania’s internal policies, such as its rural settlements reform, are for its own party and people to judge.

Poland – September 4, 1988 (KCA)

In a speech to an unofficially rally in Gdansk, Mr. Walesa defends his actions of bowing to government pressure to end the strikes, arguing that there is now ‘a chance for the first time in Poland to talk seriously about what can and should be done’.

Yugoslavia / North Korea / China - September 5-13, 1988 (JIS)

The Presidency and Central Committee member Lazar Mojsov visits North Korea, where he attends the 40th anniversary of the state and meets with North Korean party and state leadership. On his way back to Yugoslavia he stopped in China, where he meets with high Chinese representatives.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - 5-9 September 1988 (DRC)

In the Soviet Union, CPCz CC Presidium member Jozef Lenért talks with Soviet Politburo member Nikolai Slyunkov, Gosplan Chairman Iurii Masliukov, and others.

Hungary – September 6, 1988 (PTH)

HSWP decides to set up ad hoc committees in order to study the ideological issues related to the development of socialism.

Hungary – September 6, 1988 (PTH)

The Moving Picture Democratic Trade Union is formed as the autonomous labor organization of workers working in the film industry.

Romania / Hungary – September 6, 1988 (OSA)

The HSWP newspaper *Magyar Hirlap* responds to the article by the RCP daily *Scinteia* which criticized the Hungarian Press. It says that “the situation of ethnic Hungarians does give rise to anxiety, and we cannot depict the domestic situation in Romania with a so ideal picture as our predecessors did 10-15 years ago.” It invites openness between media of socialist countries to enable the collective solving of problems. Overall, however, it is indirectly critical of *Scinteia*,

reprimanding it for trying to determine “what the Hungarian press should [and should not] say.”

Hungary – September 6-9, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in Iraq.

Hungary – September 7, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet sent a letter to the international conference organized for the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), in Milan. Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács took part in the conference.

Yugoslavia / Non-Aligned Movement - September 7 - 10, 1988 (RWE)

Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) met in Nicosia, Cyprus, and decided that Yugoslavia should hold the chairmanship of the movement (in succession of Zimbabwe) for a three-year term from 1989.

Angola - September 7-9, 1988 (MNC)

Angola, Cuba and the Republic of South Africa agreed on the withdrawal of Cuban forces in Angola within 30 months.

Hungary – September 7, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers suggests that all those convicted for their role in the 1956 events be given accorded amnesty. It is also said that the Bős-Nagymaros dam must be built, though in case a referendum should decide otherwise, the Council of Ministers will abide by the decision.

Europe / Romania / U.K. - September 7 / September 16, 1988 (OSA):

On the September 7, the European Community protests to the Romanian government about its rural resettlement plan after an EEC meeting in Athens. It announces that representatives of the European Community had already had meetings with the Romanian delegation on the issue of rural resettlement. On September 16, a British delegate at the CSCE review meeting in Vienna said on September 16 that Romania had rejected the EEC protest "in brusque and peremptory terms.”

Bulgaria - September 8, 1988 (OSA)

Mr Grisha Filipov, member of the politburo and secretary of the CC of the BCP talks about the changes that have been taking place during the last years. He emphasizes that what was happening in Bulgaria wasn’t a way to adapt socialism to the actual world, it was a way to construct a society able to open to everything new and which would implement the principles of justice and humanism to the full.

Hungary – September 8, 1988 (PTH)

Hungary expresses its intention to join the protocol of the Civil and Political Agreement Document of UN - says László Kovács, deputy foreign minister in Milan, speaking at a conference organized on the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Hungary – September 8-9, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet had an official friendly visit to the German Democratic Republic. He was received by the

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and President of State Council of the German Democratic Republic, Erich Honecker.

GDR – September 8–9, 1988 (OSA)

Hungary’s Prime Minister and party leader Karoly Grosz pays his first official visit to East Germany. The trip was a barometer of the changing state of political and economic relations between the two countries and of manner in which relations within the communist bloc in general are conducted.

Czechoslovakia – September 9, 1988 (OSA)

The Independent Peace Association reports that a “public and open” discussion had taken place on August 21, 1988 during a demonstration in Prague on the 20th anniversary of the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia. The discussion sponsored by the association revealed the public’s “critical opinion” about the country’s current economic and political problems and ultimately led to a “spontaneous” statement.

Hungary – September 9, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz pays a two-day visit to the German Democratic Republic. In the course of discussing economic matters he urges to increase the role of market forces within Comecon.

Hungary – September 10, 1988 (PTH)

The ministry of justice intends to speed up the process of working out the new conception of the constitution so that the draft version will be in accord with the law of assembly and the law regulating public meetings which was recently implemented.

Hungary – September 10, 1988 (PTH)

The discussion forum of HDF sends a letter to members of Parliament, asking them to support the call to stop building the dam at Bős-Nagymaros, or to bring in independent experts to revise the whole plan. The meeting of HDF is also attended by the chairman of the National People's Party.

Yugoslavia / Romania - September 10 - 13, 1988 (OSA)

The 18th session of the joint Romanian-Yugoslav governmental commission on economic collaboration was held in Belgrade and Zagreb.

Vatican - September 10-19, 1988 (MNC)

During his African tour, Pope John Paul II visited Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique.

Yugoslavia - September 11, 1988 (OSA)

Some 30,000 Serbs and Montenegrins protest in Southern Serbia, again claiming that the authorities had abandoned the minority rights in Kosovo.

Hungary – September 12, 1988 (KCA)

A further demonstration against the controversial Gabčíkovo–Nagymaros hydroelectric scheme, involving an estimated 30,000 people, brings much of central Budapest to a standstill.

Hungary – September 12, 1988 (PTH)

A FYD delegation meets with minister of state Imre Pozsgay. Pozsgay says no compromise is to be expected on two major issues at the anticipated meeting between HSWP and representatives of alternative organizations, one of them being the Imre Nagy case and 1956, the other the issue of Hungary's foreign relations with other socialist countries.

Hungary – September 12, 1988 (PTH)

Miklós Németh, secretary of the CC states that one fundamental point of the Hungarian economic program is the reorganization of ownership structure. The essence of it is to develop working forms of social ownership as well as giving equal rights and status to private and personal ownership.

Hungary – September 12-14, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iceland, Shtemgrímur Yermansson, had an official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi

Soviet Union – September 12-16, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gorbachev visits major Siberian industrial centers. He is heckled by citizens there complaining the policy of perestroika, which fails to improve living standards and eliminate food shortages.

Czechoslovakia – September 13, 1988 (KCA)

A Roman Catholic activist, Mr. Augustin Navrátil, is declared ‘mentally incompetent’ by a court in Kromeriz (South Moravia), and is ordered to be confined to a psychiatric hospital. He is the author in December 1987 of a 31-point petition calling for religious freedom in Czechoslovakia – which has led to his charge in March 1988 of ‘slandering state and public authorities’. His petition receives public backing from Cardinal Tomasek and by 500,000 signatures.

Hungary – September 13, 1988 (PTH)

Hungary opens a permanent office in Seoul, and South Korea in Budapest. In addition, the two countries agree to start negotiations in order to regulate their relations and to establish diplomatic relations.

Hungary – September 13, 1988 (PTH)

In a letter to the UN Károly Grósz suggests that the protection of national minorities and the preservation of minority cultures should also be included in an international agreement, since the declaration of human rights does not cover these rights.

Hungary – September 13, 1988 (MNC)

Accepting the invitation of Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Yemen, foreign of the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen, Abdel- Asis ed-Dali, visited Hungary.

Yugoslavia / Indonesia - September 13, 1988 (OSA)

The selection of Yugoslavia as the host country for the next Non-Alignment Movement summit has met the approval of Indonesia, the Indonesian foreign minister Ali Alatas said on the return from Nicosia. Indonesia (together with Nicaragua) was a candidate for the position. Alatas added that Yugoslavia was a true leader of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Hungary – September 14-15, 1988 (MNC)

Prime Minister of the State of Israel Yitzhak Shamir – during his stay in Hungary for a private visit – met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai, and Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – September 15-18, 1988 (MNC)

In Belgrade, Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy consulted with Vice President of the Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Yanez Zemlyaric, Minister and Co-Chairman of the Committee of Economic Cooperation Egon Padovan, and Minister Oszkár Kovács. He was received by President of the Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Branko Mikulic. In Zagreb, he met Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Croatia and President of the Republic, Ivo Latina.

Hungary – September 15, 1988 (PTH)

A communiqué is released by the Hungarian New March Front providing a basis for social renewal. In its statement the Front, established in the spring - adopting the left-wing patriotic credo of the 1938 March Front -, says that the system of political institutions must be reformed, the role of the party must be reconsidered, and HSWP need be openly supervised. The members of the new front are, among others, Rezső Nyers, Szilárd Újhelyi, Zoltán Király, Mihály Bihari, Miklós Vásárhelyi. The Hungarian Academy of Sciences sets up a committee to investigate what advantages and disadvantages will be faced if the dam at Nagymaros is not built.

Romania – September 15, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian academic and dissident Doina Cornea sends a second open letter to party and state leader Nicolae Ceausescu; this time she calls for an immediate stop to the rural resettlement plan, which involves the elimination of thousands of villages and the transfer of their population. She is joined in her appeal by 21 others in what is the first known instance of a group protest or indeed of any serious protest in Romania against the planned elimination of villages. The appeal makes the case for the preservation of the villages mainly on historical and philosophical grounds and is largely couched in the language of the populist-conservative strand in Romanian culture, with heavy references to “spirituality” and “the nation’s soul.”

Poland – September 15-16, 1988 (RFE/KCA)

Gen. Kiszczak and Mr. Walesa meet for a second time in two weeks. These two meetings are said to be preparations for organizing a “round-table discussion” between various public groups and the authorities on how to address the country’s social, political and economic problems.

Bulgaria - September 15-17, 1988 (OSA)

Bulgarian Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov visits Austria and has meetings with economic experts, focusing on joint approaches to third markets in Middle East. Bulgarians emphasize the possibilities offered by electronics and electrical industry. Atanasov also met Austria’s chancellor Franz Vranitzky who expresses his preoccupation with the radical changes that took place in the BCP as a threat to Bulgaria’s opening to the rest of the world.

Czechoslovakia / France – September 15-17, 1988 (RFE / DRC)

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas visits Prague. Discussions are held concerning bilateral

relations and the need for general disarmament, while a cultural agreement is also signed.

Dumas also meets with Charter 77 spokesman Miloš Hájek and signatories Jiří Héjek, Václav Malý, and Petr Uhl at the French Embassy in Prague. They reportedly discuss the regime’s human rights record, religious persecution, and the political changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

Hungary – September 16, 1988 (PTH)

Former prisoners of the labour camp establish the Recsk Alliance, an organization to represent their interests.

Hungary – September 16, 1988 (PTH)

György Fejtő, secretary of the CC of HSWP says pluralism can also be implemented within a one-party system.

Hungary – September 16, 1988 (PTH)

György Marosán jr. government spokesman says the Council of Ministers does not intend to hold a referendum on the Bős-Nagymaros issue, but he thinks it was a grave mistake that no detailed information was given to the public earlier.

Hungary – September 16, 1988 (MNC)

From this day, with a military contingent, Hungary took part in the UN supervising group monitoring the execution of the Iranian-Iraqi ceasefire agreement.

Hungary – September 16, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the South West African People’s Organization (SWAPO) Sam Nuyamo visited Hungary. He held talks with Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, and leaders of the Foreign Ministry. He was received by János Kádár, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party.

Soviet Union - September 16, 1988 (MNC)

In his speech in Krasnoyarsk, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev stated about the peace and security of the Far East and Asia: the Soviet Union is ready to abandon its naval base in Vietnam if the United States does the same in the Philippines.

Yugoslavia - September 16, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslavia’s Prime Minister Branko Mikulić, Interior Minister Dobroslav Ćulafić, and President of Serbia’s Executive Council Desimir Jevtić visited Kosovo for an inspection of federal militia units stationed there since 1987, and to discuss the escalating conflicts with provincial leaders. Mikulić explained that by September 20, 400 members of the units would be redeployed and strengthened by another 270 militiamen; after 4 months, the units would be strengthened further if the situation does not improve. Also, he said that the federal government would use all the means at its disposal to combat Albanian extremism.

Hungary – September 16-18, 1988 (MNC)

Pál Iványi, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Council of Budapest visited Austria. His negotiation partner was Mayor of Vienna, Helmut Zilk.

He was received by Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Hungary – September 17, 1988 (PTH)

Brúnó Straub F., president of the Presidential Council says the multiparty system must be reconsidered for the long-term development of Hungary.

Hungary – September 17, 1988 (PTH)

Kálmán Kulcsár, minister of justice says a political decision is needed for a law regulating the function of HSWP and the other political parties and for making public the documents of the fabricated trials held after 1945.

Hungary – September 17, 1988 (PTH)

The central party newspaper of North Korea sharply criticizes Hungary and South Korea in its article for establishing a permanent office in their respective capitals.

Hungary – September 17, 1988 (PTH)

Rezső Nyers and Szilárd Ujhelyi talk about the endeavors of the New March Front. Ujhelyi says the 56 issue is still unresolved, and takes Imre Nagy's role in the events to be progressive.

Yugoslavia - September 17 - 18, 1988 (OSA)

Six rallies, involving some 100,000 people were organized in Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro. Protesters again disapproved of the LCY inability to carry out policies for calming of the ethnic tensions in Kosovo.

The wave of protests began on July 9, 1988, in Novi Sad, Vojvodina. Since then, 28 rallies were held with more than 350,000 people, mostly in Vojvodina, but also Serbia and Montenegro.

Czechoslovakia – September 17-18, 1988 (OSA)

The European Network for East-West Dialogue, an umbrella organization for several West European peace movements, holds a conference in Nijmegen on the effects of the Prague Spring on current developments in Eastern Europe.

Poland – September 19, 1988 (RFE)

The entire Council of Ministers resigns, an unprecedented move in Poland’s postwar history. It appears to be a consequence of Poland’s rapidly deteriorating social and economic situation. Whereas in the past the party leadership has taken the responsibility for “errors”, this time Zbigniew Messner’s government appears to have been made the scapegoat.

Hungary – September 19, 1988 (PTH)

Historian Miklós Szabó states in his lecture presented at the open session of the temporary council of the Network of Free Initiatives that no real turn can be achieved without the rehabilitation of 1956 and the introduction of a multiparty political system.

Hungary – September 19-21, 1988 (MNC)

Pál Iványi, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Council of Budapest, visited the Federal Republic of Germany. He met the Mayor of Munich, Georg Kronawitter.

Hungary – September 19-24, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Parliament of the People’s Republic of Poland (Sejm) Roman Malinowski visited Hungary – where he was the guest of President of Parliament István Stadinger.

Hungary – September 20-22, 1988 (MNC)

During an official visit in Romania – Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP consulted with Ion Stoian, reserve member of the Political Execuitve Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, Secretary of the Central Committee. He was received by Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the Romanian Socialist Republic.

Hungary / Romania – September 20-22, 1988 (MNC)

During an official visit in Romania – Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP consulted with Ion Stoian, reserve member of the Political Execuitve Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, Secretary of the Central Committee. He was received by Nicolae Ceausescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the Romanian Socialist Republic. According to *Agrepres*, they discuss “ways to implement the understandings agreed upon during the Arad Summit [...] aimed at improving relations between the neighbouring states.”

United Kingdom - September 20-23, 1988 (MNC)

British Prime Minister M. Thatcher negotiated in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Spain.

Hungary – September 20-23, 1988 (MNC)

Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense flew to Moscow, where he consulted with Dmitri Yazov, reserve member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Minister of Defense.

Hungary – September 20-24, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Libya.

Bulgaria - September 20, 1988 (OSA)

A Bulgarian parliamentarian, Seydiye Tahirova and her family seek political asylum at the Turkish Consulate in Komotini.

Czechoslovakia - September 20, 1988 (DRC)

The StB moves against eleven representatives of four independent citizens’ initiatives (the Democratic Initiative, the Independent Peace Association, Charter 77, and the Community of Friends of the USA), which have met to take part in preparations for the ‘Czechoslovakia ’88’ symposium planned for 11-13 November 1988.

Hungary – September 20, 1988 (PTH)

László Maróthy, minister of environmental protection and head of management of water supplies argues for the Bős-Nagymaros dam by saying that stopping the construction works would incur more costs than its completion.

Hungary – September 20, 1988 (PTH)

After three decades of exile the poet György Faludy visits his home.

Hungary – September 21, 1988 (PTH)

After a trade board meeting between the unions and the Council of Ministers it is announced that 1.3 billion HUF will be used to raise wages in several branches of the economy and in certain sections of public services. The measures involve 150 to 170 thousand people, including workers of the postal service and the press. The National Council of Trade Unions wanted a comprehensive wage and price packet, but the Council of Ministers did not regard it as a viable possibility. The trade unions still maintain their demand for higher wages.

Bulgaria / Turkey / Greece – September 21, 1988 (KCA)

It is reported that an ethnic Turkish deputy to the Bulgarian National Assembly, Mrs. Seydiye Tahirova, has fled with her husband and son to the Turkish consulate at Komotini in north-east Greece, and has requested political asylum in Turkey.

Hungary – September 21-25, 1988 (MNC)

Géza Kótai, member of the Central Committee of the HSWP, head of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee – during his visit to the Labour Party in the Netherlands – consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands.

Hungary – September 22, 1988 (MNC)

The Cabinet on its summit on September 22, 1988 – for the submission of the Foreign Minister – accepted the work program of the developing and widening of Hungarian-Romanian international relations.

Hungary – September 22-23, 1988 (MNC)

Pál Iványi, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Council of Budapest met State Secretary Manfred Timmermann in Switzerland. He was received by Head of State Otto Stich.

Bulgaria – September 22, 1988 (KCA)

The Transport Minister, Mr. Vasil Tsanov, is dismissed along with three of his Deputy Ministers and several senior managers of the State Railways Associations, apparently in connection with a serious train clash close to Sofia on September 14, in which seven people were killed and more than 80 people injured. Mr. Georgi Tanev is named as the new Transport Minister.

GDR – September 22, 1988 (OSA)

Relations between the SED and the Evangelical Church in the GDR remain tense. While the Church was holding its annual national synod in Dessau from September 16 to 20, the East German authorities again subjected Church newspapers to censorship. The Church's leadership has, however, showed no sign of giving in to pressure from the state to curtail its social and political criticism.

Egypt / Yugoslavia - September 22-24, 1988 (JIS)

President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak visits Yugoslavia, together with Foreign Minister Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Minister of Economic Cooperation Maurice Makramala and others. Bilateral

economic cooperation is discussed, as well as trilateral economic agreement between India, Egypt and Yugoslavia. Both sides approve of the 'positive' developments in the international arena, especially the steps taken towards resolving the Middle East crisis, and the peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq. They agree that the best way to settle down the situation in the Middle East would be by organizing an UN conference in which all sides could take part, including the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Hungary – September 22, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers sets up the National Interest Reconciliation Council (NIRC) with a view to harmonizing the interests represented by the trade unions, the Economic Chamber, the National Federation of Tradesmen, The National Association of Cooperatives and the National Council of Cooperative Farms.

Hungary – September 22, 1988 (PTH)

Mátyás Szurös, secretary of HSWP visits Bucharest. In the course of the negotiations it becomes evident that the position of the Rumanian party with respect to the issue of the refugees and to the reopening of the consulates has not changed at all.

Czechoslovakia / U.K. – September 22, 1988 (KCA)

Three Czechoslovakia diplomats are ordered to leave the United Kingdom within 14 days for engaging in activities incompatible with their status – the customary diplomatic euphemism for spying.

Poland – September 22, 1988 (KCA)

Le Monde reports that an independent Polish Ecology Party has been formed in Krakow. The party dedicates itself to opposing the degradation of the environment in Poland – which threatens people's biological and cultural existence'.

Yugoslavia / Romania - September 22, 1988 (OSA)

The Yugoslav federal defense secretary, Colonel-General Valjko Kadijević, received in Belgrade Romania's assistant defense minister and secretary of the high political council of the Romanian armed forces Ilie Ceausescu. They discussed the cooperation between the two countries' armed forces and concluded that it was developing successfully and that conditions exist for its further expansion.

Hungary / Romania – September 22, 1988 (PTH)

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Hungary / Romania – September 22, 1988 (MNC)

The Cabinet on its summit on September 22, 1988 – for the submission of the Foreign Minister – accepted the work program of the developing and widening of Hungarian-Romanian international relations.

Greece / Europe / Romania - September 23, 1988 (OSA):

The Greek representative reads a statement in the name of all 12 members of the European Community at the CSCE review meeting in Vienna. It says that Romania's rural plan could have "grave consequences" for the country's cultural patrimony and result in the serious violation of human rights. On the same day, the participants at a European Democratic Union conference in Rhodes describe Romania's rural resettlement plan as "cultural genocide."

Hungary / Romania – September 23, 1988 (OSA)

Mátyás Szurös, secretary of HSWP gives an interview on visit to Bucharest and meeting with Ceausescu. He expresses hope for future cooperation, especially on economic matters, but admits that Romania made no concessions on the Hungarian nationalities issue. He also reports Ceausescu’s criticism of the “disinformation” of Hungarian media.

Hungary – September 23, 1988 (PTH)

HDF and the Network of Free Initiatives welcomes György Faludy at a literary evening in the Jurta Theater.

Hungary – September 23, 1988 (PTH)

Csaba Hátori, member of the Politburo of HSWP and first secretary of the CC of the Communist Youth Organization, says communist society is a utopia because the road leading to such a society has not been paved yet, and that the direction adopted by the country earlier misses the target anyway. He believes that confidence enjoyed by the new party leadership is beginning to wear off.

Hungary – September 23-25, 1988 (MNC)

Greek Minister and President -in-office of the European Communities Theodoros Pangalos visited Hungary (for EEC-issues). He consulted with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, József Marjai.

Hungary – September 23-October 8, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the 43 Summit of the UN General Assembly in New York. On October 4, he made a speech in the summit. During his stay in New York, he engaged in bilateral negotiations with the following personalities:

- UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar;
- Foreign Minister of Albania, Reis Malile;
- Foreign Minister of Algeria, Ahmed Talel Ibrahimi;
- Secretary of State of the United States of America George P. Shultz;
- Foreign Minister of Belgium, Leo Tindemans;
- Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia –Bohuslav Chnoupek;
- Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Berhanu Bayih;
- Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, Hans van der Broek;
- Foreign Minister of India, Narasimha Rao;
- Foreign Minister of Indonesia, Ali Alatas;
- Foreign Minister of Iran, A. A. Velayati;
- Foreign Minister of Israel, Shimon Peres;
- Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar;
- Foreign Minister of Korea (DPRK), Kang Sok Yu;
- Foreign Minister of Korea (South-Korea), Choi Kwan Su;
- Foreign Minister of Malaysia, Agu Hassan Omar;

- Foreign Minister of Federal Republic of Germany, Vice-Chancellor Hans-Dietrich Genscher;
- Foreign Minister of Italy, Giulio Andreotti;
- Foreign Minister of Portugal, Joao Deus de Pinheiro;
- Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Yakub Khan.

Czechoslovakia – September 24, 1988 (OSA)

Another confrontation takes place between a peaceful discussion group and the policy in Wenceslas Square after the demonstration on August 21st. The gathering demonstrates growing political self-confidence among people outside established dissent groups.

Czechoslovakia - 24-25 September 1988 (DRC)

A state-wide trade-union conference takes place in Prague, which approves proposals for, among others things, changes in the Labour Code and the statutes of the state-controlled Revolutionary Trade-Union Movement.

Hungary – September 25, 1988 (PTH)

Passages from Lajos Kassák's diary written in 1955-56 are published in Új Tükör.

Hungary – September 25, 1988 (PTH)

12 Hungarians from Transylvania appeal for political asylum at the Hungarian embassy in Sophia in order to be able to travel to Hungary.

Poland – September 26, 1988 (RFE / MHC)

Mieczyslaw Rakowski becomes Prime Minister at a PUWP CC plenum, and is set to head a new, broader-based government. This appointment cements Rakowski's political comeback, after his election to the Politburo in December 1987 and the CC Secretariat in 1988 (See entry 26 December 1987 for more detail on Rakowski's comeback). Rakowski succeeds Zbigniew Messner who resigned after criticisms over the conduct of the economy.

Hungary – September 26, 1988 (PTH)

An agreement of cooperation in trading and economic relations is signed by Hungary and the EU in Brussels, Hungary being the first socialist country to sign a contract like this. The agreement specifies for a period of 10 years ahead how the EU will cut back on quota restrictions applied to Hungary.

Hungary – September 26, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade József Marjai, Greek co-Minister of the European Economic Community and President -in-office of the Council of the European Communities Theodoros Pangalos, and member of the Comission of the European Communities Willy de Clerq signed the Agreement of Trade and Economic Cooperation between the government of the People's Republic of Hungary and the European Economic Community in Brussels.

Hungary – September 26, 1988 (MNC)

On the occasion of the signing of the agreement between Hungary and the EEC, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher sent a letter to the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Hungary.

Czechoslovakia / Israel - September 27, 1988 (OSA)

The GDR officials and Czechoslovakia Foreign Ministers hold a meeting with Israel on September 27, during the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly which makes a first move that might eventually lead to the three countries' renewing diplomatic relations.

GDR – September 26, 1988 (OSA)

West Berlin Police say East German border guards fired a warning shot at two men attempting to escape to West Berlin.

GDR – September 27, 1988 (OSA)

East Germany tells the Helsinki Review Conference that it would not accept Western proposals aimed at eliminating the minimum exchange of currency by foreign travelers. East Germany, like some other Warsaw Pact states demands that foreign travelers exchange a minimum of currency for each day of their stay. The text being considered, would require East German party and state leader Erich Honecker arrives in Moscow for a working visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. Honecker is to open an East German trade exhibition in Moscow and will meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Hungary – September 27, 1988 (PTH)

The advisory board working for HSWP announces that last year - for the first time since 1957 - membership in the party decreased by 73 thousand.

Poland - September 27, 1988 (RFE)

The Sejm passes a bill that provides a basis for a direct and relatively free flow of capital for the first time since the war.

Czechoslovakia / U.K. – September 28, 1988 (KCA)

The Czechoslovak authorities allege that two U.K. diplomats in Prague, Wing Commander John Maynard and Warrant Officer Graham Addy, have been engaging in espionage activities, and order them to leave Czechoslovakia within 14 days.

Poland – September 28, 1988 (KCA)

On the recommendation of the PUWP central committee, the Sejm elects Dr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski as Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister), and charges him with the task of forming a new government.

Hungary – September 28, 1988 (PTH)

University students in Szeged go on a token strike to urge the renewal of higher education.

Hungary – September 28, 1988 (PTH)

The István Bibó Memorial Committee is established.

GDR – September 28, 1988 (OSA)

Communist East Berlin gives a flashy welcome to about 500 capitalists attending finance talks on the other side of the Berlin Wall, and a Japanese banker says he is impressed with Marxist hospitality.

Hungary – September 28-30, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic Heinz-Diter Winter consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary – September 28-October 1, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Federal Diet (Bundestag) of the Federal Republic of Germany Philip Jenninger visited President of the Parliament István Stadinger during his official visit to Hungary.

Yugoslavia / Romania - September 29, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslav foreign ministry spokesman Ivo Vajgl told a news conference in Belgrade that the situation in Romania is disturbing to Serbs and Croats there. He added that the government is concerned about Romanian ethnic resettlement policy and about the destruction of the villages.

Bulgaria - September 29, 1988 (OSA)

Milko Balev, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy at the National Assembly, talks with Sheikh Ahnad Kuftaro, Grand Mufti of Syria and president of the High Islamic Council of that country, and Sheikh Mahmud Kaftaro, rector of the Islamic Institute in Damascus, member of the World Islamic Council. Both sides express their wish for the further development of cooperation between Bulgaria and Syria.

Hungary – September 29-30, 1988 (MNC)

Vice President and leader of the parliamentary faction of the Socialist Party of Austria (SPÖ), Heniz Fischer, visited Hungary. He was received by Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament.

Hungary – September 29-30, 1988 (MNC)

European Director of the Foreign Ministry of France (Deputy Minister rank), Jacques Blot, – during his stay in Budapest for a co-chairman meeting of a joint committee of economic cooperation – consulted in the Foreign Ministry.

Hungary – September 29-October 2, 1988 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Greece (Deputy Minister rank), Konstantinos Georgiu, consulted with the leaders of the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Soviet Union – September 30, 1988 (KCA)

At a hastily arranged plenary meeting, the central committee of the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) puts into effect decisions taken at the party's 19th conference by approving a drastic reduction in the central committee apparatus.

Hungary – September 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Presidential Council passes an executive order on "pardoning all those convicted for crimes committed between October 23, 1956 and May 1, 1957." The pardon is not extended to those who were convicted for capital treason, espionage, or for crimes involving moral turpitude.

Hungary – September 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Workers' group of FYD issues a call for attending a "Martyrs' Day" memorial ceremony at the Batthyány sanctuary lamp on October 6, 1988, paying tribute to all the martyrs of Hungarian liberal thought.

GDR / Soviet Union – September 30, 1988 (OSA)

The East Germany party and state leader Erich Honecker ends his three-day working visit to Moscow on September 29. During the visit he held talks with Mikhail Gorbachev, with whom he also toured an East German trade exhibit. Official reports of the talks between the leaders conveyed the impression of an encounter void of any major disagreements. Kremlin Chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev complained to East German leader Erich Honecker that economic ties between the two countries are not growing quickly enough.

Romania / Hungary – September 30, 1988 (OSA)

The Local Council of the Transylvanian city of Cluj says a Hungarian consulate that operated there until it was closed by Romanian authorities on July 1, had “deviated” from diplomatic norms and should not be reopened. In fact, the Council proclaimed that the consulate should have been closed sooner as it “violated operation norms and conduct, inadmissibly deviated from diplomatic rules [and] its mission.” The statement came in response to a previous decision by Hungary to reestablish the general consulate.

Hungary / Romania – September 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian Catholic Episcopacy requests the European Parliament to put on the agenda of its next session the scheme of restructuring the settlement system in Romania.

Soviet Union – September 30, 1988 (MHC)

The CC COSU Plenum implements radical structural and personnel changes in the CC. Gorbachev replaces Gromyko as president (chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet); Gromyko is then retired by the CC. Ligachev receives a new assignment as party secretary for agriculture. Vadim Medvedev (secretary for science and technology) takes over responsibility for ideology and propaganda. Anatoly Dobrynin is retired as CC secretary of foreign affairs and replaced by Aleksandr Yakovlev. Viktor Chebrikov is replaced by Vladimir Kryuchkov as head of the KGB and given the post of secretary for legal affairs. Mikhail Solomentsev loses his position as chairman of the Party control Committee and his membership in the Politburo. Anatoly Lukyanov is confirmed as Soviet vice president.

Hungary – September 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian Catholic Episcopacy requests the European Parliament to put on the agenda of its next session the scheme of restructuring the settlement system in Rumania.

Albania/Hungary – September 30, 1988 (PTH)

Hungary gives indication that it is ready to start negotiations with Albania to restore diplomatic relations.

Yugoslavia - September 30, 1988 (OSA)

Federal Secretary for Foreign Economic Relations Nenad Krekić, told a session of the Federal

Economic Council, that a Law on foreign investments, currently in preparations, provides for all the most important forms of investment being applied through the world. Besides investment in productive enterprises, the new law would make it possible for foreigners to invest in service activities, Yugoslav, as well as joint venture enterprises, joint stock and limited liability companies.

October

Romania / Soviet Union / China / North Korea - October 1988 (PER)

The Ceaușescus visit the Soviet Union, the People’s Republic of China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Hungary – October 1988 (PTH)

The journal Kapu publishes the list of names of the former prisoners of the Recsk labor camp, and the list of those convicted and executed or those who died in prison after the 56 revolution.

Hungary – October 1988 (PTH)

In his study entitled “Nation, left, right” published in Forrás Pál Bodor analyzes the effects of the 56 revolution on national consciousness.

Hungary – October 1988 (PTH)

László Levendel's essay "The cure for a country" appears in the first issue of the journal Liget: "1956 is an especially determinant stage in the medical history of the nation."

Bulgaria - October 1988 (OSA)

A political survey about the ideal leader for the population of each country, indicated that Bulgaria’s population opt for Gorbachev, applying a reformat political idea.

Soviet Union – October 1, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Gorbachev is elected as Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet at an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet (the federal legislature). He succeeds Mr. Gromyko, who retires after three years in office.

Hungary – October 1-2, 1988 (PTH)

The first congress of FYD.

Soviet Union - October 1, 1988 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev was elected to be President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, Head of State.

Yugoslavia - October 1 - 19, 1988 (RWE)

The dispute continues over changes to the Serbian constitution which would reassert Serbian control over its two autonomous provinces of Vojvodina and Kosovo. Boško Krunić resigned on **October 1** as the elected member for Vojvodina in the presidium of the ruling League of Communists. (LCY), and the entire Vojvodinian LCY presidium resigned on **October 6**.

Special police units on **October 8** broke up a demonstration against the Montenegrin leadership motivated by economic as well as nationalist grievances; mass protests followed over the police action, and the Montenegrin government resigned on **October 25**. The mounting ethnic unrest which was being stirred up by the constitutional dispute, with orchestrated Serbian nationalist demonstrations throughout Yugoslavia, was the subject of a plenary meeting of the ruling LCY central committee **on October 17-19**. There were acrimonious exchanges between the Serbian party leader, Slobodan Milošević, and the LCY president, Dr Stipe Šuvar of Croatia, and two more members resigned from the presidium, but Milošević and his supporters failed in their bid to secure the dismissal of up to a third of the central committee. A vote of no confidence in a Serbian member of the presidium, Dušan Čkrebić, appeared to be a calculated rebuff to Milošević by non-Serbs in the central committee.

Hungary / Romania – October 2, 1988 (OSA)

Scinteia (RCP daily) runs an article on the promising visions of the future that the Grósz-Ceausescu Arad meeting. It claims that “in contrast with what was agreed upon, ill-willing, anti-Romanian and anti-socialist attitudes and actions have continued in Hungary [...] and the statements of some officials in the Hungarian People’s Republic raise serious obstacles in the path of a normal growth of relations between our countries.”

Hungary – October 3, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács had a two-day official visit to Ottawa (Canada).

Hungary – October 3-6, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Péter Kővári consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn.

Hungary – October 3-7, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of balance and planning of Italy Aminotre Fanfani took part in the roundtable conference of the UN European Commission of Economy in Budapest.

Hungary – October 3, 1988 (PTH)

The main Austrian contractor takes possession of the construction site of the dam at Nagymaros.

Hungary – October 4, 1988 (PTH)

The CC of HSWP states that party members can also join alternative organizations which function by law, accept the socialist order and the international commitments of the country.

Hungary – October 4, 1988 (PTH)

In a letter to the European parliament the National Ecumenical Council of Churches expresses its concern for the policy of Rumania towards national minorities.

Hungary / Romania – October 4, 1988 (OSA)

Magyar Hirlap (HSWP daily) runs an article responding to *Scinteia*’s attacks on October 2. It says *Scinteia*’s “allegations abound in insulting terms and commonplaces substituting meaning. This style is deplorable...”

Hungary / Romania – October 4, 1988 (PTH)

In a letter to the European parliament the National Ecumenical Council of Churches expresses its concern for the policy of Romania towards national minorities.

Hungary / Romania – October 5, 1988 (OSA)

Nepszabadsag (HWP daily) runs an article responding to *Scinteia*’s attacks on October 2. It says *Scinteia*’s article was an “unprecedentedly fierce attack [which] is detrimental to friendship among nations.”

Bulgaria - October 5, 1988 (OSA)

U.S. Secretary of State, George Shultz, and Bulgarian Foreign Minister, Petar Mladenov express their wishes to improve the bilateral relations between their countries.

Czechoslovakia - October 5, 1988 (OSA)

The impending personnel changes to be made at the 10th CPCS CC session on October 10, 1988 is discussed at a CPCS Presidium meeting on October 5, 1988.

Yugoslavia – October 5-6, 1988 (HR)

A great protest erupts in Novi Sad, known as the “yogurt revolution”, since the protesters hurled yogurt at the building of the Provincial government of Vojvodina. This leads to mass resignation in the Presidium of the LC of Vojvodina. Members who resigned are replaced by supporters of Slobodan Milošević.

Hungary – October 5, 1988 (PTH)

By unanimous decision the Parliament passes the Company Act which enables private persons to form limited liability companies or share companies - employing no more than 500 people.

Poland - October 5-6, 1988 (RFE)

The authorities officially register two political discussion clubs, *Dziekania* and the Association for the Dissemination of the Catholic Social Outlook. Although the membership of both clubs is small, each group declares its intention to become the leading force in opposition politics. Despite this sign that political liberalization may be imminent, the authorities continue to rule out the reinstatement of Solidarity, complicating the situation further.

USSR – October 6, 1988 (MHC)

Following suggestions from his adviser, Georgy Shakhnazarov, Gorbachev proposes that the Politburo begin to devise a “thoughtful” strategic approach toward Eastern Europe in case of a general crisis there. “We should not bury our heads in the sand like an ostrich,” the leader declares.

Hungary – October 6, 1988 (PTH)

Contrary to earlier plans the Parliament does not cast a vote on a profit tax for entrepreneurs because the representatives believe there is no reliable information on the deficit of the budget. Minister of finance Miklós Villányi promises to recast the document by November, and at the same time indicates that state finances are in a much worse state than seen by the public.

Hungary – October 6, 1988 (PTH)

It is announced in the Vatican that John Paul II will pay a visit to Hungary in a year or two.

Poland – October 7, 1988 (KCA)

Mr. Walesa threatens to boycott the proposed discussions with the government after the emergence of what appeared to be a leaked confidential PUWP document telexed to the leaders of factory party cells on September 26, which declares that the re-legalization of Solidarity is the main danger facing the PUWP, and will not be permitted.

Hungary – October 7, 1988 (PTH)

In spite of wide-spread protest the Parliament votes for continuing the building of the Bős-Nagymaros dam. The votes are cast not by name but by standing up.

Hungary - October 7, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy arrived back from his four-day visit in Tehran.

Yugoslavia - October 7, 1988 (OSA)

Some 40,000 striking workers protested in Titograd, Montenegro, demanding the resignations of all the party and government officials, whom they blamed for Yugoslavia’s current economic and ethnic problems. Police was ordered to use force - this was the first time since 1981 that the police were ordered to do so. The protesters succeeded in pressuring the entire Titograd city party presidium and the republican government to resign.

Hungary / Romania – October 7, 1988 (OSA)

Nepszabadsag (HSWP daily) publishes an interview with Domokos Vekas, former Hungarian Consul-General in Cluj, addressing his time there and the Local Council of Cluj’s decision to close the Consulate in September 30. When asked whether he had interfered in Romanian internal affairs (one of the reasons the Consulate was closed, per Scinteia), Vekas responds: “all this is a totally unfounded accusation. We carried our activity by observing every legal stipulation to the letter.”

Hungary / Romania – October 8, 1988 (OSA)

Nepszabadsag (HSWP daily) runs an article responding to letters published in Scinteia throughout the last week. It claims, “we cannot but conclude that Bucharest has decided the escalation of debate and confrontation [...] perhaps because they want to use the unjust accusation of out anti-Romanian conduct for uniting public opinion.”

Vatican - October 8-11, 1988 (MNC)

Pope John Paul II visited France.

Czechoslovakia - October 8, 1988 (DRC)

The independent, non-political Initiative for Social Defence (Iniciativa socialni obrany, ISO) is established in Prague. This organization is formed to protect Czechoslovaks against political, religious, and other discrimination in employment. The Initiative publicizes individual cases of discrimination, and intervenes on their behalf at state offices, organizations, and institutions.

Czechoslovakia - October 8, 1988 (OSA)

The results of a public opinion poll about Czechoslovakia’s social policies from 1984 to 1987 is published in *Rude Pravo*’s Saturday supplement which suggests that there is considerable dissatisfaction among the public. The survey is conducted by the Institute for Public Opinion Research and is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Statistics.

Yugoslavia - October 9, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslav State President Raif Dizdarević made a special radio and television address to the country. He called for an end to mass demonstrations. He also warned the people that if labor and socialist unrest continued, it could lead to the mobilization of the federal militia and antiterrorist parliamentary units, the suspension of some civil rights, and placing police under full alert.

Hungary – October 9, 1988 (PTH)

The draft program of the CC of the Communist Youth Organization announces a new type of socialism. It points up that the Stalinist control should not be restored, but restoration of capitalism would not be the right direction to follow either.

Hungary – October 9, 1988 (PTH)

The National Peace Council, together with several other peace organizations, proposes that alternative military service should be introduced as of 1989.

Hungary – October 9-13, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, Minister of Defense of India Krishna Chandra Pant had an official friendly visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense.

Czechoslovakia – October 10, 1988 (RFE / DRC)

At its tenth session, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee meets. Czechoslovakia’s most prominent pro-reform politician, Prime Minister Lubomir Strougal, resigns from the Presidium and government. Strougal is replaced by Ladislav Adamec. This marks a major defeat for the cause of restructuring in Czechoslovakia.

Other personnel changes include the dismissal of Peter Colotka as Prime Minister of Slovakia and Presidium member. Meanwhile, František Pitra, Miroslav Stépén, Ivan Knotek, Karel Urbánek, and Miroslav Zavadil are elected into the Presidium.

The CPCS also establishes the Committee for the Direction of Party Work in Bohemia and Moravia, to be led by Karel Urbánek, and elects chairmen for the standing committees of the Central Committee.

Czechoslovakia – October 10-11, 1988 (KCA)

The central committee plenum of CPCz makes further changes to the composition of the presidium and the secretariat after the previous change on April 9, 1988. The changes in October reflect a major reorganization of responsibilities in the federal and republican governments.

Czechoslovakia – October 10, 1988 (MHC)

Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Štrougal resigns. Ladislav Adamec takes over the post the following day.

Czechoslovakia – October 10, 1988 (KCA)

Federal Government resigns again for the second time of the year.

Czechoslovakia - October 10, 1988 (DRC)

The Federal Government under Premier Lubomír Štrougal resigns (later, on 12 October the

President of the Republic will name a new Government under Ladislav Adamec). Pavol Hrivnák becomes First Deputy Premier, Bohumil Urban Deputy Minister, and Karel Julis Minister of Mines, Machine-Tool Industry, and Electrical Engineering. The cabinet shuffle also affects the ministries of foreign affairs, the interior, finance, agriculture, fuel and energy, transportation and communication. The independent initiatives Charter 77, the Bohemian Children, the Democratic Initiative, the Independent Peace Movement, and the Community of Friends of the USA announce that to mark the seventieth anniversary of the creation of Czechoslovakia –on 28 October, they would be organizing a peaceful demonstration on Wenceslas Square, Prague.

GDR – October 10, 1988 (OSA)

Security forces in East Berlin temporarily detain 80 people who were among 200 Church activists attempting to hold a silent march to protest the continued censorship of the Church’s newspaper. The police also beats West German television crews trying to film the demonstration and the arrests.

Bulgaria - October 10-22, 1988 (OSA)

The bishop of the Catholic Latin-Rite diocese of Sofia and Plovdiv, Mr Gheorghi Ivanov Jovchev, visits Rome. He meets with Pope John Paul and officials of the Vatican’s Secretariat of State and its congregation for the eastern churches. He talks and discusses the printing of new Bulgarian-language Latin-rite liturgy books for replacing the inadequate mimeographed texts that were currently in use, affirming that the Government is expected to approve their importation.

Hungary – October 11, 1988 (PTH)

István Huszár, general secretary of the Patriotic People's Front states that HSWP will continue to have a leading role in the Front, but we will have to allow for the possibility that other social organizations and movements will want to have a word in matters of the organization.

Hungary – October 11-20, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn took part in the Summit of the Committee of Political and Disarmament Issues of the UN General Assembly in New York. On the 19th of October, he made a speech in the summit.

Hungary – October 12-17, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Industry and trade of the State of Israel Ariel Sharon, who stayed in Budapest for a non-offical visit, met Minister of Industry Tamás Beck, Minister of Industry Frigyes Berecz, retired Deputy Prime Minister József Marjai, and Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy.

Czechoslovakia - October 12, 1988 (DRC)

The Presidium of the Czech National Council (the Czech legislature) accepts the resignation of Premier Ladislav Adamec and four ministers, and names František Pitra Czech Premier and Miroslav Toman First Deputy Premier. The Presidium of the Slovak National Council appoints Ivan Knotek Premier and also names two new ministers.

Czechoslovakia – October 12, 1988 (KCA)

A new Federal Government is sworn in with Mr. Ladislav Adamec replacing Mr. Lubomir Strougal as Prime Minister. Meanwhile, Mr. Pitra is sworn in as the new Czech Prime Minister and Mr. Knotek as the new Slovak Prime Minister.

Hungary – October 12, 1988 (PTH)

The Alliance of Hungarian Scouts is established.

Hungary/Romania – October 12, 1988 (PTH)

Rumanian president Nicolae Ceausescu, speaking in the Hungarian pavilion of the Bucharest Fair, says there is a chance to implement the agreements made between the two countries, especially in the field of economy.

U.S. / Poland - October 12, 1988 (LBC)

Lech Walesa meets US deputy secretary of state Whitehead. Whitehead also negotiates with the representatives of the Polish government. At a press conference the American diplomat declares that Washington supports the legalization of Solidarity but warns that both sides need to be patient at the impending round table talks. He claims that the US would support the Polish economy if the talks end with success. (January 18; April 17, 1989)

Bulgaria - October 12, 1988 (OSA)

The Turkish Foreign Ministry says four members of an ethnic Turkish family had fled from Bulgaria to Yugoslavia hidden in a tir truck, seeking refuge in the Turkish Embassy in Belgrade.

Yugoslavia - October 12, 1988 (OSA)

At a meeting of the Slovenian Central Committee, Milan Kučan issued Serbia and Slobodan Milošević a warning to tame his followers and redirect their efforts from “street democracy” to saving the country. He added that this was Yugoslavia’s “final hour”, and no fires can be kindled that could grow into a general conflagration.

Yugoslavia / Non-Aligned Movement - October 13, 1988 (OSA)

Yugoslav foreign ministry spokesman Ivo Vajgl stated at press conference, that the nonaligned countries’ ministers, attending the UN General Assembly session in New York, welcomed the Yugoslav Assembly’s decision to accept the request by the nonaligned ministerial conference for Belgrade to host their next summit.

Poland – October 13, 1988 (RFE / KCA)

Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski presents the composition of the new Council of Ministers to the Sejm, which approves it on the following day by 363 votes to one. Despite hopes that it would be more representative than previous governments given the calls for increased democratization and pluralism, this does not appear to be the case. Dr. Rakowski’s government features a number of younger, reform-minded members of the PUWP and the other two approved political parties, the United Peasants’ Party and the Democratic Party, and two ministers without party affiliation. However, he is unable to fill three key portfolios and admits that he has so far failed in his efforts to broaden the base of the government by attracting people from what he terms the ‘constructive opposition’ into these posts.

Yugoslavia – October 13, 1988 (HR)

Tense discussion occurs at the session of the Central Committee of the LCY between Stipe Šuvar and Slobodan Milošević about the “attacks on Tito’s name and accomplishments”.

Soviet Union / U.S. – October 14, 1988 (MHC)

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Robert Gates delivers a pessimistic address about Gorbachev’s ability to reform the USSR. Shultz later assails him for giving a speech on policy and tries to have him fired.

Czechoslovakia - October 14, 1988 (OSA)

To mark the 70th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence, the Masaryk Society releases a statement, in which it set forth some of its objectives, including support for research into Masaryk’s work and the promotion of his ideas, who is the founder of independent Czechoslovakia. Also, the intention of setting up the T.G. Masaryk Association is announced by the group’s founding committee on 14 October 1988.

Hungary – October 14, 1988 (PTH)

Representatives of the Endre Bajcsy-Zsillinszky Society, The Federation of Young Democrats, The Network of Free Initiatives and the Historical Justice Committee issue a communiqué in which it is announced: on October 23 - following the original route - a demonstration procession will take place. The plan for the demonstration will be reported to the police in advance.

Hungary – October 14, 1988 (PTH)

The National Council for the Reconciliation of Interests holds its statutory meeting. The Communist Youth Organization, the National Alliance of Tradesmen and the National Alliance of Entrepreneurs complain that they are excluded from the Council.

Hungary – October 14-15, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister József Bényi consulted in Sofia about the issue of the Romanian Hungarian refugees staying in the Hungarian Embassy.

Hungary – October 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy visited the Federal Republic of Germany. His negotiation partner was Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg, Lothar Späth.

Soviet Union - October 15, 1988 (MNC)

A Soviet-South Korean memorandum of trade-economic relations was signed in Seoul. This was the first document of this kind between the two countries.

Czechoslovakia - October 15, 1988 (DRC)

With the publishing of the ‘Democracy for All’ manifesto the politically oriented independent initiative the Movement for Civil liberty (Hnutí za občanskou svobodu, HOS) is established. Consisting of activists from Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia, the Movement for Civil Liberty comes out in support of the national democratic tradition, political and economic pluralism, renewal of the legal order, protection of the natural environment, freedom of confession, separation of Church and State, national independence, and the drafting of a new, democratic Constitution. 126 activists, against whom the StB immediately begins an extensive series of repressive measures, have signed the manifesto.

On an official visit to Czechoslovakia –American Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead

meets in Prague with representatives of the independent civil initiatives Charter 77, the Democratic Initiative, the Initiative for Social Defence, the Independent Peace Association, the Community of Friends of the USA, and the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted.

Hungary – October 16-18, 1988 (MNC)

First Deputy of the Secretary of State of the United States of America John C. Whitehead visited Hungary. He met János Berecz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee, Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister and Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP Péter Várkonyi, Minister of Finance Miklós Villányi, and he was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Parliament.

Hungary – October 16-20, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a parliamentary delegation, Vice President and President of the parliamentary faction of the Free Democratic Party of the Federal Republic of Germany, Wolfgang Mischnik, visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Central Committee. He met Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State and Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by János Kádár, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – October 17-18, 1988 (MNC)

Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense took part in the summit of the Committee of Minister of Defense of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Prague.

Hungary – October 17-19, 1988 (MNC)

One of the General Secretaries of National Congress of India Ghulam Nabi Azad consulted with Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet, in Hungary. He was received by János Kádár, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party.

Yugoslavia - November 17 - 19, 1988 (OSA)

17th Central Committee plenum held. Presidium President Stipe Šuvar described 3 proposed reforms for consideration by the session and the 18th CC plenum. Two of the proposed reforms entailed the dismantling of the LCY dominant role and the establishment of a market oriented economy. The third proposal would replace 135 articles (one-third), of the 1974 constitution with 34 amendments.

Hungary – October 17-22, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár had an official visit to Spain and Portugal.

Poland – October 17, 1988 (KCA)

The round-table discussions fail to convene as scheduled, reportedly because of disagreements within the government and party leadership over what stance to adopt towards Solidarity.

Hungary – October 17, 1988 (PTH)

Documents that have been banned for many years before can now be used for research purposes at the Institute for Party History.

Hungary – October 17, 1988 (PTH)

Stopping over in Budapest on his round trip in Eastern Europe American deputy secretary of state John Whitehead explores the situation of the political and economic reforms underway in Hungary.

Hungary – October 17, 1988 (PTH)

Based on the Stockholm agreement to strengthen confidence, military observers from 12 capitalist and 6 socialist countries are also present at the military maneuvers involving 17 troops in Transdanubia.

Hungary – October 18, 1988 (PTH)

According to the chairman of the National Planning Office the deficit of the budget will amount to 40-50 billion forints in 1989, and since no more burden can be thrown on the population, companies will have to pay more tax on their profit.

Hungary – October 18, 1988 (PTH)

Two members of the Politburo of HSWP, János Berecz and Rezső Nyers believe the Hungarian political leadership is not worried about the introduction of a multiparty system but rather by the anarchy that might follow such a move.

Hungary / Romania – October 18, 1988 (OSA)

Nepszabadsag (HSWP daily) publishes an interview with Zoltan Szasz, former Deputy Chairman of the Hungarian-Romanian Joint Historians’ Committee, which was set up in 1982 and whose work was put to a halt by the Romanian authorities in 1986. When asked to comment on the reason for the interruption of the committee’s work, Szasz says that “historical disputes also have a political bearing” and have been “used to justify [Romanian] hegemony over Transylvania. Several Ceausescu speeches show such a motivation.”

Hungary – October 19, 1988 (PTH)

The Budapest Main Police Office acknowledges the notice given by five organizations concerning the planned demonstration for October 23.

Hungary – October 19, 1988 (PTH)

Leaflets of the Polish Solidarity movement appear in Budapest under the title "Hungarian Brothers", calling for a fight against communism.

Soviet Union / UK - October 20, 1988 (LBC)

It is announced that the USSR is getting 2.1 billion dollars of commercial loans to buy British goods. In reference to the credit foreign secretary Howe announces that he is opposed to the idea of a “Soviet Marshall Plan”.

Hungary – October 20, 1988 (PTH)

Following the resolution of the CC of HSWP - also supported by the trade unions - the Council of Ministers also decides to opt for that alternative of the different variants of economic policy for

1989 which - though involving more effort and hardship - promises to bring quicker results.

Hungary – October 20, 1988 (PTH)

The ministry of culture puts an end to the instruction of scientific socialism at Hungarian higher educational institutions. Instead a new subject entitled "Political theory" is introduced.

Czechoslovakia – October 20, 1988 (RFE)

In anticipation of the upcoming 70th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence, the regime announces that the right to hold demonstrations in the historic center of Prague will be limited to officially recognized organizations.

Bulgaria - October 20, 1988 (OSA)

After visiting Bulgaria, John Whitehead, the US deputy undersecretary of state for Eastern European affairs, affirms that Bulgaria’s government was planning a comprehensive privatization of all state industries and that shares would be offered to foreign and Bulgarian investors.

Bulgaria - October 20, 1988 (OSA)

The *Antent Weekly* publishes numerous documents, letters, quotations from Ottoman records, courtroom minutes and excerpts from the notes of the foreign travelers. The purpose is to show the process of Islamization suffered by the Bulgaria’s population.

Poland / Soviet Union – October 20-21, 1988 (KCA)

Dr. Rakowski makes his first visit to the Soviet Union as Polish Prime Minister for talks with Mr. Gorbachev and with the Soviet Prime Minister, Mr. Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Hungary – October 20-22, 1988 (MNC)

Rezső Nyers, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, and state Secretary and President of the Hungarian National Bank Ferenc Bartha took part in the international seminar about the relations of the COMECON and the European Community in Vienna.

Hungary – October 21, 1988 (PTH)

The government spokesman says the minister of justice has already submitted the plan for the burial of Imre Nagy and his fellow martyrs. This means that all those executed must be given a worthy burial.

Hungary – October 21, 1988 (PTH)

The Budapest Main Police Office bans all demonstrations planned for October 23. In spite of the ban the organizers decide to hold the demonstration.

Hungary – October 21, 1988 (PTH)

According to the presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions every worker should be given a minimal pay rise guaranteed by the state.

Hungary – October 21, 1988 (PTH)

The decision made by the Council of Ministers simplifies the process to give permission for abortion as of 1989, but the money to be paid for of abortion will be doubled.

GDR – October 21, 1988 (OSA)

East Germany agrees to make “symbolic” restitution payments to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. This was the outcome of a visit by World Jewish Council President Edgar Bronfman, during which he met East German Leader Erich Honecker.

GDR / Poland – October 21, 1988 (OSA)

Poland’s Foreign Ministry Spokesman comments on what Poland’s PAP News Agency calls “incidents” at Poland’s border with East Germany. PAP says Spokesman Stefan Staniszewski reported there were “no losses” in the “incidents.” The PAP Report did not say what the incidents amounted to.

Hungary – October 22, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian Democratic Forum calls its members through television in the evening to stay away from the demonstration on October 23. As a result, the Endre Bajcsy-Zsillinszky Society, the Federation of Young Democrats, the Network of Free Initiatives and the Historical Justice Committee are forced to call off the peaceful demonstration.

Hungary – October 23, 1988 (PTH)

The day of the 32nd anniversary of the revolution. Despite massive police presence small groups do get together at various places in the city (Batthyány square, Technical University, Bem square, Váci Street, etc.). The opposition organizations send a letter of protest to Prime Minister Károly Grósz. In the evening a memorial meeting is held in the Jurta Theater attended by several hundred people where a documentary is shown edited by the Committee for the Administration of Justice. The meeting closes by the speech of Miklós Vásárhelyi, chairman of the Committee.

Hungary – October 24, 1988 (PTH)

Hungary is the first country in the Eastern block where the Human Rights Committee of UN can conduct investigations, if need arises.

Hungary – October 24-26, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Spain in Madrid.

Federal Republic of Germany - October 24-27, 1988 (MNC)

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Hungary – October 25-26, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet had an official visit to the Islamist Republic of Iran. He met Prime Minister Mir Hossein Musavi, Deputy Prime Minister Ali Reza Moayeri, major-General Djalali, Minister of Defense, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, and President of the Parliament Hashemi Rafsandjani. He was received by President of state Ali Hamenei.

Poland – October 25, 1988 (KCA)

The Polish government proposes that the talks of the roundtable discussions should begin on October 28, but a dispute immediately arises over Mr. Walesa’s refusal to take part in a further preliminary meeting with Gen. Kiszczak which the government side claims is indispensable, and

over the government's refusal to accept the participation in the proposed Solidarity roundtable delegation of two veteran dissidents, Mr. Jacek Kuron and Mr. Adam Michnik.

Hungary – October 25, 1988 (PTH)

It is announced that as of January 1, 1989 an unemployment benefit will be introduced in Hungary – for the Council of Ministers anticipates 50-100 thousand jobless people for 1989.

Hungary – October 25, 1988 (PTH)

The permanent office of South Korea opens in Budapest.

Hungary – October 26, 1988 (PTH)

North Korea repeatedly criticizes the agreement made with the Seoul government, because it treats South Korea as a sovereign country.

Hungary – October 26, 1988 (PTH)

According to nationality organizations 400 thousand people in Hungary declare themselves to be members of some national minority.

Hungary – October 26, 1988 (MNC)

Diplomatic relations were established on an Ambassadorial level between the People's Republic of Hungary and the Gabonese Republic.

Hungary – October 26-27, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács consulted in the Foreign Ministry of France in Paris.

Hungary – October 27, 1988 (PTH)

The Headquarters of the National Border Guards proposes that the technical barrier on the Western borderland should be removed.

Czechoslovakia - October 27, 1988 (DRC)

Czechoslovak President Gustáv Husák declares an amnesty to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of Czechoslovakia. On the basis of the amnesty 4,665 prisoners are released, 630 have the unserved part of their sentences pardoned but are not released from prison, and criminal proceedings are dropped or suspended against 15,339 persons at home and 50,000 émigrés. About 50 activists of independent initiatives are amnestied.

Hungary – October 28-29, 1988 (MNC)

During the summit of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact, the following Foreign Ministers stayed in Budapest:

- From the Bulgarian People's Republic, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Petar Mladenov;
- From the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia –Yaromir Yohanes;
- From the People's Republic of Poland – reserve member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Tadeus Oletzhowsky;
- From the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer;
- From the Romanian Socialist Republic, Ioan Totu;

- From the Soviet Union, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Eduard Shevardnadze;
- Representing the People's Republic, Péter Várkonyi;

The Committee of Foreign Minister was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, President of the Cabinet.

Czechoslovakia – October 28, 1988 (RFE / DRC / OSA)

On the 70th anniversary of Czechoslovak independence, the government holds an official gathering in Prague. Nonetheless, several thousand ignore the authorities' ban on unauthorized demonstrations by holding a meeting in Wenceslas Square. The police break up the crowd with batons, water cannons and tear gas. Eighty-seven are detained.

The day before the anniversary, the government had organized a crackdown against dissidents, dozens of whom were detained for several days to prevent them organizing demonstrations.

Catholics sign a declaration on the 70th anniversary of Czechoslovak Independence, which defines the role of the Catholic Church and Christianity in the history of the Czech and Slovak nations.

Hungary – October 28, 1988 (PTH)

In an interview given to Magyar Hírlap, Károly Grósz says the events in 1956 involved, first and foremost, a counter-revolution, therefore it is allowable to mark it as an outstanding day to be remembered. He confirms that he will quit the office of Prime Minister at the end of November. He stresses that he is not content with the work of the Council of Ministers, though the implementation of the stabilization program is getting on well.

Hungary – October 28, 1988 (PTH)

The Alliance of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti-fascists hold a comradeship meeting. They commemorate "the tragic events that took place 32 years ago." The 56 section of the Alliance calls all its members to participate in the demonstration supporting socialism on November 4, "paying tribute to the memory of the martyrs of the counter-revolution."

Romania / Soviet Union, October 28, 1988 (ADC)

Ceaușescu visits Moscow for talks with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. There, Ceaușescu opposes reforms in Romania.

Hungary – October 28, 1988 (PTH)

More than 60 thousand teachers demand in a statement authenticated by signatures that the issues of education should be put on the agenda of the parliament.

Hungary – October 29, 1988 (PTH)

With an aim to protect the right for free speech and public opinion the Publicity Club is established.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - October 29, 1988 (DRC)

The Czechoslovak Premier is in Moscow for talks with Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Czechoslovakia - October 1988 (DRC)

The independent initiative Open Dialogue is founded in a university club in Brno, as an informal association of various kinds of artists. It has no rules of organization, and is concerned predominantly with organizing forums to discuss various topics. Its introductory statement is written by Petr Oslzlý, Joska Skalník, Jaroslav Kořán, Petr Rezek, Karel Steigervvald, Petr Kofroň, Jan Šimek, and Pavel Váša.

Hungary – October 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Society issues a communiqué in which everybody is invited to attend the memorial service at section 301 on November 6.

Hungary – October 30, 1988 (PTH)

Demonstrations are held in 28 cities of 17 countries all over the world to support the demand that a referendum must be called on the issue of Bős-Nagymaros. In Budapest a torchlight procession is held to protest against the dam.

Poland – October 31, 1988 (RFE/LBC/KCA)

The Polish authorities decide to close the Gdansk Lenin Shipyard, the cradle of Solidarity, on December 1. Walesa calls the move “a political provocation”. The government insists that the decision has been taken purely on economic grounds, since the shipyard has made a loss of around \$5.5 million in 1987. The decision, however, has fuelled rising political tension, as it has been perceived as a venomous move of great political significance against Solidarity. No strikes or demonstrations have been reported in response to the shipyard’s closure, but a reaction of public anger and disillusionment with their government is only growing. The closure was made possible by the passing of legislation on 11 May 1988, granting the authorities “special powers” to improve the dire economic situation. (See entry May 11, 1988 for more detail)

GDR / Soviet Union – October 31, 1988 (OSA)

The official reaction in the GDR to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl’s visit to Moscow from October 24 to 27 contains few surprises. Muted press coverage of the event was accompanied by repeated affirmations in the media of the GDR’s own close relationship with the Soviet Union.

November

Hungary – November 1988 (PTH)

After 32 years, the Kossuth Publishing House publishes the speech given by Krushchev at the 20th congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

Yugoslavia – November 1988 (HR and RWE)

The leaders of the Provincial Committee of the LC of Kosovo, Azem Vllasi and Kaqusha Jashari are relieved of their duties. Albanians in Kosovo protest.

As a result of pressure from the Serbian leadership, which was continuing its campaign to reassert the control over Serbia’s autonomous provinces, the LCY central committee in the predominantly ethnic-Albanian province of Kosovo on **November 17** asked Mrs Kaćuša Jašari to resign as party president and Azem Vlasi as a politburo member.

After large protest demonstrations in the Kosovar capital by the ethnic Albanians, an indefinite ban

on all mass gatherings in Kosovo was imposed on **November 23**. On **November 25** the Federal Assembly approved amendments to Yugoslavia’s federal Constitution which paved the way for the introduction of a more market oriented economic system and strengthened the role of the federal authorities

Hungary – November 1, 1988 (MNC)

After his two-day visit, Minister of Science and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany Heniz Reisenhuber left Hungary. He negotiated with the President of the National Technical Development Committee. He met Vice President of the Parliament Miklós Vida. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Parliament.

Europe - November 1, 1988 (MNC)

For the first time after ten years, a consultation began between the commander of the Soviet military group, and the commander-in-chief of the American land forces stationing in Europe.

GDR / Czechoslovakia – November 1, 1988 (OSA)

Czechoslovak Communist Party Presidium Member and Central Committee Secretary Josef Lenart arrive in East Berlin. Lenart holds talks on further deepening of economic and trade cooperation between Czechoslovakia and East Germany.

Hungary – November 2, 1988 (PTH)

The first issue of the journal Hitel publishes István Csurka's article entitled "Sunday, October the Twenty-third."

Hungary – November 2, 1988 (PTH)

The deed of Foundation of the Hungarian Democratic Forum is made public. One of the aims of the organization is "to initiate and support a realistic evaluation of the country's history after 1945, especially the period of coalition government and the 1956 Revolution".

Hungary – November 2, 1988 (PTH)

The Democratic Alliance of Hungarian Gypsies is established. Among its main objectives is for gypsies to be acknowledged as an ethnic minority.

Poland / U.K. – November 2-4, 1988 (RFE / KCA / LBC)

The U.K. Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, makes her long-awaited, twice-postponed visit to Poland. She discusses economic issues with Mr. Rakowski, criticizing centrally planned economies as inherent contradictions. She also meets with the Roman Catholic Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, with a group of academics and businessmen, and a group of Solidarity advisers. In a meeting with General Jaruzelski, Thatcher reportedly tells the party leader that Solidarity cannot be “wished away.” Thatcher rejects a request for assistance to the Polish economy, stating that they will be no new credits and no relief from servicing Poland’s debt... At the banquet given in her honor, Thatcher declares, “President Gorbachev had talked about building a common European house. But the only wall so far erected is the Berlin wall, which divides and separates”. She adds, “We want to see the barriers, which have divided Europe for the last 40 years dismantled so that Poland and other East European countries can once again share fully in European culture, Europe’s

freedom and Europe’s justice”. She asserts, “Greater prosperity comes to those nations which have greater freedom”. She urges Poland to observe the Helsinki Accord and to “form free and independent trade unions”.

Hungary – November 3, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz visits Austria. The General Secretary of HSWP says the Hungarian Post, especially its telephone service branch, will be partly transformed into a private company in order to develop the infrastructure for production in the country.

Hungary – November 3, 1988 (PTH)

In Szombathely, the first modern digital telephone center is installed with a capacity of 100 thousand phone lines, which Hungary bought from Austria.

Bulgaria - November 3, 1988 (OSA)

A group of 110 intellectuals meet at Sofia’s University for founding a group that supports perestroika.

Hungary – November 3-4, 1988 (MNC)

As the guest of President of the Parliament István Stadinger, President of the Parliament of the People’s Republic of Poland (Sejm) had an official visit to Hungary.

Hungary – November 3-5, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet had an official visit to the Republic of Austria. His negotiation partner was Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. He met President of the Parliament Leopold Gratz. He also met the leading personalities of businnes life, and the representatives of the Hungarian immigrants living in Austria. He was received by President of the Republic, Kurt Waldheim.

Hungary – November 4, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Trade Tamás Beck – accompanying Károly Grósz in Vienna – negotiated with Minister of Economy Robert Graf.

Hungary – November 4, 1988 (PTH)

HSWP, the Communist Youth Organization and the Workers' Militia hold a joint memorial meeting in Köztársaság Square, commemorating the defenders of the party headquarters and the establishment of the Revolutionary Workers-Peasants' Government. In his speech, János Barabás, Secretary of the Budapest Committee of HSWP describes 1956 as initially a democratic popular movement aiming to renew socialism, and eventually turning into a counter-revolution.

Hungary – November 4, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz says in the Austrian House of Parliament that the office of president must be introduced in Hungary as well.

Hungary – November 4, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers decides that in 4 years, state subsidies for companies will be cut from 130 billion forints down to 40 billion forints per year.

Hungary – November 4, 1988 (PTH)

Sándor Nagy, Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions states the unions refuse to accept the rise of prices and the cuts in real wages planned for 1989, and that the discrepancy between their views and those of the government is still significant.

Yugoslavia - November 4, 1988 (OSA)

Janez Stanovnik, the President of Slovenia eight member State Presidency, told a news conference at National Press Club in Washington, that the situation in Yugoslavia had changed and that the country had made a crucial start toward political, economic and party reform. He said that the basis for restructuring the Yugoslav economic and political system lay in “free private enterprise” based on the “full-fledged development of democracy.” As RFE journalist assessed the speech: Stanovnik remarks were attempt to reassure the US government and US businesses that Yugoslavia had the situation under control, and that they should not fear public unrest.

Czechoslovakia - November 5, 1988 (DRC)

The Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee is established in Prague in support of the principles and resolutions of the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (signed on 1 August 1975) and of the follow—up meetings of the CSCE related to human rights and civil liberties. One of the first Charter 77 spokesmen, Jiří Hájek, becomes head of the Prague Committee.

Hungary – November 5, 1988 (PTH)

At its discussion forum, the New March Front urges to implement democratic socialism in the country.

Hungary – November 5, 1988 (PTH)

HDF supports the initiative for every Hungarian village and city should choose a sister city or village in Transylvania in order to prevent the demolition of villages in Romania.

Hungary / Romania – November 5, 1988 (OSA)

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Poland - November 5, 1988 (RFE)

In a letter to the Minister of Internal Affairs, General Czesław Kiszczak, Lech Walesa demands that the reprieve of the Lenin Shipyard is a condition for Solidarity’s joining the government for talks about preparing a “round-table discussion” on Poland’s political and economic future.

Poland – November 6, 1988 (MHC)

Walesa threatens to call nationwide strikes unless the closure of the Gdąnsk shipyard is called off. However, the following day, the strike is indefinitely postponed after a meeting between Solidarity officials and shipyard management.

Soviet Union / France - November 6, 1988 (LBC)

French banks float a \$2 billion loan to the USSR.

Hungary – November 7-9, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister of Italy Gianni de Michelis visited Hungary. He met Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, Rezső Nyers, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, and Minister of Industry Frigyes Berecz. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – November 7-8, 1988 (PTH)

A memorial meeting is held on the activities of the Budapest Revolutionary Police Division in 19656-57. In his speech, János Berecz states one of the most important lessons of the 1956 crisis was that socialism is not possible without the support of the people.

Cambodia - November 7, 1988 (MNC)

The representatives of the government of Cambodia and the emigration (exluding the Khmer Rouge) negotiated in France once more.

Hungary – November 8-9, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the after-meeting of the Conference on Security and co-operation in Europe in Vienna. On November 8, he made a speech on the plenary sitting.

USA - November 8, 1988 (MNC)

George H. W. Bush was elected as the new President of the United States of America.

U.S. - November 8, 1988 (MHC)

George H.W. Bush is elected President of the United States.

Czechoslovakia – November 8, 1988 (OSA)

The death of Bishop Jan Pazstor of Nitra on December 8, 1988 reduces the number of resident and bishop-apostolic administrators in Czechoslovakia to three, that is, two resident bishops and on bishop-apostolic administrator.

Bulgaria - November 8, 1988 (OSA)

Representatives of the Balkan Turks Solidarity and Culture Organisation in Turkey ask NATO to help ethnic Turks in Bulgaria.

Hungary / Romania – November 9, 1988 (OSA)

An interview with Grósz is published in the Paris-based newspaper *Le Monde*. In it he cites “fundamental differences” Romania, saying he and Ceausescu have different concepts of socialism. He also reveals that Hungary has been receiving a wave of Hungarian refugees from Transylvania, but also refugees of “non-Hungarian origin” who do not even speak Hungarian.

Czechoslovakia - November 9, 1988 (OSA)

The Federal Assembly approves a program presented by Czechoslovakia’s new Prime Minister, Ladislav Adamec, which is designed to counter consumer dissatisfaction while upholding a tough line against independent public activity.

Italy / Czechoslovakia - 9-20 November 1988 (DRC)

At the invitation of the Italian Communist Party, Alexander Dubček visits Italy. In Rome he meets with General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, Achille Occhetto, and with the Chairman of

the Socialist Party, Bettino Craxi, and is invited to a private audience with Pope John Paul II. At the University of Bologna, on 13 November, Dubček is awarded an honorary doctorate of political science.

Hungary – November 9-12, 1988 (MNC)

Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Secretary of the Central Committee visited Hungary. He held talks with János Berecz, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Secretary of the Central Committee, and Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP. He was received by János Kádár, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – November 9-15, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Parliament of Portugal Manuela Aguiro stayed in Hungary. The delegation was received by President of the Parliament István Stadinger.

Cyprus - November 10-12, 1988 (MNC)

Head of State of Cyprus G. Vasiliu negotiated in Italy; it was here, where he announced the willingness of his country to join the European Economic Community.

Hungary – November 10, 1988 (PTH)

The draft of a new law regulating public meetings, approved of by the Council of Ministers, makes it possible, among other things, to establish political parties.

Hungary – November 10, 1988 (PTH)

In his talks in Budapest, Alexander Jakovlev, member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party believes socialism does not exclude a multiparty system, but this has to be decided in each country with a view of the country's own conditions and characteristics.

Hungary – November 11, 1988 (PTH)

The Frencz München Society is established, attacking HSWP from the left.

Hungary – November 11, 1988 (PTH)

The State Wages and Labor Agency proposes that the planned unemployment benefits should be paid only for one year and only to those who had been at a job at least two years. On the contrary, the trade unions insist that every unemployed person should be entitled to the benefits as a civic right.

Bulgaria - November 11, 1988 (OSA)

Nedyo Gedjikov, the Regional Mufti of Kurdjali, southern Bulgaria, doctor of Muslim theology is elected for Chief Mufti.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - 11-12 November 1988 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jaromír Johanes is in Moscow for talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze and with Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Czechoslovakia - November 11-13, 1988 (DRC)

In a series of repressive operations, the StB causes considerable disruption to the international symposium ‘Czechoslovakia 88’, which has been organized to discuss the four watershed years in Czechoslovak history—1918, 1938, 1948, and 1968. Despite extensive repression, the symposium continues with impromptu debates on private homes and the cells of Ruzyně Prison. The actions of the Czechoslovak authorities elicit a considerable response in the mass media abroad, and the Czechoslovak Government is sent protests by the governments of several European countries.

Czechoslovakia – November 11-25, 1988 (OSA)

Alexander Dubcek, the leader of the Prague Spring of 1968, pays his first visit to the West, during which he collects an honorary doctorate from the University of Bologna.

Hungary – November 11-12, 1988 (MNC)

The (British) President of the European Parliament Lord Henry Plumb visited Hungary. He negotiated with President of the Parliament István Stadinger. He met Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament.

Hungary – November 12-14, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Libya in Tripoli.

Hungary – November 12, 1988 (PTH)

Alexander Jakovlev, member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party meets with László Paskai in Esztergom and invites the archbishop to visit Sub-Carpathia, the home of some 200 thousand Hungarians.

Czechoslovakia / USSR – November 12-16, 1988 (RFE / DRC)

Soviet official Alexandr Yakovlev visits Czechoslovakia. Following the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia’s recent ouster of pro-reform minister Lubomir Strougal, he appeals for ‘socialist pluralism’.

Hungary – November 13, 1988 (PTH)

The Network of Free Initiatives is turned into the Alliance of Free Democrats (AFD). In their communiqué, they declare, among others, Anna Kéthly, István Bibó, Imre Nagy and Ferenc Donáth to be the intellectual predecessors of the alliance. They regard the three Hungarian revolutions, 1848, 1918 and 1956 as setting examples and standards to be followed.

Yugoslavia / Soviet Union - November 13 - 16, 1988 (OSA)

The Soviet Defense Minister, Army General Dmitrii Yazov, and Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Silaev met with Yugoslav leaders to discuss the prospects of increasing military cooperation and Soviet arms shipments to Yugoslavia, and to work out an agreement on expanding economic relations to reduce the Soviet trade deficit with Yugoslavia. A new declaration was signed reaffirming the declarations of 1955 and 1956. The visit also resulted in signing of extension of economic cooperation to the year 2000 and the announcement of long-term agreements on scientific, educational, and cultural relations.

Western European Union - November 14, 1988 (MNC)

Spain and Portugal were admitted into members of the Western European Union (during the organization’s summit in London).

Hungary – November 14-17, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn took part in the North Atlantic General Summit in the Federal Republic of Germany (Hamburg).

Bulgaria - November 14, 1988 (OSA)

Sefiy Huseyinoglu, an ethnic Bulgarian Turk escapes from Bulgaria in a truck.

Bulgaria - November 14, 1988 (OSA)

Turkey’s foreign minister Mesut Yilmaz says that even though economic relations with the Soviet Union had improved, there still remains the problem with Bulgaria which hasn’t improved because of the treatment that ethnic Turks experience in the country.

Hungary / Romania – November 14, 1988 (OSA)

Hungarian Commercial Counsellor Károly Györfi is arrested in Bucharest while driving in a car bearing diplomatic plates. The police refuses to call the Hungarian embassy and accuse him, first of driving a stolen car, then with causing serious accidents, and finally with spreading leaflets. He is held for 6 hours and is only released after all night efforts by the Hungarian ambassador.

Hungary / Romania – November 15, 1988 (OSA)

Romanian Foreign Minister Ioan Totu summons the Hungarian ambassador and tells him the Foreign Ministry has reached “the irrefutable conclusion that the Hungarian diplomat [arrested in Bucharest the previous day] had spread inciting, hostile leaflets.” He suggests that Hungary recall its diplomat, in which case Romania would not publicize the incident. Totu warned that, should the diplomat not be recalled, “the Romanian side [will] carry out its right and take the appropriate steps.” The Hungarian Foreign Ministry protest that “the accusations against [the diplomat] were completely unfounded and the Romanian action was a serious provocation.”

Romania – November 15, 1988 (OSA)

On the first anniversary of the workers' protest in Brasov on November 15, 1987, Romanian academic and dissident Doina Cornea writes a message which pays homage to those workers for what she described as the symbolic and moral significance of their mass protest. The message is also signed by a worker from Cluj and one from Turda (Transylvania). Cornea writes that, although unsuccessful, the protest might have "redeemed the dignity of all those who, out of fear and resignation, had come to accept circumstances that are unacceptable." At the same time, she argues that the apparent prevalence of this attitude among the public, was a major cause of the workers' defeat. In this context, reads the message, the event "dispelled just a few of the impure fumes of self-deception, moral abdication, and fear that tarnish us."

Hungary / Romania – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

In Budapest, the police use force to break up a demonstration of 300 people organized by alternative groups in spite of a police ban close to the Romanian embassy.

Hungary – November 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the

Cabinet had an official visit to Spain. He negotiated with Prime Minister and President of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) Felipe Gonzalez. He met President of the Congress of Deputies Felix Pons. He also met the leaders of political parties and the leading personalities of the business life. He was received by King Juan Carlos I. After the negotiations during a joint press conference with the Spanish Prime Minister, he met the representatives of international press.

Europe - November 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

In Brussels, negotiations were held about the possible relations between the representatives of COMECON and EEC.

Hungary – November 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Economy of Baden-Württemberg of the Federal Republic of Germany Martin Herzog stayed in Budapest for the program of Technical Days of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hungary – November 15-18, 1988 (MNC)

During his stay in Tunis, Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted with Deputy General Secretary of the Arab League and head of the political department of the PLO Farukh Kaddumi.

Hungary – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

According to the Politburo of THE HSWP, the new information law effective in 1989 needs to regulate free speech and free press as a basic civic right.

Hungary – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

Gyula Horn, the Hungarian Secretary of the Foreign Ministry takes part in the session of the General Assembly of the North-Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, the first official representative of a WTO member country to be invited since NATO was established. Gyula Horn states Hungary is ready to make its military budget and data public in the framework of the disarmament process

Hungary – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

In Budapest, the police use force to break up a demonstration of 300 people organized by alternative groups in spite of a police ban close to the Romanian embassy.

Hungary – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

The Constitutional Council finds the decree by the Council of Ministers, which withholds pensions from recipients who spend more than 90 days abroad to be unconstitutional.

Hungary – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

Mátyás Szurös, Secretary of HSWP, believes that the introduction of the multiparty system in Hungary will not be decided by HSWP but rather by the development of social institutions.

Hungary – November 15, 1988 (PTH)

The Association of Writers refuses to accept the invitation of the Council of Ministers to participate in the social committee that will oversee the works at the Bős-Nagymaros dam.

Czechoslovakia / Warsaw Pact – November 15, 1988 (RFE)

After giving just twenty-four hours' notice, Czechoslovakia imposes new restrictions to protect its

markets from the purchase and export of goods by tourists from Poland – GDR and the USSR.

In an attempt to protect its fragile domestic market in the holiday season, a strict ban is placed on the export of 80 consumer items, including food, appliances, toilet paper, children’s clothes, and car parts.

The affected countries protest vigorously, and the GDR responds by announcing its own customs regulations.

Czechoslovakia - November 15, 1988 (OSA)

In a speech delivered on November 15 at the party school in Prague, CPSU CC member Alexander N. Yakovlev shows the clear polarization of the main tendencies in Czechoslovakia during the continuing political and social impasse.

Poland - November 16, 1988 (RFE)

The stalled talks between Solidarity and the Polish authorities about the arranging of the long-awaited “round-table discussion” appear to be back on track, after the reinstatement of several dozen miners, who had lost their jobs due to participation in the August strikes. The resumption of talks does not, however, seem to signal a change in the government’s position, which has for the past few weeks openly demonstrated its intention to block the round-table talks and take dramatic economic measures without obtaining public and opposition consent.

Hungary – November 16, 1988 (MNC)

The text of the so-called Uruguay Statement, which was accepted at the meeting of the heads of states of the Latin American “Eight” (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela) was officially handed over to Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi.

Hungary – November 17-19, 1988 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, President of the Cabinet had an official visit to the Republic of France. His negotiation partners were Head of State Francois Mitterand and Prime Minister Michel Rocard. He met President of the Senate Alain Poher, President of the National Assembly Laurent Fabius, ex-Prime Ministers Raymond Barre and Pierre Mauroy, and members of the government. He also met the leading personalities of the French political and businnes life and representatives of the Hungarian emigration livign in France.

Hungary – November 17, 1988 (PTH)

The planned modifications of the Labor Code gives rise to sharp disputes between the wage authorities and the National Council of Trade Unions.

Hungary – November 17, 1988 (PTH)

János Nagy, ambassador to Vienna, believes it is quite feasible that Hungary will reduce its military force and send part of the Soviet troops stationed in its territory home as a unilateral gesture to promote disarmament.

Hungary – November 18, 1988 (PTH)

The independent Smallholders' Party announces its reestablishment in Budapest. Its new chairman

is Tivadar Pártay, and its general secretary is Dezső Futó.

Hungary – November 18, 1988 (PTH)

Following an unprecedented provocation, the Romanian authorities expel Károly Győrfi, Hungary's Trading Counsel in Bucharest, from Romania. Hungary raises objections to the case.

Hungary – November 18-19, 1988 (PTH)

The Communist Youth Organization holds its national meeting in Székesfehérvár. The organization decides that it will continue to function as the youth organization of HSWP in strong strategic alliance but without direct party control.

Hungary – November 18-19, 1988 (PTH)

In its programmatic congress the Federation of Young Democrats demands a constitutional state.

Hungary – November 18-20, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Portugese Republic. He met Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense Euricio de Melo. He was received by President of the Republic Mario Soares and Foreign Minister Joao Dens de Pinheiro.

Soviet Union - November 18-20, 1988 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Soviet Head of State M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to India. (As a Head of State, this was his first foreign trip.)

Yugoslavia – November 19, 1988 (HR)

“The Demonstration of Brotherhood and Unity” is staged in Belgrade. Allegedly, a million people show up. This demonstration cements Slobodan Milošević as an undisputed leader of Serbia.

Hungary / Romania – November 19, 1988 (OSA)

The Romanian *Agrepres* (state news agency) issues a statement announcing that Károly Győrfi, the Hungarian diplomat arrested on November 14, was now a *persona non grata* and has three days to leave Romania. It also says the Hungarian Foreign Ministry had brought “completely unsubstantiated accusations against the Romanian authorities” which were “in flagrant contradiction with the facts” of Győrfi’s “very grave actions.”

Yugoslavia - November 19 - 20, 1988 (OSA)

About 1,000,000 Serbs in Belgrade (Serbia), and about 100,000 Albanians in Priština (Kosovo) demonstrated on November 19 and 20. As extensive press coverage by Priština daily *Rilindja* reported, the effect of these rallies has been to bring into open the polarization of Serbian and Albanian nationality positions. The Belgrade demonstrations has been aroused by Serbian leadership’s calls for settling accounts with its Albanian opponents. Rallies in Priština had pledged complete support for the Kosovar leadership and had opposed attempts to tamper with the autonomy of the province.

Hungary – November 20, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian Jewish Cultural Society is established.

Hungary / Romania – November 20, 1988 (OSA)

In a statement to Radio Kosuth on return from his official visit to Paris, Grósz denies all of Bucharest’s allegations against Győrfi, the economic adviser of the Hungarian embassy; he adds that Budapest will soon discover what was hiding behind Romania’s decision to expel Győrfi.

Hungary / Romania – November 21, 1988 (OSA)

Frigyes Berecz, Hungarian Minister for Industry, gives a statement to *Nepszabadsag* on the November 20 session of the Hungarian-Romanian Joint Government Committee for Economic Cooperation. He says that “political tension was not felt during the talks” and that “the constructive discussion helped us get closer to one of the [economic] aims of the Arad meeting.” He admits the issue of the expelled diplomat was mentioned although not addressed in length, saying “I pointed out that [...] we fear the incident might upset the favorable development of economic links.”

Hungary / Romania – November 21, 1988 (OSA)

Nepszabadsag (Hungarian press) publishes an article harshly criticizing the Romania’s *Agrepres* account of the arrest of Hungarian diplomat Károly Győrfi on November 14. It says that “the Romanian Foreign Ministry statement cannot back up any of its accusations.”

Bulgaria - November 21, 1988 (OSA)

Nedyo Gendjev, Chief Mufti of the Bulgarians who practices the Muslim religion, rejects the accusations about Bulgaria not respecting the religious freedoms.

Bulgaria - November 21, 1988 (OSA)

Todor Zhivkov stresses his country’s commitment to reform and make closer links with the outside world in talks with West Germany’s president Richard Von Weizsaecker.

Hungary – November 21, 1988 (PTH)

Dante Fascell, Chairman of the Foreign Committee of the American House of Representatives conducts negotiations in Budapest. The Hungarian leaders emphasize at the meeting that Hungary would prefer to be awarded the status of most favored nation by the legislation for periods longer than one year.

Hungary – November 21, 1988 (PTH)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy announces that company taxes must be increased because of the serious economic situation.

Poland - November 21, 1988 (RFE)

The government approves a new economic “Consolidation” Plan. The plan’s aims are unusually radical and it suggests that economic reform is at last underway in Poland. It is a direct response to the most recent wave of strikes and the country’s dire economic state. Despite the highly optimistic and ambitious nature of the plan, including proposals that independent economists have long urged for, there is little mention of any intention to surrender government control over the economy.

GDR – November 22, 1988 (OSA)

East Germany takes the Soviet journal *Sputnik* off the list of the press items available in the country and bans five Soviet films, further revealing the party’s discomfort over a reappraisal of Stalin’s role in history.

Hungary – November 23, 1988 (MHC)

The CC of the Socialist Workers’ Party in Hungary names Németh to replace General Secretary Grósz as premier.

Hungary – November 23, 1988 (PTH)

One day before the session of the Parliament, Imre Pozsgay says that the introduction of the multiparty system lies with society rather than with the Council of Ministers.

Hungary – November 23, 1988 (PTH)

Nationwide demonstrations are held at universities and colleges demanding the improvement of financial and material conditions, student self-government and academic freedom.

Hungary / Romania – November 23, 1988 (OSA)

Mátyás Szurös, the Hungarian party secretary in charge of foreign affairs, says, at a Central Committee meeting in Budapest, that the arrest of Hungarian diplomat Károly Györfi on November 14, was “a premediated provocation.” He adds that Hungary will give a “firm and unequivocal response.” Györfi speaks as well at the meeting, pointing out that the Romanian diplomats in Bucharest agreed with him in that his expulsion was “incomprehensible.”

Hungary / Romania – November 24, 1988 (OSA)

The Hungarian Foreign Ministry issues a statement that Pavel Platona, a political counselor at Romania’s Budapest embassy, had been declared a *persona non grata* and given 72 hours to leave the country. András Gulyás, head of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry’s Press Department admits to *Reuters* that this is a response to Romania’s expulsion of Károly Györfi, saying he’s certain that this latter act was “something that Hungary could not have left without counter-measure.” Meanwhile, another HSWP *Reuters* source says that a traditional policy of turning the other cheek to Romania had never paid off.

Bulgaria - November 23 and 24, 1988 (OSA)

A round table commemoration of the 45th anniversary of saving the Bulgarian Jewish community from deportation to the Nazi death camps is held.

Bulgaria - November 24, 1988 (OSA)

The West Germany president, Tichard Von Weizsaecker, says that his talks in Bulgaria had made possible the strengthening of mutual confidence in bilateral relations in all of Europe.

Hungary – November 24, 1988 (PTH)

The Historical Justice Committee issues a communiqué in which it calls the families of those executed after 1956 to exercise their right and demand that they may bury their family members properly.

Hungary – November 24-26, 1988 (PTH)

The House of Parliament elects Miklós Németh Prime Minister of Hungary. Károly Grósz remains General Secretary of HSWP.

Hungary – November 24, 1988 (MNC)

The Hungarian goverment acknowledged the proclamation of the State of Palestine.

Soviet Union / France - November 25-26, 1988 (MNC)

Head of State of France, F. Mitterand, had an official visit to the Soviet Union for the joint space program.

Hungary – November 25-27, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács took part in the program organized for the 10th anniversary of the Alps-Adriatic Working Group in Venice.

NATO / Warsaw Pact - November 25, 1988 (LBC)

NATO reveals figures on the balance between NATO and the Warsaw Pact. According to the report, the Warsaw Pact has 3.09 million troops, while NATO has 2.21 million troops. Moscow and its allies have 51,500 tanks, the West has 16,624 tanks. The situation is similar in terms of APCs: the Warsaw Pact possesses 22,400, the West deployed 4,143. The NATO report claims that the Warsaw Pact enjoys superiority in artillery and the air force as well.

Yugoslavia - November 25, 1988 (RWE)

The Federal Assembly approved and promulgated 39 amendments to the Constitution, designed primarily to “make possible the introduction of a market economy.” (*Guardian*) Mr Dizdarević described the changes as “moving towards a more radical break with the illusion that socialism is a society in which one works little but lives well, in which freedom and rights do not signify duty and responsibility.” (Tanjug)

Hungary – November 25, 1988 (PTH)

János Kádár's article, "The Party of Hungarian Communists is Seventy Years Old," is published in both the November issues of the Soviet journal *Communist* and the Hungarian journal *Magyarország*. According to the article, after October 23, 1956, "the participants of the events and their actions gradually took on a counter-revolutionary character. By-passing every legal move, disregarding the Council of Ministers, the Presidential Council, Imre Nagy made his decisions to abandon the people's democratic revolution within a closed circle".

Hungary – November 25, 1988 (PTH)

Imre Pozsgay announces that HSWP initiated a dialog with the alternative organizations.

France / Soviet Union - November 25-26, 1988 (LBC)

French President Mitterand makes a visit in Moscw with the aim of improving Franco-Soviet relations. (July 4-6, 1989.)

Hungary – November 27, 1988 (PTH)

The National Council of Hungarian Youth Organizations is established, which urges a dialog among the organizations representing young people in the country and intends to represent the standpoint of 29 different organizations in discussions with state, political and governmental bodies.

Yugoslavia / Australia - November 27, 1988 (RWE)

A 16-year-old Croat émigré taking part in a demonstration outside Yugoslav consulate in Sydney, Australia, was wounded by a shot fired by a Yugoslav security guard. The Australian Foreign

Ministry subsequently ordered the consulate’s closure after the Yugoslavs refused to hand the guard over to face criminal charges.

Hungary – November 27-28, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Mauritius.

Hungary – November 28-29, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Parliament István Stadinger took part in the meeting of President s of Parliament of the signatories of the Helsinki Accords in Warsaw.

Soviet Union – November 28, 1988 (MNC)

The effect of the Soviet long-term grain-purchase treaty was prolonged until the end 1990. (The effect already expired on September 30, 1988.)

Hungary – November 28-30, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to Malaysia. He met Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar, Minister of Finance Dairu Zainuddin, and Minister of Transportation Ling Lion Shik. He was received by Prime Minister Mohamed Mahathir.

Hungary – November 28-30, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of transportation Lajos Urbán took part in the consultation of the Ministers of transportation of Europe in Paris.

Hungary – November 28, 1988 (PTH)

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers and the National Council of Trade Unions, it is decided that pensions, child care allowance and family allowance will be raised in two phases in 1989; people working in health care and public education will be given a centrally-funded rise in wages. In order to relieve the burden on people, General Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions urges further reductions of military spending, more leisure time and reduced subsidies for unprofitable companies.

Poland - November 29, 1988 (OSA)

A meeting of inter-factory workers’ committees of the Solidarity Trade Union takes place in Gdańsk. The meeting ends with the adoption of a common line of action to rebuild factory cells.

Hungary – November 29, 1988 (PTH)

At the party meeting in the Budapest Sports Stadium, Károly Grósz states that there is a class-struggle going on in Hungary – and if "adversary, counter-revolutionary forces" can not be counterbalanced, then "anarchy, chaos and, do not entertain illusions, white terror will dominate the country". He stresses that the one-party system must be maintained because "it has naturally evolved in the course of history". János Berecz, speaking at a forum in Tatabánya, says, TThere is a revolutionary crisis in Hungary at present”.

Hungary – November 29, 1988 (PTH)

The Independent Smallholders' Party, The National Peasants' Party, The Party of Hungarian Communists and the Social Democratic Party of Hungary announce their foundation.

Hungary – November 29-December 2, 1988 (MNC)
Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Tanzania in Dar es-Sallam.

Hungary – November 29-December 3, 1988 (MNC)
Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of state stayed in Switzerland. He was received by Foreign Minister René Felber, Minister of Economy Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, and State Secretary of Foreign Trade, Franz Blankart. He consulted with the politicians of the Free Democratic Party of Switzerland, the Christian Democratic People’s Party (PDCS), and the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland.

Poland - November 30, 1988 (RFE)
Millions of Poles tune in to watch the unprecedented television debate on pluralism in public life between Lech Walesa, the leader of Solidarity, and Alfred Miodowicz, the chairman of the government-sponsored trade union alliance. The debate was intended to demonstrate a progression in relations between the authorities and opposition, but Walesa emerged as the clear winner.

Hungary – November 30-December 3, 1988(MNC)
Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Republic of the Philippines. His host was Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus. He negotiated with Minister of Trade and Industry José Concepcion. He met the main representatives of the Philippine businnes life. He was received by Head of State Corazón Aquino and Vice President Salvador Laurel.

December

Hungary – December 1988 (PTH)
The 20th and last issue of *Magyar Füzetek (Hungarian Notes)* is published in Paris. The issue is devoted to the political crisis in Hungary.

Hungary – December 1, 1988 (PTH)
The Council of Ministers decides central wages control will be maintained only at institutions financed by the state budget as of January 1989; within the sphere of the free market economy, the Economic Chamber and the trade unions will negotiate the upper limit of wages.

Hungary – December 1, 1988 (MNC)
István Sarlós, Deputy President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary took part in the inauguration ceremony of the new President of the United Mexican States, Carlos Salines de Gortari, in Mexico City.

Romania – December 1, 1988 (OSA)
A letter is published in the West that Romanian academic and dissident Doina Cornea and six other members of the Eastern-rite Catholic Church had sent to Pope John Paul II from Cluj in September. The publication of the letter marks 40 years since the suppression of the Eastern-rite Catholic Church in Romania. The signatories ask the Vatican to persevere in its long-standing effort obtain the reinstatement of the Romanian Church. The letter also rejects the idea recently proposed by the Romanian authorities that Eastern-rite Catholics should merge with the Roman Catholic Church in

Romania, join its parishes, and conduct their services in the Romanian language. The authors of the letter argue that since the Eastern-rite Catholics comprise exclusively Transylvanian Romanians while the Roman Catholics are for the most part ethnic Hungarians, it is clear to all parties concerned that the authorities' offer aims to weaken still further the position of the Hungarian minority and to set the two ethnic and religious groups against each other.

Soviet Union - December 1-3, 1988 (MNC)

Soviet-Chinese negotiations started in Moscow, after for the first time in 31 years, a Chinese Foreign Minister visited the city.

Hungary – December 1-4, 1988 (MNC)

Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament – during his stay in Greece – consulted with Foreign Minister Karolos Papulias, and member of the EC and Secretary of foreign affairs of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), Shtefanos Tzumakas and Vasilis Konstantinos.

Soviet Union - December 2, 1988 (MNC)

In Moscow, a Soviet-South Korean Treaty was signed about the establishment of trade advocacies in the capitals of the two countries.

Hungary – December 2, 1988 (PTH)

The Hungarian National Bank intends to issue a 5,000 forint banknote within two years.

Hungary – December 3-4, 1988 (PTH)

The István Széchenyi Students' Study Circle and Social Sciences Club organizes the first scientific conference on the 1956 revolution at the University of Economics. The lectures presented at the conference are: György Litván, "On the Imre Nagy group"; András Hegedüs, "Trends and Tendencies within the Party of Hungarian Workers" and "The Petőfi Circle"; László Varga "The Chronology of Events", Endre Bilecz "Bibó in 56"; István Csurka "How a Writer Remembers"; Sándor M. Kiss "Violations of the Law by the Security Police" (Államvédelmi Hatóság); Iván Pető "An Economic Overview"; Bálint Magyar "1956 in the Rural Country"; Sándor Rác "Evaluating the Workers' Councils of 56"; Imre Mécs "Impeachment after 1956"; Miklós Szabó "An Intellectual Overview".

Hungary – December 3-6, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Zimbabwe in Harare.

Hungary – December 4-5, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Finance Miklós Villányi took part in the 49 Summit of the Permanent Committee of Currency and Finance of the COMECON in Warsaw.

Hungary – December 5, 1988 (PTH)

The Council for the Reconciliation of Interests declares that in the future, any agreement affecting wage earners can only be made with the consent of the Council of Ministers, the National Council of Trade Unions and the Economic Chamber. At the same time the Chamber vetoes the motion by the trade unions for fixing the minimum wage.

GDR – December 5, 1988 (OSA)

Economic and political reform is again emphatically rejected at the seventh plenum of the SED CC. Addressing the meeting, Erich Honecker suggests that the reform experiments being undertaken elsewhere resembled anarchy and said that party members should ensure that “in this situation our ship remains steady.” He announces that the next party congress would be held in May 1990, one year earlier than originally envisaged.

Hungary – December 6, 1988 (PTH)

The Communist Youth organization organizes a demonstration on Margaret Island to demand reforms in housing policy and more social security, after having been denied permission to hold the demonstration in front of the House of Parliament.

U.S. / Soviet Union - December 6-8, 1988 (LBC)

Gorbachev meets Reagan and Bush in New York. Reagan entrusts his successor, President-elect Bush with continuing US-Soviet relations.

In his speech given in the UN Gorbachev declares that although the October Revolution greatly influenced the 20th century, “today we face a different world, for which we must seek a different road to the future...Today further world progress is only possible through a consensus, as we move forward to a new world order”. As the highlight of his address, the Party General Secretary announces that in 1990, he is reducing the size of the Soviet army by 500 thousand troops and will withdraw 10 thousand tanks, 8,500 pieces of artillery and 800 warplanes from the GDR – Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

On April 25, 1989, Gorbachev envisions the transformation of Soviet military doctrine. He emphasizes that this is not contingent on a similar move by NATO.

Hungary – December 6, 1988 (MNC)

The People’s Republic of Hungary opened a permanent advocacy in the capital of the Republic of Korea, Seoul

Czechoslovakia – December 6-8, 1988 (OSA)

A conference focusing on Middle East is held in Prague which is organized by the Czechoslovak Society for International Relations. The announcement of the conference, at which the PLO would play a dominant role, only strengthens the suspicion that Czechoslovakia is still hesitant to follow the Soviet Union’s and most of its allies’ determine efforts to improve relations with Israel.

USA / Soviet Union - December 6-8, 1988 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Head of State of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to the United States of America; on the summit, his negotiation partners were both outgoing President Reagan and President -elect G. Bush.

Soviet Union – December 7, 1988 (MNC)

M. S. Gorbachev made a speech on the XLIII Summit of the UN General Assembly; he stated that the Soviet Union will – unilaterally – withdraw six armoured divisions and 50,000 soldiers from the German Democratic Republic, Czechoslovakia and Hungary until 1991.

GDR – December 7, 1988 (OSA)

A Western press agency reports that the GDR plans to introduce a set of new regulations governing travel and emigration. According to *Reuters*, this was announced in an internal SED document that was recently distributed to party members and officials. The new rules allow for greater travel possibilities.

Hungary – December 7-9, 1988 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took an official to the People’s Republic of China. His host was Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. On the December 7, he opened the Hungarian Consulate in Shanghai. He was received by President of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Li Peng.

Hungary – December 7-10, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Botswana.

Soviet Union / U.N. / U.S. – December 7, 1988 (MHC)

In a landmark speech at the United Nations, Gorbachev announces plans to shrink the Soviet Military by 500,000 troops and endorses “the common interest of mankind” as the basis of Soviet foreign policy. He enunciates a decision to allow Eastern Europe to evolve “without Soviet interference”. Afterwards, Gorbachev lunches with Reagan and President-elect Bush at Governor’s Island in New York Harbor.

Yugoslavia / East Germany - December 7-9, 1988 (JIS)

President of the Presidency of the SFRY Raif Dizdarević leads a Yugoslav delegation to East Germany. They meet with high East German representatives. Talks are mainly centered on the bilateral economic cooperation. Dizdarević also informed the Germans about ongoing political and economic reforms in Yugoslavia. The key international issues, crises, and developments are discussed as well. Raif Dizdarević and Erich Honecker sign a long-term agreement and plan for economic and scientific cooperation for the period until the year 2000.

Soviet Union / U.S. – December 7, 1988 (MHC)

A devastating earthquake in Armenia kills 25,000 people and leaves a half-million people homeless. Gorbachev cuts short his New York visit and returns to the Soviet Union. At Christmas, Bush sends his son, Jeb, and his grandson, George, to Armenia to inspect the damage and determine how the U.S. might help. For the first time in years, the USSR accepts foreign assistance.

Hungary – December 7, 1988 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers and the Communist Youth Organization agree to set up a committee to investigate the housing situation.

NATO - December 8, 1988 (LBC)

NATO proposes the reduction of tanks in Europe to 40,000 tanks in total, with a limit of 12,000 tanks per country.

Yugoslavia - December 8, 1988 (OSA)

The formation of the Socialist Democratic Alliance of Slovenia is announced in Ljubljana. This event follows the formation of four other independent associations in 1988, as affiliates of the

Slovenian Socialist Alliance, the LCY umbrella organization. In the spring the noncommunist Association of Slovenian Intellectuals and the Slovenian Farmers' Federation were founded. A Human Rights Protection Committee has also been established following the arrest of three nonconformist journalist. The announcement of the Socialist Democratic Alliance comes amid more calls than at any time since the war for radical changes. Štefan Korošec, Executive Secretary of the LCY CC, himself a Slovene, described the action as "harmful, as it will fragment the forces needed to resolve" (*Večernje Novosti*) the country's multitude of problems.

Hungary – December 8, 1988 (PTH)

Defense minister Ferenc Kárpáti believes that 25% of the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary may be affected by the unilateral reduction of armed forces announced by Mikhail Gorbachev. At the same time he states that the Hungarian military budget will be 17% less in real value in 1989 than in 1988.

Hungary – December 8, 1988 (PTH)

A campaign to collect signatures is launched in the Józsefváros district of Budapest in order to recall Representative Miklós Vida, because at the fall session of the House, he also voted for a closed session when a decision was made on the Bős-Nagymaros issue.

Hungary – December 8, 1988 (PTH)

Representatives of the Federation of Young Democrats and those of the Communist Youth Organization meet officially for the first time.

Czechoslovakia - December 8, 1988 (DRC)

The John Lennon Peace Club is established as a non-governmental organization that aims 'to achieve peace by using all accessible humanitarian means.' The Club decides to act as an informal association unbound by conventional organizational rules.

Romania / Belgium / France / Switzerland / Canada – December 8, 1988 (OSA)

Josy Dubie's extensive documentary report on Romania, "The Red Disaster," is shown on Belgian television. It includes an interview with Doina Cornea, Romanian academic and dissident, which was filmed in Cluj and which sees her denounce several aspects of the Romanian regime. The documentary is later played on French television and the French-speaking networks in Switzerland and Canada, in part leading to Cornea's arrest.

Czechoslovakia / France – December 8-9, 1988 (RFE / DRC / OSA)

French President Francois Mitterand visits Czechoslovak upon Prague's invitation. He meets with Czechoslovak President Gustav Husák, Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec, General Secretary of the CPCSS CC Miloš Jakeš, and others. This is the first time a French President has ever visited Czechoslovakia. The two parties discuss bilateral relations, arms control, and European security. This visit is important not only for French-Czechoslovak relations but also for France's relations with several other Warsaw Pact countries and for East-West relations in general.

Mitterand also expresses his admiration for the Prague Spring of 1968, and criticizes the Czechoslovak regime's human rights record. On the morning of December 9, he meets with Charter 77 activists at the French embassy, including Vaclav Havel, and discusses with them the political changes taking place in Eastern Europe, and the observance of human rights in Czechoslovakia.

NATO - December 8-9, 1988 (MNC)

The NATO’s stance on the diminishment of conventional weponry in Europe was released in the in the statement of Brussels summit of the Ministerial Council of NATO.

Bulgaria - December 9, 1988 (OSA)

The first Secretary at the Embassy Official in Washington, Simeon Dapatov, writes a letter to the *Washington Times*, about their article from last month’s issue that accused Bulgaria of violating the Turkish minority’s human rights. He accuses them of being “totally wrong.” He affirms that the Turkish-language press hadn’t been banned and that no “mosques had been closed.”

Czechoslovakia - December 9, 1988 (DRC)

The Presidium of the CPCz CC expresses approval of the termination of the jamming of broadcasts of Radio Free Europe. CPCz CC Secretary Jan Fojtik further expresses this view in an interview for the UPI press agency.

Czechoslovakia - December 10, 1988 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak Committee for Human Rights is founded on December 10, 1988 by a so-called Human Rights Forum of the Czechoslovak Public that was convened by the regime on the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This committee is conceived as a front organization for the Czechoslovak authorities in the area of human rights and although it has largely acted in accordance with this objective, it has also shown some signs of independence.

Czechoslovakia - December 10, 1988 (DRC)

The Czechoslovak authorities allow five independent initiatives (the Bohemian Children, the Movement for Civil Liberty, the Independent Peace Association, and the Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Prosecuted) to organize a demonstration on International Human Rights Day. Consequently, at Škroup Square in the Zizkov district of Prague, several thousand people gather and hear speeches by representatives of the independent initiatives, whom they support with loud approval. At the end of the demonstration, a petition is signed, demanding the release of political prisoners, an end to the persecution of activists in independent initiatives, the introduction of a legal order consistent with international treaties on human rights, dialogue between the state and the churches, and a public discussion on a new constitution.

To mark International Human Rights Day, the state-organized Forum of the Czechoslovak Public is held, and elects the Committee of the Czechoslovak Public for Human Rights and Humanitarian Questions, which has 68 members and is led by Zdeněk Dienstbier.

Hungary – December 11, 1988 (PTH)

The Chairman of the Price Agency says consumer prices rose by 16% in 1988, a 1% higher rise than envisaged.

Hungary – December 11-14, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Angola in Luanda.

Hungary – December 12-13, 1988 (MNC)

The 1Summit of the Joint Committee of Hungary and the European Economic Community, lead by Minister of Trade Tamás Beck and Willy de Clerq was held in Budapest. Willy de Clerq was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – Decemebr 12-14, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom in London.

Hungaryv December 12-15, 1988 (MNC)

Minister of Building and Urban Development, László Somogyi, took part in the summit of the International Exhibition Bureau (BIE) in Paris.

Czechoslovakia – December 12, 1988 (VVR)

A meeting of independent groups, approved by the Communist Party, is held in Prague.

Yugoslavia - December 12, 1988 (OSA)

The 19th plenum of the LCY Central Committee concluded a one-day session. The plenum met to discuss “ideological and political aspects of the economic reform”, called for the implementation of market-oriented reforms and a closer examination of the possibility of Yugoslavia’s cooperation with the European Economic Community as an associate member. It concluded that the LCY should remove itself from the running of economic affairs. Secretary of the LCY CC Štefan Korošec, said that previous attempts at economic reform had failed because of the party’s interference.

Hungary – December 13, 1988 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh believes that the Hungarian political reforms will eventually lead to a Western-style parliamentary democracy. In his interview given to Newsweek, he mentions that it might take as many as four years before the economy becomes stable.

Bulgaria - December 13 and 14, 1988 (OSA)

A number of demotions and promotions are made at the BCP politburo as a possible consequence to the purges made during 1988. The most important facts are that Dimitar Stonayov and Ivan Panev are promoted. By the time that Ognyan Doynov and Stoyan Markov are demoted. It is believed that these changes are a continuation to the ones made on July when Aleksandrov renounced his position in the Politburo.

Hungary – December 13-15, 1988 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Parliament István Stadinger visited Turkey. He met the President of the Great National Assembly, Yildirim Akbulu.

Hungary – December 14-15, 1988 (MNC)

Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans- Dietrich Genscher had an official visit to Hungary. He consulted with Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi, and Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament. He was receeived by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the

Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – December 14, 1988 (PTH)

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Foreign Minister of the Federation of German Republics visits Budapest to assess the reforms in Hungary. It is announced during his visit that a Hungarian consulate in Munich and a German consulate in Pécs will open in 1989.

Hungary – December 14, 1988 (PTH)

Hungary and Austria officially submit their application to organize the 1995 World Fair together.

Czechoslovakia – December 14, 1988 (OSA)

In a statement issues in Prague on November 14, the Democratic Initiative, an independent political movement, announces that it has decided to suspend its activities, and it gives “police pressure” as the main reason for this.

Czechoslovakia – December 15, 1988 (OSA)

After giving its Warsaw Pact neighbors only 24 hours’ notice, Czechoslovakia imposes new customs rules to protect its markets from the purchase and export of goods by tourists, especially those from Poland, the GDR and the Soviet Union. The ongoing “custom war” will not help efforts toward CMEA integration and may cause more animosity between the citizens in the Eastern bloc.

Bulgaria - December 15, 1988 (OSA)

There is a National Assembly session in which four new ministers are designated, as a consequence of the BCP Politburo changes that took place the day before. The new Transport Minister was Trifon Pashov, the Health one was Dr. Mincho Tsanev Peychev, the Agricultural Minister became Georgi Nikolov Menov and the Internal Affairs Ministry is headed by Georgi Tanev, a change that is seen as a threat to the Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

Czechoslovakia – December 15-16, 1988 (RFE / DRC)

At its twelfth session, the CPCS CC discusses reports by General Secretary Miloš Jakeš on the activity of the CPCS Presidium and by Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec on the 1988 economic and social development plan. Hardline anti-reformer Vasil Bilak retires from the Presidium, along with Josef Kempny. Mikuláš Beňo is dismissed as secretary.

Hungary – December 15-16, 1988 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn had a two-day visit to Bern.

Hungary – December 16, 1988 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State visited Austria. He negotiated with Minister of the Chancellor’s Office, Heinrich Neisser. He was received by Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Hungary – December 16, 1988 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács took part in the debate of the Palestinian question in the XLII Summit of the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

Hungary – December 16-17, 1988 (MNC)

Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense traveled to Sofia for the summit of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact.

Hungary – December 16-17, 1988 (MNC)

During his two-day stay in Bavaria, the Federal Republic of Germany, Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi gave a lecture with the title “Hungary’s contribution to the East-West cooperation” in the Southeast Europe Company in Munich. He consulted with Bavarian Minister of Finance Gerold Tander and President of CSU Theo Waigel

Hungary – December 16, 1988 (PTH)

Károly Grósz says that everybody will have to make extra effort in his or her own discipline or else the economic situation will not improve after 1990 either. He asserts that HSWP does not intend to share power but rather to involve allied forces in the governance process.

Hungary – December 16, 1988 (PTH)

The decree, which stipulates that Hungarian citizens must have legally owned hard currency worth 3,000 HUF when crossing the borders of the country, is loosened.

Czechoslovakia – December 16, 1988 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak regime makes a decision on December 16, 1988 to stop jamming Radio Free Europe.

Czechoslovakia - December 1988 (DRC)

After several months of cooperation with independent journalists from the Soviet bloc, the East European Information Agency (Vychodoevropské informacni Agentura - VIA) is established independent of the state. VIA operates in the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland – and is represented in Czechoslovakia by Petr Uhl, Jan Urban, and Petr Pospichál.

U.S. - December 18, 1988 (MHC)

Henry Kissinger meets the U.S. President-elect George H.W. Bush and his advisers James Baker and Brent Scowcroft. He suggests negotiating a deal with the Soviets regarding Eastern Europe and offers himself as an emissary.

Hungary – December 18, 1988 (PTH)

Rezső Nyers says for the first time publicly that HSWP should keep its unified nature and make use of the positive features of social democratic movements.

Poland - December 18, 1988 (RFE)

128 prominent intellectuals and Solidarity activists form an independent Citizens’ Committee as a demonstration of public support for Lech Walesa

Hungary – December 19-21, 1988 (MNC)

President of the Federal State of New South Wales of Australia, Nick Greiner, visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Minister of Trade Tamás Beck. He held talks with Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – December 19, 1988 (PTH)

The Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions is formed.

Hungary – December 19, 1988 (PTH)

The National Council of the Patriotic People's Front rejects the draft of the election bill because they don't see a reason to specify the new electoral system before the new constitution is passed.

Hungary – December 19, 1988 (PTH)

Several alternative organizations demand at a mass meeting in Vörösmarty Square that a Constitutional Assembly should be elected to replace the present Parliament. At the same time, 2,500 people demonstrate in Budapest because of the crisis in public education.

Hungary – December 19, 1988 (PTH)

The Economic Chamber believes that speeding up the process of selling state-owned property would be fiscally prudent.

Hungary – December 20, 1988 (PTH)

The Parliament declares March 15 to be a legal holiday. It is announced that representatives of the Parliament not belonging to any party can set up their own parliamentary group.

Poland - December 20-21, 1988 (RFE)

At the tenth CC plenum, it is announced that Poland's expenditure on defense will be reduced by 4% in 1989.

Hungary – December 21-23, 1988 (MNC)

Interior Minister of the Republic of Cuba José Abrantes Femandez had an official visit to Hungary – his host was Interior Minister István Horváth.

Hungary – December 21, 1988 (PTH)

After a lengthy debate the Parliament passes the 1989 budget. However, contrary to the Council of Ministers proposal, a one-time 4% profit tax is levied instead of 6% tax. To compensate for the missing 5 billion forints, the defense budget and subsidies for social organizations are reduced.

Angola - December 22, 1988 (MNC)

The representatives of Angola, Cuba and the Republic of South Africa signed the agreement for the settlement of Southwest Africa in New York. Angola and Cuba signed a separate treaty about the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola on July 1, 1991.

Hungary – December 22, 1988 (PTH)

In line with the compromise at the National Interest Reconciliation Council, the minimum wage remains 3,000 HUF in the first half of 1989, but will be raised to 3,700 forints on June 1.

Yugoslavia / Romania - December 22-23, 1988 (JIS)

President of the Presidency Raif Dizdarević visits Romania. The Yugoslav delegation meets with Nicolae Ceausescu and other high Romanian representatives. Both bilateral and international issues are being discussed.

Poland - December 22-23, 1988 (RFE)

The Sejm approves a package of economic measures, put forward by Prime Minister, Mieczyslaw Rakowski in November 1988.

Yugoslavia / Romania - December 27, 1988 (OSA)

The session of SFRY presidency endorsed a report on president Raif Dizdarević’s official visit to Romania. A positive assessment was made of the interest shown by both sides to advance economic cooperation, through long-term arrangements and interstate agreements as well as through links between countries economic subjects and their joint ventures.

Yugoslavia / India / Egypt - December 27, 1988 (OSA)

The Tripartite Agreement on economic cooperation between Yugoslavia, Egypt, and India was extended for another five years in Belgrade. The first agreement was signed in 1966. The agreement envisages that the three countries approve 50% facilities in custom and other areas in the trade of goods on the list, which includes 1,000 industrial and other products.

Hungary – December 27-29, 1988 (MNC)

First Deputy of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, Sin Dong Von, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Romania / Belgium – December 28, 1988 (OSA)

Belgian newspaper *La Libre Belgique* publishes an article which states that Romanian academic and dissident Doina Cornea had been manhandled several times by the Securitate before all contact with her was cut off. It also goes against the assertions by the Romanian government that Cornea is free, maintaining that French journalists and a Belgian diplomat who tried to see her in Cluj were turned away by the Securitate there.

GDR / Czechoslovakia – December 28, 1988 (OSA)

Border Police in the West German State of Bavaria reports that a young East German (male) fled to West Germany via Czechoslovakia today. The border police announced that 30 people, including 24 East Germans, have escaped to West Germany over the Czechoslovak-Bavarian border during 1988.

Yugoslavia - December 30, 1988 (RWE)

Federal Prime Minister Branko Mikulić and his government resigned after the federal parliament rejected the draft budget for 1989; the resignations placed in jeopardy a package of marked oriented economic reforms worked out with the International Monetary Fund and due to enter into effect at the start of 1989.

In his speech to the Federal Assembly on December 30, Mikulić said that it was the Yugoslav system of “self-managing socialism” that was the major cause of the country’s economic troubles, and “not, of course ... the present government.” “Nationalists and anti-Communists” were partially to blame for many of Yugoslavia’s economic failures. (*Borba*)

Poland - December 30, 1988 (OSA)

The Polish underground independent parties, *Niepodległość* and *Solidarność Walcząca*, as well as the independent people’s movement *Solidarność*, issue a joint declaration wishing the people all the

best for the year ahead, and look forward to more freedom and democracy in the year of 1989. They state that what links them as underground parties, is the shared conviction that the only force that can lead the country out of communism is that of Polish society being sovereign and able to manage its own affairs.

Hungary – December 30, 1988 (PTH)

The Presidential Council acquits 120 people from legal disadvantages for their deeds in 1956.

Hungary – December 31, 1988 (PTH)

Miklós Németh gives an interview to the Japanese news agency *Kyodo*. He says he could imagine forming a coalition with any party whose principles are not opposed to the socialist order, but the political situation is not ready yet for such a coalition.

1989

Georgia/ Sukhumi riots - 1989 (AC and LJ)

Inter-ethnic riots due to tensions between the Abkhaz and Georgian communities. The riots were triggered because a branch of Tbilisi state university was decided to be opened in Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia (an autonomous region within Georgia). This was not received well by the Abkhaz minority, and a violent protest began. The riots caused many dead and injured Georgians, as they were put down through the use of Soviet army troops. This event started the long standing Georgian-Abkhaz conflict that is still lasting today.

Kazakhstan - 1989 (AJ) - Kolbin was recalled to Moscow, and the First secretary of the republican Central Committee was elected - N. Nazarbayev.

January

Romania – January 1989 (ADC)

Several Romanian journalists are arrested for printing unauthorized political manifestos.

Austria – January 1989 (KCA)

Two senior Socialist politicians (Karl Blecha, Interior Minister and Leopold Gratz, President of Nationalrat) resign in connection with the “*Lucona* affair”. Blecha is replaced by Franz Löschnak and Rudolf Pöder becomes *Nationalrat* President.

Czechoslovakia – January 1989 (VVR)

The Palach’s Week, a round of civic strikes, is held in Prague in Wenceslas Square.

Czechoslovakia – January 1989 (OSA)

Charter 77 names three new spokesmen, Tomas Hradilek, Dana Nemcova and Sasa Vondra, for 1989. They replace Stanislav Devaty, Milos Hajek and Bohumir Janat, who serves as spokesmen in 1988.

Czechoslovakia – January 1989 (OSA)

The conflict between the Archbishop of Prague, Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek and the Czechoslovak leadership recently due to the two letters in which Tomasek sharply reproached the regime for its senseless suppression of the new wave of peaceful demonstration in Prague and its move toward “political confrontation.”

Yugoslavia - January 1989 (OSA)

Vice Admiral Petar Šimić, President of the CC of the Yugoslav Peoples’ Army’s party organization, issued a stern warning to the LCY CC that the “very dangerous mutual confrontations among the republics, provinces, and ethnic groups should be stopped.” He added that “the wars between the divided” media, characterized by the “lowest level of unprincipled political activities and ethics, should stop ... we have never faced greater dangers to the integrity of the country and the fate of our revolution.” (*Borba* and *Vjesnik*)

Yugoslavia – January and February 1989 (KCA)

Following the formation of a Slovene opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, on January 11, two further opposition groupings formally announce their formation in February. The Initiative for a Democratic Yugoslavia holds its inaugural meeting in Zagreb on February 2. It claims to be the first nationwide alternative to the ruling League of Communists (LCY), with a membership of around 150 Slovene, Croat and Serb intellectuals. The Slovene League of Social Democrats is inaugurated at a meeting in Ljubljana, the Slovene capital, on February 16, claiming to be a revival of a pre-Second World War party of the same name.

Hungary – January 1, 1989 (PTH)

In its New Year communiqué, the Parliament denounces the overt or covert derogation of ethnic minority rights. At the same time, it calls the Council of Ministers to continue to keep an eye on the political situation of Hungarians living beyond the borders of the country.

World - January 1, 1989 (MNC)

The treaty originally signed on September 16, 1987 in Montreal came into effect, according to which the emission of chlorofluorocarbon compounds, which damage the the ozone layer of the Earth, will have to be cut in half by the year 2000.

Hungary – January 2-4, 1989 (MNC)

The stance of the Parliament, accepted on December 22, 1988, about the New Year adress – about the issue of national minorities – of Pope John Paul II was released on January 2; on January 4, the chargé d’affaires of the Hungarian Embassy in Rome handed over the text of the statement in the Vatican.

Hungary – January 2, 1989 (PTH)

By the decision of the Council of Ministers - as of January 9 - the price of food products is raised on average by 16-17%, detergents by 8% and cars by 25%.

Hungary / Romania / Israel – January 3, 1989 (PTH)

The Committee for Historical Justice sends a letter to Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár, advocating on behalf of the families of Imre Nagy and his associates for the reburial of those who died after 1956.

The Hungarian Democratic Forum, supported by the Ministry of the Interior, proposes that refugee camps should be set up for those coming to Hungary from Transylvania.

Jenő Váncsa, Minister of Agriculture and Food Supply is the first government minister to visit Israel since 1967.

Hungary – January 3-11, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Agriculture and Food Jenő Váncsa had an official visit to the State of Israel. His negotiation partner was Minister of Agriculture Avraham Katz-Oz. He was received by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, to whom, he handed over the letter of Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He was also received by President of

the Parliament Dov Shilanski.

Hungary – January 4, 1989 (PTH)

The National Savings Bank raises the interest rate of loans for new housing to 18.5%.

Hungary – January 5, 1989 (PTH)

According to data published by the State Price and Wage Agency there are as many as 15 thousand unemployed people in Hungary.

Soviet Union – January 5, 1989 (KCA)

The Central Committee of the Ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) calls for the mass rehabilitation of “hundreds of thousands” of victims of the Stalinist purges from the 1930s to the early 1950s. It publishes a resolution requesting that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet annul verdicts handed down by “non-judicial” three-man commissions known as “*troiki*” or “special conferences”, whose practice of drawing up lists of people to be executed or sent to labor camps without trial is described as “the height of lawlessness”. The proposed rehabilitations are described as vital to the creation of a socialist society based on the rule of law.

Hungary – January 6, 1989 (KCA)

In advance of the announcement of price increases (see January 8, 1989), the Presidium of the Official Central Council of Trade Unions (SZOT) warns that there is a risk of strikes if the planned price increases are not to be offset by wage increases and improved social security benefits.

Soviet Union – January 6, 1989 (PTH)

By the resolution of the CC of the Soviet Communist Party, a law must be passed to abate all those sentences made between 1930 and 1940, and in the early 50s, by the “special councils”.

The Presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions considers the right to strike to be an employees' right.

Hungary – January 6, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of Albania Reis Melile, consulted with Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi.

Cambodia - January 6, 1989 (MNC)

The Vietnamese government announced that it is ready to pull out its all of its forces from Cambodia in September 1989, if a political settlement is reached.

Soviet Union - January 7-11, 1989 (MNC)

During the International Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Paris, the Soviet party announced: the Soviet Union will start to destroy its supply of chemical weapons.

Soviet Union / Armenia – January 7, 1989 (KCA)

Troops in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, arrest the last four members of the “Karabakh Committee”, the main organizers of the campaign of demonstrations supporting the transfer of the Nagorny Karabakh region to Armenian administration (see January 12, 1989).

Hungary – January 8, 1989 (KCA)

Price increases are announced, which, according to the government, will increase the cost of living during 1989 by up to 15%. The price rises follow a withdrawal of state subsidies due to Hungary's dangerous budget deficit. The deficit amounted to around 20,000 million forints in 1988 and is expected to be at the same level in 1989, according to a statement by the Finance Minister, Miklós Villányi, on December 20, 1988 (US\$1.00 = 52.02 forints as of December 20, 1988).

The daily newspaper *Nepszabadsag* (the organ of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party) reports that as a result of the 17% rise in the cost of living in 1988, wages have declined in real terms by 8.5%, back to the wage levels in 1973.

Hungary – January 9, 1989 (PTH)

In response to the price increases, several thousand workers in Szabolcs-Szatmár County stay off work for 10 minutes. The trade union representatives of Zala, Csongrád and Szolnok Counties also stage a protest.

On the same day, the East-West Dialog Network Circle requests the introduction of alternative military service.

Hungary – January 9-14, 1989 (MNC)

Accepting a government invitation, Géza Kótai, member of the Central Committee of the HSWP, head of the Department of International Party-relations of the Central Committee, visited the United Kingdom. He consulted with President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Commons David Howell, and members of the Parliament.

Angola - January 10, 1989 (MNC)

Cuba started the withdrawal of its troops from Angola

Czechoslovakia – January 10, 1989 (OSA)

The idea of replacing the current constitution with a new one was first announced at the last CPCS congress in October 1986. It was not until the CPCS CC plenary meeting in October 1988, that preparations for the replacement of the old constitution were officially launched. The plenary meeting set up a commission for the Preparation of the New Constitution, headed by CPCS Secretary-General Milos Jakes. The commission meet for the first time on January 1989.

Bulgaria - January 10, 1989 (OSA)

It is discovered that a Bulgarian parliament member who disappeared from Sweden in 1987 is actually back in Bulgaria. The authorities think that he might be forced to go back to his home country.

Yugoslavia – January 10-11, 1989 (HR / RWE)

The state presidency of Montenegro and the presidium of the Montenegrin League of Communists acceded to the demands of demonstrators in Titograd and submitted their collective resignations. The demonstrations took place on January 10 and 11 (up to 120,000 people were reported to be taking part) because of the continuing dissatisfaction over economic austerity and official incompetence. The demonstrations were the continuation of demonstrations from October 1988 in Titograd and Nikšić. Following anti-government demonstrations, the leadership is taken by Momir

Bulatović and Milo Đukanović. Milo Đukanović remains the leader of Montenegro to this day.

Yugoslavia - January 11 and 16, 1989 (RWE)

The Democratic Alliance programme called for a “sovereign Slovene state” with a new constitution and a Western-style parliamentary democracy within a “conditional” Yugoslav union, and for a drastic reduction in Slovenia’s contribution for the federal budget. Reacting to the formation of this party, members of the presidium of the federal SAWPY on January 16 declared it to be unconstitutional and said that the emergence of a political opposition “could threaten the political system in the country and confuse the Yugoslav public.”

Bulgaria - January 11, 1989 (OSA)

Victims from military and police violence go to a rally against the incaution of personal documents and movements archives.

Hungary – January 11, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian Parliament votes to allow freedom of association and assembly, an important step in permitting the formation of independent political organizations and parties.

U.S. - January 11, 1989 (LBC)

Reagan in his farewell address to the American people says, “Nothing is less free than the pure form of communism, and yet we have, the past few years, forged a satisfying new closeness with the Soviet Union. I have been asked if this is not a gamble, and my answer is no, because we’re basing our actions not on words but deeds. The détente of the 70s was based not on action but promises... Well this time, so far its different: President Gorbachev has brought about some internal democratic reforms and begun the withdrawal from Afghanistan ...My view is that President Gorbachev is different from previous Soviet leaders. I think he knows some of the things wrong with his society and is trying to fix them”.

Hungary – January 11, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

Hungary's parliament, the *Országgyűlés* initiates reforms which are expected to lead to a full multiparty political system. A new law enables citizens to establish independent associations, including political parties, trade unions and other interest groups. New associations require authorization from an independent constitutional court, which is to be set up in the coming months. However, authorization cannot be refused, provided that their aims are not criminal or unconstitutional. Upon passing the law, the Justice Minister Kálmán Kulcsár states, “the modernization of Hungarian society cannot develop in the framework of an authoritarian political system. Society in many respects has outgrown the conditions of the last four decades”.

While the new law establishes the right in principle to form new political parties, the exercise of that right remains suspended, pending the passage of further legislation which will define the role of political parties in the context of a new constitution, planned to be enacted in 1990.

Hungary – January 12, 1989 (PTH)

Twenty-five alternative organizations issue a joint communiqué in which they demand the restoration of the Kossuth coat-of-arms which was used for some months after October 23, 1956 by the state.

On the same day, in compensation for the rises in prices, the trade unions of several sectors of the economy and some county unions demand a pay raise of 3%. They also criticize the National Council of Trade Unions for their poor work in representing workers' interests.

Austria - January 11-15, 1989 (MNC)

Federal Chancellor of Austria, F. Vranitzky, had an official visit to Egypt.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – January 12, 1989 (KCA)

The autonomous *oblast* (region) of Nagorny Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave in the southern Caucasian Republic of Azerbaijan is placed under direct rule from Moscow by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. The regions have been the subject of a frequently violent dispute between Azerbaijan and the neighbouring Republic of Armenia since February 1988.

Yugoslavia / NAM - January 13-16, 1989 (JIS)

The Ministerial Committee of the NAM takes place in Cyprus. The Yugoslav delegation is led by Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar. Around 200 delegates from 59 countries attend the meeting. The conference mainly revolves about the question how to modernize the movement and to approach and start the dialogue with the countries that are not its members

Hungary – January 13, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

In a strongly worded statement, the Central Council of Trade Unions (SZOT) leadership calls for an end to the trend in which “an increasing proportion of the population is becoming impoverished at an accelerated pace”. The criticism is directed towards the government announcement of price increases on January 8, 1989.

On the same day, the New March Front proposes to set up the National Committee in order to work out the transition into a representative democracy.

Hungary – January 14, 1989 (PTH)

The Independent Lawyers' Forum is transformed into a social organization.

Europe - January 14, 1989 (MNC)

In Vienna, the representatives of the members of the Warsaw Pact and the NATO (“the twenty-threes”) agreed upon the text of the mandate of the negotiations regarding the issues of the conventional weaponry and armed forces stationed in Europe.

CSCE –January 15, 1989 (MNC)

The follow up meeting of the signatories of the Helsinki Accords, in which Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part, ended with the acceptance of a closing document.

Hungary – January 15, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers accepts the proposal to summon the National Interest Reconciliation Council before its next scheduled meeting in order to discuss measures to compensate for the price rises.

Leaders of the Hungarian churches express their concern for the fate of national minorities living in Romania.

Czechoslovakia – January 15, 1989 (RFE / MHC)

Police break up a peaceful gathering to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the death of Jan Palach, a student who committed suicide during the Prague Spring. Fourteen are arrested in the aftermath of the demonstration, including Vaclav Havel, who is charged with inciting the demonstrations.

Czechoslovakia – January 15, 1989 (OSA)

On January 2, Charter 77 the spokesmen sent a letter to the Prague authorities announcing that on January 15, five dissident groups intended to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Jan Palach with a short ceremony in Wenceslas Square. On January 6, the authorities banned the gathering. On January 9, the five dissident groups announced that they would defy the ban. On January 15, the police, flanked by the People’s Militia, attack the gathering people.

Austria / Czechoslovakia – January 15, 1989 (DRC)

As part of the Helsinki process, a document is approved, which bound signatory states once again in more concrete terms to respect human rights and civil liberties.

Czechoslovakia – January 15-21, 1989 (‘Palach Week’) (VVR/DRC)

In response to an appeal by independent Czechoslovak initiatives, a memorial assembly is held on Wenceslas Square in Prague to mark the twentieth anniversary of the self-immolation of student Jan Palach in protest the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia. The authorities did not grant permission for the event, and before the memorial assembly commences, the square is completely sealed off by police cordons. Although a number of representatives of independent civil initiatives are detained on their way to the square and the event can not take place at the intended location, spontaneous anti-régime demonstrations are held on the square and in nearby streets, but they were soon brutally broken up by the police.

In the days that follow, spontaneous meetings repeatedly take place on the square, culminating with a pilgrimage to Palach’s grave in the town of Vsetaty. All but one of the gatherings is brutally dispersed by the police and the People’s Militia. Similarly, police block a memorial gathering at Palach’s grave. The police action is accompanied by a disinformation campaign by the state-controlled mass media. As early as January 16, representatives of independent organizations, including Václav Havel, are arrested and held for questioning. Hundreds of other Czechoslovaks are affected by various acts of police and judicial persecution.

The international mass media and many prominent artists and politicians immediately comment on the brutal police actions against demonstrators on Wenceslas Square and the subsequent arrests of representatives of independent initiatives.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 16, 1989 (MHC)

Kissinger meets with Yakovlev in Moscow. Kissinger compares the situation in Eastern Europe to that preceding World War I in which the Great Powers set off a chain reaction that led to war. To avert catastrophe, he proposes high-level negotiations to reach a set of both formal and informal understandings. Yakovlev agrees that negotiations should take place.

Hungary – January 16, 1989 (PTC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of HSWP confirms in the company of American representatives President Bush is invited to visit Hungary.

Prime Minister Miklós Németh turns down a proposal by HDF to resolve the problems in agriculture with a redistribution of land.

Hungary – January 17, 1989 (PTH)

A documentary volume on the László Rajk trial is published, edited by the editor-in-chief of *Esti Hírlap*, Gábor Paizs.

Czechoslovakia – January 17, 1989 (RFE)

Thousands gather at Wenceslas Square for a spontaneous demonstration, chanting ‘freedom’ and other subversive slogans. Police battle with the crowd for three hours.

Soviet Union – January 17, 1989 (KCA)

As part of the continuing process of destalinization, the CPSU central committee publishes a recommendation that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet should annul resolutions passed between 1939 and 1950 to commemorate Andrei Zhdanov, an important member of the leadership serving under Stalin. The recommendation describes him as “one of the organizers of the mass repressions in the 1930s and 1940s” who bore “responsibility for the criminal acts and violations of socialist legality committed during that period”.

On the same day, it is announced that Fadey Sarkisyan is removed as Chairman of the Armenian Council of Ministers and replaced by V. S. Markaryants. At an Armenian CP Central Committee Plenum, Mr. Sarkisyan is among several senior members of the party leadership to lose their seats in the Central Committee Buro and Secretariat. *Pravda* reveals that 49 senior Armenian party, government and security officials have been removed from office in December 1988 alone.

Czechoslovakia – January 17-19, 1989 (OSA)

Vladimir Janku, a Deputy Minister and the Director of the Czechoslovak government’s Secretariat hold talks in the Vatican on Church-state relations from January 17 to 19.

Hungary – January 18, 1989 (PTH)

In an essay entitled "The New National Alliance" published in *Hitel*, Dénes Csegey says "the reassessment of 1956, finding a worthy place for it in the memory of the nations, is one of the fundamental issues and standards of the Hungarian democratic transition."

The Synod of the Hungarian Reformed Church decides to start reorganizing its former schools in Hungary.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 18, 1989 (MHC)

Kissinger meets with Gorbachev in the Kremlin and presents his proposals for an agreement on Eastern Europe. He also delivers a letter to Gorbachev from Bush. Gorbachev is ambivalent about the initiative and wants to make sure that it is actually supported by Bush.

Poland – January 18, 1989 (MHC)

The CC PUWP grants the banned Solidarity trade union a two-year probationary period with the possibility of legalization to follow.

Soviet Union - January 18, 1989 (MNC)

M. S. Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union will decrease the number of their army stationing in the Far Eastern part of the country by 200,000.

Bulgaria / France - January 18-19, 1989 (MNC)

Head of State of France, F. Mitterand, visited Bulgaria for the first time.

Hungary – January 19, 1989 (PTH)

At its prompt meeting, the Council of Ministers sets up a cabinet of six members while dissolving the Economic Planning Committee.

On the same day, the organizing committee of the Social Democratic Party of Hungary holds its first open session.

Also, the Gödöllő local organization of HDF initiates the recall of Ferencné Cservenka, a Member of Parliament, who shortly afterwards the representative steps down.

Poland - January 19, 1989 (RFE)

The PUWP announces that it has accepted the prospect of creating new labour unions and legalizing Solidarity, but will subject the decision to a number of stringent conditions. This is clearly a landmark decision in Polish politics, symbolizing for many the breakdown of authoritarian rule and the recognition of the need for public input in the running of the country. However, the PUWP states that new unions must support government economic policies and that the Party will maintain control over policy-making bodies.

Czechoslovakia – January 19, 1989 (RFE)

Several thousand gather to protest at Wenceslas Square. Police engage the crowd, injuring fifteen.

Czechoslovakia – January 19, 1989 (OSA)

Helsinki takes part in a conference held in Vienna, at which Czechoslovakia agrees to abide by new human rights accords.

CSCE - January 19, 1989 (LBC)

The CSCE conference in Vienna ends. The participating 35 countries sign an agreement on human rights. The agreement is not legally binding, but with the exception of Romania – the signatories oblige themselves to observe it. The main points of the final document are the following: the members of the CSCE protect and promote the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the national minorities on their territories and will respect the free exercise of the rights of the minorities living in these areas; they will take effective measures to avoid religious discrimination, and to assure the equality of believers and non-believers; they will guarantee the equality of genders in politics, the economy, social life and culture; all citizens will have the right to travel domestically and abroad and the right to return to their homeland; the participants will revise all requests for family unification within three months; their citizens will be free to choose their sources of information and the freedom of access to information, possession of information, and its

reproduction and distribution will be guaranteed; they will guarantee the confidentiality of postal communication; they will condemn and fight terrorism without reserve.

Romania / U.S. – January 19, 1989 (LBC)

Romania announces that it will not abide by the agreement since it disagrees with the contents. Schultz declares that the West welcomes the progress made in human rights in Hungary – Poland and the Soviet Union and expects further progress. At the same time, he says “we regret the timidity of the GDR – Romania – Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia in not taking similar steps.” (June 5, 1990.)

Yugoslavia - January 19, 1989 (RWE)

The federal Collective State Presidency designated Ante Marković (Croatia) as President of the Federal Executive Council (federal Prime Minister) in succession to Branko Mikulić (Bosnia-Herzegovina

Yugoslavia - January 20, 1989 (RWE)

A special conference of the LC in Vojvodina (Serbian autonomous province) elected new leadership with Nedeljko Šipovac as presidium president. This conference took place because of the collective resignation of the presidium following mass demonstrations in Novi Sad, Vojvodinian capital, in October of 1988

U.S. - January 20, 1989 (LBC)

In his inauguration speech, George Bush says, “a new breeze is blowing and a world refreshed by freedom seems reborn; for in man’s heart if not in fact the day of the dictator is over. The totalitarian era is passing...Great nations of the world are moving towards democracy – through the door of freedom”,

Catholic Church / Czechoslovakia - 20 January 1989 (DRC)

The Supreme Representative of the Church in the Bohemian Lands, Cardinal Tomášek, sends Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec a letter in which he expresses disagreement over the regime’s attitude to the demonstrations held in January. He writes that the protestors are expressing the “thinking of our people and its desire for freedom”, Premier Adamec writes a reply in disagreement, which is then approved by the Presidium of the CPCz CC, and published on January 27 in the Party’s daily newspaper, *Rudé Právo*.

Hungary – January 20, 1989 (PTH)

The journal *Világosság* publishes a roundtable talk with the witnesses of the events of the mid-1950s (Rezső Nyers, Miklós Vásárhelyi, Szilárd Ujhelyi, Sándor Balogh) called "Hungary – 1953-1956", an essay written by Imre Nagy in 1955, and a paper written by András Hegedűs on the Petőfi Circle.

The first open talk between representatives of HDF and those of HSWP occur at the Political College.

Poland - January 20-22, 1989 (RFE)

Prime Minister Mieczysław Rakowski pays a three-day “unofficial” visit to West Germany, principally to attend a dinner in Bonn in honour of former Chancellor Willy Brandt. The current Polish-West German relations are still considerably strained and have been deadlocked since May

1988. It is hoped that Rakowski’s visit will provide a new impetus for a reconciliation between the two countries.

Poland - January 20-23, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Poland M. Rakowsky took a non-official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hungary – January 21, 1989

The national leadership of the reorganized Smallholders' Party holds its meeting.

Deputy Minister of the Interior Zoltán Gál says refugee camps will be set up in Budapest and three cities in Eastern Hungary for the refugees from Romania.

Soviet Union – January 21, 1989 (MHC)

Gorbachev reports to the Politburo on his meeting with the Trilateral Commission.

U.S. – January 22, 1989 (MHC)

Speaking on ABC Television’s new program *This Week with David Brinkley*, Scowcroft says that Gorbachev seems “interested in making trouble with the Western Alliance” and may be trying to throw the West off its guard to give the USSR time to rebuild its economic and military strength in preparation for “a world Communist offensive”. He adds, “I think the Cold War is not over”.

Poland - January 22, 1989 (RFE)

Solidarity’s leadership releases a statement, agreeing to open negotiations with the authorities about the future of the banned union and other pressing matters.

GDR – January 23, 1989 (MHC)

Honecker announces a 10% reduction in GDR military spending by 1990.

Zimbabwe / Yugoslavia - January 23-26, 1989 (JIS)

President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe visits Yugoslavia. The conversations are centered on bilateral cooperation, the internal developments within the two countries, the situation in the Southern Africa, as well as on the preparations for the forthcoming NAM summit conference.

Eastern Bloc - January 23, 1989 (MNC)

E. Honecker announced, that in two years the size of the armed forces of the German Democratic Republic will be diminished by 10,000 troops, and the defence budget will decrease by 10%; Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria announced similar significant actions of army and weaponry diminishment.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 23, 1989 (MHC)

Bush calls Gorbachev to promise no “foot-dragging” in the improvement of relations. Gorbachev is encouraged by the call and tells several aides that he believes he can deal with Bush “as one human to another”.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - January 23, 1989 (LBC)

The State Department urges the release of human rights demonstrators arrested in Czechoslovakia.

Soviet Union / Tajikistan – January 23, 1989 (KCA)

An earthquake in the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan causes landslides which engulf four villages and leave an estimated 274 people dead in the Gissar district, about 50 km south-west of the Tajik capital Dushanbe.

Yugoslavia - January 23 and 24, 1989 (OSA)

Plenum of Slovenian Central Committee of the LCY held on January 23 and 24. One of the main topics was the process of democratization.” Slovenia’s party President Milan Kučan said that “there is no real democracy without political pluralism.” (*Delo*) He added that in order for Yugoslavia to exist as a state it “must be a democratic, socialist, and self-managing community.”

Soviet Union – January 24, 1989 (MHC)

At a Politburo meeting, Gorbachev instructs Yakovlev, as head of the Politburo’s International Commission, to conduct a “situational analysis” of Eastern Europe with scholars from think tanks.

Hungary – January 24, 1989 (PTH)

The fraction of independent representatives, lead by István Fodor, is set up in the Parliament.

Soviet Union – January 24, 1989 (KCA)

A month-long process of nominating candidates to run for election to the Soviet Union's restyled parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, closes. The new Congress is set up in accordance with amendments to the 1977 Constitution approved by the existing parliament, the Supreme Soviet, on December 1, 1988. Of the 2,250 deputies to the new body, 1,500 are due to be elected by popular vote on March 26 with half of those elected by single-member “territorial” constituencies organized to represent roughly equal numbers of voters. The other half is to be “national-territorial” constituencies organized to give representation to all the Soviet Union's recognized ethnic groups. The remaining 750 deputies are to be elected during March by 32 official organizations, including the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Adoption as a candidate by voters’ meetings does not guarantee a place on the ballot on March 26, since candidate lists will be reviewed by the CPSU- dominated Central Electoral Commission, which is encouraged to strike off names in constituencies where there are two or more candidates.

Czechoslovakia - January 24, 1989 (DRC)

The Presidium of the CC of the Czechoslovak National Front debates a proposal for “perfecting the system of general elections”. It recommends “multi-seat electoral districts” (in which more than one candidate could be elected), and “expanding the democratic nature of the selection of candidates”. However, elections would remain limited to the legitimate political parties and organizations in the National Front.

Hungary / Soviet Union / U.N. – January 25, 1989 (PTH)

Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense, says one Soviet armored division and one training regiment will be withdrawn from Hungary in the first half of the year, and in the second half, a vertical assault battalion and a fighter plane regiment will be pulled out too.

Gyula Horn, Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, conducts negotiations with the UN High Commissioner of Refugee Affairs on Hungary joining the Geneva Convention and other topics.

Soviet Union / Byelorussia – January 25, 1989 (KCA)

It is disclosed by the Soviet news agency *Tass* that officials, investigating mass executions by state security police at the height of the purges between 1937 and 1941 discovered 510 mass graves containing a total of more than 30,000 bodies in a forest near Minsk, the capital of the western Soviet Republic of Byelorussia.

Czechoslovakia – January 25, 1989 (RFE)

In a speech at Plzen, CPCS Presidium member Jan Fojtik admits ‘in our society, and not only there, processes are taking place that bring about contradictory attitudes about the future of socialism’.

Yugoslavia - January 25 - 30, 1989 (RWE)

Before the LCY central committee plenum opened in Belgrade on January 30, there was a mounting campaign orchestrated by Serbian leadership to force the resignation or dismissal of Stipe Šušteršič from the post of president of the LCY presidium. Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian LC president declared on January 25 that Šušteršič (a Croatian) was responsible for Yugoslavia’s present political crisis because of a “shameful policy of divide and rule” which had created “mistrust between leaders, peoples and nationalities.” At the root of this dispute lay major differences of policy and ideology. The Serbian leaders and their allies in the southern republics apparently favored a centralized state with a strong, authoritarian ruling party, whereas leaders in the northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia argued in favor of still greater decentralization and a flexible political system with a room for a degree of pluralism

Czechoslovakia - January 26, 1989 (DRC / OSA)

The Initiative of People Working in Culture (Iniciativa Kulturnich Pracovníků) is established and sends Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec a statement signed by 692 important persons active in Czechoslovakia’s state-run arts and culture. The statement protests the arrest of Václav Havel, and calls on the regime to begin a dialogue with the public. 692 prominent Czechoslovak artists send a letter to Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec, in which they appeal for the release from prison of dissidents and for a dialogue with society.

Romania – January 26, 1989 (ADC)

Ceaușescu stalls political and economic reform in Romania.

Hungary – January 26, 1989 (KCA)

The *Országgyűlés* authorizes the exhumation of the remains of the people executed for treason following the 1956 uprising, including the remains of Imre Nagy, Hungary's Prime Minister during the uprising.

In his speech presented in Kecskemét, Imre Pozsgay says the present situation in Hungary "by no means resembles the period before 1956, and that reforms are urgent both in a political and in an economic sense".

Soviet Union – January 26, 1989 (KCA)

The *Guardian* describes the selection of candidates for the popularly elected seats of the new

Congress of People’s Deputies at voter's meetings as “an extraordinarily varied process, ranging from old-style Stalinist manipulation at some meetings to moments of genuine grass-roots excitement and democratic activity”. These meetings produce a number of unexpected selections, including those of the outspoken Moscow Communist Party leader Boris Yeltsin, who is adopted as a candidate in at least 10 constituencies including the single Moscow “national- territorial” constituency. Many of the meetings are chaotic because of the unfamiliar procedures.

Poland – January 27, 1989 (MHC)

Representatives of the Polish government, Solidarity, and the Catholic Church meet to negotiate political and economic reforms.

Hungary – January 27, 1989 (PTH)

Headed by Imre Pozsgay, the historical sub-committee of the CC of HSWP holds discusses a several hundred-page long study to be submitted to the session by Iván Berend, member of the CC. The participants of the discussion are Sándor Balogh, József Bayer, Csaba Csáky, György Földes, Tibor Hajdu, István Huszár, Mária Ormos, Katalin Radics and Ferenc Tökei.

Furthermore, by the decision of the Presidential Council, The National Savings Bank and the mutual savings associations will lose their monopoly on the collection of private deposits as of February 1.

Poland – January 27, 1989 (UNW)

Lech Wałęsa and Czesław Kiszczak reach an agreement on all the issues related to the commencement of the Polish Round Table talks. It is decided that 56 people will take part, 20 of them from the opposition, six from All-Poland Reliance of Trade Unions, 14 from the coalition (including the Polish Workers’ Party), 14 independent negotiators and two representatives of Church.

Yugoslavia - January 27, 1989 (RWE)

A meeting of the LC provincial committee in Kosovo (Serbian autonomous province) elected Rahman Morina as presidium president. This election followed the enforced resignation of Kačuša Jašari from that post in November of 1988.

Hungary – January 27-February 2, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn visited the Republic of Korea.

Hungary – January 28-30, 1989 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party – accepting the invitation of the World Economic Forum – took part in the meeting of the organization in Davos (Switzerland). He gave a lecture about East-West relations and European cooperation, and then he was received by President of the Swiss Confederation Jean-Pascal Delamuraz.

Hungary – January 28-30, 1989 (MNC)

During hist stay in Switzerland, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party Károly Grósz met and consulted with the following personalities:

- Prime Minister of Portugal Anibal Cavaco Silva;
- Prime Minister of Finland Harri Holkeri;

- Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans Dietrich Genscher;
- Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg Lothar Späth;
- and Director General of the International Monetary Fund, Jean-Michel Camdessus.

Hungary – January 28, 1989 (MHC)

Imre Pozsgay, a member of the Hungarian Politburo, calls for a reappraisal of the 1956 revolt.

U.S. / Soviet Union – January 28, 1989 (MHC)

Kissinger meets Bush, Baker and Scowcroft at the White House to report on his talks with Gorbachev in Moscow and discuss his plan for Eastern Europe.

On the same day, the Hungarian churches and representatives of the state and the party carry on a discussion about freedom of conscience and religion. They agree that alternative military service should be introduced in Hungary.

Hungary – January 28, 1989 (KCA)

Imre PózsGay, a Minister of State and the leading reformer in the HSWP Politburo, discloses in an interview with radio show *168 Hours* that a HSWP Central Committee historical commission produced a report reappraising the revolt against communist rule in 1956 not as a “counter-revolution” but as a “popular uprising... against an oligarchic system of power which had humiliated the nation”.

Soviet Union – January 28, 1989 (KCA)

Gasán Seidov is removed as Chairman of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers for “health reasons” and is replaced by Ayaz Niyaz ogly Mutalibov.

Hungary – January 30, 1989 (PTH)

Upon returning from the World Economic Forum in Switzerland, Károly Grósz states he had no knowledge of the background and the circumstances of the Pozsgay interview and stresses the CC of HSWP is in no position to reassess the 1956 events.

Miklós Németh, Prime Minister says, “The October of 1956 can only be characterized in extremely contradictory terms. Its true evaluation may comprise terms like ‘national uprising’ just as a qualifications like terrorist riot against socialism resulting in national tragedy. For its beginning was very different from what it turned out to be in the end”.

It is envisioned that as early as 1989 and 1990, Hungary will reduce the military force of men by 9% in the Hungarian People's Army. Defense minister Ferenc Kárpáti says the cut-down involves 9,300 troops, 251 tanks and 1 fighter-plane Company.

Hungary – January 30-31, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Jacques Poos. He consulted with members of the Parliament. He was received by Grand Duke John, Head of State.

Warsaw Pact - January 30, 1989 (MNC)

The Committee of Ministers of Defence of the members of the Warsaw Pact released the data of the armies and weaponry of the Warsaw Pact and the NATO in a statement.

Yugoslavia – January 30 - February 1, and February 13, 1989 (RWE and OSA)

The 20th plenum of Central Committee of LCY took place from January 30 to February 1. The Central Committee dismissed 13 members and accepted the resignations of others. The CC Presidium has 17 members as of this plenum, but the party statues require it to have 24. The dismissals happened because of the decision made during the 17th CC plenum - that state and government officials could not be members of the CC at the same time.

Plenum ended without either faction involved in the power struggle within the leadership gaining the upper hand. The plenum decided to convene a party congress in December 1989 to try to resolve the present crises affecting both the party and Yugoslav society as a whole. On February 13, the LCY Presidium Secretary Stefan Korosec announced the 14th LCY Congress due in 1990 will be held six months early rather than holding an emergency congress session.

February

Czechoslovakia – February 1989 (VVR)

A ‘truncheon’s law’ is approved by the Parliament to re-establish state authority over society. At the same time, the opposition group Club for Socialistic Reconstruction Revival is established.

Czechoslovakia – February 1989 (RFE)

More than a thousand Czechoslovak artists sign an appeal calling for the release of prominent dissident from prison, including Vaclav Havel.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - Early February 1989 (DRC)

With unwavering, protests continue throughout February and March artists and politicians in Western Europe, calling for the release of Václav Havel and other political prisoners in Czechoslovakia. On February 3, US. Congressmen Dennis De Concini and Steny H. Hoyer nominate Václav Havel for the Nobel Peace Prize. On February 15, Czechoslovak independent initiatives establish a committee to lobby for the Nobel Peace Prize for Václav Havel. By July 15, 4,377 signatures have been gathered.

A group of former members of the CPCz, including leading representatives, create the Klub Pro Socialistickou Piestavbu, Obroda (Rebirth - the Club for Socialist Restructuring). Its steering committee, chaired by Vojtěch Mencl, applies to register at the Ministry of the Interior, and send out its program statement, which voices its support for "humane, ethical, and social values of a socialistically organized society". The statement is also sent to European socialist and communist parties.

Hungary – February 1989 (PTH)

Valóság publishes an excerpt from a series of talks between István Bibó and Tibor Huszár in which Bibó talks about his experiences and the events between October 23 and November 5 1956.

Hungary / South Korea – February 1, 1989 PTH)

Hungary and South Korea enter into diplomatic relations. In Seoul, Gyula Horn, Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, signs an agreement on economic, trading and cultural cooperation.

János Lukács believes that it is Imre Pozsgay's personal opinion that the events 1956 were a national uprising.

Czechoslovakia / Poland – February 1, 1989 (OSA)

The Polish leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski’s pays an official visit to Prague at the invitation of the Czechoslovak party leadership. The main purpose of the visit appears to be an exchange of information about the reforms under way in their countries.

Yugoslavia – February 1-4, 1989 (KCA)

The LCY Central Committee dismisses several members from its own ranks, including Azem Vlasi, the popular ethnic-Albanian former LC leader in the Serbian province of Kosovo. An official explanation for Vlasi's dismissal is demanded by ethnic-Albanian miners, and they strike in protest on February 4 at zinc and lead mine in the Kosovo town of Trepca. Strikes spread to at least 20 other locations, but a return to work is secured following two appeals by the newly appointed Kosovo LC Presidium President, Rahman Morina.

Hungary – February 1, 1989 (MNC)

Hungary picked up diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea.

Hungary – February 1-2, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the Kingdom of Belgium. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans. He consulted with Minister of Trade Robert Urbain. He was received by Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

Hungary – February 1-2, 1989 (MNC)

During his stay in Belgium, Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi met and consulted with Frans Andriessen, member of foreign affairs of the Commission of the European Communities.

Hungary – February 1-2, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Gyula Horn had an official visit to the Republic of Korea. Along with Foreign Minister Choi Ho Jung, he signed the international memorandum about the picking up of diplomatic relations. They also signed the intergovernmental agreement about the immunity from visa requirement of those with diplomatic and service passport and the cultural cooperation. They inaugurated the the Embassy of Hungary in Seoul. The Republic of Korea opened its Embassy in Budapest on February 1. Meanwhile Gyula Horn handed over the letter of HSWP General Secretary Károly Grósz to President of the Republic of Korea Ro Te Vu.

Cambodia - February 1-4, 1989 (MNC)

Soviet–Chinese negotiations took place in Beijing on the Foreign Ministerial level about the possibilities of the settlement on Cambodia, they released the opinion of both parties in a Nine-Point statement.

Czechoslovakia - February 2, 1989 (DRC / OSA)

The new independent initiative, Petition of Czechoslovaks on the Events of 15-21 January informs the Federal Assembly, the Czechoslovak President, the Czechoslovak Premier, and other state institutions, that as of January 31, their petition has more than 2,100 signatures (as of February 16, it had another 1,266 signatures).

360 artists join the appeal happened on January 26. The signatures of both groups of artists are appended to 97 sheets of paper.
CPCS Presidium member and Prague party secretary Miroslav Stepan meets with representatives of the Prague “cultural front.” the appeal is on the agenda of the meeting and this is billed as the third one in a series of regular debates between Stepan and artists from Prague.

Yugoslavia / Cyprus - February 2-3, 1989 (JIS)

President of the SFRY Presidency Raif Dizdarević makes an official visit to Cyprus, together with Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar. Bilateral relations are assessed as good, but that economic cooperation should be increased. International relations and crises are also discussed, as well as the role of Non-Aligned countries in crisis management. The situation in Cyprus is also one of the topics of the talks.

Czechoslovakia / Poland – February 2, 1989 (RFE)

Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski visits Prague at a time of heightened unrest in both Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Hungary – February 2, 1989 (PTH)

According to Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the CC of HSWP, the events of 1956 cannot be characterized singularly as either a counter-revolution or as a national uprising.

The HDF proposes to enter into diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Hungary – February 2, 1989 (MNC)

The government of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea notified the government of the People’s Republic of Hungary in a memorandum, about the decision to lower the level of its diplomatic advocacy to charges d’affaires level, and demanded that the government of Hungary pull out its Ambassador from Pyongyang.

Hungary – February 3, 1989 (PTH)

The journal *Élet és Irodalom* publishes an article by István Tamás entitled "What Has János Kádár Got to Say?" in which he calls on the party leader to reveal his position on the 1956 uprising.

Yugoslavia / Iraq - February 4, 1989 (JIS)

President of the Presidency Raif Dizdarević and Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar visit Iraq, and meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Great emphasis in the talks is put on bilateral economic cooperation, economic investments, and the engagement of Yugoslav workers in Iraq. The preparations for the forthcoming NAM summit in Belgrade are discussed as well.

Poland – February 4, 1989 (KCA)

The police break up a congress of the right-wing opposition groups, Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN), in Warsaw, staged in opposition to the round-table talks.

Hungary – February 5, 1989 (PTH)

According to data of the State Wage and Labor Office, at least 4,000 people are unemployed among those 130,000 young people who completed their studies in the previous year.

The Ferenc Műnch Society objects to calling 1956 a national uprising, considering it an oversimplification of the events, while AFD agrees with the label.

Hungary – February 5-9, 1989 (MNC)

Lead by Minister of Trade Tamás Beck, an economic delegation negotiated in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Poland – February 6, 1989 (RFE/MHC)

“Roundtable” talks between the Polish government and representatives of Solidarity begin. A strike breaks out at the Belchatow coalmine, threatening to derail the round-table talks. Around two-thirds of the mine’s 12,000 workers go on strike. The mine’s management, conscious of the potential effect of the strike on the talks in Warsaw, accept the miners’ demands, agreeing to increase their wages and recognize the Solidarity union. The miners agree to call off the strike.

Hungary – February 6, 1989 (PTH)

In an article entitled “The Morals of Memory”, the daily paper *Népszabadság* levels sharp criticism against István Tamás for his Kádár article. On the 1956 debate, 15 alternative organizations and the Association of Writers urges in a communiqué "a just and fair historical evaluation of the 1956 national uprising", adding that this would be the only way for them to work with HSWP either in coalition or in opposition.

Furthermore, the Independent Smallholders' Party announces at a party press conference that it considers 1956 October to be a national uprising and a revolution against Stalinism.

The fact-finding committee of UN visits Budapest to assess what help they could provide to the Transylvanian refugees.

Poland – February 6, 1989 (KCA / UNW)

Round-table talks open between the authorities and the banned Solidarity trade union. They have the aim of reaching an agreement on a program of economic stabilization and political reform, including Solidarity's reauthorization. The 57 participants in the opening plenary session of the talks, held at the Palace of the Council of Ministers in Warsaw, represent the Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP), the other two official parties (the United Peasants’ Party and the Democratic Party), the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON - an official mass political organization), the official All- Poland Trade Union Accord (OPZZ), Solidarity, and the Roman Catholic Church as well as several independent opposition intellectuals.

Despite the appearance of pluralism, there are two obvious sides present. The “party- government” side is led by General Czeslaw Kiszczak, while Lech Walesa heads the Solidarity and “constructive opposition” representatives. The delegates split into three round-table working groups: on economic reform, trade union pluralism, and political reform. Each group will convene for their own meeting on February 8, 9 and 10 respectively. These first sessions demonstrate that “party-government” representatives and Solidarity activists are able to hold cordial discussions and each side is optimistic about reaching an agreement.

It is decided that 65% of seats in the *Sejm* will be guaranteed for members of the ruling coalition and 35% will be subject to free elections while elections to the senate will be completely free. It is also agreed that the National Assembly will choose a President with strong powers for six years.

The talks are partly overshadowed by the outbreak of a strike by over 2,000 workers at a major lignite mine at Belchatow, some 100 km south of Warsaw, over wage levels and a new system of wage differentials.

Yugoslavia - February 6, 1989 (OSA)

At a session of the Serbian State Presidency on February 6, the republic’s leaders issued a statement about a new tendency for political pluralism in Yugoslavia: “The leadership of Serbia commits itself to the pluralism of self-management and political interest and against the introduction of a multiparty system... The pluralism should be expressed ... within the framework of the Socialist Alliance.” (*Politika*)

Hungary – February 7, 1989 (PTH)

It is announced that Károly Grósz and Mikhail Gorbachev will meet in the second half of March in Moscow.

Péter Medgyessy, Deputy Prime Minister, signs a contract with his Czechoslovakian colleague to comple the Bős-Nagymaros dam 14 months early.

Sándor Nagy, General Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, says the trade unions repudiate the agreement made with the government on the minimum wage, the necessary social measures and the raising of pensions because they believe the rate of inflation will be higher than the 12% anticipated.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - 7-9 February 1989 (DRC)

CPCz CC Secretary Jozef Lenárt visits the Soviet Union, and holds talks with Politburo member and CPSU CC Secretary Nikolai Slyunkov on mutual economic relations and the forthcoming meeting of economics secretaries.

Poland – February 7-9, 1989 (KCA)

By February 8, up to two-thirds of the 12,500-strong workforce are staging a sit-in at a major lignite mine at Belchatow. Representatives of both the government and Solidarity voice concern that such strike action might escalate and place the talks between the government and the opposition in jeopardy. Two Solidarity negotiators are dispatched to the mine on February 7. The strikers recognize this concern on February 9 when they suspend their action and accept a temporary wage bonus and negotiations with management.

Hungary – February 8, 1989 (PTH)

Under pressure by the trade unions, the Interest Reconciliation Council proposes that companies and cooperatives should raise their employees' wages by 3%. It is agreed that as of March, instead of June, minimum wages will be raised from 3,000 to 7,000 forints. Accepting the motion of the trade unions, the minimum wage level will increase by a further 300 forints in October.

Five independent organizations request the Parliament to modify the law of public meeting so that demonstrations can be also held in front of the House of Parliament.

The National Emblem sub-committee of the body responsible for the preparation of the new constitution proposes to restore one of the historical Hungarian coats-of-arms.

Soviet Union / Hungary – February 8, 1989 (LBC)

Academician Oleg Bogomolov announces that the USSR would accept an Austrian or Swedish type transformation in Hungary.

Hungary – February 9, 1989 (KCA)

Budapest radio announces that, for the first time, the Soviet Union has officially admitted that Bela Kun (founder of the original Communist Party of Hungary) was executed by a firing squad in the Soviet Union as an alleged Trotskyist, on August 29, 1938.

Previously it was claimed that Kun, who had fled to Soviet Russia upon the overthrow of the short-lived Hungarian Soviet Republic and was arrested at the height of the Stalinist purges in 1937, had died in a Soviet prison on November 30, 1939.

Yugoslavia / Italian Communist Party - February 9 - 11, 1989 (OSA)

An international conference was held in Trieste (Italy) on “the reform of socialism through decentralization, pluralism, and democracy, with special reference to Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Poland.” The meeting was organized by Italian Communist Party’s Gramsci Institute for the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia and the Marxist Center of the League of Communists of Slovenia in Ljubljana. Guests were some West European specialists, several representatives of independent groups in Hungary, a Polish official, and two Soviet journalists from the editorial staff of *Kommunist*.

Poland – February 10, 1989 (KCA)

Walesa calls for a six-week moratorium on strikes suggesting that there is a plot to stir up labour unrest in order to undermine the round-table talks. Significantly, on February 21 government spokesman, Jerzy Urban, echoes this sentiment when speaking of the government's concern about the role of members of the official trade unions in the increasing number of pay disputes. Urban announces that there have been more than 50 work stopover pays so far in February.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary - February 10, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak authorities reclassifies the charges against Vaclav Havel, who has been in police custody since January 16, when he was arrested during a commemoration for Jan Palach. Originally accused of “hooliganism”, Havel now faced charges of “inciting” other people to commit a crime, an offense punishable by two year imprisonment.

Hungary – February 10-11, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian Party’s CC formally endorses the idea of a multiparty system.

Hungary – February 10-11, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The Central Committee of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party (HSWP) meets in a closed plenary session to define its policy on the recent initiatives for a multiparty system.

Furthermore, it sets out to resolve the dispute that had arisen at the end of January over the official interpretation of the 1956 uprising. The committee recognizes 1956 as a national uprising, breaking

with a more than 30 yearlong tradition. Through reaching a consensus among alternative trends within the party, they succeeded in avoiding a split in the party.

The daily paper *Magyar Nemzet* launches a series of articles entitled "Sections 301" edited by Béla Kurucz, which will contain interviews with relatives of the 1956 martyrs, starting with Aliz Halda, and will discuss the events of the rehabilitation procedures.

Hungary – February 11, 1989 (LBC)

The party Central Committee in Hungary approves the formation of independent political parties.

Czechoslovakia - February 12, 1989 (DRC)

In a letter to Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec, 670 experts from 70 scholarly institutions, in particular the Academy of Sciences, in Prague, Brno, and Bratislava, condemn police measures against the demonstrations in January and the repression that followed. In response to the petition, the StB starts a search for the letter’s authors and organizers.

Poland - February 12, 1989 (RFE)

The Polish Labour Party, a centre-right, Christian-democratic political movement, has been reactivated. The party had been forced to suspend its activities in 1946. Its reconstitution points to the developing trend of the restoration of political pluralism in Poland.

Hungary – February 12, 1989 (PTH)

The communiqué of the CC of HSWP holds that the society is ready for a transition to a multiparty system. The document states that the economic system should be constructed so that in the major sectors of the economy, state and collective ownership take on the leading role, while private ownership makes an equal contribution to the rest of the economy.

Alexander Bovin, correspondent of the Soviet newspaper *Izvestiya*, states in a Soviet television program that the military actions taken in 1956 in Hungary and in 1968 in Czechoslovakia should be reassessed.

Hungary / Austria – February 13, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh and Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky agree on the removal of the technical sealing of the border between Austria and Hungary.

Hungary – February 13, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Parliament and Franz Vranitzky, federal chancellor of the Republic of Austria engaged in a cross-border meeting (in Nagycenk on the Hungarian, Rust in the Austrian half).

Hungary – February 14, 1989 (PTH)

According to a statement by Prime Minister Miklós Németh, Imre Nagy was not a "born counter-revolutionary".

In its statement, the CC of HSWP supports the idea of setting up a political forum to facilitate dialogue regarding the new constitution and the new election law.

The Social Democratic Party of Hungary urges for a roundtable talk between the various political forces.

Representatives of the Ministry of Defense announce that according to current plans, armless alternative military service will last for 24 months while civil military service for 36 months.

Miklós Németh receives Zevulun Hammer, Israeli Minister of Religious Affairs, who also confirms the invitation of the Hungarian Prime Minister to visit Israel.

Czechoslovakia - February 14, 1989 (DRC)

"In the interest of maintaining public order," the Presidium of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia passes a resolution that substantially increases the possible police and judicial repression against political dissent.

Yugoslavia - February 14, 1989 (OSA)

Some 500 Yugoslav imams (Moslem prayer leaders and scholars) from Bosnia-Herzegovina have accepted and signed a proposal calling for the ousting of their religious community's supreme head, Reis-ul-Ulema Adži Hafiz Husein Mujić. The move came during a meeting of the imams at the Islamic Theological Seminary in Sarajevo on February 14. It was the third time since November 1988 imams have called for radical changes within the hierarchy and demanded the Moslems' official organization, the Islamic Religious Community, become a more democratic institution. (*Vjesnik*)

Hungary – February 14-15, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Religion of the State of Israel, Zevulun Hammer, had an official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partners were church personalities. He met Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – February 15, 1989 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party took a friendly visit to the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. He consulted with Milos Yakes, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary - February 15, 1989 (OSA)

Secretary-General Karoly Grosz of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party visits Prague for one day to discuss bilateral relations with CPCS CC Secretary-General Milos Jakes. Both sides agree to continue to strive for practical cooperation, despite their divergent long-term political goals.

Hungary – February 15-16, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg Lothar Späth stayed in Hungary for an official visit. He consulted with the leaders of the Hungarian business life.

Hungary – February 15-18, 1989 (MNC)

Leading a parliamentary delegation, Mátyás Szűrös, secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament stayed in Strasbourg for the invitation of the European Parliament. He consulted about the execution of the contents of

agreement between Hungary and the European Economic Community, signed in 1988.

Hungary – February 15-18, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Colombia Julio Londono Paredes had an official visit to Hungary. His host was Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He held talks with János Hoós, President of the National Planning Office. He was received by Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary – President of the Parliament István Stadinger, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Soviet Union – February 15, 1989 (MHC)

The USSR completes its military withdrawal from Afghanistan on schedule.

Hungary – February 15, 1989 (PTH)

The Saint Crown Society is established.

Poland – February 15, 1989 (KCA)

At a session of the *Sejm*, an independent parliamentary deputy, Ryszard Bender, announces that members of the leadership of the former Christian-Democratic Labor Party (which was suspended in 1946) and of an informal group (the Christian-Democratic Club of Political Thought) are preparing to form a new Labor Party. On February 12, they had appointed a provisional board with Wladyslaw Sila-Nowicki as the chairman.

Hungary – February 16, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The report by the HSWP Central Committee Historical Commission, to which Imre Pózsgay previously alluded to in his controversial statement at the end of January, is published in a special edition of the HSWP theoretical review *Társadalmi Szemle*. The *Independent* the following day describes the report as “the most damning indictment of the Soviet system ever published in the Eastern Bloc”.

As expected, the report firmly rejects the interpretation of the 1956 uprising as a “counter-revolution”. It also contradicts the compromise assessment made at the recent plenum by concluding that even at the very end of the uprising “corrective revolutionary and counter-revolutionary trends could not be separated”. The report states that the “popular uprising against the existing state power” was the direct consequence of the government's order to the armed forces to open fire on demonstrators in Budapest on the evening of October 23, and had been transformed by the intervention of Soviet troops into “a national independence struggle”. Prime Minister Miklós Németh says the most important result of the last CC meeting of HSWP was that they could overcome the split in the party. He characterizes Imre Pozsgay' role as positive because he challenged the CC to put forward their opinion on pluralism, freedom of platforms and the multiparty system.

The National Peace Council objects to the proposal made by the Ministry of Defense that civil military service should last 36 months, believing it to be a disproportionately long time with a punitive character.

The Csongrád County party committee of HSWP decides to rehabilitate the editors of the literary journal *Tiszatáj* fired two and a half years ago.

Czechoslovakia - February 16, 1989 (OSA)

Several former senior party officials have launched a Club for Socialist Restructuring, that name of which they supplemented with the word Obroda (Renewal), after the Czech and Slovak designation of the process of reform and liberalization that swept Czechoslovakia in 1968. Although the founding committee of the club has been for some time, the group announces its constitution on February 16.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - February 16-18, 1989 (DRC)

The General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, Károly Grósz, makes an official visit to Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec is on an official visit to the Soviet Union, where he meets with Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov to discuss economic cooperation. General Secretary of the CPSU CC Mikhail Gorbachev also receives him.

Czechoslovakia - February 16-18, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia L. Adamec had an official, friendly visit to Moscow.

Bulgaria - February 16, 1989 (OSA)

Kenan Evren, Turkish president, says Turkey is prepared to receive the 1,5 million ethnic Turks living in Bulgaria, if Bulgaria would agree to send them in small groups.

Bulgaria - February 17, 1989 (OSA)

Eight ethnic Turks are expelled from Bulgaria because of their activities related to the “Independent Human Rights Protection Society.”

Hungary – February 17, 1989 (MNC)

The 12 Romanian, ethnic Hungarian (Transylvanian) citizens, who fled to the Embassy of the People’s Republic of Hungary in Sofia on September 14, 1988, through Vienna, arrived in Hungary by Austrian Airlines.

Hungary – February 17, 1989 (PTH)

In a joint communiqué, independent political organizations and parties welcome the statement of the CC of HSWP on the introduction of a multiparty system, but at the same time they criticize the party’s refusal to accept 1956 as a revolution and a fight for freedom. The Endre Bajcsy- Zsilinszky Friendship Society, the Transylvania Alliance, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Social Democratic Party of Hungary – the Federation of Young Democrats, the Independent Lawyers' Forum, the Independent Smallholders' Party, the Committee for Historical Justice, the Péter Veres Society and the Alliance of Free Democrats put forward a proposal to set up a national roundtable.

The Patriotic People's Front calls for commemorations on March 15 which would include all political organizations.

With documents issued by the International Red Cross, the 12 Transylvanian refugees who had fled to the Hungarian embassy in Sofia in September 1988 fly to Vienna and then to Hungary.

Poland – February 17 and 24, 1989 (KCA)

Students agitate for the reauthorization of the Independent Students’ Association (NSZ), which was banned since the imposition of martial law in 1981. However, the action on February 24 as well as a

similar demonstration in Krakow on February 17 appear to have been organized by a right-wing opposition group, the Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN). However, police allowed a demonstration of around 300 Warsaw University students to take place on February 17 outside the venue of the round-table talks.

Hungary – February 18, 1989 (PTH)

The journal *Képes* 7 publishes passages from Krushchev's memoirs, which had previously been pronounced fake, including the chapter on the 1956 revolution.

Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Gyula Horn's statement appears in *Népszabadság*. He says, “...by the end of October, following the October 23 [1956] uprising, a national uprising, counter-revolutionary events became increasingly prevalent, and the danger of a counter-revolution was imminent”.

Yugoslavia / Japan - February 19-24, 1989 (JIS)

Vice-President of the SFRY Presidency Stane Dolanc visits Tokyo where he attends the funeral of the Emperor Hirohito. During his stay in Japan, Dolanc meets with high representatives from Indonesia, Portugal, USSR and Finland.

Hungary – February 19, 1956 (PTH)

Representatives of The Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Friendship Society, the Hungarian Democratic Forum, the Federation of Young Democrats, the Independent Smallholders' Party, and the Alliance of Free Democrats meet in Budapest. They refute the call made by the Patriotic People's Front, harmonize their position regarding commemorating March 15 and accept a twelve point statement. Point number ten says, "we demand justice for 1956, respect for the martyrs of the revolution. October 23 must be declared to be a national holiday".

Hungary – February 20, 1956 (PTH)

The Committee for Historical Justice becomes a legally registered social organization. Furthermore, the Planning and Budgetary Committee of the Parliament supports the legalization of solidarity strikes.

Hungary – February 20-21, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party's (HSWP) Central Committee holds a further plenum at which it discusses the drafting of the new constitution planned to become active in 1990. The party abandon its demand to have a leading role in society in the new basic law. The body also accepts the agricultural program of HSWP and submits it to discussion by the party members. The CC sets up working groups to conduct negotiations with various different political organizations in order to pave the way for the national roundtable talks.

The *Guardian* on February 21, 1989 describes this as “the first instance ever of a ruling communist party creating the conditions for the relinquishing of its own power”.

Yugoslavia – February 20-21, 1989 (KCA)

Protests resume at the Trepca mine when nearly 1,500 miners begin a sit-in over 1,000 meters below ground, and announce a hunger strike. The strikers call for the dismissal of Rahman Morina, who was appointed at the end of January after Serbian pressure had forced the resignation of Kacusa Jasari in November 1988. They also reject the planned changes to the Serbian constitution

that would increase Serbia's control over Kosovo (where ethnic Albanians outnumbered Serbs by nearly 10 to one) and Vojvodina (the other Serbian province, which had a mixed Slav and Hungarian population). On February 21, the strikes spread to other mines and factories, and around 7,000 ethnic-Albanian students from Pristina (the capital of Kosovo) begin a sit-in at a sports stadium.

Bulgaria - February 20 and 21, 1989 (OSA)

The BCP holds a meeting with an unknown number of apparently carefully selected “representatives of the intelligentsia.” The BCP and the state leader Todor Zhivkov refers to the Bulgarian Agrarian Union (BAU) as an example of pluralism and a model of what “the new type of democracy” would look like in the “civil society of a socialist type” that he has set as the goal of political reform.

Hungary – February 20-21, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian CC approves a new constitution omitting mention of the leading role of the Communist Party.

Iran / Yugoslavia - February 20-22, 1989 (JIS)

An official delegation from Iran visits Yugoslavia. Bilateral economic cooperation and trade exchange form the main topic of the conversations. The forthcoming NAM summit conference is being discussed as well.

Yugoslavia / Romania / Iran - February 20-25, 1989 (MNC)

Head of State of Iran Ali Hamenei had an official visit to Yugoslavia and Romania.

Yugoslavia – February 20-27, 1989 (HR)

Albanian miners in Trepča mine begin a strike to protest the downfall of Vllasi and others as well the attempts to centralize Serbia. Azem Vllasi visits the strikers. The strike is condemned both by federal and Serbian representatives. However, the highest Slovenian representative Milan Kučan publicly defends the strikers and claims that they defended the real Yugoslavia. His comments lead to Serbian demonstrations and Milošević promises that Vllasi will be arrested.

Czechoslovakia - February 21, 1989 (DRC)

The District Municipal Court for the Third District of Prague sentences Václav Havel to nine months in prison. The next day, another show trial sentences Jana Petrová, an activist in the Independent Peace Association, to nine months in prison and Ota Veverka of the John Lennon Peace Club to twelve months in prison. Charges against a small number of activists are dropped. During February and March, a number of other repressive measures are taken, including house searches, arrests, interrogations, and politically motivated trials.

Hungary – February 21, 1989 (PTH)

In its article entitled "The Money-Collecting Campaign of FYD-Dancers" the daily paper *Népszabadság* savagely attacks the Federation of Young Democrats because their representatives showed up in the company of, among others, Tibor Tollas, poet and editor of the paper *Nemzetőr* (Militiaman) in Munich.

The legal committee of the House agrees strikes in front of the House of Parliament should not be

banned.

Hungary – February 22, 1989 (KCA)

The government spokesman, György Marosán, announces that the anniversary of the 1917 October Revolution in Russia will no longer be celebrated as a public holiday in Hungary. Instead, a public holiday will be celebrated on March 15, commemorating the start of the 1848-49 uprising in Hungary against Austrian-Habsburg rule.

Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár says the Council of Ministers set up a committee to investigate all the show trials between 1945 and 1962.

The National Alliance of Hungarian Political Prisoners (NAHPP) is established in Budapest. The chairman of the alliance is engineer Jenő Fónay, who says, "we want to show our truth without any sense of revenge ... what we want is that the whole truth should be revealed about 1956".

The Council of Ministers withdraws the planned price raises.

Bulgaria - February 22, 1989 (OSA)

Amnesty International appeals to the Bulgarian authorities to halt a continuing crackdown on human rights activists and to provide information about scores of imprisoned ethnic Turks.

Czechoslovakia - February 22, 1989 (OSA)

Seven human rights activists are sentenced in Prague to varying prison terms on charges of hooliganism. At the same time, a Charter 77 spokesman is detained. The Czechoslovak authorities makes what could be seen as conciliatory gestures toward the dissident community.

Hungary – February 22-25, 1989 (MNC)

Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary – during his stay in Japan for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito – visited with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. He met and consulted with Prime Minister Takeshita Noburu.

Hungary – February 22-25, 1989 (MNC)

Brúnó F. Strauf, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary – during his stay in Japan – met the following personalities:

- President of the United States of America George H. W. Bush;
- President of the Republic of France, Francois Mitterand;
- President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Richard von Weizsäcker;
- President of the State of Israel, Chayim Herzog;
- President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak;
- President of the Republic of Cyprus, Georgios Vasiliu;
- First Deputy President of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, Anatoliy Lukyanov.

Hungary – February 23-24, 1989 (MNC)

Leading a parliamentary delegation, President of the National Assembly of the Republic of France Laurent Fabius visited Hungary. His negotiation partners were István Stadinger, President of the Parliament, and Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament. He met Minister of State Imre Pozsgay and other

public figures. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – February 23, 1989 (PTH)

Leaders of the Danube movements announce that more than 124 thousand people have already signed the petition demanding a referendum on the issue of the Bős-Nagymaros dam.

Yugoslavia – February 23, 1989 (KCA)

The changes to the Serbian constitution are adopted by the Serbian Republican Assembly, but require the approval of the provincial assemblies in Kosovo and Vojvodina before they can enter into force.

Poland - February 24, 1989 (RFE)

The Sejm adopts a law setting “conditions for the economic consolidation” of the country that provided the government with “special powers.” The legislation is fundamentally intended to ensure that the central government will be in control of implementing economic reform.

Hungary – February 24, 1989 (PTH)

The Presidential Council decides that Hungary should join the Geneva Refugee Convention and that the imprisonment of those who refused military service should be suspended.

Hungary – February 24, 1989 (MNC)

The People’s Republic of Hungary joined the Geneva Convention of 1951 relating to the status of refugees and the connecting New York Protocol of 1967.

Hungary – February 25, 1989 (PTH)

The Solidarity Workers' Trade Union Alliance is established.

László Síkvölgyi, consul-general of Hungary in New York visits Gergely Pongrátz in Akron, Ohio and invites him and other representatives of Hungarian emigrants to attend the funeral of Imre Nagy and his companions. Pongártz turns down the invitation.

Poland – February 25, 1989 (KCA)

The Council of Ministers announces a crackdown against illegal street protests following a spate of demonstrations in several cities, organized by what the government calls “irresponsible groups of students opposed to the idea of the round table”. The announcement follows violent clashes between police and around 5,000 demonstrators on the streets of Krakow on the previous day. 39 police officers are injured and 24 demonstrators are arrested.

More than 100 people are detained on their way to an illegal meeting of radical anti-Communist groups opposed to the round-table talks. The 50 or so radicals who make it to the meeting in the southern town of Jastrzebie create a group called the Movement of the Opposition against the Regime (KOA).

Bulgaria - February 25 and 26, 1989 (OSA)

The Union of Musicians hold its congress.

Hungary – February 26-28, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Cyprus. He was received by Foreign Minister George Iacovou and President of the Republic of Cyprus, Georgios Vasiliu.

Hungary – February 26-March 1, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of transportation, telecommunication and building András Terzsi visited the State of Israel. He consulted with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and signed an aviation convention.

Hungary – February 27, 1989 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, took an official work-visit to the Socialis Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. During a cross-border meeting (at Bellye), he consulted with Stipe Suvar, President of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.

Hungary – February 27, 1989 (PTH)

Before his talks in Yugoslavia, Károly Grósz gives an interview to the press agency *Tanjug* in which he says, "the burial of Imre Nagy and his closest associates is justified on humanitarian grounds. This is no political rehabilitation... Should we find any evidence, any new fact which could justify their rehabilitation, then we would have to face it".

Yugoslavia – February 27, 1989 (KCA)

Rahman Morina announces his resignation to the Kosovo LC Central Committee, as does Husamedin Azemi, the party leader in Pristina, and Ali Sukrija, a Kosovo member of the LCY Central Committee. Ethnic Albanians are at this time staging effectively a general strike, with only hospitals and essential power supplies working in Pristina, while clashes are reported from the town of Urosevac between ethnic Albanian strikers and Serbians who remain working. The announcement of the resignations prompts the Trepca miners to call off their strike. Many strikers have to be brought out of the mine on stretchers, while more than 100 strikers have already been hospitalized because of breathing problems and exhaustion.

Yugoslavia - February 27, 1989 (OSA)

Harsh criticism of the federal authorities’ measures in Kosovo came from Slovenia. On February 27, some 2,000 people attended a rally in Ljubljana, sponsored by city’s Socialist Alliance. The rally brought together 20 political, cultural, and independent citizens’ organizations who opposed the introduction of the state of emergency and advocated “peace and togetherness in Kosovo.” (*Jedinstvo*) The Slovenian party Presidency and other top republican organizations, as well as recently established independent political groups took part in the rally.

Czechoslovakia - February 28, 1989 (OSA)

During a session of the Central Committee of the Union of Czechoslovak Writers on February 28, the union’s chairman, Jan Kozak resigns “on ground of health: and is replaced by a former Slovak Minister of Culture, Miroslav Valek. The same day Radio Prague announces the resignation of the central director of the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK), Otakar Svercina, also for reasons of health. He is replaced by the head of the CPCS CC department for the mass media, Otto Comolik.

Hungary – February 28, 1989 (PTH)

The special February issue of *Társadalmi Szemle* (*Social Review*) is reprinted, containing the Pozsgay report under the title "Our Historical Route".

The National Council of Trade Unions rejects the strike bill in case it still contains restrictions in the version to be submitted to the Parliament.

Gyula Horn, Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, at the meeting of the Human Rights Committee of UN in Geneva calls attention to the serious situation of Hungarian minorities living in Romania –

Yugoslavia – February 28, 1989 (KCA)

An apparent capitulation of the Kosovo LC leadership to the strikers prompts an immediate backlash by Serbs both in Kosovo and in Serbia proper. An estimated 700,000 Serbian demonstrators amass outside the Federal Assembly building to protest against the Kosovar Albanian’s “chauvinism and separatism”, and the Serb protestors also condemn a demonstration in support of the Kosovar Albanian’s demands held on the previous day in the Slovene capital, Ljubljana, that was attended by members of the Slovene LC leadership.

Hungary – February 28-March 3, 1989 (MNC)

Lead by Otto von Habsburg, Vice President of the European Parliament and Belgian politician Paul Staes, the delegation of the European Parliament visited Hungary. Their negotiation partners were István Stadinger, President of the Parliament and Mátyás Szűrös, Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the Parliament. The delegation met Rezső Nyers, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, István Huszár, General Secretary of the National Council of the Patriotic People’s Front, and Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács.

March

Yugoslavia – March 1989 (HR)

The provincial parliaments of Vojvodina and Kosovo accept amendments to the Constitution of FR Serbia limiting their autonomy. Immediately protests erupt amongst the Kosovo Albanians. The Amendments are official declared on March 28 in Belgrade. The ensuing riots in Kosovo are the biggest since 1945 and leave 22 protesters and 2 policemen dead.

Czechoslovakia – March 1989 (OSA)

The March 1989 issue of *Lidove Noviny*, arguably the most important Czechoslovak samizdat periodical, has published a list of films that have been banned in Czechoslovakia since the beginning of the 1970s.

Hungary / Italy / Soviet Union – March 1, 1989 (PTH)

Achille Occhetto, General Secretary of the Italian Communist Party, stresses in his talks with Mikhail Gorbachev that he strongly appreciates the development of the Hungarian multiparty system and the reevaluation of the 1956 events. However, Ferenc Berényi, Executive Secretary of the Ferenc München Society, says the evaluation of 1956 is premature since many of the participants in those events are still alive.

HSWP and the New March Front propose to set up a discussion group between political and social organizations.

Four new frontier stations are opened on the Hungarian-Soviet frontier for those who live in the areas on both sides near the border.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – March 1, 1989 (KCA)

In the light of the security clampdown in Kosovo at the end of February, the two chambers of the Federal Assembly hold an emergency joint session to discuss the situation in the province. Lazar Mojsov, the member for Macedonia of Yugoslavia's Collective State Presidency, gives an extremely hard-line assemsent of the causes of the present crisis in his keynote speech. Furthermore, a ban on public protests in Kosovo is reinforced to include restrictions on the movement of people into the province from other parts of Yugoslavia, and on the reporting and photographing of public protests and troop movements.

During the Federal Assembly session, thousands of Serbs demonstrate outside the Federal Assembly building in Belgrade against the resignations on February 27 of three pro-Serbian leaders of the Kosovo LC. The demonstrators allege that the miners' strike at Trepca, which forced these resignations, was orchestrated by Azem Vlasi (a popular Kosovar politician who had been ousted recently by Serbian insistence from influential positions in both the Kosovo and Federal LC leaderships), and they call for his arrest. The demonstrators disperse only after an apparent promise of their demands by the hardliner Serbian LC leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Romania – March 1, 1989 (MHC)

Six former prominent members of the Romanian Communist Party send an open letter to Nicolae Ceausescu accusing him of discrediting socialism, ruining the economy, and failing to observe the 1975 Helsinki Accord.

Hungary – March 1, 1989 (MNC)

Simplified local border traffic transport has started on the border of Hungary and the Soviet Union, between Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County and Transcarpathia, at four border crossing points along with the Záhony-Csop crossing point.

Yugoslavia - March 2, 1989 (OSA)

A special commission established by the Islamic Supreme Ruling Council of Yugoslavia adopted proposals for drafting a new constitution for Yugoslavia's Islamic community and for changes in the hierarchy that will be the most significant since the late 1960s.

Hungary –March 2-3, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet took an official work-visit to the Soviet Union. He negotiated with N. I. Rizhkov, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Cabinet of the Soviet Union. He was received by M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union.

Mongolia - March 2, 1989 (MNC)

Mongolia announced: under two years the size of the army will be reduced by 13,000 people and a 1000 transport vehicle and 90 armoured vehicle will be replaced.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia – March 2, 1989 (PTH)

FYD organizes a demonstration in Vörösmarty Square to protest against the imprisonment of Vaclav Havel.

Poland - March 2, 1989 (RFE)

Lech Walesa meets with General Czeslaw Kiszczak, along with the chairmen of the three main working groups of the round-table negotiations. This meeting has been convened amidst the ongoing stalemate in negotiations after nearly a month of talks between the “party-government” and opposition representatives.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – March 2-5, 1989 (KCA)

Azem Vlasi is arrested on March 2, along with two directors of the Trepca mine, and on March 5, it is announced that they will be in custody for at least a month pending an investigation into suspected “counter-revolutionary” activities connected with the miners’ strike. Furthermore, the Kosovo LC Provincial Committee refuses to accept the resignations of Morina, Azemi and Sukrija because they were submitted “under pressure of the strike and on purely moral and humanistic grounds in order to save lives”.

Hungary / Soviet Union / EEC – March 3, 1989 (PTH)

Vladimir Shemyatjenko, ambassador of the Soviet Union to the EEC says in his interview with the paper *Le Soir* in Brussels that the Soviet measures taken in 1956 and 1968 had legal grounds. He expresses his hopes, however, that similar situations will not occur in the future.

Miklós Németh, following his one-day visit to Moscow says the soviet leaders support the Hungarian reform program.

A meeting is held at the Political College on the Pozsgay report, and Sándor Balogh, József Bayer and György Földes answer questions at the meeting. They believe Imre Nagy had historical rather than any criminal responsibility for his actions.

Representatives of HSWP and the Social Democratic Party of Hungary discuss the election law and the constitution.

Hungary – March 3, 1989 (MNC)

The People’s Republic of Hungary – along with six other nations (Australia, Austria, France, the United Kingdom, Portugal and Sweden) asked the UN via the Human Rights Committee to carry out an inspection about the guaranteeing of human rights in Romania.

Hungary – March 4, 1989 (PTH)

The opening general assembly of the Independent Smallholders' Party takes place. In order to prepare the national roundtable talks, representatives of HSWP conduct negotiations separately with the delegation of the Alliance of Hungarian Resistance Fighters and Anti- fascists, the Ferenc Münich Society and the Independent Smallholders's Party.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – March 4, 1989 (KCA)

An undisclosed number of senior Kosovar officials are detained by the police in the days following Vlasi's arrest. *The Times* comments that these detentions “show that the Serbs in Belgrade believe the unrest in Kosovo to be a political plot, as well as a popular movement, and all government institutions in the province to be tainted by conspiracy”.

Hungary – March 5, 1989 (PTH)

Bilateral consultations continue to prepare the national roundtable talks. The negotiating delegation of HSWP meets with representatives of National Council of Hungarian Youth Organizations, the Hungarian People's Party and HDF.

In a television interview, Rezső Nyers says he believes it would not lead to a split in the party if followers of socialism in its traditional sense left HSWP.

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi conducts negotiations separately with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and American Secretary of State James Baker.

Soviet Union – March 5, 1989 (MHC)

Thousands demonstrate in Moscow in support of Yeltsin’s candidacy for the Parliament.

Bulgaria - March 7, 1989 (OSA)

Lubomir Popov, the Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister, holds talks on the status of Bulgaria’s Muslim minority with Hamid Al-Gabid, Secretary-General of the 46-member Organization of Islamic Conference.

Hungary – March 5-7, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi took part in the opening sitting of the international conference of trust- and security enhancement measures and disarmament organized by the Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe in Vienna. On March 6, he made a speech on the summit.

Hungary – March 5-7, 1989 (MNC)

On the world conference of ozone-protection in London, Hungary announced its joining of the Montreal Agreement of 1987, which requires the 50% decrease of the emission of chlorofluorocarbon compounds until the turn of the Millenium.

Bulgaria - March 5-7, 1989 (OSA)

The Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister visits Saudi Arabia.

Hungary – March 5-8, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy took part in the multilateral work-meeting regarding the issues of Latin America in Berlin.

Hungary – March 6-11, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Industry Frigyes Berecz had an official visit to the United Kingdom. He negotiated in businnes circles.

Conference on security and co-operation in Europe - March 6, 1989 (MNC)

With the representatives of the 35 countries part of the Conference on Security and Co-Operation in Europe, the conference (second after Stockholm) of trust-and security enhancing measures and disarmament has opened ceremonially in Vienna.

Europe - March 6, 1989 (MNC)

The consultation of the members of the Warsaw Pact and the NATO about decrease of the conventional forces and weaponry in Europe has opened in Vienna.

U.S. / Soviet Union - March 6, 1989 (LBC)

New East-West arms reduction talks begin in Vienna on European conventional forces (CFE). The CFE talks replace the old MBFR talks, and the Eastern proposal is forwarded by Shevardnadze. The Soviet Foreign Minister proposes a three-stage plan. In the two-three year initial phase, the two alliances would reduce their armed forces such as tanks, fighter planes, APCs, etc. by 10-15% In the second phase, armed forces would be reduced 25% within the same time span, and in the third phase, the armed forces would be transformed into defensive positions and naval units would be reduced as well. Although the talks do not deal with nuclear arms, Shevardnadze proposed the withdrawal of tactical nuclear arms from Europe. According to the Western proposal, weapons should be restricted to an upper limit. This limit would be 40 thousand tanks, 33 thousand artillery pieces and 56 thousand APCs. No country would be allowed to have an arsenal exceeding 30% of the weapons at the disposal of the whole alliance. No member state should have more than 3,200 tanks, 1,700 artillery pieces, and 6,000 APCs.

The NATO plan does not mention the reduction of troops. US Secretary of State James Baker calls on the Soviet leadership to renounce the Brezhnev Doctrine.

According to *Pravda*, the Warsaw Pact has 3.5 million troops, 51,500 tanks, 70,330 APCs, 7846 warplanes, and 2785 helicopters. In the Warsaw Pact's estimate, NATO has 3,600,000 troops, 30,690 tanks, 18,000 APCs, 7,130 warplanes and 5,270 helicopters.

Hungary – March 6, 1989 (PTH)

Talks are held between representatives of HSWP and the Social Democratic Party of Hungary.

On the same day, Hungarian Television broadcasts a program made in memory of László Rajk, who was born 80 years ago.

István Huszár, General Secretary of the Patriotic People's Front states the Front will have to work in the future as an independent social alliance independent of any party.

Soviet Union / U.S. – March 7, 1989 (MHC)

Baker receives Shevardnadze at the U.S. ambassadorial residence in Vienna for their first private meeting. He tells the Soviet minister, “We really hope that you succeed”.

Hungary – March 7, 1989 (PTH)

The CC of HSWP discusses its short-term plan of action on a one-day session. Secretary of the CC Mátyás Szűrös's nomination as speaker of the House is approved at the meeting.

The sculpture of László Rajk made by István Szabó Jr. is inaugurated in the garden of the training center of the Patriotic People's Front in Gárdony.

Hungary – March 7-9, 1989 (MNC)
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Ireland, Brian Lenihan, stayed in Budapest for a private visit.

Iran - March 7, 1989 (MNC)
Iran cut its diplomatic ties with the United Kingdom because of the publication of Salman Rishdi’s book.

Ethiopia / Yugoslavia - March 8-9, 1989 (JIS)
Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia Hailu Yimenu visits Yugoslavia. Both bilateral, mainly economic cooperation and world affairs are topics of conversations.

Hungary – March 8, 1989 (PTH)
The representatives approve the drafting of the new constitution that introduces the function of President of the Republic to replace the Presidential Council. The Council of Ministers is given the task to work out a draft of the new constitution. As a response to a motion by several representatives, Prime Minister Miklós Németh says the Council of Ministers will consider a referendum on the issue of the Bős-Nagymaros dam. The House modifies the law of public meeting so if the Parliament is not in session, demonstrations may be held in front of the House of Parliament. The session of the House is set to resume on March 22.

In a joint communiqué, the Independent Lawyers' Forum, the Publicity Club, the István Hajnal Circle and the Committee for Historical Justice state that independent professional organizations must also be involved in the rehabilitation procedures, and they express their readiness to participate in the elaboration of the rehabilitation procedures.

A collection of texts of broadcasts on Hungarian radio in 1956 is published as "The Voice of the Revolution" and is edited by János Kenedi.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - 8-11 March 1989 (DRC)
CPSU Politburo member and CC Secretary Yegor Ligachov visits Czechoslovakia –where he meets with CPCz CC General Secretary Miloš Jakeš and CPCz CC Secretary for Agriculture František Hanus.

Romania - March 9, 1989 (LBC)
The UN Human Rights Committee orders the review of the human rights situation in Romania. Western states present the draft resolution, and Hungary supports it.

Poland - March 9, 1989 (RFE)
The most significant bargain of the round-table talks so far is reached, in the area of political reform. Both sides agree to the creation of a second house of parliament, the Senate, the expansion of representation in the Sejm by releasing 35% of the seats from the control of the ruling coalition of official parties, and the creation of the post of President, who would have extensive powers. 460 deputies will be elected to the Sejm and 100 members to the Senate.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – March 9-26, 1989 (KCA)
The first public protest in Kosovo against Vlasi's arrest begins on March 9, when around 600

ethnic-Albanian miners strike at a magnesite mine at Goles. The action quickly spreads to other mines, even though strikers are threatened with criminal charges and 11 alleged ringleaders at Goles are arrested. By March 19, an estimated 50,000 miners and industrial workers are not working, and a schools boycott is also occurring. On March 26, several hundred miners and industrial workers are given prison terms of up to 60 days or are suspended from their jobs for refusing to obey compulsory work orders.

Poland - March 9-April 5, 1989 (LBC)

The round table talks in Poland end. It is agreed that the Senate will be freely elected, 65% of the mandates in the Sejm will be guaranteed for the communist party with the remaining seats to be decided by elections, the head of state will be elected by the legislature and Solidarity will be legalized.

Romania - March 9, 1989 (MNC)

The UN Human Rights Committee condemned Romania in a resolution because of serious violation of human rights and fundamental individual rights.

Hungary – March 10, 1989 (MNC)

The People's Republic of Hungary submitted its claim to gain voting membership to the UN Human Rights Committee.

Hungary – March 10-11, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet took part in the environmental summit with the participation of heads of state and Prime Minister of 24 countries in the Netherlands. On behalf of Hungary – he made a speech on the conference and signed the international document about the protection of the atmosphere of the Earth. At the same time, during his stay in the Netherlands, he engaged in bilateral talks with the following personalities:

- Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Ruud Lubbers;
- Prime Minister of France, Michel Rocard;
- Prime Minister of Sweden, Ingvar Carlsson;
- Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Kohl;
- Prime Minister of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez;
- Prime Minister of Norway, Gro Harlem Bruntland;
- Prime Minister of Canada, Brian Mulroney;
- President of the Republic of France, Francois Mitterand;
- President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak.

Hungary – March 10, 1989 (KCA)

András Kanyó holds a series of talks with János Kádár about Kádár's life and 1956. Passages of the interview are published in the journal *Magyarország*, and then in a book called *Testament*.

The action plan of CC of HSWP is made public. The party distances itself from the mistakes of the former leadership, such as subjectivism and the exclusion of most of the members of the party in the crafting of policy. The plan also takes a stand on a constitutional state, a constitutional multiparty system, free elections and coalition government.

The Szeged local organization of HDF nominates one of its members, historian Ernő Raffay to take the seat of the recently resigned Antal Apró in the House.

Romania – March 10, 1989 (ADC)

The BBC Radio makes an “open letter” public, in which ex-members of Romanian Communist Party (Gheorghe Apostol, Alexandru Barladeanu, Corneliu Manescu, Constantin Parvulescu, Grigore Raceanu and Silviu Brucan) criticize Ceausescu’s policy as it isolates Romania – and shows disrespect for human rights.

Hungary – March 11-12, 1989 (PTH)

The national meeting of HDF is held. The delegates approve the charter and the program of HDF. The political communiqué issued demands national autonomy, parliamentary democracy, economic renewal and the representation of the interests of all Hungarians no matter where they live. HDF sets up a committee to make preparations to transform the forum into a political party and elect a chairmanship consisting of 15 members. The meeting calls the Council of Ministers to request the Warsaw Treaty Organization to summon its political negotiating body because of the situation in Romania.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Miklós Németh travels to Prague to attend a summit meeting of 24 countries on environmental protection. He conducts separate talks with the Dutch, the French and the Swedish prime ministers.

Poland - March 11-12, 1989 (RFE)

Both the authorities and opposition cautiously endorse the results achieved so far at the round- table talks. General Jaruzelski commends the opening-up of a “national dialogue” in a speech given in Warsaw on March 11, while Lech Walesa issues a statement via the Citizens’ Committee, expressing his optimism for moderate opposition soon being able to participate in elections for the first time.

Romania - March 11, 1989 (MNC)

In the United Kingdom, the BBC released the open letter of six former leaders of the Romanian Communist Party to Ceausescu, in which he is accused of the ruining of the country’s economy and the defamation of socialism.

Cambodia -March 12-14, 1989 (MNC)

In Beijing, the three leaders of the Cambodian opposition coalition held a conference, and founded the “Supreme Council of National Defence”.

Austria – March 12, 1989 (KCA)

Provincial elections bring serious losses for the Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP). The nationalist Liberal Party (FPÖ) becomes the second largest Party in Carinthia.

Czechoslovakia - 13 March 1989 (DRC)

Police arrests a worker on the factory floor of the TOS lathe company in the Prague district of Hostivař for signing a petition protesting police brutality. The petition, signed by 38 members of the state-controlled Revolutionary Trade-Union Movement, emerged in reaction to an appeal by the state authorities to workers to sign a document condemning the independent groups.

Incidents of this sort occur at other Prague factories. 272 workers in the industrial and mining region around Ostrava, for instance, sign a similar petition.

Hungary – March 13, 1989 (PTH)

In the radio program, *First Hand Facts*, Lajos Czinege says "1956 saw a national uprising and a counter-revolution going on parallel."

Hungary – March 14, 1989 (PTH)

US ambassador to Budapest, Mark Palmer visits leaders of the Workers' Militia. Also, a new political-social weekly is published in Debrecen called *Úton (On the Road)*, prints a previously unpublished speech by Imre Nagy on the radio on October 28, 1956.

Romania – March 14, 1989 (CEC)

The Romanian public prosecutor's department arrests ex-diplomat Mircea Raceanu on suspicion of espionage.

Hungary – March 14-17, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi had an official visit to the United Kingdom. He consulted with Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe. He was received by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

European Free Trade Association – March 14-15, 1989 (MNC)

During a summit in Oslo, the members of the EFTA consulted on their relations with the EEC.

Hungary – March 15, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The newly designated public holiday for the anniversary of the start of the 1848–49 uprising in Hungary against Austrian Habsburg rule is celebrated in Budapest by an officially sponsored rally of some 30,000 people. 90,000 people later attend an unofficial march through the city centre. On behalf of the Committee for Historical Justice, Imre Mécés speaks at the Petőfi sculpture, János Dénes on Bem Square on behalf of the workers' councils, and Jenő Fónay, also at Bem Square, on behalf of The National Alliance of Political Prisoners. Tibor Hornyák, member of the former Újpest revolutionary committee and the sister of the executed Pál Kósa both call for forgiveness and reconciliation. On the staircase of the television building on Szabadság Square, actor György Cserhalmi reads out the twelve points of the opposition organizations that organized the demonstration. Official mass media, especially Hungarian television, continue to suppress or distort the demonstrations in their accounts.

Yugoslavia – March 15, 1989 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly finally approves the 1989 federal budget, nearly three months after the rejection of the original draft contributed to the fall of the Mikulic government. The budget is set at nearly 20.6 billion dinars.

Soviet Union – March 15-16, 1989 (KCA)

Agrarian policy reform is discussed at a CPSU Central Committee plenum. President Mikhail Gorbachev, in his capacity as General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, gives a report in which he outlines the severe problems of agriculture, including mismanagement leading to the loss of up to 20% of all farm produce and rural depopulation. His analysis of the historical roots of the situation blames Stalin's policies for a “human tragedy” in which “millions of peasants” had been

torn from the land, “often dying in camps and in exile”. Heavy investment in agriculture in recent years, he states, has yielded only meagre results. To remedy the situation, a diversification of forms of management in farming is needed, including the development of lease relations, which Gorbachev describes as “one of the most important” ways of restructuring socialist ownership relations. However, he rejects total dissolution of the collective system, suggesting only that some collective farms should be broken up or turned into “co-operatives of co-operatives”.

Balkans, March 15-16, 1989 (MNC)

The first governmental level (Ministers of economy and of foreign trade) meeting of the six countries of the Balkans took place in Turkey.

Czechoslovakia - March 16, 1989 (OSA)

A group of CPCS CC leaders discuss a draft project to reduce central planning and move toward a free market economy which is based on a summary of a study by the Prognostications Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Also, this discussion is regarded as the preparation of implementing an economic reform plan in January 10, 1990.

Czechoslovakia - March 16, 1989 (OSA)

More than 500 Veteran members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party send a letter to the party’s Central Committee voicing their disapproval of petitions by Czechoslovak cultural and scientific figures in behalf of dissidents arrested during the January demonstrations in Prague. Also, the European Parliament issues a protest against dissidents.

Hungary – Palestine – March 16, 1989 (PTH)

Jasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, conducts talks with Károly Grósz in Budapest.

Péter Várkonyi, Hungarian Foreign Minister, meets with Margaret Thatcher, British Prime Minister, in London.

AFD suggests that independent organizations should work out a common stand in a roundtable discussion before they sit down for negotiations with HSWP.

Yugoslavia – March 16, 1989 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly approves the members of a new Federal Executive Council led by Ante Markovic of Croatia, who became the Federal Prime Minister in January following the resignation of the government of Branko Mikulic. The new FEC is only 18 members, while its predecessor had 29 members, of which only five members. In a speech to the Federal Assembly in which he outlines his government's program, Markovic frankly acknowledges the gravity of Yugoslavia's economic crisis and gives what the *Financial Times* calls “one of the most sweeping commitments ever heard in Belgrade to radical, market-oriented reform”.

Soviet Union – March 16, 1989 (MHC)

The CPSU CC adopts an agricultural reforms program that would break up the Central Agricultural Ministry and allow individual farmers to lease farmland.

Hungary – March 16-17, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Executive Council of the PLO Yasser Arafat had an official friendly visit to Hungary. His invitor was Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. He held talks with Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He was received by Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic of Hungary.

Hungary – March 16-17, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg of the Federal Republic of Germany Lothar Späth stayed in Budapest for international conference organized by the ASPEN Institute. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

Hungary – March 16-19, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Austria, Thomas Klestil, consulted in Budapest.

Hungary – March 17, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian CC approves a new program of action, which supports free elections.

Hungary – March 17, 1989 (PTH)

The Christian Democratic People's Party (CDPP) is established.

Hungary joins the refugee convention of the UN.

Several independent organizations protest that the explosion of rocks continue at the Bős-Nagymaros building site, though Prime Minister Miklós Németh promised nothing irreversible would be done in the future.

Romania – March 17, 1989 (ADC)

The “*Libération*” publishes an interview with Romanian poet Mircea Dinescu, in which he condemns the Communist Regime in Romania.

Poland – March 17-22, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Poland M. Rakowski visited Iraq and Kuwait.

Yugoslavia - March 17 and 29, 1989 (RWE)

Branko Kostić was elected as the new President of the Presidency in Montenegro. The entire Montenegrin state presidency had resigned in January following street demonstrations in Titograd. A new Montenegrin Executive Council, led by Radoje Kontić, was elected on March 29.

Soviet Union – March 18, 1989 (KCA)

At a rally in the village of Lykhny, several thousand ethnic Abkhaz demand Abkhazia's secession from Georgia and its reinstatement as a full union republic (which it briefly was in the early 1920s).

Hungary – March 18, 1989 (PTH)

A scientific memorial meeting is held in the banquet-hall of Vigadó in Buda under the title "The Petőfi Circle - the Forum of Reform Movements in 1956". The opening lecture is presented by András Hegedűs B. Further speakers include István Lakatos, Chairman of the former Bessenyei Circle, Domokos Kosáry, Miklós Vásárhelyi, Ferenc Pataki, Balázs Nagy, Péter Kende, Imre Mécs, Károly Vigh and György Litván. (András Hegedűs B.'s lecture is published in the June issue of *Világosság*.)

Hungary – March 19, 1989 (PTH)

The first national meeting of AFD is held in the Corvin film theater. Archbishop László Paskai, Roman Catholic primate, pays a private visit to John Paul II.

Hungary – March 20, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

During an official visit to the Vatican, the Hungarian Minister of State, Imre Pózsgay, announces that the reevaluation of the show trials between 1945 and 1962 will include the trial of the former Hungarian Roman Catholic Primate, Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty. Mindszenty had been sentenced to life imprisonment as an “enemy of the people” in 1949. Cardinal Mindszenty died in exile in Vienna in 1975 after he had been released from a labor camp during the 1956 uprising and then had spent 15 years in the US embassy in Budapest following the Soviet invasion.

Czechoslovakia - 20 March 1989 (DRC)

Eight independent initiatives send a letter to the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia –appealing to deputies not to vote for legislative measures that have been proposed by the Presidium of the Federal Assembly on February 14,

Hungary – March 20, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State – during his stay in Italy – was received privately by Pope John Paul II

Hungary – March 20-23, 1989 (MNC)

Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense had an official visit to the Republic of Finland. His negotiation partner was Minister of Defense Ole Norbakk. He was received by Prime Minister Harri Holkeri.

Czechoslovakia - March 21, 1989 DRC)

The Municipal Court of Prague deliberates in the trial of appeal of Václav Havel, and reduces the sentence to eight months in prison. Correspondents of several press agencies and television companies from abroad attend the trial. Several hundred Czechoslovaks demonstrate their solidarity with Havel by making their presence in the courthouse clearly heard.

Hungary – March 21, 1989 (PTH)

On the anniversary of the proclamation of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, after the official commemoration in Budapest, more than 200 people walk to the memorial place in Dózsa György Street with a photo of János Kádár and with placards reading "Long live HSWP!"

Italy / Czechoslovakia - 22 March 1989 (DRC)

The newspaper of the Italian Communist Party, *L'Unita*, publishes a letter of greeting from Alexander Dubcek to the Congress of the Italian Communist Party.

Hungary – March 22, 1989 (PTH)

The parliament passes the Act on the right to strike.

At the initiation of the Independent Lawyers' Forum, the Opposition Roundtable is established at Eötvös Lóránd University.

The Lenin sculpture in Salgótarján is brought down.

Hungary – March 23, 1989 (PTH)

Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Gyula Borics says the exhumation of the corpses of Imre Nagy, Pál Maléter, Miklós Gimes, József Szilágyi and Géza Losonczy will begin in a few days, after a sketch of section 301 is discovered. At the request of the families, the funeral will take place on June 16, 1989, the anniversary of the execution of Imre Nagy and his associates.

Poland – March 23, 1989 (KCA)

Poland's parliament, the *Sejm*, approves the appointment of Michal Czarski as Minister of Labor and Social Policy as well as of Jozef Oleksy as Minister responsible for co-operation with the trade unions. Both posts have been left vacant since the formation of the government of Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowskiin in October 1988 in the hope that suitable candidates from the so-called “constructive opposition” would be brought to light by the “round-table” discussions with the banned Solidarity trade union and other independent groups. However, Rakowski concedes that he has been forced to abandon this plan and to rely solely on the candidates’ professional qualifications in filling the vacancies. Both the new ministers are members of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – March 23, 1989 (KCA)

The Kosovo Provincial Assembly endorses changes to the Serbian Constitution which give the Serbian central authorities control over the internal affairs of Kosovo and Vojvodina (the other autonomous province in the north of Serbia) in such areas as defense, state security, international relations, justice and planning. This reduction in autonomy gives rise to a wave of rioting that rivals in intensity the uprising in Kosovo in 1981. On the same evening, the police clash with a crowd of around 1,500 youths on the streets of Urosevac, while in Pristina, clashes are reported between police and university students. On the following day, pitched battles between police and demonstrators are reported in at least four towns.

Hungary – March 24, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers discusses a bill on the motion of censure, vote of confidence and the national referendum.

On the same day, the Foreign Ministry lodges a note of protest with the Romanian embassy in Budapest because the authorities in Bucharest took the text of the poem "National Song" out of the cabinet in the Hungarian embassy on March 15.

Hungary – March 24, 1989 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party took a work-visit to the Soviet Union. He held talks with M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of

the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. He met President of the Cabinet N. I. Rizhkov, Secretary of the Central Committee A. Yakovlev, and member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze.

Soviet Union – March 26, 1989 (MHC)

Elections to the new Soviet Congress of People’s Deputies take place. Many party and military officials lose to independent candidates. Yeltsin wins the Moscow at-large seat with 89% of the vote. Andrei Sakharov also overwhelmingly wins a seat.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – March 27-28, 1989 (KCA)

The tensions between Serbs and Kosovars deteriorate sharply on March 27 with the deaths of two police officers and a protester during demonstrations. The deaths prompt the imposition by the Kosovo Interior Ministry of a curfew throughout the province, involving a ban on public gatherings of more than three people and the indefinite closure of schools, the university, cinemas, theatres, sports stadiums and markets. Violence increases markedly, however, on March 28. The official death toll of 29 is contradicted by unofficial estimates which put it much higher. Most of the fatalities occur in Pristina, where police reportedly fire straight at demonstrators after they ignored warning shots fired over their heads. Another 200 people are reported to injured, and 254 arrests are made.

Hungary – March 28-30, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea Cho Ho Jung had an official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, to whom he handed over the goodwill-letter of Head of State Ro Te Wu. He was also received by Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic and Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament.

Hungary – March 28, 1989 (PTH)

Judit Ember's book entitled "Right of Asylum - 1956", the script of the film under the same title and a book edited by Áron Tóbiás under the title "In Memoriam Imre Nagy" are published.

On the same day, Károly grósz, Miklós Németh and Rezső Nyers receive the delegation of the U.S. Congress.

Ferenc Bartha, Chairman of the Hungarian National Bank, says the budget deficit in the first three months of 1989 amount to 600 million USD, which is more than the total deficit for 1988.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 28, 1989 (KCA)

In Belgrade the Serbian Republican Assembly finally ratifies the constitutional changes. Commentators describe a “holiday atmosphere” in Belgrade.

Hungary – March 29, 1989 (KCA)

A group of experts, acting on official orders, unearth what are believed to be the remains of Imre Nagy from a grave in section 301 of the Rákoskeresztúr Cemetery. Nagy was Hungary's Prime Minister during the 1956 uprising and was subsequently been hanged for treason. In reverence, the exhumation only family members, representatives of the Committee for Historical Justice, some experts and Secretary of the Ministry of Justice Gyula Borics oversee the exhumation. On behalf of

the Independent Smallholders' Party, Imre Boross, Attorney General of the party and General Secretary Dezső Futó request Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár to make a moral apology to the former leaders of their party and the Hungarian peasants who were persecuted in the 1950s and 1960s.

The CC of HSWP hold a one-day meeting to discuss the draft of a statement on the development of political publicity, the basic principles of the information law and the principles of the party's press policy.

Hungary – March 29-April 1, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, Ahmed Sherkaui, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Albania / France, March 29-31, 1989 (MNC)

Albanian-French negotiations took place in Paris, since 1945 – the creation of diplomatic relations – this was the first contact between the countries on the Foreign Ministerial level.

Hungary – March 30, 1989 (PTH)

Secretary of the CC of HSWP János Lukács says that 120 thousand people have left the party in the last year and a half while 20 thousand new members have joined the party.

Czechoslovakia – March 30, 1989 (RFE)

Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia Ladislav Adamec denounces Comecon’s economic policy on national television.

He admits in a conversation with a worker at an electrical plant that ‘the current COMECON system is not very efficient; if you want me to speak openly, it’s not efficient at all... we cannot continue with this system, which became obsolete a long time ago and which does not serve us but, on the contrary, leads to immense dependence by the socialist countries on the capitalist countries...’

Hungary – March 30-31, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay Luis Barrios Tassano had an official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by Miklós Németh, and Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary.

Mongolia – March 30-April 3, 1989 (MNC)

Mongolian-Chinese negotiations took place in Beijing on the Foreign Ministerial level; a Mongolian Foreign Minister visited China for the first time in 40 years.

Czechoslovakia – March 30, 1989 (OSA)

Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia Ladislav Adamec makes remarks about the inefficiency of the MCEA that are unprecedented for a top state official during a visit to Czechoslovakia’s North Moravian region on March 1989. At the same day, Czechoslovak television broadcast a discussion between the Prime Minister and workers at the Prunerov electricity plant.

Czechoslovakia - March 30-31, 1989 (DRC)

The thirteenth session of the CPCz CC takes place in Prague, and devotes itself to the Czechoslovak education system. In his report on the activity of the Party Presidium, General Secretary Miloš Jakeš condemns the activity of ‘opposition groups’ and praises the work of the security forces. He also mentions that in the CPCz CC Presidium’s statements to mark the 41st anniversary of the ‘Victorious February’ takeover of power, “broad sectors of the population” have expressed their support for the policy of the Communist Party.

Bulgaria - March 30, 1989 (OSA)

Mr. Pavel Glavoussanov and Mrs. Maroussya Stoleva, former employees of Radio Free Europe who had returned recently to Bulgaria, speak in detail on the Bulgarian television about the anti-Bulgarian and anti-socialist essence of the broadcasts of this mouthpiece of propaganda.

Bulgaria - March 31, 1989 (OSA)

The BCP Politburo and the Bulgarian Agrarian Union (BAU) Standing Committee hold a meeting at which they elaborate a model of political pluralism that Todor Zhivkov referred at 20th February meeting. The main issues treated are economic reform, agrarian policy, and the development of rural areas, environmental policy and local administration.

Hungary – March 31, 1989 (PTH)

The Presidential Council modifies the executive order on private trading. Private traders can now employ as many as 500 people.

April

Czechoslovakia – April 1989 (RFE)

In nine constituencies bye-elections are held in which for the first time Czechoslovaks are permitted to vote for a range of candidates.

Yugoslavia - April 1989 (OSA)

The Federal Bureau of Statistics said prices in the four weeks ending April 20 rose by a monthly record of 92.6% to stand as 490.1% a year compared with 397.5% in March. In April 1988, inflation was 152%.

Yugoslavia - April - May 23, 1989 (RWE)

During the April, some 550 Albanians were imprisoned in Kosovo, for participating in the February riots. On May 23, Tanjug reported about 237 ethnic Albanians were still being held in isolation, without trial, for their part in the riots.

Yugoslavia - April 1 - July 21, 1989 (RWE)

The Kosovo provincial LC organization held an emergency meeting, at which three members of its presidium, Kaćuša Jašari, Vojislav Zajić, and Džumret Selmani, resigned their positions, and at which Vlasi was expelled from the LC for supporting the November 1988 disruptions and February 1989 strikes. The session also ordered a purge of all party officials involved in the disturbances. By May 23, it was reported that more than 300 had either resigned or been dismissed from the party.

By July 21, it was reported that 86 Albanian intellectuals and academics had been excluded from the party.

Hungary – April 1, 1989 (PTH)

In section 301 of the new Rákoskeresztúr public cemetery, family members identify the remains of Imre Nagy, Miklós Gimes and Pál Maléter. Secretary Gyula Borics, in an interview given to *Magyar Nemzet*, says that Imre Nagy and his associates will be given a fair and respectable funeral, and there will be no issues with erecting a memorial. The Committee for Historical Justice decides that a memorial will be erected in Section 301 in memory of all the martyrs executed.

The independent artistic group Inconnu calls all citizens of the country to give moral and financial support for the memorial graveyard to be established for the national heroes. On the same day, the Council of Ministers decides to introduce tolls on highways.

László Somogyi is commissioned to head the committee responsible for preparations for the 1995 Vienna - Budapest World Fair.

The Hungarian New Apostolic Church is pronounced to be a legally recognized confession.

Soviet Union, April 2-6, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Head of State of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to Cuba; a 25-year friendship and cooperation treaty was signed.

Hungary – April 2, 1989 (PTH)

General Secretary of HSWP Károly Grósz answers listeners’ questions on the radio. He believes it is unlikely that Imre Nagy will receive political rehabilitation.

The Hungarian Independence Party is re-established.

Yugoslavia - April 2, 1989 (OSA)

On April 2, an election was held in Slovenia by direct secret ballot to determine who would represent the republic on the federation’s nine-member collective State Presidency. Janez Drnovšek, a 38-year-old economist won. In accordance with the rule of annual rotation, Drnovšek was Yugoslavia’s State President from May 16, 1989, and he was the youngest ever to hold the office.

Hungary – April 3, 1989 (PTH)

On his way to sub-Carpathia, Károly Grósz confers the status of city on Záhony. In his speech, he states that a new national consensus is needed, in which HSWP must distance itself from the mistakes of the last 15 years. He believes that is unavoidable for some measures to have bad influence on public opinion, for the country’s debt is nearly unmanageable. Invited by the CC of the Soviet Communist Party, the General Secretary of HSWP visits places inhabited by Hungarians in sub-Carpathia.

Hungary – April 3, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party Károly Grósz visited Transcarpathia (Uzhorod/Ungvár, Mukachevo/Munkács, Berehove/Beregszász) in the Soviet Union. During a grand meeting in the University of Ungvár, he met more than 700 activists of the Transcarpathian

district.

Hungary – April 4-6, 1989 (MNC)

Géza Kótai, member of the Central Committee of the HSWP, head of the Department of International Party Relations of the Central Committee – invited by the American Hungarian Federation – visited Washington D.C., and made a speech in front of the Directing Council of the Federation. During his non-official visit, he met government personalities of the United States as well.

Hungary / Austria – April 4, 1989 (PTH)

According to estimates, over 150 thousand Hungarians traveled to Austria to shop on this holiday.

Romania / West Germany – April 4, 1989 (PER / CEC)

The Federal Republic of Germany recalls their ambassador from Bucharest, due to Romania’s human rights violations.

Czechoslovakia - 5 April 1989 (DRC)

The Committee for the Defence of Václav Havel is established. Its members consist mostly of people involved in the state-controlled arts and culture. The Committee is formed on the basis of the extensive “Initiative of Cultural Workers” petition, which receives widespread support from people in the arts and sciences.

U.S. - April 5, 1989 (LBC)

The State Department proposes that in the forthcoming year, 150,000 people be admitted into the U.S. with a special immigrant status. Most of these would be Soviet citizens. In 1988, the Reagan administration abolished the automatic refugee status of Soviet emigrants. At the same time, the Soviet immigration quota was raised to an annual 25,000, while that of East Asians was reduced from 25,000 to 19,500. Bush’s plan envisions granting an annual 30,000 special visas without regard to whether the origin of the emigrant serves the interest of US foreign policy.

Hungary – April 5, 1989 (PTH)

Discussing principles of the freedom of consciousness and religion, the CC of HSWP states the state should no longer interfere with internal affairs of the churches.

Poland – April 5, 1989 (RFE /KCA / UNW)

The round-table talks between the authorities and the outlawed Solidarity trade union conclude with the signing of three comprehensive agreements covering trade union pluralism, political reforms, and economic and social policy. The agreement underlines the tacit admission by the authorities that they have so far failed to solve the country’s problems on their own, and that the public is a political force that must be recognized, if the country is to find a way out of this crisis. The agreements provide for the re-legalization of Solidarity, a rescue plan for the Polish economy and major constitutional and legal changes. These last changes create a new bicameral parliamentary system and an executive presidency allows more democratic elections, freedom of association, opposition access to the media and a more independent judiciary. It is announced that the elections will take place on June 4 and June 18.

The signing ceremony at the conclusion of the round-table process is shown live on Polish television. The round-table participants decide to appoint a special Co-coordinating Commission to

monitor the implementation of the agreements and to mediate in any conflicts that might arise.

At a press conference, following the signing of the round-table accords, Walesa offers himself as an ambassador at large to Poland's creditors and trading partners, pledging to “kneel and plead for help to enable Poland to catch up with the rest of Europe”. This offer receives the backing on April 7 of Wladyslaw Baka, the PUWP politburo and secretariat member responsible for the economy, who suggests a joint campaign by the authorities and opposition to gain Western financial support.

Soviet Union / U.K. – April 5-7, 1989 (KCA / LBC)

Mikhail Gorbachev arrives in the United Kingdom for an official visit. Brief consultations between Gorbachev and Thatcher are held at Heathrow Airport immediately after the arrival of the Soviet delegation, and later at a reception at the Soviet embassy in London. Their main meeting, later described by Thatcher as “very deep, very wide-ranging and very friendly”, is on the morning of April 6 at 10 Downing Street. Parallel discussions between the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze lead to agreements covering (i) safeguards for commercial investments; (ii) relaxation of travel visa requirements; and (iii) British construction of a school in Leninakan, the Armenian city devastated in the December 1988 earthquake. The main event of Gorbachev's visit is a speech on the morning of April 7 at Guildhall in London. The speech concentrates on *perestroika* in the Soviet Union and on multilateral disarmament, but contrary to expectations, the speech does not include any major unilateral concessions.

Soviet Union / Great Britain / U.S. – April 6, 1989 (MHC)

In a private meeting in London with Thatcher, Gorbachev denounces Bush’s “pause” as “intolerable”. Thatcher urges patience but immediately sends a message to Bush describing how upset Gorbachev was and commenting that the ongoing U.S. policy review is taking a long time.

Hungary – April 6, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers discusses the referendum bill. According to present conceptions, the referendum must be called only if the Parliament intends to modify the constitution, or if at least 100,000 or 150,000 people request it.

Hungary – April 6, 1989 (MNC)

Under the chairmanship of Minister of State Imre Pozsgay, the People’s Republic of Hungary established a nationality college, for the harmonization of the governmental tasks regarding the national minorities living in Hungary and for the monitoring of the situation of the Hungarians living abroad.

Soviet Union, April 7, 1989 (MNC)

A Soviet nuclear submarine suffered an accident on the neutral waters of the Norwegian Sea and sunk.

Poland – April 7, 1989 (MHC)

The Poland government and Solidarity sign the Roundtable accords.

Poland – April 7, 1989 (KCA)

The *Sejm* meets to discuss bills enacting the round-table agreements, and passes, with large

majorities, laws on constitutional changes to create the new bicameral parliament and presidency, on new electoral regulations, on rights of association, and on the formation of trade unions for private farmers. The trade union laws of October 1982 are amended to allow for Solidarity's legalization. The Sejm approves a constitutional amendment re-establishing the office of President, which was formally abolished in 1952. It is widely believed that General Jaruzelski will take up the position. The new post boasts considerable powers, including the ability to dissolve both houses of parliament, impose martial law and propose and veto legislation. Solidarity's National Executive Committee convenes to request Lech Walesa's advisory Citizens' Committee to take charge of the opposition's election campaign. This move signals the opening of the moderate opposition's campaign for elections to the Sejm and newly created Senate, set for June 4.

Hungary – April 8, 1989 (PTH)

At the initiation of HSWP, representatives of 7 political and social organizations hold a meeting to discuss the establishment of a political forum for the reconciliation of interests. Of the newly formed organizations, only the Independent Smallholders's Party and the Ferenc Műnich Society participate in the discussion. The other 8 organizations invited, all members of the Opposition Roundtable, stay away saying it was not prepared properly and thus real discussion was not possible.

Soviet Union – April 8, 1989 (KCA)

The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet adopts a decree amending the Law on Criminal Liability for Crimes against the State. It represents a complete rewriting of the discredited Article 70 of the Russian Federation's criminal code, previously used most frequently to punish dissidents for “anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda”.

Soviet Union – April 9, 1989 (KCA / MHC)

Run-off elections are held in 76 constituencies where none of the candidates polled the necessary absolute majority of votes in the elections to the Soviet Union's restyled parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies. Only the two best placed candidates in each constituency came forward to the run-off. One notable victor is the dissident historian Roy Medvedev, who won in a Moscow constituency.

Nationalist unrest in the southern Republic of Georgia, which had erupted into mass pro-independence demonstrations at the beginning of April 1989, culminates in brutal action by security forces against demonstrators in the capital, Tbilisi. In the early hours, a crowd of around 8,000 protesters who had gathered for an all-night pro-independence demonstration on Rustaveli Prospekt is attacked by troops after ignoring their requests to disperse. In what is later described as the worst known case of brutality by Soviet internal security forces since 1962 (when workers protesting against food shortages were gunned down in Novocherkassk), 16 demonstrators, most of them women, are either clubbed to death or are killed by what is later revealed to have been toxic gas. Another four died later in hospital. This latest escalation of nationalist unrest is triggered by events in March in the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR) in northwest Georgia.

A decree by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet states that any individual or group can lease land, buildings, factories, means of transport or other economic units for periods of five to 50

years or even longer. The *Financial Times* says the decree “aims to stimulate an extensive movement towards lease-holding as a dominant form of ownership in the countryside” and “is clearly designed to encourage private farming as far as possible”.

Georgia/ Tragedy in Tbilisi - April 9, 1989 (PRD)

An opposition meeting in front of the government of Georgian SSR in Tbilisi against the Soviet government took place. This was a pro-independence rally set up by Georgians after the events in Sukhumi, Abkhazia. The Georgian nationalists claimed that the Soviet government was using Abkhaz separatism in order to oppose the pro-independence movement in Georgia. This rally ended in a special operation by the Soviet troops that ended up in numerous tragic deaths and hundreds of injuries. Today, 9th of April is remembered as the day of national unity in Georgia.

Yugoslavia - April 9, 1989 (OSA)

Montenegro elected Nenad Bućin as its representative on the Yugoslav State Presidency. The secret direct election was the first of its kind in postwar Montenegro. Bućin is an advocate of an integrated market economy and has called for an end to the party’s interference in economic affairs. He has emphasized that “Europe must be our absolute priority...; in economic, technological and cultural terms, Europe must be our primary partner.” (*Borba*)

Hungary – April 9-12, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister István Őszi took part in the Summit of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact, and the preceding preparatory consultation in Berlin.

Poland / Palestine, April 10-11, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Execuitve Council of the PLO and President of the State of Palestine Yasser Arafat visited Poland; the PLO office in Warsaw was granted the status of Embassy.

Austria – April 10, 1989 (KCA)

Robert Graf, Economic Affairs Minister, resigns.

Soviet Union – April 10, 1989 (KCA)

The Academy of Sciences’ presidium selects 28 candidates from 168 nominees, who are voted on by a reconvened general assembly on April 20. This became necessary after a revolt by participants in the Academy's general assembly on March 20–21 against the original candidate selection procedure.

Warsaw Pact / NATO - April 11, 1989 (LBC)

The Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact make a declaration to the Foreign Ministers of NATO for the elimination of tactical atomic weapons.

Hungary – April 11, 1989 (PTH)

In a unanimous decision, the Mosonmagyaróvár City Committee of HSWP decides to request the exact clarification of the local events taking place in 1956 and their background.

Ferenc Szalai, Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions, says that contrary to an earlier decision, the Council will nevertheless organize the general meeting and the procession on May 1. Meanwhile, the independent trade unions also plan to organize a May picnic in Népliget, to

which they invite representatives of the newly established political organizations, HSWP and the National Council of Trade Unions.

Czechoslovakia - April 11, 1989 (DRC)

The Czechoslovak mass media broadcast the press conference of Czechoslovak Interior Minister František Kinský, at which the Minister accuses the independent civil initiatives that are forming around the ‘core of Charter 77’ of terrorist acts.

Soviet Union – April 11, 1989 (KCA)

The CPSU newspaper *Pravda* publishes a resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers on improving food supplies. The resolution sets ambitious growth targets for the 13th Five-Year Plan (1991–95), including an annual rise of 4.7% in the production of foodstuffs, and a 15–17% increase in the gross yield per hectare of agricultural land. The population's demand for dairy products and vegetables is to be met in full by 1991–92 and for meat by 1994–95.

Warsaw Pact – April 11-12, 1989 (MNC)

The summit of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Berlin crafted a proposal for the NATO, in which they propose separate negotiations about the tactical weaponry in Europe and the nuclear component of the double-duty weapons. On the summit, Hungary was represented by Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi.

Hungary – April 11-16, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister László Kovács consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Israel.

People’s Republic of China – April 12-16, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of China Li Peng visited Japan.

Hungary – April 12, 1989 (PTH)

János Kádár makes his last public speech at the meeting of the CC of HSWP. With an unbalanced mind, Kádár battles with the shadow of Imre Nagy and his own conscience, and he explains at length the reasons for his previous decisions. The speech is not publicized in the press; its text is published only later. After reorganizing the Politburo, the number of members is reduced from 11 to 9. János Berecz, Judit Csehák, János Lukács and István Szabó are not reelected, and they are replaced by Mihály Jassó, Secretary of the Budapest Committee, and Pál Vastagh, Secretary of the Szeged Committee.

Romania – April 12, 1989 (MHC)

Ceausescu announces that his country’s foreign debt is paid ahead of schedule.

Czechoslovakia - April 12, 1989 (OSA)

After charged with “stealing socialist property” and sentenced to an 11 years prison term in Czechoslovak, Walter Kania, is allowed to emigrate to West Germany, where he arrives on April 12.

Yugoslavia / Czechoslovakia / Poland - April 12-16, 1989 (JIS)

The President of Presidency Raif Dizdarević visits Czechoslovakia (April, 12-14) and meets with President Gustav Husák. The economic cooperation between two countries is assessed as not

developed enough. Two agreements on scientific cooperation are signed. After that Dizdarević continues to Poland (April, 14-16) and meets with Wojciech Jaruzelski. He is rewarded with a polish medal for fostering friendly relations between the two countries. The Yugoslav delegation visits the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz.

Hungary – April 13, 1989 (PTH)

At its prompt meeting, the Council of Ministers decides that the forint is devalued by 6% with respect to convertible currencies. The advisory body of the Council of Ministers urges the revision of the Imre Nagy trial.

The frontier guards announce they will start removing the technical sealing of the frontier on the Austrian-Hungarian border within three days.

Hungary – April 13-14, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of state had an official friendly visit to the People’s Republic of Poland. His negotiation partner was Aleksander Kwasmiewski, President of the Social Policy Committee of the government. He was received by Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski.

Hungary – April 13-15, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Finland Peri Paasio took an official work-visit to the People’s Republic of Hungary. He met Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He gave a lecture in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; he inaugurated the new building of the Embassy of Finland in Budapest. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet

Hungary – April 14, 1989 (PTH)

The Nyíregyháza local organization of HDF and the Szabolcs-Szatmár county board of the Smallholders' Party request the Minister of Justice take steps regarding the Nyíregyháza martyrs of the revolution.

The HDF proposes to set up a crisis government.

The National Council of the Patriotic People's Front elects an interim leadership. István Kukorelli is elected Executive President and István Huszár Chairman-General Secretary.

Czechoslovakia - April 14, 1989 (DRC)

After a thirty-day hunger strike, the Charter 77 signatory and co-founder of the Friends of the USA Society, Stanislav Devátý, is released from custody.

Soviet Union – April 14, 1989 (KCA)

Dzhumbar Patiashvili, the Georgian CP First Secretary, resigns at a meeting of the party Central Committee. Furthermore, Zurab Chkheidze is replaced as Prime Minister, after only two weeks by Nodar Chitanava. Otar Cherkeziya, the President of the Presidium of the Georgian Supreme Soviet likewise for only two weeks, tenders his resignation, although this requires endorsement at a meeting of the full Georgian Supreme Soviet.

During the meeting, Shevardnadze places the blame for the use of troops squarely upon the

Georgian leadership, and condemns as intolerable the deaths of “absolutely innocent people”. Shevardnadze urges his fellow Georgians to end their nationalist protests in order to limit damage of *perestroika*, echoing the personal appeal by Gorbachev published in the Georgian press the previous day.

Yugoslavia - April 14, 1989 (OSA)

The National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Macedonia discussed 32 draft amendments to its constitution after several months of intense debate. The most controversial amendment would redefine the republic’s statehood, defining Macedonia as “the national state of the Macedonian nation.” This would amend the 1974 constitution, in which Macedonia is defined as a “state of the Macedonian people and the Albanian and Turkish minorities.” (*Politika*) Local municipalities dominated by Albanians have already expressed strong opposition to the draft amendment. The amendments are expected to be formally adopted in October

Hungary – April 15, 1989 (PTH)

György Marosán's memoir entitled "The Witnesses Are Still Alive" is published. It gives an account of the events between September and December 1956.

A national conference is held in Kecskemét called "Reform-Circle". It is also the first meeting of the reform circles of HSWP. They believe that an advanced congress must be held, and they sharply criticize the party leadership and the government.

China – April 15, 1989 (MHC)

Hu Yaobang, a respected Chinese Communist Party leader, dies. Over the next several days, tens of thousands of students gather in Tiananmen Square to mourn his death. The gatherings turn into demonstrations for democracy and freedom of the press.

Hungary – April 16, 1989 (PTH)

The general assembly of AFD proposes to set up an expert government lead by one of the ministers of state. In another statement, they suggest that Hungary should declare its neutrality.

On the same day, Károly Grósz, General Secretary of HSWP, pays a one-day visit to Sofia.

Hungary – April 16-17, 1989 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, had a friendly visit to the People’s Republic of Bulgaria. He consulted with Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria.

Poland – April 17, 1989 (MNC)

In Poland – after more than six years of illegality, the Solidarity union became legal again.

Bulgaria - April 17, 1989 (OSA)

Bulgaria refuses to approve the family reunification requests of some 5,000 ethnic Turks living in Bulgaria.

Hungary – April 17-18, 1989 (MNC)

Field Marshal Florian Siwicki, Minister of Defense of the People’s Republic of Poland – had an official friendly visit to Hungary – for the invitation of Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense.

Hungary – April 17-18, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Foreign Trade of France Jean-Maria Rausch visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Minister of Trade Tamás Beck.

Poland – April 17, 1989 (MHC)

Poland’s Solidarity trade union is legalized

U.S. / Poland - April 17, 1989 (LBC)

Bush announces in a Polish inhabited suburb of Detroit an 8-point economic aid program for Poland. In case of congressional approval, US duty on certain Polish goods would be eliminated, and loans for Poland would be guaranteed by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Each loan would need to be approved by Congress. They would promote the expansion of American companies in Poland – the US would help work out a sustainable credit policy, and they would support IMF and other loans to Warsaw. (June 20, 1989.)

Austria – April 17, 1989 (KCA)

As a consequence of the provincial election and increasing pressure from within the Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP), Alois Mock resigns as Vice-Chancellor, but remains the Foreign Minister. Furthermore, it is decided that he will not stand for the ÖVP leadership at the party’s congress on May 19-20. The subsequent reshuffling of the Cabinet affects only ÖVP and not Socialist (SPÖ) members.

Hungary – April 17, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

János Lukács announces that the central control committee has rescinded the decision made in April 1988 to expel four prominent reformers from the HSWP. Mihaly Bihari, Zoltan Kiraly, Lászl Lengyel and Zoltan Biró had been expelled for making statements at party meetings supporting political pluralism.

Poland – April 17, 1989 (KCA / UNW)

The Warsaw provincial court formally grants legal status to Solidarity. Under the round-table agreement on freedom of speech, Solidarity is allowed to publish a daily national newspaper with a 500,000-copy circulation, and regional weeklies. It is also to be granted 30 minutes airtime each week on state television and an hour on radio.

On the same day, in support of the reforms in Poland – President George Bush promises a package of measures to help Poland's economy. Announcing the package before a predominantly Polish-American audience in Detroit, Michigan, Bush hails the restoration of Solidarity and the Polish electoral reforms as “concrete steps that require our active support”. The measures include (i) special tariff exemptions for Polish exports to the United States; (ii) US government guarantees for private investment loans to Poland; (iii) US support for rescheduling Poland's foreign debt; and (iv) new U.S.-backed World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) assistance to Poland. U.S. administration sources estimate the value of the package at more than \$1,000 million dollars, to be spread over several years.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - April 17, 1989 (DRC)

Hungarian television broadcast the first part of a long interview with former CPCz CC First Secretary Alexander Dubček. In the interview, Dubček defends the Czechoslovak reforms of 1968 and Gorbachev’s perestroika. The Czechoslovak mass media immediately launches a campaign against Dubcek with an article in *Rudé právo* titled “He Let Us Down Then, He’s Letting Us Down Now”, and condemn Hungary of “unacceptable meddling in the internal affairs of Czechoslovakia”. Meanwhile, CPCz CC General Secretary Miloš Jakeš flies to Moscow for a short visit. At a press conference, he rejects the idea of rehabilitating Alexander Dubček, whom he calls a “private individual” who cannot hope “to return to politics”. Jakeš also rejects any similarity between the Czechoslovak reforms of 1968 and perestroika, stating that the CPCz introducing a pluralist political system.

Czechoslovakia - April 17, 1989 (OSA)

In a letter addressed to the Memorial Society in Moscow, Charter 77 protests about continuing “Stalinist” policies and demands a thorough revision of the official history of Czechoslovakia.

West Germany / Czechoslovakia - April 17-18, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec visits East Germany, where he meets with West German Premier Willy Stoph and top SED leader Erich Honecker.

Bulgaria - April 18, 1989 (OSA)

Pavel Glavoussanov, former employee of the American Radio Station, explains that Radio Free Europe was a propaganda center which transmitted its ideological ideas for fighting the occidental information. He said that Radio Free Europe is covering all the changes that were taking place in the socialist countries and specially in Bulgaria.

Hungary – April 18, 1989 (KCA)

Zoltan Biró declares that he has no wishes to rejoin the HSWP, because of his prominent role in the opposition Democratic Forum formed in September 1988. The other three re-admitted members (Mihaly Bihari, Zoltan Kiraly, Lászl Lengyel) state that they are still considering whether to accept readmission to the party.

Hungary / Israel – April 18, 1989 (PTH)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of HSWP, and Prime Minister Miklós Németh conduct negotiations with Jichak Shamir, Israeli Prime Minister in Budapest. The parties confirm that they are both ready to develop relations between the two countries.

Poland – April 18, 1989 (KCA)

The inaugural session of the Coordinating Commission is the first meeting between Walesa and Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Chairman of the Council of State (de facto head of state) and General Secretary of the PUWP, since crisis talks in November 1981 shortly before the imposition of martial law.

On the same day, the round-table begins to commit market principles in the economy. The price controls on agricultural products are abolished and guaranteed minimum prices for farm produce are set 34% higher than before. Food prices for consumers are unchanged, but it is anticipated that

they will be freed after the elections to the *Sejm* and Senate.

Hungary – April 18, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of the State of Israel Yitzhak Shamir consulted with Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet, in Budapest.

Helsinki Accords – April 18-May 12, 1989 (MNC)

With the participation of the representatives of the signatory countries of the Helsinki Accords, an “Informational Forum” has started its work in London.

Czechoslovakia / Palestine, April 19-20, 1989 (MNC)

President of the PLO and the State of Palestine Yasser Arafat visited Czechoslovakia –where he met the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Israel in Prague.

Poland – April 19, 1989 (KCA)

Walesa travels to Rome for a four-day visit, which includes a private 30-minute audience with Pope John Paul II on April 20. Although officially the guest of Italian trade union leaders, Walesa also has meetings with President Francesco Cossiga, Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita and other officials during which he reportedly seeks to encourage Italian investment in Polish businesses and to improve trade relations.

Hungary – April 19, 1989 (PTH)

It is decided at the meeting of the Opposition Roundtable that they will start negotiations with HSWP. They propose that before the negotiations start, both HSWP and the Opposition Roundtable should make a public statement on complying with the constitution. They want bilateral negotiations to agree on laws and regulations concerning the democratic transition and the time of general elections. The Politburo of HSWP proposes to the CC that the party should give up its authority in screening leaders in case the nominee is not within the party. In their view, the traditional idea of democratic centralism is outdated, and the term is omitted in the draft version of the party rules.

Yugoslavia - April 19, 1989 (OSA)

The Central Committee of the LCY voted to hold a special party congress in mid-December and it is to be called “The Extraordinary 14th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia.” The decision was made at the 22nd CC plenum, after nearly a year of debates about whether to hold the next party congress ahead of schedule and what its nature and status should be.

Yugoslavia - April 20, 1989 (OSA)

President of the Federal Collective State Presidency, Raif Dizdarević defended Yugoslavia’s declaration of a state of emergency to quell ethnic unrest in restive Kosovo province. He added that Yugoslavia has invited a delegation from the European Parliament to investigate the strife in Kosovo but will not accept interference in Yugoslavia’s international affairs.

Czechoslovakia - April 20, 1989 (DRC)

The Federal Government passes a resolution on “measures to ensure the realization of the conclusions of the Vienna follow—up meeting of the CSCE”. The resolution contains 68

suggestions for measures in a wide variety of areas, by which Czechoslovak legislation should conform to the international documents it has signed.

Czechoslovakia - April 20, 1989 (OSA)

At the end of a recent visit to the Soviet Union, Milos Jakes tells journalists at a press conference in Moscow that there is “no plans to rehabilitate Dubcek politically or to allow him to return to political activity.” On April 20, a spokesman for the Czechoslovak government makes the first direct official statement on the issue. He expresses “surprise” and says that he hopes that such “undesirable incidents would not be repeated.”

Soviet Union – April 20, 1989 (MHC)

The CPSU Politburo in a heated discussion denounces the use of military force in Tbilisi. Gorbachev claims he did not know about the decision to employ troops and blames it on the Georgian party leadership.

Poland - April 20, 1989 (RFE)

Pope John Paul II warmly receives Lech Walesa and gives his approval to the round-table agreement. This seems likely to give Walesa and the opposition groups a decisive boost in the upcoming elections.

Hungary – April 20, 1989 (KCA)

The Central Committee of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party (HSWP), discussing the work of the party leadership, accepts the resignation of the entire 11-member Politburo. It re- elects Károly Grósz as Party Seneral secretary and elects a new politburo consisting of Grósz, fellow former members Csaba Hátori, Pál Ivanyi, Miklós Németh, Rezső Nyers, Imre PózsGay and Ilona Tatai and new members Mihaly Jasso (since June 1988 the Party First Secretary in Budapest) and Pál Vastagh (the Party First Secretary in Csongrád County and previously not a member of the Central Committee). The members of the outgoing Politburo who are not re-elected are János Berecz, Judit Csehák, János Lukács and István Szabó.

Analysts generally portray the politburo reshuffle as another victory for reformers over conservatives, and the Central Committee spokesman, László Major, says that the changes are intended to forge greater unity at the top of the party.

The Council of Ministers requests the Minister of Justice hand over the documents of the Imre Nagy trial to the Minister of the Interior and suggests revising the legality of the sentence.

On the same day, the Council of Ministers decides to shutdown the bauxite mines in Nyírád within a year.

Poland – April 20, 1989 (KCA)

Rural Solidarity is registered by the Warsaw court.

Hungary – April 21, 1989 (MNC)

Lead by Tamás Gáspár Gál – joining Austrian policemen in Vienna – Hungarian policemen traveled to Namibia to, as members of the Transition Assistance Group of the UN (UNTAG) take part in the monitoring of the upcoming Namibian elections.

Soviet Union / Afghanistan – April 21, 1989 (MHC)

During a politburo meeting on Afghanistan, Gorbachev opposes a proposal by Shevardnadze and KGB Chief Kryuchkov to the rescue the Najibullah regime with an aerial strike on rebel bases.

Hungary – April 21, 1989 (PTH)

Minister of State Imre Pozsgay, speaking at the meeting of the World Alliance of Hungarians, says the Council of Ministers will not use administrative measures in the future to prevent people from settling down abroad.

Workers of the bauxite mines in Nyírád hand over their letter to Prime Minister Miklós Németh and General Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions Sándor Nagy in which they demand that their social and financial conditions will be secure, and to be told what economic reasons lead the government to shut down the mines.

Czechoslovakia / Vatican – April 21, 1989 (RFE / OSA)

Vatican delegation led by Archbishop Francesco Colasuonno, an Apostolic Nuncio and envoy to Eastern Europe, ends an eleven-day visit to Czechoslovakia. In what appears to be a rapprochement between the regime and the Church, the two parties discuss filling Czechoslovakia's ten vacant bishoprics. The regime's continuing hostility toward the Church means that the tentative agreement conceals the usual Czechoslovak caution about allowing more religious freedom in the country

Hungary – April 22, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

On the second day of its 12th congress, the official Communist Youth Union (KISZ) votes to dissolve itself. A new organization called the Hungarian Democratic Youth Federation (DEMISZ) is constituted in its place. On the issue of the new organization's relations with the HSWP, the congress decides that DEMISZ cannot accept direction by any party, but is willing to form an apolitical alliance with a reforming HSWP. The program adopted by DEMISZ defines socialism not as a goal but as a social movement, and calls for the advancement of human rights and for a parliamentary multiparty system.

It is decided at the meeting of the Duna Circle that a voting office of the Duna movements will be opened to inform the people about issues concerning the Bős-Nagymaros dam, including questions relating to topology, energy, shipping and agriculture.

The Independent Lawyers' Forum advocates for the renewal of criminal law and a new definition of anti-state crimes.

Poland - April 22, 1989 (RFE)

Poland and the GDR initial an agreement that settles the long running dispute over the borderline between the two countries in the Pomeranian Bay. This dispute dated back to December 1977, when Poland extended its territorial waters from 3 to 12 nautical miles.

Poland - April 23, 1989 (RFE)

The Solidarity Citizens' Committee adopts its election program and approves a list of candidates to stand for the Sejm and Senate positions. All candidates will follow the single electoral program. The program includes demands for the abolition of censorship, self-government rights for cities and

villages, and freedom of association.

Austria – April 24, 1989 (KCA)

As a consequence of the election results of March 12, 1989, the ÖVP and the FPÖ reach an agreement on the formation of a coalition government.

Czechoslovakia - 24 April 1989 (DRC)

At the instigation of the International Charter 77 Committee, the 24th of April 1989 becomes Václav Havel Solidarity Day.

Hungary – April 24-25, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Norway Thorvald Stoltenberg had an official visit to Hungary. He negotiated with Foreign Minister Péter Várkonyi. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic.

Hungary – April 25, 1989 (MNC)

The partial withdrawal of the Soviet troops stationed in Hungary – began

Hungary – April 25, 1989 (MNC)

The Finnish General Secretary of the Socialist International Pentti Vaannanen stayed in Hungary. He was received by General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party Károly Grósz, to whom he – on behalf of President of the Socialist International Willy Brandt – handed over an invitation for the HSWP to the congress of the Socialist International (in Stockholm).

Hungary – April 25-26, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State – during a Hungarian cultural event in England – visited the United Kingdom. He consulted with Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe. He was received by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. After the negotiations, he gave an interview on British television.

Hungary – April 25-28, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Chamber of Deputies of Spain Felix Pons visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Worker’s Party.

Yugoslavia - April 25 - 28, 1989 (OSA)

On April 25 and 26, Montenegro held its first extraordinary party congress. It was Yugoslavia’s first regional party to hold a congress prior to the League of Communists Extraordinary 14th Congress scheduled for December 1989. Montenegro’s party congress elected an entirely new 65-member Central Committee, which in turn elected its 11-member Presidium on April 28. The new CC and Presidium include members who helped organize the demonstrations in October 1988 and January 1989 that toppled the republic’s top state, party, and government leaders.

Soviet Union / Hungary – April 25, 1989 (MHC)

1,000 Soviet tanks leave Hungary. This marks the first stage of the Soviet withdrawal of 50,000 troops and 10,000 tanks from Eastern Europe by 1991.

Hungary – April 25, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The Soviet Union's planned unilateral reduction in conventional military forces in Europe begins in Hungary. A squadron of 2,000 troops and 31 tanks of the first regiment of the Southern Group of Forces Temporarily Stationed in Hungary are withdrawn from their base at Kiskunhalas, some 120 km south-east of Budapest. The withdrawal from Hungary (in two stages by May 1990) will involve more than 10,000 troops and 450 tanks. This represents reductions of about one-quarter of personnel and of one-third of tanks.

Soviet Union – April 25, 1989 (KCA)

At an extraordinary plenum of the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), the party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev secures another major victory in his efforts to remove the threat of conservative opposition to his reform policies. The Central Committee approves the “retirement” of 74 of its full members and 24 candidate members, many of who are considered the “old guard” which has risen to prominence under the late President Leonid Brezhnev. In addition, 12 out of the 82 members of the party's Central Control and Auditing Commission are removed.

Hungary – April 26, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers sets up a committee comprising criminal lawyers and historians to revise the show trials. The committee is co-chaired by Tibor Zinner and József Földvári.

Prime Minister Miklós Németh submits his proposal to reconstruct the government to the Presidential Council. He nominates Secretary of the Foreign Ministry as Foreign Minister, Deputy Minister of Finance László Békesi as Minister of Finance, Chairman of a Cooperative in Szécsény, Csaba Hutter, as Minister of Industry, Director of the Institute for History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Ferenc Glatz, as Minister of Culture, and Secretary of the National Planning Office Erno Kemenes as President of the National Planning Office. The new government takes office on April 28.

On his visit to France, Tamás Beck, Minister of Trade, confirms that 50 companies will be privatized.

GDR – April 26 – 30, 1989 (OSA)

An ecumenical conference held in Dresden concludes that East Germany needed “more democracy, more openness”, more officials respect for the rule of law and different priorities in policymaking. A total of 146 delegates from 19 Christian Churches and parishes – including the country’s 8 Evangelical Churches, the Catholic Church, the Baptists, and 10 smaller religious communities – gathered in Dresden.

Poland – April 27, 1989 (KCA)

Jerzy Urban, the Polish government's press spokesman since 1981, is elected (*Sejm*) as a member of the Council of Ministers, responsible for media policy. Urban's replacement as government press spokesman is his former deputy, Zbysław Rykowski.

Poland –April 27-28, 1989 (MNC)

First Secretary of the Polish United Workers’ Party W. Jaruzelsky, Polish Head of State took a

work-visit to the Soviet Union.

German Democratic Republic, April 28, 1989 (MNC)

The German Democratic Republic began the unilateral military decrease announced in January; the army will be decreased by around 10.000 men, several hundred tanks and planes will be wed out, and it was announced that the alternative military serVice will be allowed.

Vatican, April 28-May 6, 1989 (MNC)

During his African tour, Pope John Paul II visited Madagascar, Réunion, Zambia and Malawi.

Hungary – April 28, 1989 (PTH)

The Opposition Roundtable has its meeting. They will resume talks on May 1-2.

May

Hungary – May 1989 (KCA)

Increasingly in recent statements, Prime Minister Miklós Németh complains publicly that his government's problems in handling the economy are largely inherited from his predecessor as Prime Minister, the HSWP General Secretary Károly Grósz. Disagreements between the two men recently came dramatically to public attention. Grósz claimed, in a speech to the conference of the Communist Youth Union (KISZ, April 22, 1989), that he and Németh had lost a vote in the HSWP Politburo on their proposal to introduce an economic state of emergency. His remarks are reported during the day's main television news broadcast, but shortly afterwards, it is announced that Németh telephoned the television studio to claim he never backed Grósz's state of emergency proposal.

Czechoslovakia - May 1, 1989 (DRC)

Fearing that it might otherwise be the site of anti-régime demonstrations, the authorities organize May Day celebrations on Wenceslas Square. Nevertheless, a large group of supporters of independent initiatives gathers in the upper part of the square by the monument and unfurls banners demanding political prisoners to be released. The police brutally squeeze this group out of the square and load those remaining into a bus to take to the outskirts of town. Five foreigners, a BBC correspondent, two Finns, and two West Germans, are among those detained.

Czechoslovakia – May 1, 1989 (OSA)

An independent group called The Society for Merrier Present Times is established in Prague. The group draws attention to “the absurdity of the political situation in Czechoslovakia” by organizing ridiculous events.

Hungary – May 1, 1989 (PTH)

A political meeting is held on the procession square in Budapest, organized by the National Council of Trade Unions.

Hungary / Austria – May 2, 1989 (KCA)

Work to dismantle the twin barbed wire fences and the electronic alarm system along Hungary's 260-km border with Austria begin. It is anticipated to take until the end of 1990 and will cost more than \$500,000. The Hungarian Foreign Ministry cites the relaxation of travel regulations for

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Hungarians in 1988 and the desire to improve economic relations with the West as the reasons for removing the fences. The decision to remove the border fences reportedly anger the authorities in Czechoslovakia –East Germany and Romania – who are now expected to tighten requirements for their citizens to visit Hungary. Moreover, while the Austrian government praises Hungary's move, it is reported privately to be worried about a greater influx of East European refugees.

Hungary – May 2, 1989 (PTH)

At the invitation of the Hungarian Jewish Cultural Society, historian Péter Gosztonyi gives a lecture in Budapest, "The 1956 Hungarian Revolution in the Light of the Most Recent Research".

Furthermore, Barna Sarkadi Nagy, the new leader of the State Office of Church Affairs says the state will give up any control on church life.

Soviet Union / U.S. – May 2, 1989 (KCA)

President George Bush approves the sale to the Soviet Union of 1.5 million tons of subsidized wheat in addition to the 4 million tons already sold since September 1988 under the 1975 Soviet-US Long-Term Grain Agreement.

Hungary – May 2, 1989 (MNC)

On the border of Hungary and the Republic of Austria, the demolition of the electric border barrier has begun. (The demolition of the border barrier was decided by the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP on February 28, 1989.)

GDR – May 2, 1989 (OSA)

East Germany takes Czechoslovakia's side in the dispute brewing between Prague and Budapest over the broadcast on Hungarian state television of excerpts of an interview with Alexander Dubcek, the former leader of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPCS). In the first installment of the interview, Dubcek compared the Prague Spring reforms to the changes now taking place in Hungary and the Soviet Union.

GDR – May 3, 1989 (OSA)

General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and President of the German Democratic Republic Erich Honecker arrives in Prague for a working friendly visit to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee. An agreement on cooperation between the young people of Czechoslovakia and the GDR is signed in Prague by Czechoslovak Communist Party General Secretary Milos Jakes, Socialist Unity Party General Secretary and Chairman of the GDR State Council Erich Honecker and other Czechoslovak and GDR officials. The document stresses the significance of the role of the young generation in strengthening friendly ties between the socialist countries, strengthening friendship between their nations and deepening the socialist economic integration.

German Democratic Republic – May 3, 1989 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Head of State of the German Democratic Republic Erich Honecker had a friendly work-visit to Czechoslovakia.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia – May 3, 1989 (PTH)

Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy carries on talks with Deputy Prime Minister

Pavel Hrivak in Prague. He says Hungary will not yet sign the agreement with Czechoslovakia on the environmental and water-purifying projects related to the Bős-Nagymaros dam, because it has to wait for the decision of the Parliament. The advisory board of the Council of Ministers, with the participation of Prime Minister Miklós Németh, discusses current issues of the Bős- Nagymaros dam. They also listen to the opinion of experts of the Danube Circle who oppose the dam.

The Budapest division of the Paris-based Hungarian League of Human Rights is established.

U.S. / USSR - May 4, 1989 (LBC)

Secretary of Defense Cheney apologizes for forecasting Gorbachev’s fall in a television interview. The White House and the State Department distances itself from the statement.

Czechoslovakia - May 4, 1989 (DRC)

The International Society for Human Rights publishes a report in Frankfurt on Main, which discusses the systematic and extensive violation of human rights in Czechoslovakia.

Hungary / Austria – May 4, 1989 (KCA)

According to *Le Monde*, around 300 people are known to have escaped to Austria by breaching the border-fences since their construction in the mid-1960s. Over 13,000 people had been apprehended in the attempt. More than 90% of those would-be escapees had entered Hungary from other East European countries.

Hungary – May 4, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers takes a position on a comprehensive economic package. György Marosán jr., government spokesman, says the price rises will exceed what was expected earlier, but the government will accelerate the development of enterprises and the economy and will facilitate the privatization of state ownership.⁴

Yugoslavia - May 4, 1989 (RWE)

In Macedonia, the assembly approved a constitutional amendment defining the Macedonian republic as the “national state of the Macedonian nation.” The definition had hithero encompassed Turkish and Albanian minorities.

Yugoslavia / United Kingdom - May 4, 1989 (RWE)

Vinko Sindičić, a Yugoslav citizen who was alleged to be an officer in his country’s intelligence service, was sentenced by a court in Dunfermline, Scotland, to 15 years in prison for attempting to murder Nikola Stedul, a leader of the émigré Croatian Movement for Statehood. Sindičić had been found guilty of shooting Stedul five times outside his home in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, on October 20, 1988, of illegally possessing firearms, and of entering the United Kingdom on a false Swiss passport.

Poland - May 4-5, 1989 (RFE)

The PUWP holds a two-day election convention, in which it launches its own election campaign. It appears that the political establishment’s principal strategy is to blur the distinctions between official candidates and those on the Solidarity ticket.

Hungary – May 5, 1989 (PTH)

The Supreme Prosecutor submits a protest on legal grounds against the sentence passed in Pál Demény's case in 1946.

Soviet Union / GDR – May 5, 1989 (MHC)

The USSR announces it has withdrawn 1,000 tanks from the GDR.

GDR / Czechoslovakia – May 5, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak Party Presidium calls for improvements in the economic and scientific technological cooperation with East Germany Party General Secretary Erich Honecker to this country.

Hungary – May 5-6, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Bavaria of the Federal Republic Max Streibl visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He met Pál Iványi, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, and Minister of Trade Tamás Beck. He took part in the opening of the Bavarian exhibition, organized from May 6-16. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party.

Hungary – May 5-7, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös – in the status of Hungary as special invited – took part in the jubilee summit of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

South America, May 6, 1989 (MNC)

The heads of state of the eighth countries of the Amazonas region signed a treaty in Brazil (“Manaus Charta”) about the protection of the rainforests and natural resources.

Japan / Mongolia – May 6, 1989 (MNC)

A Japanese-Mongolian negotiation was held in Ulaanbaatar on the Foreign Ministerial level; since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, this was their first contact.

GDR – May 7, 1989 (OSA)

East Germany holds local government elections. Reflecting the leadership’s attitude, the elections displayed no signs of political reform. More than 800 political activists and would-be emigrants demonstrate in Leipzig early in the evening of May 7 to protest the manner in which local government elections are being held.

Hungary – May 7-10, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein of the Federal Republic of Germany Björn Engholm consulted in Hungary with Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State and Minister of Trade Tamás Beck. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet, and Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament.

Yugoslavia - May 8, 1989 (RWE)

An estimated 30,000 people defied an official ban and staged a demonstration in the center of Ljubljana, Slovenia, to demand freedom for three journalists - Ivan “Janez” Janša, David Tasić and

Franc Zavrl, and a former warrant officer Ivan Borstner. In July of 1988, they were sentenced to prison terms in connection with the disclosure in the controversial Slovene newspapers *Mladina* of secret plans for a military clampdown against Slovene liberals. The demonstration was organized by the official Slovene Youth Alliance and the unofficial Committee for Protection of Human Rights after the arrest of Janša (May 5) to begin his 18-months sentence.

Hungary – May 8-11, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Foreign Trade of the Netherlands Yvonne van Rooy visited Hungary. Her negotiation partner was Minister of Trade Tamás Beck.

Hungary – May 8, 1989 (LBC)

The Central Committee of the Hungarian party forces Kádár to resign. Kádár is forced to renounce his party presidency and membership in the Central Committee. (October 7, 1989.)

Hungary – May 8, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

At a plenum of the Party Central Committee the reformist wing, in the face of opposition by Károly Grósz, secures majority support for the holding of a special party conference in the latter part of 1989. The plan is to draft the party's manifesto for the competitive parliamentary elections, due in 1990. Furthermore, the intention is to make personnel changes in the leadership. At the next Central Committee plenum in May 29, it is decided to hold a full party congress instead of a special conference.

János Lukács is relieved of his membership of the Central Committee Secretariat in connection with his election to chair the Central Control Committee.

The general assembly of the National Academy of Sciences discusses the rehabilitation of excluded members. The academy membership of among others Imre Nagy and several philosophers excluded in 1973 is restored.

Hungary – May 8-9, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian CC votes to remove Kádár from the post of party First Secretary and from the CC.

Hungary – May 9, 1989 (PTH)

The letter of the CC of HSWP written to János Kádár is made public. It says the CC made its decision to relieve the chairman of the party of all his duties in the party after carefully weighing his physical conditions. The letter stresses, “Today we are not yet in the position to evaluate this half a century long course of life of historical significance... The Hungarian communists look upon János Kádár as a leader who was always prepared to achieve consensus for the sake of reconciliation”.

Hungary – May 9-10, 1989 (MNC)

Political Director of the Foreign Ministry of Luxembourg, Jean Jacques Kasel, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Yugoslavia - May 9, 1989 (OSA)

President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the LCY, Stipe Šušar denounced independent political movements as a threat to Yugoslavia’s integrity after the protest in Ljubljana:

“The LCY must wake up in order not to be swept from the political scene by allowing various little political parties... based on nationalist programmes to light the flame of civil war.”

Yugoslavia - May 10, 1989 (OSA)

Serbian Writers’ Association issued a seven-point appeal for radical changes to resolve Yugoslavia’s economic, political, and social crisis. Among its demands was the introduction of a multiparty system.

Hungary – May 10, 1989 (MNC)

The Parliament releived Péter Várkonyi from the duty of Foreign Minister and elected Gyula Horn as the new Foreign Minister.

Czechoslovakia - May 10, 1989 (OSA)

Dominik Tatarka, a well-known Slovak novelist, one of the first signatories to Charter 77 and the first winner of the Jaroslav Seifert Prize in 1986, died after a long illness on May 10, 1989.

Soviet Union, May 10-11, 1989 (MNC)

During his consultation with American Secretary of State J. Baker in Moscow, M. S. Gorbachev announced a new Soviet initiative, according to wich the unilateral decrease of the Soviet military equipment, and the reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces has began.

Hungary – May 10-12, 1989 (MNC)

Interior Minister István Horváth took a friendly visit to the Soviet Union. His negotiation partners were the leaders of the Interior Ministry.

Hungary – May 10, 1989 (KCA)

Hungary's parliament, the *Országgyűlés*, approves proposals by Prime Minister Miklós Németh for a reshuffle of the Council of Ministers. Németh describes the new composition of the Council as a “strong government committed to reform”.

In a speech to the *Országgyűlés*, Németh declares that henceforth the government is an independent policy-making body answerable to the parliament, and not simply the executor of policies decided by the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party (HSWP). Contrary to previous practice, Németh has not sought Central Committee endorsement before presenting his proposals for the reshuffle to parliament. The new appointments to run the Finance, Industry, Agriculture and Planning sectors are regarded by observers as an attempt to introduce a more coherent package of economic reforms. On the same day, the Ministry of Justice makes public the list of those sentenced to death by the courts and executed between December 20, 1956 and December 13, 1961. The list of names was compiled based on data from correction institutions and from documents.

Hungary – May 10-12, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament declares invalid the 1955 law marking the memory of Stalin. After modifying the constitution, the representatives of the House pass the bill on the no- confidence provision. The election law is also modified. It is stipulated that seats becoming empty in the House must be filled in the course of by-elections, and that the candidates must accept the constitution rather than the program of the Patriotic People's Front.

Soviet Union – May 11, 1989 (MHC)

The CPSU Politburo discusses a proposal by the Politburo Commission on the situation in the Baltic Republics. Gorbachev emphasizes, “Force does not help in this business. We have accepted that even in foreign policy force accomplishes nothing. But internally especially- we cannot and will not resort to force”.

U.S. / Soviet Union - May 11, 1989 (LBC)

A Baker-Gorbachev meeting is held in Moscow. Gorbachev announces that the USSR is unilaterally reducing its East European nuclear arsenal by 500 units, including 284 theater nuclear warheads. Moreover, he proposes that the following cap should be put on the Warsaw Pact and NATO by 1997: 1,350,000 troops, 1,500 warplanes, 1,700 helicopters, 20,000 tanks, 24,000 artillery units, and 28,000 APCs. Western experts claim that Gorbachev’s offer is only a gesture because Moscow has 10,000 nuclear devices in Eastern Europe, and the offer is directed at increasing conflict within NATO, which surfaced because the FRG wants to negotiate the elimination of tactical nuclear arms.

Hungary – May 11-13, 1989 (MNC)

Responding to the invitation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, the International Summit of the Representatives of Twenty-One Parliamentary (communist, socialist, social democrat, Christian democrat and civil) Parties from fourteen countries was held in Budapest. The keynote speech was made by Géza Kótai, head of the Department of International Party Relations of the Central Committee of the HSWP; one-one parliamentary representative of the twenty-one parties addressed the summit.

Yugoslavia – May 11-23, 1989 (HR)

Serbian director Emir Kusturica is awarded the “Best director” award for his film *Dom za vesanje*.

Hungary – May 12, 1989 (PTH)

In its communiqué, the Committee for Historical Justice demands that the revision of the political trials of the past should be fair and impartial. The Committee regards it as unacceptable that Hungary's interests are represented in the Soviet Union by Ambassador Sándor Rajnai as he arrested Imre Nagy and his associates and then lead the investigations into their cases.

The advisory board of the Council of Ministers proposes to stop the construction of the Bős-Nagymaros dam. The reason is that the investment has become symbolic of mistaken and out-dated policy of economic development demanding way too much energy and resources, and it also epitomizes a decision-making system that excludes a wide range of experts and works without public control. The board rejects the proposal to decide the issue by referendum. Additionally, Miklós Németh will start negotiations in Czechoslovakia on the problem on May 24.

China, May 13, 1989 (MHC)

Several thousand students start fasting at Tiananmen Square to pressure the Chinese government to meet their demands.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - May 13, 1989 (DRC)

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn invites the Czechoslovak Ambassador to Hungary for a special audience, where he tells him that the Hungarian Government has decided immediately to stop construction on the hydroelectric plant in Nagymaros, which had been part of the

Czechoslovak-Hungarian energy project known as “Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros”. The Czechoslovak Government announces that this violates the bilateral agreement between the two countries.

Soviet Union / Latvia / Estonia / Lithuania – May 13-14, 1989 (KCA)

More than 400 representatives of the Estonian and Latvian Popular Fronts and the Lithuanian Restructuring Movement (*Sąjūdis*) meet in Tallinn for what is described as the first ever “Baltic Assembly”. In their discussions, the Assembly participants stop short of making overt demands for independence for the three Baltic republics, but call on the central authorities in Moscow not to “obstruct the restoration of state sovereignty”. They also demand that the Baltic republics should be free to choose their own model of socio-economic development and should be given total control over their economies by 1990. Furthermore, a resolution is adopted demanding that officials involved in the mass deportations and killings of citizens of the three republics following their annexation by the Soviet Union in 1940 be brought to trial.

Hungary – May 14, 1989 (PTH)

Minister of Finance László Békesi, speaking about the economic package of the Council of Ministers, says the government intends to reduce the budgetary expenditures by 20 billion forints, with the national defense budget being cut by 5 billion forints, executive bodies by 1 billion forints and the subsidies to social organization by 1 billion forints. At the upcoming meeting between the government and the National Council of Trade Unions, the Council of Ministers will put forward the government's social security package estimated at 5-6 billion forints as well.

Soviet Union – May 14, 1989 (KCA)

Repeat elections for the Congress take place on May 14 in 198 constituencies where candidates had not received the necessary absolute majority of votes in the first round of voting on March 26.

Hungary – May 15, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh conducts negotiations with Prime Minister Mielczyslaw Rakowski and Wojciech Jaruzelski, General Secretary of the Polish United Workers' Party in Warsaw.

Yugoslavia – May 15, 1989 (KCA and OSA)

A joint sitting of the two chambers of the Federal Assembly elects a new collective state Presidency for a five-year term. The members are Stipe Suvar (Croatia), Riza Sapunziju (Kosovo), Nenad Bucin (Montenegro), Borisav Jovic (Serbia), Janez Drnovsek (Slovenia), and Dragutin Zelenovic (Vojvodina). The election process in Bosnia- Herzegovina and in Macedonia is not complete yet, so the Presidents of the Presidencies in these republics become acting members in the meantime. Macedonia did not elect its representative in early April because Macedonian National Assembly was split over the choice of a representative, and Bosnia-Herzegovina delayed its decision because of a political scandal.

Soviet Union / China – May 15-18, 1989 (MHC)

Gorbachev visits China for the first Sino-Soviet summit in 30 years and announces the “normalization” of relations.

Hungary – May 15, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet took a friendly work-visit to the People’s Republic of Poland. His

negotiation partner was Prime Minister Mieczslaw Rakowski. He was received by W. Jaruzelsky, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, President of the State Council of the People's Republic of Poland.

Mongolia / Soviet Union – May 15, 1989 (MNC)

The second phase of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Mongolia began (the first started in the spring of 1987).

World Association of Nuclear Operators, May 15, 1989 (MNC)

In Moscow, the representatives of thirty-one countries signed the statute of the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO).

Soviet Union, May 15-18, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Head of State of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to China (this was the first high-level visit since 1959).

Hungary – May 15, 1989 (MNC)

The Foreign Ministry released a statement (via their spokesman) about the memorandum planned for handing over to the Romanian Socialist Republic on May 11, and the offer of medical treatment in Hungary for retired Romanian Foreign Minister Corneliu Manescu.

Warsaw Pact-NATO, May 16-22, 1989 (MNC)

Field Marshal P. Lushev, Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the members of the Warsaw Pact met Commander-in-Chief of the European forces of the NATO, General J. Galbin, in London.

Hungary – May 16, 1989 (PTH)

The Politburo of HSWP summons the CC to meet on May 29. The Politburo suggests that the policy regarding religious and church affairs should be modified. According to the Politburo, the CC will also have to work out a new agrarian program, because the one proposed earlier has been criticized extensively.

Czechoslovakia / Romania/ Czechoslovakia - May 17, 1989 (DRC)

The District Court for Prague 4 rules for the conditional discharge of Václav Havel after he has served half his sentence. Havel's family and 3,385 people who have signed a petition demanding his conditional discharge provide the impulse for the court's decision. In the months that follow his release, Havel gives many interviews to television and radio stations, newspapers and magazines, in which he states his views on the current situation in Eastern Europe and on the possibilities of political change in Czechoslovakia. He and other leading dissidents repeatedly emphasize that they are possibly the last generation of opposition that is willing to engage in dialogue with the compromised regime.

The leader of Romania – Nicolae Ceausescu, flies to Prague for an official visit.

Yugoslavia / NAM - May 17-19, 1989 (JIS)

The Ministerial Conference of the Coordination Bureau of the NAM takes place in Zimbabwe.

Yugoslav delegation is led by the Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar.

Hungary – May 17, 1989 (PTC)

It is announced at the joint meeting of the Council of Ministers and the National Council of Trade Unions that the government waives the price increases of the water supply and canal toll as well as the rental rates of state-owned apartments. At the same time, it is announced that household energy prices will be raised as of January, but the extent of such a raise will be smaller than planned. Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy says after the meeting of the executive committee of Comecon in Moscow, that the Soviet Union seems willing to change to a convertible system of accounting in trading with Hungary.

Poland – May 17, 1989 (KCA)

The *Sejm* creates a legal framework for church-state relations for the first time since the introduction of communist rule following the Second World War. Three laws are passed which define the position of the state towards the Roman Catholic Church and other denominations. Freedom of conscience and belief are guaranteed as well as extended social security benefits. This includes state pensions for an estimated 62,000 members of the clergy.

Poland – May 17, 1989 (MHC)

The Polish *Sejm* votes to give the Roman Catholic Church legal status.

Yugoslavia - May 17, 1989 (OSA)

The 23-member Presidium of the League of Communists' Central Committee elected Milan Pančevski as its president at the 23rd plenum of the LCY Central Committee. Pančevski (a Macedonian) will serve as president of the party's supreme collective leadership from May 17 until Extraordinary 14th Congress of the LCY. Pančevski replaced Stipe Šuvar, who resigned at the plenum after being officially sworn in on May 15 as Croatia's representative on the new eight-member collective State Presidency (a recent party ruling precludes officials from holding state, party, or government posts simultaneously).

Hungary – May 17-21, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös visited the Kingdom of Morocco. His negotiation partner was President of the Assembly of Representatives Ahmed Osman, and Prime Minister and President of the Parliament Azzedin Laraki. He met Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali. He was received by King Hassan II.

Romania – May 17, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, Romanian Head of State N. Ceausescu took a friendly visit to Czechoslovakia.

Soviet Union – May 18, 1989 (MHC)

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet declares sovereignty.

Hungary – May 18, 1989 (PTH)

Participant organizations of the Opposition Roundtable say in their letter that HSWP has blocked, or ended, the negotiations between the governing party and the opposition. The offer made by

HSWP is a propaganda trick, as Károly Grósz says the first general elections can take place six years from now at the earliest.

Soviet Union / Estonia – May 18, 1989 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet passes resolutions to give the republic full control over its economy, thereby renouncing a more limited plan for economic autonomy, which had been announced by the central authorities in Moscow at the end of March. The resolutions assert Estonia's right to create and administer its own state budget; declares that all industry and natural resources are under Estonian, rather than Soviet, control; permits private and even foreign ownership of land; and approves the introduction of an Estonian currency, the *koru*, to replace the rouble in 1990.

Hungary – May 20, 1989 (PTH)

The reform circles of HSWP demand at their Szeged conference that the party congress should be convened, and they collect signatures to achieve this goal. They propose that the CC should declare before the June 16 funeral that Imre Nagy was subject to a political show trial.

Leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Hungary say the party has 20,000-30,000 members, and they intend to hold a congress at the end of the year.

Leaders of FYD announce that they will leave the National Council of Hungarian Youth Organizations.

Bulgaria / Turkey – May 20-23, 1989 (KCA)

Protests against the practice started in 1984 of forced assimilation of Bulgaria's ethnic Turkish minority are violently suppressed. At least one ethnic Turkish protester dies in clashes with the militia on May 20 in the town of Kaolinovo in the northeast of the country. At least two others are killed on the following day in the nearby village of Todor Ikonomovo. Some sources even suggest over 100 ethnic Turks are killed.

The official Bulgarian news agency *BTA* on May 23 admits that there have been three deaths during "rioting". However, the agency claims that the protester who died in Kaolinovo suffered a heart attack, and that the two who died in Todor Ikonomovo were killed by ricochets from warning shots fired over the heads of "extremists" trying to break into a weapons store.

Hungary – May 21-22, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Finance of Malaysia Daim Bin Zainuddin consulted with Minister of Finance László Békési in Hungary.

Hungary – May 21-24, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Republic of Cyprus Georgios Vasiliu had an official visit to Hungary. He was received by Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He consulted with Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament. President Vasiliu was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Economics, on this occasion he gave an inaugural lecture.

Hungary – May 22-23, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy – during his stay in Geneva – consulted with the President of the Swiss Europe Union, Mayor of Geneva Guy Oliver Segond, and held talks with Minister of Finance Otto Stich in Bern. He met President of the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland Helmut Hubacher. He was received by President of the Swiss Confederation Jean- Pascal Delamuraz.

Poland – May 22, 1989 (MNC)

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers’ Party, Polish Head of State W. Jaruzelsky visited the German Democratic Republic. At the same time, the Foreign Ministers signed an agreement about the naval border in the Pomeranian Gulf.

Hungary – May 22, 1989 (PTC)

At a discussion forum of the Eger reform circles of HSWP, Gyula Horn, Foreign Minister, and in a radio interview Mátyás Szűrös, Speaker of the House, state that Imre Nagy and his fellow martyrs fell victim to a political show trial.

Poland / East Germany – May 22, 1989 (PSM)

Poland and the German Democratic Republic sign an agreement determining the border of the Baltic Sea.

Soviet Union / NATO / Warsaw Pact - May 23, 1989 (LBC)

The USSR’s disarmament CFE proposal is: NATO and the Warsaw Pact should reduce the number of tanks to 20,000, artillery units to 24,000 and APCs to 28,000 by 1997. In order to reach the proposed limit, the USSR should dismantle 17,500 tanks, 27,000 APCs, and 25,000 artillery pieces. Moscow accepted two of NATO’s demands: no member state own more than 30% of the conventional arms belonging to its respective alliance and that no country may station more than 3,200 tanks outside its national boundaries. Earlier, the White House spokesman called Gorbachev a “drugstore cowboy” for making one attractive offer after another.

Hungary – May 23, 1989 (PTH)

The Committee for Historical Justice, family members of those executed and the authorities come to an agreement on the plan for the June 16 funeral of Imre Nagy. June 16 will be a national day of mourning. At half past twelve, people all over the country will pay tribute to the martyrs’ memory by standing up in silence for one minute, and all the bells in the country will toll. Six bodies will lie in state: Imre Nagy's, Miklós Gimes's, Géza Losonczy's, Pál Maléter's, József Szilágyi's and an unknown revolutionary’s. The coffins will be transported from Heroes' Square to section 301 where the last honor will be paid in the presence of the families. Foreign Minister Gyula Horn says, "it is imperative and pressing that the society, the nation, administer justice to Imre Nagy and his associates".

The Supreme Court declares null and void the unlawful sentence passed on Pál Demény in 1946.

Mátyás Szűrös, Speaker of the House, offers his help in organizing the negotiations between HSWP and the Opposition Roundtable.

Poland – May 23, 1989 (KCA)

In accordance with the law on rights of association passed by the *Sejm*, the Independent Students’

Union (NZS), which has been banned since the imposition of martial law in 1981, seeks official registration by the Warsaw provincial court. This is refused on the grounds that the draft NZS statutes conflict with the law on rights of association as they insist on the right of students to strike. Leaders of the NZS, which claim around 30,000 members, condemn the court ruling as a breach of the round-table agreements concluded on April 5 between the Polish authorities and the opposition Solidarity trade union.

Hungary – May 23-24, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn had an official friendly visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. His host was federal Secretary of foreign affairs Budomir Loncar. They agreed on the mutual opening of Consulate Generals in Zagreb and Pécs. Gyula Horn met Stanislav Stoyanovic, Executive Secretary of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the LCY. He was received by President of the Federal Government Ante Markovic, Prime Minister of the Serbian Federal Republic Desimir Yertic, and President of the State-Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Yanez Dmovsek.

Hungary – May 23-25, 1989 (MNC)

State Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom William Waldgrave consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary – May 23-26, 1989 (MNC)

With a delegation, Minister of Defense of the Netherlands Fritz Bolkestein visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense.

Arab League, May 23-26, 1989 (MNC)

The Extraordinary Summit of the Arab League was held in Casablanca, where, after ten years, Egypt became a member of the Arab League once again.

Hungary – May 24, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet took a friendly work-visit to the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia. His negotiation partner was Ladislav Adamec, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –Prime Minister. He was received by Milos Yakes, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –and Gustav Husak, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –Head of State of Czechoslovakia.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia / Yugoslavia – May 24, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh agrees with Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec in Prague to set up a Hungarian-Czechoslovakian expert group lead by deputy prime ministers to settle the matters concerning the Bős-Nagymaros dam.

In his talks in Belgrade, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn agrees with the Yugoslav party that Yugoslavia will hand over to the Yugoslavian documents relating to Hungarian history between 1956 and 1968.

The Opposition Roundtable accepts Imre Pozsgay as a partner in the negotiations.

Poland / Yugoslavia - May 24-25, 1989 (JIS)

Prime Minister of Poland Mieczysław Rakowski visits Yugoslavia. The internal developments in both Poland and Yugoslavia are discussed, as well as the ways of overcoming crises.

Poland – May 24-30, 1989 (KCA)

After the court ruling of the previous day, police clash with student protesters in the centre of Warsaw. Solidarity leader Lech Walesa reiterates the students’ condemnation of the court ruling. In the following week, sit-in strikes by university students beginning on May 24 in Warsaw, Lodz, Wroclaw and Gdansk spread to universities and colleges in many other places. However, the protests are suspended on May 31. The NZS lodges an appeal with the Supreme Court on May 30.

Bulgaria / Turkey – May 25, 1989 (KCA)

The Turkish Foreign Ministry calls upon its NATO allies to impose economic and cultural sanctions against Bulgaria in the light of the May 20–21 clashes and of the subsequent deportation from Bulgaria of over 250 ethnic Turks.

Soviet Union – May 25, 1989 (KCA)

The Soviet Union's restyled parliament convenes at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow. The range and openness of Congress discussions generate excitement among ordinary Soviet people, who are able to watch the proceedings live on state television. However, it is also obvious from the consistency of the divisions at every Congress vote that the outspoken radical deputies who are testing the limits of permissible debate are frustrated by a substantial conservative majority hindering their efforts to influence policy. Due to heated debates, the constituent session continues until mid-June.

Soviet Union – May 25-June 9, 1989 (MHC)

The new Soviet Congress of People’s Deputies meets for the first time and elects Gorbachev as President. The congress is televised and has a powerful impact on Soviet viewers. One of the first cases taken on by the Congress is the use of force against demonstrators in Tbilisi and the question of Gorbachev’s involvement in giving the order.

Hungary – May 25, 1989 (MNC)

During a work-visit, Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet – accompanied by Ambassador János Nagy – consulted with Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

Hungary – May 26 – June 2, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of state – for the invitation of the European Academy based in West Berlin – visited West Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany. In the Federal Republic of Germany, he consulted with FDP-President Otto von Lambsdorff, leader of the parliamentary faction of the FDP Wolfgang Mischnik, President of the SPD Hans-Jochen Vogel, federal Vice-Chancellor and foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Political Advisor of the Chancellor Hörtelnschik, and President of the federal Parliament Rita Süssmuth.

Hungary – May 26, 1989 (PTH)

Police Colonel Sándor Pongor announces at the press conference of the Budapest Main Police Station that there is no need to issue permission for public meeting on June 16, for it is going to be a private funeral. The police will protect all the sites involved. Organizers of the Committee for Historical Justice and activists of HDF will also be helping the police to keep everything under control in Heroes' Square. Colonel Pongor says there has been an agreement made between the police and the HJC that the coffins for the memorial ceremony in Heroes' Square will be placed on a stand erected on the staircase of the Art Gallery.

HSWP nullifies the decision made in the case of seven philosophers and sociologists including Ágnes Heller in 1973. In support of the government decision on the issue of the Bős-Nagymaros dam, some 6,000 people walk to the House of Parliament. Representatives of the Danube Movement present the papers in which another 40,000 people demand a referendum on the dam. In the meantime, representatives of the Nagymaros local party organization of HSWP take 78,500 signatures to the House of Parliament demanding the completion of the Nagymaros dam.

Soviet Union / Armenia – May 26, 1989 (KCA)

A new 271-member Soviet of the Union is elected by the Congress from among its own deputies. Also, a new Soviet of Nationalities is elected.

More than 200,000 people march through the centre of the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, to mark the anniversary of the declaration in 1918 of an independent Georgian Democratic Republic, which survived until the imposition of Soviet rule in 1921. A similar rally marking the beginning of Armenia's brief independence in 1918–21 takes place in Yerevan on May 28. On May 19, several thousand people stage a rally in Tbilisi to mourn pro-independence demonstrators killed by troops on April 9.

Hungary – May 27, 1989 (PTH)

It is announced that Hungary and the International monetary Fund will continue their financial cooperation, although for now, the IMF does not grant the last installment of the most recent stand-by credit, because Hungary failed to meet the conditions in the agreement. At the same time, representatives of the IMF expressed their agreement in the talks in Budapest concerning the economic package of the government.

The Solidarity Trade Union Workers' Council has its statutory congress in the Jurta Theater.

Hungary – May 27-31, 1989 (MNC)

Interior Minister of Nicaragua had an official friendly visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Interior Minister István Horváth.

Hungary – May 28, 1989 (PTH)

The reduction of Soviet land forces planned for 1989 is completed.

U.S. / Soviet Union - May 29, 1989 (LBC)

Bush makes his arms reduction proposal, which includes a more radical reduction of artillery than the Warsaw Pact offer, the reduction of helicopters and ground based fighter planes 15% below the present NATO level, and the liquidation of planes pulled out from Europe. The two great powers

would be allowed to station 275,000 troops in Central Europe each. According to a Soviet counter-proposal the number of troops in Central Europe would be maximized at 570 thousand, that of fighters would be 420, the number of helicopters could be 800, APCs would be maximized at 8700, APCs at 14,500 artillery units at 7600. In the Warsaw Pact definition, the GDR – the FRG, Belgium, Holland, Poland – Czechoslovakia –Denmark and Hungary would be considered Central Europe. NATO’s definition does not include Hungary and Denmark.

Hungary – May 29, 1989 (KCA)

At the Central Committee plenum, it is decided to hold a full party congress instead of a special conference later in 1989.

According to the position accepted at the meeting of CC of HSWP, representatives of the party will not officially attend the funeral of Imre Nagy and his associates.

Poland – May 29, 1989 (KCA)

The *Sejm* passes a law “pardoning and consigning to oblivion” crimes and misdemeanours “motivated by political reasons or in connection with strikes, protest actions or related to militarization” committed since August 31, 1980 when the “Gdansk accords” allowing free trade unions. The crimes include taking part in illegal strikes and street demonstrations, underground printing or broadcasting, and collecting money for banned organizations. The *Sejm* also passes amendments to the penal code abolishing regulations that punish “activities aimed at stirring social unrest or upheavals”.

Soviet Union – May 29, 1989 (KCA)

The Congress debates Gorbachev's proposal that Lukyanov should continue as his principal deputy in the new office of First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Soviet. After four hours of questions on his record of more than 30 years as a legal consultant to the government and the CPSU Central Committee, he is elected with 179 votes against and 137 abstentions.

Czechoslovakia - May 29-30, 1989 (OSA)

The Slovak government discusses Hungary’s decision on the halting of the Danube Dam Project at a special meeting. The decision is likely to increase the tension between the two countries.

Czechoslovakia - May 29-30, 1989 (OSA)

The first conference of ministers responsible for the environment in the six countries bordering Czechoslovakia takes place on May 29 and 30. The meeting ends with a resolution calling for more cooperation among its communist and noncommunist participants. The participating countries are Czechoslovakia, the USSR, East and West Germany, Hungary, Poland and Austria. The European Community, the CMEA, and the United Nations Economic Commission also send representatives.

Yugoslavia - May 29 and 31, 1989 (OSA)

The members of Slovenia’s State Presidency issued an open letter to their counterparts in Serbia calling for a meeting to discuss way of ending the mutual recriminations in an attempt to defuse the growing polarization between the leaderships of the two republics. On May 31, Milan Kučan, President of Slovenia’s LC, called on all Slovenes and Serbs to show mutual understanding of the problems facing both republics.

Hungary – May 29-June 1, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister Gábor Nagy consulted in the Foreign Ministry of Egypt.

NATO, May 29-30, 1989 (MNC)

The summit of the heads of state and Prime Ministers of the members of the NATO was held in Belgium, where in their four-point proposal; the United States proposed the decrease of conventional weaponry.

Helsinki Accords – May 30-June 23, 1989 (MNC)

The conference of the representatives of the signatory countries of the Helsinki Accords was held in Paris, on the topic of human rights (“Human Dimension”).

Hungary – May 30, 1989 (PTH)

In the House of Parliament, Prime Minister Miklós Németh announces that after studying the documents of the Imre Nagy trial, the Supreme Prosecutor will, before the funeral, define his legal position, and then the legal and political rehabilitation can take place. He adds, "This means that we can attend their coffins resting in state bearing in mind that we bow our heads before former the prime minister, the minister of state and the minister of defense of the Hungarian government". He brings up the idea that a law should be passed stating the innocence of other victims of the political show trials.

On the same day, the new proposal for negotiations by HSWP is made public. According to it, quadrilateral negotiations should be held in such a way that one side is taken by HSWP, the other by the Opposition Roundtable, the third by the rest of the independent organizations, and the fourth by observers. HSWP requests the Speaker of the House to chair the sessions of the negotiations.

Hungary – May 30-June 2, 1989 (PTC)

The Parliament passes the bill on calling a referendum and popular initiatives, as well as the law on the transformation of economic organizations and companies and modifies the company law and the cooperative law.

In its communiqué, the CC of HSWP considers it necessary that the revision of the trials of Imre Nagy and his associates be completed as soon as possible and justice administered to the convicted politicians. In renewing the party, they will build on the principles adopted at the end of October 1956 and openly accept the heritage of the reform initiatives of 1953-54. The Supreme Prosecution hand over the personal bequest of the former Prime Minister, Imre Nagy, to his daughter, including a draft of a memoir entitled "A Stormy Generation", his notes taken in Snagov, poems and letters. According to Erzsébet Nagy, several items are missing from the bequest.

Guinea / Yugoslavia - May 31-June 4, 1989 (JIS)

President of Guinea Lansana Conte visits Yugoslavia. Bilateral issues are discussed, as well as the situation in Africa and the future of the NAM.

Soviet Union – May 30, 1989 (KCA)

During the continued constituent session of the restyled parliament, the keynote address by President Mikhail Gorbachev is one of the main topics of the heated debates and controversial speeches from the Congress platform continue on May 31.

Boris Yeltsin, the most prominent figure on the radical wing of the CPSU, in a controversial address, criticizes Gorbachev for the failures of *perestroika* (“restructuring”) and sets out an alternative economic recovery program which includes a massive cut in capital spending and moves to “satisfy” the demand for consumer goods. On political affairs, Yeltsin warns that Gorbachev's personal influence and now considerable powers pose the threat of a “new dictatorship”. He called for direct elections to the Chair of the Supreme Soviet (the new-style executive presidency to which Gorbachev had been elected on May 25) and for annual referendums on the President's performance in order to keep his powers in check, as well as for a strengthening of the powers of the Congress and the Supreme Soviet. He also calls for the Communist Party (CPSU) to be made subordinate by law to the legislature, and for an emergency CPSU congress to oust the remaining conservatives from the party leadership.

Overshadowing Yeltsin's audacious remarks, Yuri Vlasov, a former Olympic weight-lifting champion who is one of the Soviet Union's best-known veteran sporting heroes, delivers a frank and bitter denunciation of the KGB, and insists that the whole executive of the Soviet state should be subordinated to the legislature.

Czechoslovakia - May 30-31, 1989 (DRC)

At the initiative of the Czechoslovak Government, a conference takes place in Prague to discuss problems of the natural environment in Central Europe. It is attended by ministers of the environment from neighbouring countries, who jointly issue a seven-point memorandum at the end of the conference.

Czechoslovakia - May 30 - June 23, 1989 (DRC)

The CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension of the Helsinki Process is held in Paris, attended by delegates from the USA, Canada, and all the European countries except Albania. The governments of Czechoslovakia –Romania – and Bulgaria are criticized for not meeting their international obligations in human rights and civil liberties. The Czechoslovak Foreign Minister assures the Conference that his Government is attempting to bring about the “profound restructuring and democratization of all areas of life in society”. Several representatives of Czechoslovak independent initiatives are also been invited to the conference, but the Czechoslovak authorities make it impossible for them to leave the country.

Bulgaria / Turkey – May 31, 1989 (KCA)

As a consequence of the events of May 20-23, a Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman announces that Turkey is prepared to admit all of Bulgaria's Turkish population.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Germany – May 31, 1989 (KCA)

During the continued constituent session of the restyled parliament, the conservative leader of the Kirghiz Communist Party, Absamat Masaliyev, says that radicals like Yeltsin and Vlasov are “fanning up political tensions” and “making a career for themselves by soiling the reputations of high-ranking officials, by discrediting the Communist Party”. The debate culminates in the appointment of a 21-member commission to investigate the April 9 assault by troops in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, which left 20 demonstrators dead

Algirdas Brazauskas, First Secretary of the Lithuanian CP, calls upon the central authorities to acknowledge the existence of the secret protocols of the August 1939 Nazi-Soviet non- aggression

pact which divided Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence, preparing the way for the Soviet annexation of the Baltic republics. The Armenia State Procurator's Office orders the release of the members of the so-called “Karabakh Committee” from detention.

June

GDR – June 1989 (OSA)

The SED becomes the only East European communist party to welcome the Chinese authorities’ suppression of the democracy movement.

Czechoslovakia – summer, 1989 (VVR)

The Most initiative to create conditions for negotiations between the State and opposition is launched.

Hungary – summer, 1989 (PTH)

The last issue of the samizdat paper appears which publishes several 1956 documents and photos in the spirit of the upcoming national day of mourning. The issue includes a paper written jointly by Imre Mécs and János Rajna M. about the activities of the special police force in 1957, and the sentence passed by the Council of the People's Court of the Supreme Court in the case of István Bibó, Árpád Göncz and László Regéczy-Nagy on August 2, 1958.

Czechoslovakia – June 1989 (RFE)

Members of the Czechoslovak People’s Party, previously subservient to the regime, send a letter criticizing the government’s lack of democracy and declaring that the party will be returning to its foundational Christian principles.

Bulgaria / Turkey – June 1989 (KCA)

More than 80,000 Turks leave their native Bulgaria for Turkey during June, after the violent suppression of their May protests against attempts to “Bulgarianize” them. The May death toll was officially seven but unofficially up to 30. The mass exodus began in the first week of June.

The Bulgarian Ministry of the Interior said that it received 250,000 applications to travel to Turkey, most of which will be processed in the near future.

The Bulgarian authorities estimate that they will lose about 1,000 million leva (US\$1.00=0.8789 leva as at June 26, 1989) as a result of the exodus.

Czechoslovakia - June 1, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak police disperses a meeting in a Prague restaurant of seventy activists of the Movement for Civil Liberty.

The Christian Union for Human Rights, which calls itself a community of all Christians trying to

rectify the human-rights situation, issues its main statement.

Vatican – June 1-10, 1989 (MNC)

During his Northern European tour, Pope John Paul II visited Norway, Iceland, Finland, Denmark and Sweden.

Hungary – June 1, 1989 (PTH)

The Committee for Historical Justice objects to representatives of HSWP, the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers officially laying a wreath on the coffins at the funeral of Imre Nagy and his associates, because these organizations have not yet distanced themselves directly from the events that took place in 1956 and afterwards.

Soviet Union / Latvia / Lithuania / Estonia / Germany – June 1, 1989 (KCA)

The constituent session of the restyled parliament continues. In a scathing attack on Yegor Ligachev, the CPSU Politburo and Secretariat member who is generally regarded as the leading conservative in the leadership, the Moscow-based television commentator Yury Chernichenko calls into question Ligachev's appointment in September 1988 as chair of the CPSU Agrarian Policy Commission. Numerous people, he says, have asked him: “Why has a politically important sphere which is decisive for *perestroika* been given to a man who does not understand anything about agriculture and has already failed in ideology?”

The Congress votes to establish a commission of enquiry into the Soviet annexation of Lithuanian, Latvia and Estonia in 1940. Lithuanian deputies threaten to walk out of the session unless the commission is established. The First Secretary of the Lithuanian CP, Algirdas Brazauskas, appeals to the Congress to agree in order to prevent further undermining of party authority in his republic. However, there is opposition to the commission from ethnic Russian deputies from the Baltic republics.

Furthermore, an Estonian deputy, Igor Gryazin, reads out from the Congress rostrum the text of the secret protocols, which is known only from a surviving microfilm copy from German Foreign Ministry archives recovered by British officials at the end of the Second World War.

Hungary – June 2, 1989 (KCA)

The National Assembly approves a state budget for 1989 with expenditure of 539,055 million forints (US\$1.00=62.2453 forints as at June 5, 1989). This represents a 10.8% nominal increase over 1988, but a 6.6% reduction in US dollar terms. Revenues are to be 518,094 million forints, an increase of 5,000 million forints against the outturn for 1988, and the budget deficit is to be held down to a projected 20,961 million forints.

The first round of talks between HSWP and the Opposition Roundtable bring no results. The Budapest reform circle of HSWP sends an open letter to the Presidency of the Committee for Historical Justice denouncing Károly Grósz for his actions. The party committee of the Technical University of Budapest makes a statement public calling for the General Secretary of HSWP to resign immediately.

Furthermore, accepting the proposal made by Mátyás Szűrös, the Parliament supports the idea that a parliamentary delegation should lay a wreath at the funeral of Imre Nagy and his associates.

Agreeing with the motion of the Prime Minister, the representatives of the House take a position on passing a law to nullify the sentences passed in the show trials. The House acknowledges that the Council of Ministers has suspended the building of the Bős-Nagymaros dam. Two members of the House call for László Maróthy, Minister of Environmental Protection and Management of Water Supplies to resign.

Representatives of the Council of Ministers, the Social Democratic Party of Hungary – the Hungarian People's Party, the Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Society, the Left-wing Alternative Association and the New March Front hold a preliminary negotiation.

Soviet Union – June 2, 1989 (KCA)

The constituent session of the restyled parliament continues. Dr. Andrei Sakharov, a prominent human rights activist, finds himself the target of almost universal criticism within the Congress for his allegations that Soviet troops have committed atrocities in Afghanistan.

Hungary – June 3, 1989 (PTH)

The national board of the Independent Smallholders’ Party, now 6,000 members, elects Vince Vörös Chairman and Tivadar Pártay Honorary Chairman.

Soviet Union – June 3, 1989 (KCA)

The new 271-member Soviet of the Union meets for the first time, electing as chairman Dr. Yevgeny Primakov, a firm supporter of Gorbachev and is well known internationally as the head of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations at the USSR Academy of Sciences.

The Soviet of the Union also sets up four standing commissions: on planning, budget and finance; on development of industry, energy, machinery and technology; on transport, communications and information technology; and on labor, prices and social policy. It also endorses proposals for committees to be supervised jointly with the Soviet of Nationalities on international affairs; defense and state security; legislation, legality and law and order; and economic reform.

Poland / Czechoslovakia - 4 June 1989 (DRC)

In a five-minute time slot on state-run Polish television, Polish Solidarity broadcasts a short interview with Václav Havel.

Poland – June 4, 1989 (MHC)

Solidarity wins decisively in free parliamentary elections. The union wins 92 of 100 seats in the Senate and 160 of 161 available seats in the 460-seat *Sejm*.

China – June 4, 1989 (MHC)

Chinese government troops with armored vehicles crush protests in Tiananmen Square, killing thousands.

Hungary – June 4, 1989 (PTH)

In China, the army is used to end the several-week long demonstration of students on Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

Poland – June 4, 1989 (UNW)

General elections take place. 69% of voters take part, which is considered to be a surprisingly low result. Candidates from the opposition gain 160 out of 161 possible seats in the *Sejm* and 92 places in the Senate.

Hungary – June 4-11, 1989 (KCA)

A period of party formation begins. On June 7, a Movement for a Democratic Hungary is set up. On June 11, it is announced that the Hungarian People's Party, which was closed after the 1956 uprising, will be reconstituted. Other new parties that form in this period include a Gypsy Party, whose manifesto according to MTI on June 4 seeks redress for centuries of repression.

Hungary – June 4-6, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Vaezi consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

China – June 4, 1989 (MNC)

During the clashes on Tianmen Square, the military slaughtered students; on the June 21, with the execution of three young people from Shanghai, the retaliation against the student- and youth protests has begun.

Hungary – June 5-8, 1989 (MNC)

Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People's Republic of Hungary had an official visit to the Republic of Turkey, where he was received by Turkish President of the republic Kenan Evren.

Poland - June 5, 1989 (RFE)

Preliminary results indicate that Lech Walesa's Citizens' Committee and Solidarity have secured a crushing victory over the political establishment in the June 4 elections.

Hungary / China – June 5, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers decides that the employment and the pension of those relocated between 1949 and 1953 will be settled by the end of June. Fair and square measures will be taken in September in the cases of those relocated between 1945 and 1949 and after 1956 that suffered legal disadvantages. The mode of compensation will be codified in a law. The Council of Ministers also decide that from permission no longer is needed to publish books or show films.

Foreign minister Gyula Horn states nothing can justify the bloodshed in Beijing.

Many political and social organizations condemn the bloodshed in Beijing in a communiqué and warn that political conflicts should not be settled by force of arms in Hungary. There are demonstrations in front of the Chinese embassy in Budapest.

Hungary – June 5-6, 1989 (PTH)

The independent artistic group Inconnu pays tribute to the memory of the nameless victims lying in section 301 of the Rákoskeresztúr public cemetery by erecting 301 wooden headboards.

Soviet Union – June 6, 1989 (KCA)

The new Soviet of Nationalities meets for the first time. It elects as its chairman Rafik Nishanov, the First Secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party (CP).

Cuba / Czechoslovakia – June 6-7, 1989 (DRC)

Member of the Presidium of the CPCz CC Karel Urbánek is in Havana to take part in a meeting of secretaries of Communist parties, which is held to discuss political and organizational work.

GDR – June 7, 1989 (OSA)

East German Police break up a pro-democracy demonstration and arrest more than 120 people protesting against alleged election fraud by communist authorities. An *Associated Press* reports about the massive security forces move against about 300 demonstrators in downtown East Berlin.

Hungary / China – June 7, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers denounces the events in Beijing in a communiqué. FYD demonstrates in front of the Chinese embassy in Budapest.

The Christian Democratic Party of Hungary is admitted to the organization at the meeting of the Opposition Roundtable.

Soviet Union – June 7, 1989 (KCA)

The two Supreme Soviet chambers hold their first joint session, re-electing Nikolai Ryzhkov as Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister). He delivers a report on the economic program of his new administration to the joint session. The *Washington Post* calls it “the bleakest official account yet of the Soviet Union's economic plight”.

Hungary – June 7-9, 1989 (PTH)

The Hungarian television broadcasts Judit Ember's previously banned 11 hour long documentary film, "Right of Asylum", in three installments.

Czechoslovakia - June 7-19, 1989 (OSA)

On June 7, seven Czechoslovak independent groups announced that on June 15, they would hold a public meeting in the Julius Fucik Park in Prague to discuss “the rights of citizens in light of the CSCE follow-up meeting in Vienna.” The Prague authorities banned the meeting, giving “technical obstacles” as the reason. Following the ban, six of the seven groups that had organized the meeting decided to sponsor another public gathering in support of civil rights in Czechoslovakia.

Poland - June 8, 1989 (RFE)

Official results of the June 4 elections are released, confirming that Solidarity has decisively won the first round of parliamentary elections, increasing the existing political uncertainty. The results demonstrate that only two of the thirty-five candidates on the national list, the leading establishment politicians who ran unopposed, managed to collect more than 50% of the vote, and so may have to be eliminated from parliament. In the 161 Sejm races that were open to nonparty candidates, the Citizens’ Committee won 160, and in the Senate contests, they won outright 92 of the 100 available seats. As the round-table agreement allocated 65% of the Sejm seats to the ruling coalition, this left 264 seats to be filled in competitive elections. Only 3 of these 264 seats manage to get the 50% of the vote required to win. These results suggest that the public consciously treated the elections as a referendum on the communist system. The election sweep by the candidates of the Citizens’ Committee has left undecided only 9 of the 261 contests in which the opposition competed. These will be decided in the second round of voting on June 18.

Hungary – June 8, 1989 (PTH)

According to the agreement, between the Council of Ministers and the Committee for Historical Justice, Miklós Németh and Mátyás Szűrös will officially participate in the funeral on June 16, but HSWP as an organization will not be represented.

It is announced that the Russian language will cease to be a mandatory foreign language in schools from the next academic year onwards.

Soviet Union – June 8, 1989 (KCA)

The constituent session of the restyled parliament continues. When Nikolai Ryzhkov, the new Prime Minister, is questioned on his report in the Congress, Nikolai Shmelev, a prominent radical economist, accuses him of underestimating the threat of economic collapse posed by the budget deficit. Shmelev puts forward an alternative economic program, most notably proposing foreign borrowing should be increased.

The Supreme Soviet approves the formation of 14 standing committees comprising deputies from Congress as well as from the Supreme Soviet. It also approves various candidates nominated by Gorbachev to fill key posts. Gennady Kolbin, the First Secretary of the Kazakh CP, is elected to the important post of Chairman of the People's Control Committee, which ensures that officials and industrial managers comply with government policy. Yevgeny Smolentsev, a Vice-Chairman of the USSR Supreme Court, is elected Chairman. Aleksandr Sukharev is re-elected USSR Procurator General. Yury Matveyev is elected National Arbiter, who is responsible for settling labour disputes.

A walkout by 50 of the 58 Lithuanian deputies follows the voting on the establishment of a Constitutional Commission, which determines whether laws passed by the federal or by republican legislatures comply with the Constitution. The Lithuanian deputies are concerned that the Commission's powers, not fully disclosed, might encroach on the sovereignty of the republics. On Gorbachev's proposal, a vote is nevertheless taken to establish the committee immediately, and this is passed despite 433 votes against.

Council of Europe – June 8, 1989 (MNC)

The Council of Europe gave “special invited” status to Hungary – Poland – Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union.

Hungary – June 9, 1989 (MNC)

Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans- Dietrich Genscher – for the opening of the Budapest office of Friedrich Neumann Foundation – stayed in Budapest. He met Foreign Minister Gyula Horn, and Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of state. He was received by Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – June 9, 1989 (KCA)

The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office applies to the Supreme Court for the annulment of the charges against Imre Nagy. Nagy had been hanged on June 16, 1958 for high treason. The developments follow a period of growing internal pressure for Nagy's rehabilitation, which culminated in a

declaration on May 30 by the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Worker's Party that Nagy's trial had been an illegal “show trial”.
The Ferenc Műnich Society issues a communiqué in which "welcoming the day of national reconciliation," it calls every loyal supporter of socialism to refrain from any action that would endanger the national reconciliation treasured by everyone.
Furthermore, the 5th District Committee of HSWP proposes that after the legal rehabilitation of Imre Nagy, the nameless square in the 5th district of Budapest, where the Bathyhány sanctuary lamp is to be found, should be named Imre Nagy square.

Vatican / Czechoslovakia - 9 June 1989 (DRC)

Cardinal Tomášek sends a letter to Czechoslovak President Gustáv Husák, which contains the position of the Roman Catholic Church on the framing of a new Czechoslovak Constitution. The Cardinal is in favour of abandoning Marxism-Leninism as official state ideology.

Hungary – June 10, 1989 (PTH)

Experts of HSWP and the Opposition Roundtable agree to start genuine political negotiations.

The radio program *168 Hours* talks with András Hegedűs B. on the preparations for the funeral, with Imre Pozsgay on the intellectual heritage of Imre Nagy and his associates, and with Rezső Nyers on the Imre Nagy trial.

The New March Front established 15 months earlier becomes an independent intellectual, political organization with members of its own.

Soviet Union – June 10, 1989 (KCA)

Nikolai Ryzhkov, the newly elected Prime Minister, forwards proposals for the composition of the new Council of Ministers, involving a reduction of the number of ministers by nearly half to 57, with an additional 13 first deputy and deputy premiers. Although the full list of proposals is not made public, it is reported in the Soviet press that Ryzhkov intends only 10 ministers to retain their posts from the outgoing government.

Hungary – June 11, 1989 (PTH)

The television program *Hét* gives a brief historical overview of Imre Nagy's political life. Imre Pozsgay, Minister of State and Gyula Horn, Foreign Minister, are questioned in the program, who believe the funeral may be an end to an era.

Local people commemorate Ferenc Nagy, the Prime Minister of the Coalition Government after 1945, in his home village in Baranya County, in Bisse. A memorial tablet is unveiled at the ceremony organized by the Independent Smallholders' Party, HDF and the local reformed community.

The agreement on the beginning of political conciliatory negotiations is made public according to which the democratic transition and the resolution of conflicts should be implemented in a peaceful manner excluding any violence. Therefore, no social organization can have direct control over the armed forces.

U.S. / Soviet Union - June 12, 1989 (LBC)

US-Soviet agreement on accidental conflict is signed. It prohibits the use of military force in such cases or in conflicts arising because of misunderstanding. The agreement refers to naval, air and other clashes.

Poland - June 12, 1989 (RFE)

The Polish Council of State issues a decree, amending the electoral law and allowing the governing coalition to fill the 33 Sejm seats left vacant through the defeat of most of the candidates on the national list (See entry 8 June 1989 for more details).

Hungary – June 12, 1989 (PTH)

Leaders of the Hungarian Roman Catholic Church, The Ecumenical Council of the Hungarian Churches, the Reformed Church, the Evangelical Church, the Orthodox Church, the Council of Denominational Churches, the Methodist Church, the Unitarian Church and the Israelite Confession issue a solemn communiqué concerning the re-burial of the martyrs of the 1956 revolution. They all state that June 16, the day of national mourning, should be the dawn of unity, collaboration and resurrection.

Poland – June 12, 1989 (UNW)

The second round of general elections takes place. Only 25% of eligible voters take part. Solidarity gains the one remaining seat in the *Sejm* and seven out of eight seats in the senate.

Hungary – June 12-15, 1989 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Denmark Erik Ninn-Hansen had an official visit to Hungary. His host was President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös.

Soviet Union, June 12-15, 1989 (MNC)

M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Head of the State of the Soviet Union, had an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany, where a joint political statment was released about the respect for the right of self-determination of countries.

USA / Soviet Union – June 12-22, 1989 (MNC)

A Soviet-American agreement was signed about the “prevention of dangerous military activities” in Moscow, during the Moscow visit of the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Hungary – June 13, 1989 (MNC)

Before the reburial of Imre Nagy and his compatriots, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn and Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár gave a joint international press conference.

Hungary – June 13 and 21, 1989 (KCA)

The HSWP leadership holds two rounds of televised discussions with opposition groups regarding political reform. The talks take place amid mounting speculation that the HSWP will face a serious challenge to its power in the elections due to be held in March 1990.

Representatives of the Council of Ministers, Miklós Németh, Ferenc Glatz and Gyula Horn meet with Imre Nagy's daughter, Erzsébet Nagy and her husband. They agree that the funeral ceremony on June 16 should serve justice and national reconciliation. The Executive Presidency of the

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National Council of the Patriotic People's Front issues a statement calling the execution of Imre Nagy and his associates a disgrace to the history of Hungary and Europe after 1956.

The National Roundtable talks begin. Those participating are HSWP, the Opposition Roundtable and the so-called "third party" consisting of social organizations and movements.

Ambassador André Erdős announces at the human rights conference in Paris that 75% of the refugees coming to Hungary from Romania are no longer of Hungarian nationality.

Czechoslovakia – June 14, 1989 (VVR)

The Czechoslovak press publishes a positive assessment of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Hungary – June 14, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers in its statement pays a tribute to Imre Nagy and his companions in distress, "to all the victims of the 1956 national uprising and tragedy", and shares the grief of their families. The US Senate passes a unanimous decision which states, "The 1956 Hungarian revolution was a breakthrough in recent history, the first important signal that the destruction of Stalinism was inevitable".

Károly Grósz participates in the meeting of the Salgótarján party organization, where he says concerning 1956 that a more careful examination of the documents sheds light on the unlawfulness of the sentences.

France / Poland - June 14-16, 1989 (LBC)

French President Mitterand visits Poland. The President announces that Warsaw’s \$1.15 billion debt will be rescheduled and held out a \$100 million bank loan.

Czechoslovakia - June 14-15, 1989 (DRC / OSA)

The fourteenth session of the CPCz CC takes place in Prague. It is concerned with the situation in the mining, machine tool, and electrical-engineering industries. At the session, Slovak Premier Ivan Knotek is elected CPCz CC Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Pavol Hrivnák is elected Slovak Premier and also becomes a candidate for the CPCz CC Presidium. Miroslav Zajíc is elected a Secretary of the CPCz CC, and Milošlav Hruškovič is relieved from as a candidate of the CPCz CC Presidium.

Also, at this plenum, Secretary-General Milos Jakes makes it clear that Czechoslovak Communists are watching development in Hungary and Poland with suspicion.

Hungary – June 15, 1989 (MNC)

The Cabinet made a resolution about the creation for refugee reception centres in the territory of Hungary.

Poland – June 15, 1989 (MNC)

The Soviet Union has started the partial withdrawal of its armed forces stationing in Poland.

Hungary – June 15-17, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs László Kovács consulted with the (Spanish) President -in- office of the European Communities in Madrid.

Hungary – June 15-19, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Senate of Canada Guy Charbonneau arrived to Hungary for a four-day visit. His negotiation partner was Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament.

Czechoslovakia - June 15, 1989 (DRC)

In a Radio Free Europe commentary, Pavel Tigrid, the leading figure of Czechoslovak democrats in exile, appeals to Václav Havel to accept the political role that the times are calling upon him to assume, and to place himself unequivocally behind the political program of the opposition, the core of which is ‘freedom, democracy, and independence’.

Hungary – June 15, 1989 (PTH)

The People's Militia is placed under the control of the Council of Ministers.

A temporary memorial tablet is placed on the wall of the prison in Fő Street where Imre Nagy and his associates were sentenced to death. On behalf of those convicted, Imre Mécs commemorates Imre Nagy, then József Antall, Károly Debreceni and Gábor Fodor make a speech.

At the initiative of FYD, more than 200 people demonstrate in front of the embassy of the Soviet Union in Budapest, demanding the prompt withdrawal of the soviet troops.

A memorial tablet is inaugurated on the wall of Imre Nagy's birthplace in Kaposvár.

Hungary – June 16, 1989 (MNC)

For the reburial ceremony of Imre Nagy and his compatriots, several known Hungarian personalities living in emigration and the most famous Western press correspondents stayed in Budapest.

Hungary – June 16, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Italian Socialist Party Bettino Craxi – for the participation in the reburial ceremony of Imre Nagy and his compatriots – stayed in Budapest. On this occasion, he consulted with Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party.

Yugoslavia - June 16, 1989 (OSA)

Constitutional Commission of the Slovenian National Assembly adopted amendments to the republic’s constitution. The most controversial is a clause claiming the right to secession.

Austria / Yugoslavia - June 16, 1989 (JIS)

Austrian chancellor Franz Vranitzky meets with Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Marković in Yugoslavia. Mainly bilateral economic cooperation is discussed. Vranitzky expressed his support for the ongoing reforms in Yugoslavia. They attended the opening ceremony of the Karawanks tunnel.

Hungary – June 16, 1989 (KCA / PTH / MHC)

Imre Nagy's body is reburied in a state funeral in Heroes’ Square in Budapest, attended by an estimated 300,000 people. Also buried with him are the remains of Gen. Pal Maleter, Nagy’s Defense Minister, and three other close associates, Jozsef Szilagyi, Geza Losonczy and Miklos Gimes. An empty casket is buried with them to symbolize the 245 other persons who had been

executed in the aftermath of the uprising. All Warsaw Pact members except Romania send delegations, although the Soviet contingent is of only junior rank. Wreaths are laid by Hungary's Prime Minister Miklós Nemeth, Minister of State and HSWP politburo member Imre Pozsgay, and Matyas Szűrös, the Speaker of the National Assembly, as well as by representatives of the Czechoslovak dissident organization Charter 77 and the Polish Independent Students' Association, and by the Italian Communist Party and Socialist Party leaders, Achille Occhetto and Bettino Craxi.

The funeral service in Heroes' Square and in the cemetery is covered by Hungarian television and radio live all the way through, and a large number of television stations all over the world cover the event on site. Bill Lomax, Béla Szász and Béla Varga, former Speaker of the National Assembly gives an interview in the morning program of the radio. In the evening, the Committee for Historical Justice hosts a reception at the Institute for Educational Research in honor of the representatives of the Hungarian emigration, most of whom have come home for the first time.

Hungarian television shows a documentary on Imre Nagy, "Stormy Generation", in the evening. Late in the evening, a delegation of the 16th district organization of AFD, FYD and HDF visit the Soviet barracks in Mátyásföld where Imre Nagy and his associates were temporarily kept after being transported tfrom the Yugoslav embassy. The Soviet officers showed them the exact place, where the delegation place a wreath and light candles in memory of the martyrs.

Czechoslovakia - June 16-17, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak 14th National Congress of Women meet in Prague on June 16 and 17. The convention occurs at a time when most women are still working under poor conditions and are the subject of discrimination at work. Among the highlights is the election of a new president, Miroslava Nemcova, who is an educator and a former President of the Czech Women's Union. Also, Milos Jakes delivers an address in the meeting, which emphasizes the important role that Czechoslovak women play in society.

Poland - June 18, 1989 (RFE)

Solidarity sweeps to another victory, adding further humiliation to the Communist Party, winning the 35% of the Sejm seats available to the opposition and increasing their tally of Senate seats to 99 out of 100, thus gaining 260 of the 261 seats in parliament for which they had competed. The turnout is much lower, dropping from 62% in the first round to just over 25% in the second. This drop in voter participation is likely the public's reaction to Solidarity's crushing victory in the first round, leaving the second round as a contest reserved for the governing coalition, as the opposition competed for only 9 of the 303 Sejm and Senate seats contested in the second round. The opposition now controls a full 35% of the Sejm.

Bulgaria / Turkey / U.N. – June 18, 1989 (KCA)

The Turkish Prime Minister, Turgut Özal, seeks an agreement with Bulgaria to regulate the new influx of immigrants into his country, with the involvement of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, Georgi Atanasov, states his willingness to talk about any issue, but without any preconditions or a fixed agenda.

Hungary – June 18-20, 1989 (MNC)

State Minister of the Foreign Ministry of India Natvar Singh consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest. He met Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, Imre Pozsgay, member of the Political

Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. He gave a lecture in the Hungarian Institute of Foreign Affairs. He was received by President of the Parliament, Mátyás Szűrös.

Hungary – June 19-21, 1989 (MNC)

The European Democratic Union held its conference in Budapest. Among the participants, federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Austria Alois Mock stayed in Budapest.

Yugoslavia / Group 77 - June 19-24, 1989 (NAM)

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar leads the Yugoslav delegation at the Group 77 meeting in Venezuela.

Soviet Union / U.S. – June 19, 1989 (MHC)

START negotiations resume in Geneva.

U.S. / Soviet Union - June 19, 1989 (LBC)

START talks resume. The disputed issues are monitoring, sea launched cruise missiles, mobile launch sites, strategic bombers and the SDI. The US insists on the ability to deploy the SDI after a period of 9-10 years. The US JCS recommended that Washington should renounce its deployment.à

Czechoslovakia - June 19, 1989 (DRC)

After 4.00 p.m., the ‘Promenade for Human Rights’, organized by six independent initiatives, takes place in Na Příkopě pedestrian street in Prague. About 2,000 Czechoslovaks, accompanied by both regular police and the StB walk together in a large circle to express their dissatisfaction with human rights in Czechoslovakia.

Hungary / Romania – June 19, 1989 (PTH)

There is a "nationwide protest by workers" in Romania against the "chauvinist, fascist and nationalist" speeches made at the Imre Nagy funeral. Foreign Minister Gyula Horn gives an interview to the radio program called *First Hand Facts*. He says the Council of Ministers does not intend to respond to the Romanian and Czechoslovakian accusations concerning the June 16 funeral.

U.S. / Poland / Hungary – June 20, 1989 (LBC)

The U.S. House of Representatives grants trade and investment benefits to Poland and Hungary.

Sweden/ Czechoslovakia - June 20-22, 1989 (DRC)

Charter 77 signatory Jiří Hájek and a representative of the Czechoslovak émigré periodical *Listy*, Zdeněk Hejzlar, attend the Congress of the Socialist International in Stockholm.

GDR / Albania – June 20 – 22, 1989 (OSA)

East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fisher visits Albania. It was the first visit by an important politician from an East-bloc country since Albania’s break with Moscow in 1961. Two agreements on economic and health cooperation are signed. Both countries are opposed to the reformist’s trends in some other communist countries.

Hungary – June 20, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár – accepting an invitation – took part in the summit of Ministers of Justice of the members of the Council of Europe in The Hague.

Czechoslovakia - June 20, 1989 (OSA)

In a speech to the Federal Assembly on June 20, Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec discusses the country’s economy and describes his plans for its reform.

Yugoslavia - June 20, 1989 (OSA)

The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Slovenian communist party announced that a major item on the agenda of its plenum next week would be a vote on the Presidium’s resolution to call an extraordinary congress of its own, if it is outvoted on important issues at the Extraordinary Congress of the LCY scheduled in December. The daily *Borba* of the Socialist Alliance called the Slovenian party Presidium’s action, a clear “break with democratic centralism.”

Yugoslavia - June 20, 1989 (OSA)

The Serbian National Assembly adopted a proposal by the republic’s State Presidency and its Commission for Economic Reform for introducing a public loan program to rebuild Serbia’s failing economy. Chief architect of the program was the economist Zoran Pjanić.

Hungary – June 20-22, 1989 (MNC)

Rezső Nyers, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of state had an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. His negotiation partners were:

- President of the Chamber of Trade and Industry Otto Wolf von Amerongen;
- Prime Minister of the North Rhine-Westphalia region Johannes Rau;
- President of the FDP Otto von Lambsdorff;
- Federal vice-chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher;
- Political advisor of the chancellor Horst Teltschik.

Developing countries, June 21-23, 1989 (MNC)

During the extraordinary Ministerial summit of the “group of 77” of the developing countries in Caracas, Mongolia joined the group.

Czechoslovakia - June 21, 1989 (DRC)

In Stromovka Park in Prague, a demonstration of environmentalists demand the park’s protection. The estimated 250 people attending, most of them young, are brutally dispersed by the police. One of the organizers of the demonstration, Petr Placak of the Bohemian Children initiative, is taken by the police to the woods outside Prague, where he is brutally beaten and then left alone to fend for himself.

Yugoslavia – June 21, 1989 (HR)

The Presidium of the Central Committee of LC of Slovenia support the position of Milan Kučan hat Slovenia would not accept majority voting (one man = one vote) in the Federation.

Poland - June 21, 1989 (RFE)

Figures published in *Gazeta Wyborcza* suggest that approximately 55 successful government coalition candidates ran with some form of endorsement from the opposition. This fuels the perception that despite the 65-35 government-opposition split in the Sejm, the actual balance of

forces is still unclear.

Hungary – June 21, 1989 (KCA)

Imre Pozsgay announces that the HSWP accepts the principle of a democratic electoral system based on free elections and contested by rival political parties. The HSWP will renounce its practice of combining party power with state functions, because of the conviction that patience and persuasion are needed to convince the public of its social policies, rather than force or coercion.

The HSWP leadership accedes to pressure from the nine opposition groups to withhold three draft laws from the June 27 session of the National Assembly. The bills propose changes to the presidential structure, the creation of a Constitutional Court and the establishment of independent political parties.

Furthermore, at the second round of the political conciliatory negotiations, the representative of HSWP announces that the ruling party will not propose to place the bills on the agenda of the session of the House beginning on June 27 concerning the modification of the constitution, the political parties, the introduction of the office of presidency and the Constitutional Court. The spokesman of the Opposition Roundtable welcomes this announcement. The same position is taken by the representative of the third party, but he suggests that the president of the country should be elected, for he could be a stabilizing force after the general elections.

Prime Minister Miklós Németh gives an interview on the June 16 events saying that the leadership of the country and the moderate public alike distanced themselves from political demagoguery that also hurts feelings of reverence.

Radio Free Europe sets up an office in Budapest.

Hungary – June 22, 1989 (PTH / MCH)

General Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions Sándor Nagy visits the Metallurgical Works in Ózd, after the workers threatened a strike since 2,500 workers are in danger of losing their jobs in 1990 as a result of reorganizing the plant.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan / Azerbaijan – June 22, 1989 (KCA)

Kolbin, after being elected to chair the USSR People's Control Committee, is replaced as First Secretary of the Kazakh CP by Nursultan Nazarbayev. Nazarbayev had been the Chairman of the Kazakhstan Council of Ministers. Suleyman Tatliyev retires as Chairman of the Presidium of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, and is replaced by Elmira Kafarova, who had been a Deputy Chair of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers.

Slovakia - June 22, 1989 (DRC)

Pavol Hrivnák becomes the new Slovak Premier.

Bulgaria, June 23, 1989 (MNC)

Party General Secretary and Head of State of Bulgaria Todor Zhivkov took a work-visit to the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia - June 23, 1989 (DRC)

Alexander Dubček sends an open letter to the CPCz CC and the Presidium, in which he defends the

reformist policies of the CPCz in 1968 and calls upon the Party to start a dialogue with its former members and “other democrats from the independent groups”.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan – June 23, 1989 (KCA)

Nishanov, after being elected to chair the Soviet of Nationalities, is replaced as Uzbek CP First Secretary by Islam Karimov.

Czechoslovakia - June 24, 1989 (DRC)

In Prague, the StB moves against a meeting of the spokesmen of Charter 77 held that afternoon. Sixteen of the people attending, including Václav Havel, are then detained for several hours. In conjunction with this, police search the homes of the detainees.

Hungary – June 23-24, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The HSWP Central Committee meets to discuss a radical reform of the party's leadership structure. After the meeting, it becomes clear that the influence of the HSWP General Secretary, Karoly Grósz, Prime Minister until November 1988, is greatly reduced, with effective leadership shifting to Rezsó Nyers, the new HSWP chairman and the leader of the reform group which had gained prominence within the party in 1988–89.

The Central Committee votes to transfer responsibility for the running of the party to a new four-member presidium (Nyers, Grósz, Nemeth and Poszgay), and to expand the Politburo into an executive political committee, with 21 members. Imre Pozsgay is nominated President of the Republic.

In a survey by the Central Committee for People's Control, nearly 130,000 people were unemployed in 1988, an increase of 20% from the previous year.

Yugoslavia - June 25, 1989 (RWE)

The newly built cathedral of Saint Sava in Belgrade (Orthodox), was consecrated in a ceremony attended by over 150,000 people. It is reported to be the largest place of worship in the Balkans.

Hungary – June 26, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

In an interview with the party newspaper *Nepszabadsag*, Rezsó Nyers (HSWP Chairman and the leader of the reform group) says that Hungary has become the first East European state to recognize Western concepts of freedom, and that he wants the new structures to help create “a socialist reform policy which unambiguously casts away the old concept of socialism”. He also says that he hopes these new structures will the end of the recent struggle between conservatives and reformers in the party, and will lead to a firm centre.

The Council of Ministers makes public a statement that the agreement in 1950, regulating the relationship between the state and the churches is now ineffective, and the State Office of Church Affairs ceases to exist. The Council of Ministers accepts the proposal of the bills on emigration, immigration, travelling abroad and passports. The Presidential Council suspends decisions on petitions for pardon until the Parliament decides on the abolition of the death penalty.

Hungary – June 26-27, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the

HSWP, Foreign Minister had an official visit to the Republic of Austria. His host was federal Vice-chancellor, Foreign Minister Alois Mock. He was received by federal chancellor Franz Vranitzky. He gave a lecture on the event of the Austrian Institute of Foreign Affairs and League of Industrialists. After the negotiations, Gyula Horn and Alois Mock jointly took part in the beginning of the dismantling of the mechanical border buffer near Sopron.

German Democratic Republic – June 27-July 1, 1989 (MNC)

E. Honecker, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Head of State of the German Democratic Republic visited the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria / Turkey / Western Powers – June 27, 1989 (KCA)

Most Western countries condemn Bulgaria over the treatment of its ethnic Turkish minority. After repeated appeals from Turkey for mediation, the Soviet ambassador to Turkey, Albert Chernyshev, announces that he has begun diplomatic moves to bring both sides to the negotiating table, but it is revealed on the following day that each country has withdrawn its ambassador to the other for an unspecified period.

Hungary / Austria / U.S. – June 27, 1989 (PTH)

Lead by György Krassó, Pál Szolnoki and József Bánlaki, the Hungarian October Party is established. Their intention is to facilitate the full implementation of the objectives of the 1956 revolution and fight for freedom.

The Parliament passes the bill on the implementation of the 1988 budget, relieves Rezső Nyers from his office as Minister of State, as he has just been elected Chairman of HSWP, and elects independent Member of Parliament István Fodor deputy Speaker of the House.

Mark Palmer, US ambassador to Budapest, meets with representatives of the Opposition Roundtable.

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn visits Austria to negotiate about the Bős-Nagymaros dam, the 1995 World Fair and Austrian-Hungarian relations in general.

Yugoslavia – June 28, 1989 (HR, OSA and RWE)

At Gazimestan Monument in Kosovo, the Serbian representatives organize the celebration of the 600th anniversary of the Kosovo battle between Serbs and Turks in 1389. The battle played the key role in building the Serbian national identity and the celebration is attended by more than a million people.

Slobodan Milošević delivered a speech during the celebration. In some of its parts, the RFE author Milan Andrejevich states that the speech had the implication that Serbs had won a significant victory in Kosovo 600 years ago, and that that victory is not the last one. As he said: “Today, six centuries later, we are again fighting a battle and facing battles. They are not armed battles, although such things cannot yet be excluded. The Croatian LC described the occasion, and especially the role of the Serbian LC, as a “shady” device to use the celebrations for the propagation of pan-Serbian ideas.

Hungary – June 28, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament accepts the first draft of the memorandum on the lessons of the new tax reform and the modernization of the tax system.

Soviet Union / Georgia – June 28, 1989 (KCA)

The People's Front of Georgia holds its constituent congress in Tbilisi. It elects as its chairman Prof. Nodar Notadze, who later tells journalists that the Front seeks greater political and economic sovereignty for Georgia, taking into account the interests of all peoples within the republic.

Czechoslovakia - June 28, 1989 (OSA)

A court in East Bohemia sentences the independent publisher Frantisek Starek to 30 months in prison, the most severe sentence passed on a Czechoslovak dissident in recent years.

Czechoslovakia – June 28, 1989 (OSA)

The Movement for Civil Liberties, which is the independent Czechoslovak movement, publishes its proposals for a new Czechoslovak constitution.

Czechoslovakia - June 29, 1989 (DRC)

In Radio Free Europe and other mass media abroad, the petition “Several Sentences” is made public. The petition calls upon the leadership of Czechoslovakia to carry out “thorough changes in the system”, and to begin “free and democratic discussion”. Among the initiators and organizers of the petition are Václav Havel, Jiří Křížan, Alexandr Vondra, and Stanislav Devátý. The 1,800 people who have signed it so far are demanding the release of political prisoners, unlimited freedom of assembly, the legalization of the independent initiatives, full, honest and accurate information in the mass media, the respecting of religious freedom, protection of the natural environment, and the beginning of free discussion on the chief problems facing Czechoslovakia since the end of W.W. II.

An article in *Rudé Právo*, “He Who Sows the Wind Shall Reap the Whirlwind”, calls the initiators of the petition “disrupters of perestroika, who strive for a return to capitalism”. Many signatories of the petition are subjected to searches of their homes, penalties related to employment, fines, and other forms of police and judicial persecution. By the end of the month, more than 10,000 people have signed the petition, and by the end of August the number has grown to 20,000 signatures.

Hungary – June 29, 1989 (PTH)

Jevgeniy Ambarutsev publishes an essay on the Imre Nagy funeral in Moskowskie Novosty. In it he stresses, “Though Imre Nagy was convicted by a Hungarian court in Budapest, it is unquestionably our sin, the sin of our leader at that time, Krushchev’s”.

Czechoslovakia - June 30, 1989 (OSA)

On June 20 Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek celebrates his 90th birthday in Prague. The Czech Primate has not only distinguished himself as a theologian and a staunch defender of religious and human rights but also as a teacher.

Hungary – June 30, 1989 (MNC)

Interior Minister István Horváth had an official friendly visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Karagiorgievo). His negotiation partners were Interior Minister Gracanin, and the Interior Leaders of Croatia.

Hungary – June 30-July 2, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of the Commonweatlh of Australia Robert Hawke had an official visit to Hungary. He held talks with Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet. He consulted with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party. He was received by Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’ Republic of Hungary.

Hungary – June 30, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament modifies the national defense law, specifying that the term of military service, be it regular, without arms or civic, is uniformly 24 months. The representatives modify the Criminal Code in a way that the longest term inflicted for repudiating civic military service is 3 years.

Poland – June 30, 1989 (KCA)

Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski announces that he will not be a candidate for the newly established presidency. Speaking to a joint meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP) and the party's parliamentary deputies, Jaruzelski claims that in the eyes of the public, he would be unable to overcome the stigma of imposing martial law in December 1981. Instead, he recommends Gen. Czesław Kiszczak, the Interior Minister, for PUWP presidential nominee. However, after 11 hours of heated debate, the meeting breaks up without a nomination. This forces the postponement of the presidential elections, which had been scheduled to take place on either July 6 or 7. Jaruzelski formally rescinds his decision not to stand for the presidency on July 18 at a meeting of the PUWP parliamentary group.

July

Soviet Union – July 1989 (KCA)

The Soviet Union experiences during July its worst ever-industrial unrest. Strikes halt production in the country's main Donbass and Kuzbass coalfields and in five other coalmining areas. At the height of the strikes, President Mikhail Gorbachev calls them the most serious threat yet posed to his policy of *perestroika*.

Kazakhstan - July, 1989 (AJ)

With the strengthening of publicity and democracy in the republic, a peculiar conspiracy of silence was interrupted by the performance of the people's Deputy of the USSR M. Shakhanov at the 1st congress of people's deputies USSR.

Soviet Union – July-August 1989 (KCA)

A massive increase in crime in the Soviet Union is the subject of several official statements and prominent media coverage in July and August. Particular concern is expressed about the growth of organized crime perpetrated by armed gangs, and about the inadequacy of police resources.

Soviet Union / Hungary July 1, 1989 (MHC)

Shevadnadze visits Budapest. He tells Hungarian leaders, “Do what you think is best to preserve the position of the party”.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1989 (MHC)

Speaking on Soviet television, Gorbachev warns of ethnic conflict breaking out in the USSR.

Hungary – July 1, 1989 (PTH)

The daily paper *Magyar Nemzet* launches a series of articles, "White Spots in Our History". State control over church press and publications is abated.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1989 (KCA)

The Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* publishes a commentary attacking the party leadership in Byelorussia for being out of touch with public opinion and for lacking “the most important qualities of tolerance, respect, democracy, flexibility and readiness to make compromises”.

The *Pravda* attack comes only a week after the Byelorussian authorities have banned the Byelorussian Popular Front from holding its constituent congress in the republic and have denounced its organizers as “extremists”.

President Mikhail Gorbachev appears on Soviet television to appeal for an end to inter-ethnic violence and separatism. In a 20-minute address shown at the start of the main evening news bulletin, he warns of the threat to “the destiny of *perestroika* and the destiny and integrity of our state”.

Czechoslovakia - July 1, 1989 (DRC)

Celebrations of the 90th birthday of Cardinal Tomášek culminate in a special mass in St. Vitus’s Cathedral in Prague. Many important people from others countries attend the celebrations, and Václav Havel and Alexander Dubček personally wish the Cardinal a happy birthday. The mass is followed by a short demonstration in front of the Archiepiscopal Palace.

Czechoslovakia – July 1, 1989 (OSA)

Charter 77 publishes proposals for a new Czechoslovak constitution.

Czechoslovakia - July 1-2, 1989 (OSA)

About 200,000 Catholics are reported to have taken part in the annual pilgrimage to Levoca in Slovakia and to have supported calls for more religious freedom.

Hungary – July 2, 1989 (PTH)

According to Rezső Nyers, Chairman of HSWP, the use of foreign and domestic private capital is not inconsistent with socialism, and instead promotes the socialist system.

Soviet Union – July 2, 1989 (KCA)

Andrei Gromyko, who served as Soviet Foreign Minister from 1957 to 1985, and then as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (de facto head of state) until 1988, dies, aged 79.

Czechoslovakia – July 3, 1989 (KCA)

Explicit press attacks on the petitioners are accompanied by renewed attempts to discredit pro-democracy activists by implicating them in alleged terrorist actions. *Rude Pravo* reports arson attacks and the murder of a youth in North Bohemia, which it attributes to a fascist group calling itself “Werewolf”, whose members were allegedly incited and controlled by “individuals presenting

themselves as followers of Charter 77”.

Poland – July 3, 1989 (HDP)

Gazeta Wyborcza publishes an article by Adam Michnik, “Your President, Our Premier”.

Czechoslovakia - July 3, 1989 (DRC)

Representatives of independent civil initiatives (Charter 77, the Democratic Initiative, the Independent Peace Association, the Club for Legal Support, the John Lennon Peace Club, the Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee, the Movement for Civil Liberty, the Friends of the USA Society, the Bohemian Children, and the Christian Union for Human Rights) send a letter to the premiers and houses of deputies of Bulgaria, Hungary – East Germany, Poland – and the Soviet Union demanding they officially distance themselves from the military intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Yugoslavia - July 3, 1989 (OSA)

About 70 imams from the Bosnian town of Tuzla called for the latest protest meeting to be held in Sarajevo on July 3, where they submitted a petition bearing 40 signatures calling for the “democratization of the Islamic religious community”, which apparently means that they seek a greater voice in the day-to-day affairs of the religious community and the official organization of Yugoslavia Moslems and in the election of the religious leaders, Milan Andrejevich for RFE concluded.

Bulgaria / Turkey – July 4, 1989 (KCA)

The Bulgarian government issues a decree ordering civilian mobilization to cope with severe labor shortages resulting from the mass exodus of ethnic Turks from the country since the beginning of June. The decree makes all men aged between 18 and 60 and all women aged between 17 and 55 subject to conscription into work battalions which may be sent anywhere in Bulgaria to cope with “emergencies” threatening the economy. The decree reflects official concern for the harvest in rural areas affected by the departure of Turkish farm workers.

Hungary – July 4, 1989 (PTH)

Minister of Culture Ferenc Glatz says it is in the social and national interest of Hungary to return the immovable estates of the churches to their original owners. In the future, HDF intends to function simultaneously as an intellectual movement and as a political party.

Poland – July 4, 1989 (KCA)

At the constituent sessions of the National Assembly Chambers, a ZSL deputy, Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, is elected to the office of *Sejm* Speaker (the post traditionally was held by the ZSL), while Andrzej Stelmachowski of Solidarity is elected speaker of the Senate. Three deputy speakers are also elected in each chamber.

Soviet Union / France - July 4-6, 1989 (LBC)

Gorbachev’s visits Paris. The General Secretary of the CPSU gives a speech in the Council of Europe. He deems, “any interference in domestic affairs and any attempt to restrict the sovereignty of states – friends, allies or any others – are inadmissible”. He renounces the use of force or the

threat to use force both within and outside of the alliance. At the same time, he warns the Western states not to push “overcoming socialism” in the East bloc, which “would be a course to confrontation”. Gorbachev declares at a press conference, “how the Polish people and the Hungarian people will decide to structure their societies and lives will be their affair”.

Poland – July 4, 1989 (MHC)

The Polish Parliament convenes. Premier Rakowski and his cabinet offer their resignations but agree to stay on as caretakers.

Hungary – July 4-11, 1989 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Senate of the Australian Commonwealth W. K. Sibraa had an official visit to Hungary. His host was President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös.

Soviet Union, July 4-6, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Head of State of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to France, which resulted in the signing of 22 intergovernmental agreements and protocols.

Pakistan, July 5-11, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto had an official visit to the United Kingdom, during which she announced the wish of Pakistan to return to the British Commonwealth.

Hungary – July 5, 1989 (PTH)

János Barabás, Secretary of the CC of HSWP, states in his press conference, "drawing a lesson from recent events HSWP will take the initiative in getting ready for the upcoming anniversary of the 1956 national uprising".

One of the leaders of the Italian Socialist Party requests the city council of Rome in a letter to name a square after Imre Nagy.

Soviet Union / Europe – July 6, 1989 (MHC)

Addressing the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, Gorbachev says the USSR will not block reform in Eastern Europe and will promote comprehensive European political and economic integration in the framework of a “common European home”.

Hungary – July 6, 1989 (KCA)

János Kádár, the leader of Hungary's ruling Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) from the time of the 1956 anti-communist uprising and Soviet invasion until May 1988, dies at the age of 77 three days after being admitted to a Budapest hospital with severe breathing and circulatory problems.

By coincidence, Kádár's death occurs on the same day that the Hungarian Supreme Court declares null and void the 1958 treason verdicts handed down to Imre Nagy, the Prime Minister at the time of the 1956 uprising, and to eight of his associates. The court accepts a petition by the Chief Public Prosecutor, stating that no crimes had been committed by Nagy and his co- defendants, since their activity aimed at changing the existing social system had not violated the Constitution. This judicial rehabilitation comes three weeks after the remains of Nagy had been reinterred in a marked grave at a funeral ceremony in Budapest.

According to the statement of the Ministry of Justice, Béla Zsedényi, former speaker of the National Assembly convicted in 1950, was innocent and the legal action brought against him was unlawful.

Czechoslovakia - July 6, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak authorities legalizes the Art Forum, an independent cultural organization. The legalization could be an important positive step but is not entirely unproblematic.

Hungary – July 6-7, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of economy of Austria Wolfgang Schüssel consulted with Minister of Trade Tamás Beck in Budapest. He met and negotiated with Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy.

Hungary – July 7-8, 1989 (MNC)

Lead by Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, a party- and state-delegation took part in the Summit of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact in Bucharest. The members of the delegation were the following: Miklós Németh, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister, and Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense. During his stay on Bucharest, Rezső Nyers met the President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Milos Yakes. On July 8, Rezső

Nyers was received by General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the Romanian Socialist Republic Nicolae Ceausescu.

Hungary – July 7-8, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy visited Italy. His negotiation partner was Deputy Prime Minister Gianni de Michelis.

Warsaw Pact – July 7-8, 1989 (MNC)

The Summit of the Political Consultative Committee of the members of the Warsaw Pact was held in Bucharest, where a statement was accepted and signed entitled: ”For the stable and secure Europe without nuclear and chemical weapons; for the significant decrease of armed forces, weaponry and defense budgets!”.

Hungary – July 7, 1989 (PTH)

Rezső Nyers meets with Mikhail Gorbachev and Miklós Németh with Vladislav Adamec, Czechoslovakian Prime Minister, at the meeting of the political council-board of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. The Chairman of HSWP says at the summit meeting that there is no mandatory model for all the socialist countries to follow, therefore national character and determining one’s own intentions and practices independently should be given utmost respect.

Romania / Czechoslovakia - 7-8 July 1989 (DRC)

The Political Advisory Board of the Warsaw Treaty Organization holds a session. During the meeting of “leading delegations only”, an intense debate over the current political situation in the Soviet bloc takes place between supporters and opponents of reform.

Hungary – July 8, 1989 (PTH)

In the future, Hungary can send six representatives to sessions of the European Council as observers.

Hungary – July 9, 1989 (PTH)

Simultaneous with filing a protest on legal grounds in the cases of Imre Nagy and his associates, the Supreme Prosecution rebukes the criminal investigation for lack of crime in the case of Géza Losonczy. The decision declares that the former minister of state was in custody illegally until his death.

Soviet Union / Estonia – July 9, 1989 (KCA)

Edgar Savisaar, a leader of the Estonian Popular Front, is appointed as a Deputy Chairman of the Estonian Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Estonian Planning Committee. Savisaar says that his appointment will speed Estonia's moves to economic independence.

U.S. / Poland - July 9-10, 1989 (LBC)

Bush visits Poland. The President delivers a speech in the Polish parliament in which he asserts, “The future beckons with hope and uncertainty. Poland and Hungary each find themselves at crossroads: Each has started down its own road to reform without guarantee of easy success. The people of these nations and the courage of their leaders command our admiration... The way is hard but the moment is right, both internally and internationally, for Poland to walk its own path.” Bush outlined an economic program of aid: with the approval of Congress, 100 million dollars in investment in the Polish private sector; US assistance to reschedule the Polish debt; American support for a \$325 million World Bank loan; \$15 million to eliminate industrial pollution around Krakow; and the establishment of cultural information centers. The Polish government is disappointed at American lack of generosity. According to the Polish spokesman Bush offered “very little concrete material”. The US National Security Advisor admitted that the \$100 million fund is “symbolic”. Bush has talks with Jaruzelski and Walesa.

Poland – July 9-11, 1989 (KCA / HPB)

President George Bush arrives in Warsaw, accompanied by his wife Barbara Bush, the US Secretary of State James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and the National Security Adviser Gen. Brent Scowcroft. The US party is met at Okecie Airport by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, then the Chairman of the Polish Council of State and General Secretary of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP), and other senior officials.

On the morning of July 10, Bush and Jaruzelski hold talks, which reportedly concentrate on the political changes in Poland. They also sign an agreement on the establishment of U.S. and Polish cultural centres in each other's countries. Bush delivers his main speech of the visit in the afternoon to the first joint sitting of the two houses of the new National Assembly (Poland's restyled parliament). Bush offers only a modest increase in US economic aid to Poland. The US administration reportedly wants to avoid a repetition of the large-scale lending of the 1970s, which disguised the need for economic reform and is at the root of Poland's current problems. Neither the authorities nor Solidarity leaders hide their disappointment with the aid package. On July 11, Bush travels to Gdansk for a private lunch with Lech Walesa and to give a speech outside the shipyard. From Gdansk, he departs to Budapest.

U.S. / Poland / Hungary – July 9-13, 1989 (MHC)

Crowds in Poland and Hungary hail President Bush. However, his cautious speeches, designed not to offend the Soviets, are criticized.

Hungary – July 9-11, 1989 (MNC)

State Minister of the Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom W. Waldegrave consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Soviet Union – July 10, 1989 (MHC)

In the USSR, a wave of mining strikes begins and continues for several weeks.

U.S. / Poland – July 10, 1989 (MHC)

Bush meets with Jaruzelski in the morning and tells him he thinks the Polish leader can “assist in a process, an evolution” in Poland. Jaruzelski subsequently reverses his earlier decision not to run for the presidency. Speaking before Parliament, Bush pledges \$100 million in aid to underwrite private enterprise development. Bush also meets Wałęsa in Gdansk.

Hungary – July 10, 1989 (PTH)

László Paskai, Archbishop of Esztergom, requests Miklós Németh in a letter that the Hungarian government should revise József Mindszenty's trial. In his response, Miklós Németh says the Council of Ministers already requested the Supreme Prosecutor to revise the legal action.

The State Wage and Labor Office will cover 65% of the costs of retraining Russian language teachers from the employment fund.

Péter Zwack, descendant of the former owner of the liquor company establishes a limited liability company called Zwack Unicum with a registered capital of 60 million forints.

Soviet Union – July 10, 1989 (KCA)

Vadim Bakatin (who is subsequently confirmed as USSR Interior Minister) informs the Supreme Soviet that in the first six months of 1989, serious crime has risen by 40% and juvenile crime by 22% compared to 1988. He blames economic and social problems caused by “unbalanced development” during the “transition period” of *perestroika*.

Soviet Union – July 10-13, 1989 (KCA)

A wave of strikes begin when nearly 12,000 miners at Mezhdurechensk in the Kuzbass coalfield of Western Siberia stop work and start an occupation of the town's main square. On July 13, the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) newspaper *Pravda* reports that the strikers are effectively in control of the town, albeit conducting themselves with exemplary discipline.

US / Hungary – July 11, 1989 (PTH)

George Bush, President of the United States of America, arrives in Budapest. In the course of the day, four Hungarian-American joint venture company contracts are signed.

Ferenc Pintér, deputy to the leader of the Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice says to the daily paper *Népszava* that at least 277 people were executed for their role in the 1956 events.

The Opposition Roundtable rules that temporarily, representatives of the Social Democrats can participate only in the highest level of the political conciliatory negotiations.

U.S. / Hungary – July 11-13, 1989 (LBC / PTH)

Bush visits Hungary where he met several leading government and opposition politicians. In a speech given at Karl Marx University, the President announces, “the Iron Curtain started to ascend” and in this “Hungary takes a leading role”. Bush holds out a \$25 million fund to promote investment in the Hungarian private sector. If Hungary liberalizes its Hungarian emigration policy, Bush will ask for a long-term exemption from the Jackson-Vanik amendment for Hungary. The President makes a pledge for the establishment of an international environmental protection centre in Budapest and asks Congress for \$5 million for the centre. In the spring of 1989, the first group of the Peace Corps arrived. Bush is “absolutely amazed” by the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and credits the USSR with making changes possible.

The American Peace Corps will send English teachers to Hungary. The Minister of Culture says the costs of retraining the Russian teachers will be covered, in addition to the employment fund, by the local councils and schools, so Russian teachers will not have to pay for their retraining. The Independent Police Trade Unions is established.

Hungary – July 11-13, 1989 (MNC)

President of the United States of America George H. W. Bush visited Hungary for the first time. His host was Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary. He consulted with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet, and Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament. George H. W. Bush also met the leaders of the opposition parties. He gave a lecture in the University of Economics. During the visit, the signing of four pre-prepared agreements took place.

Yugoslavia / France - July 12-15, 1989 (JIS)

The president of the presidency Janez Drnovšek visits Paris, France for the 200 anniversary of the French revolution. He meets with a number of world statesmen among others with: French president Mitterrand, British Prime Minister Thatcher, West German Chancellor Kohl, US President George Bush and Indian Prime Minister Gandhi.

Soviet Union – July 12, 1989 (KCA)

Yury Solovev, the First Secretary of the Communist Party Committee in Leningrad *oblast* (region) since July 1985, is removed from that post at a meeting of the Committee. President Mikhail Gorbachev attends the meeting in his capacity as CPSU General Secretary. Officially “at his own request in connection with his retirement”, Solovev's removal was expected since his humiliating rejection by voters in elections to the Congress of People's Deputies on March 26.

West Germany / Czechoslovakia - 13 July 1989 (DRC)

On an official visit to Czechoslovakia –West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher meets also with Charter 77 signatories Václav Havel and Jiří Hájek, and with Cardinal Tomášek.

Third World, July 14-16, 1989 (MNC)

The “anti-summit” of the leaders of the seven poorest countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Philippines, Haiti, Mozambique, and Zaire) was held in Paris as well.

Hungary – July 14, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

János Kádár is accompanied by a crowd of more than 100,000 thousand from his catafalque in the seat of the CC of HSWP to the Kerepesi cemetery where he is laid to rest in peace in the Pantheon of the Labour Movement.

László Rajk Jr. issues a statement that he intends to have the mortal remains of his parents removed from the Pantheon of the Labor Movement.

Furthermore, the Hungarian October Party and the Hungarian Radical party hold a demonstration in Budapest in Ferenc Münich (Nádor) Street. They cover up all the nameplates in the street and place the name "Nádor Street" on walls everywhere.

Also, László Paskai, archbishop of Esztergom and Ferenc Glatz, Minister of Culture discuss the possibility of returning state immovable estates and establishing catholic schools.

Poland – July 14, 1989 (MHC)

Wałęsa offers his support to Jaruzelski in his bid to be Poland’s President.

Soviet Union – July 14, 1989 (MHC)

The CPSU Politburo debates a draft proposal to transform the USSR into a looser federation with a larger degree of autonomy.

Poland / Western Powers – July 14-16, 1989 (KCA)

The Paris summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations calls for the creation of an international aid program for both Poland and Hungary – to be coordinated by the European Communities (EC), in the light of its satisfaction with the trends toward multiparty democracy and economic reform in those countries. Poland receives the first of a series of credits and food aid programs in July and August 1989, as an international relief effort gets under way.

Soviet Union – July 14-16, 1989 (KCA)

In mid-July, inter-ethnic violence flares up again in the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR), where members of the native Abkhaz community are agitating for secession from the republic of Georgia. The catalyst for the latest violence is a dispute over fixed admission quotas for Abkhaz and Georgian students to a branch in Sukhumi (Abkhazia's capital) of Tbilisi State University. Disturbances begin on July 14 and escalate on the nights of July 15- 16 into street fighting in Sukhumi involving around 2,000 Abkhaz and Georgians. The fights leave 14 people dead and over 120 in need of hospital treatment.

G7 / Soviet Union - July 15, 1989 (LBC)

The joint declaration on the meeting of the seven leading industrial states as a departure from previous practice dealt with Eastern Europe and not the Soviet Union. The declaration pledged to support the economic transformation of the Polish and the Hungarian economy, for the maintenance of the political reforms. The declaration condemns Romania and Bulgaria, which are opposed to democratic movements and are implementing oppressive measures. The seven leading states

admitted Poland into the American debt reduction program and held out food aid for the Poles.

Gorbachev states in his letter to the seven that the Soviet Union is interested in integration in the world economy. He writes, “Our Perestroika is inseparable from a policy tending toward our full and complete participation in the global economy”. Bush deems Gorbachev’s initiative premature.

Soviet Union – July 16, 1989 (KCA)

Major disturbances occur throughout Abkhazia, and 3,000 Interior Ministry troops are brought from outside Georgia to restore order.

Bulgaria / Turkey – July 17, 1989 (KCA)

It is announced that schoolchildren, students and pensioners are also being drafted into the fields. Meanwhile, the loss of skilled ethnic Turkish workers has reportedly forced the closure of enterprises, while others are maintaining production only by introducing six- or seven-day workweeks and extending shifts from 8.5 hours to 12 hours.

Czechoslovakia – July 17, 1989 (KCA)

Dissident sources claim that leading actors, artists and musicians who signed the petition are officially barred from appearing on radio, television, stage or film.

Czechoslovakia – July 17, 1989 (OSA)

CPCS Secretary-General Milos Jakes pays an official visit to the West Bohemian Region. At a meeting with regional party officials in Cerveny Hradek, he discusses various issues concerning the party and Czechoslovakia in general.

Poland / Vatican – July 17, 1989 (HDP)

Poland re-establishes diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Soviet Union – July 17, 1989 (KCA)

A new Soviet Council of Ministers takes office. By the close on August 4 of the constituent sitting of the new Supreme Soviet, however, three ministerial posts remain unfilled; more than five weeks after the Supreme Soviet began to debate nominations made by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov. The process of selecting the new Council of Ministers became protracted as Supreme Soviet deputies insisted on debating the merits of each candidate for office.

On the same day, Abkhazia's Georgian population (which constitutes a more than two-thirds majority) declares a general strike. An armed gang also occupies a hydroelectric station and cuts power to several districts.

Hungary – July 17-18, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister had an official friendly visit to the People’s Republic of Bulgaria. He negotiated with Peter Mladenov, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, Foreign Minister. He was received by Georgi Atanasov, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, President of the Cabinet, and Todor Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian

Communist Party, President of the State Council of the People’s Republic of Bulgaria.

Austria, July 17, 1989 (MNC)

Austria officially requested to join the Common Market.

USA – July 17-18, 1989 (MNC)

President of the United States, George H. W. Bush, visited the Netherlands. This was the first time that an American President visited the Netherlands while in office.

Hungary – July 17-19, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of the Serbian Socialist Republic (Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) Desimir Yertic visited Hungary – where he consulted with Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy. He held talks with Secretary of the Central Committee of the HSWP János Barabás, and was received by Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament.

Hungary / Austria / East Germany – July 18, 1989 (PTH)

The volume on the funeral of Imre Nagy and his associates, "301", is published, edited by Éva Kapitány and Péter Grawátsch.

In an open letter, the Opposition roundtable requests Prime Minister Miklós Németh to revise his position on the Bős-Nagymaros dam.

According to official data from Bonn, at least 60 East German citizens have crossed to Austria from Hungary in the last 3 weeks, since the demolition of the technical sealing of the frontier started.

Soviet Union – July 18, 1989 (KCA)

A conference of party First Secretaries from the republics, regions and territories about *perestroika* within the party is held under the auspices of the Central Committee. Following publication of the conference speeches in the CPSU newspaper *Pravda* on July 21, commentators remark that never before have the divisions between liberals and conservatives in the top ranks of the party been so clearly defined, and the conservative position presented so explicitly.

The *Financial Times* comments on a recent strike wave, “The strike has brought to the surface details of the miserable conditions both in Siberia in general, and in the mines in particular”. The Kuzbass region is reportedly worse off than much of the rest of the country in terms of food supplies since there is little local agriculture and the provision of housing and social amenities, and suffers grave industrial pollution. While miners are among the highest paid workers in the country, earning on average 500 rubles—about US\$800—a month compared with the national average wage of 220 rubles, the industry has an appalling safety record, with some 10,000 deaths in the past nine years.

A state of emergency and a curfew are imposed throughout Abkhazia, and the troop and police presence is reinforced. Clashes between armed gangs of Abkhazians and Georgians continue, however, and by July 21, the casualty figures rise to 20 dead (including a policeman and two soldiers) and up to 400 injured.

Hungary – July 19, 1989 (PTH)

Péter Borenich interviews Ferenc Vida, a retired judge who presided over the Imre Nagy's case and many other cases of retention.

Poland – July 19, 1989 (RFE / KCA / HPB / LBC / MHC)

Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski is elected by the two chambers of the National Assembly to the new post of executive President of Poland for a six- year term. Jaruzelski, who is already the country's head of state in his capacity as Chairman of the State Council, is the only candidate for the new-style presidency, but he secures election only by the narrowest of margins. The outcome of the vote (270 votes in favor, 233 against, 34 abstentions and 7 invalid ballots) means that Jaruzelski secured the absolute minimum needed to win. The closeness of the vote underlines the continuing weakness of the political establishment.

Following his election as President, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski urges the formation of a “grand coalition” government of all parties in parliament led by the Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP).

Soviet Union – July 19, 1989 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces the long-awaited Communist Party Central Committee plenum to discuss ethnic relations in the Soviet Union and the constitutional relationship between the republics is postponed from July until September. Commentators suggest that the reason lies in disagreements between the central party leadership and Republican Party leaders.

Soviet Union – July 19-21, 1989 (KCA)

The Kuzbass miners return to work after Gorbachev warns in a speech to the Supreme Soviet on July 19 of the threat posed to *perestroika* by the economic losses of the strike and the possibility of strikes spreading to other industries, particularly the railways. He expresses sympathy for the miners but stresses that many of their demands are being met, while his appeal for a return to work contains a warning of emergency measures if the situation gets out of control.

However, the return to work by Kuzbass miners does not stop the spread of strikes to the country's most productive coalfield, the Donbass in the eastern Ukraine. Strikers there are making similar economic and social demands as the Kuzbass miners. Nevertheless, despite an announcement by Shchadov on July 20 that the concessions to the Kuzbass miners will apply to all coalfields, the Donbass strike on July 20–21 still spreads. An estimated 300,000 workers participate in the strike across the Soviet Union.

Hungary – July 19, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister – returning home from Bulgaria – interrupted his road in Yugoslavia, and consulted with Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar.

Soviet Union, July 19, 1989 (MNC)

Negotiations were held between the Soviet Union and the EEC in Brussels, about possibilities of an agreement of trade and economy cooperation.

Hungary – July 20, 1989 (MNC)

Ladislav Adamec, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia took a work-visit to

Hungary. His negotiation partner was Miklós Németh, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - July 20, 1989 (DRC)

On a working visit to Hungary – Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec holds talks with Hungarian Premier Miklos Németh chiefly about the completion of the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros hydroelectric dam. He also meets with Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party Rezső Nyers.

Hungary – July 20, 1989 (PTH)

The Czechoslovakian and the Hungarian Prime Ministers agree at their meeting that further examinations are needed to clarify the potential environmental effects of the Bős-Nagymaros investment, and also that before the end of October, the Prime Ministers will discuss the results of research again, but no irreversible operations may be carried out at Nagymaros until then.

Also, one of the leaders of HDF conducts negotiations in Brussels with the Christian Democratic group of representatives of the European Parliament. According to József Antall, the general elections in Hungary must take place in November or in March at the latest.

U.S. / Hungary / Poland - July 21, 1989 (LBC)

U.S. Congress approves a \$14.3 billion aid program. Poland receives \$10 million, and Hungary receives \$5 million dollars, which is 1% of the aid.

Hungary – July 21, 1989 (PTH)

The left-wing Youth Association, a successor organization of the Communist Youth Federation, calls the political parties and organizations to declare October 23 "the day of non-violence".

Czechoslovakia / Poland – July 21 - 25, 1989 (RFE / OSA)

Three newly-elected Solidarity representatives (Adam Michnik, Jan Litynski and Zbigniew Janas) from Poland make an unofficial visit to Czechoslovakia. The visit marks the start of a new stage in the relations between Warsaw Pact allies.

Czechoslovakia – July 22, 1989 (OSA)

According to the 1989 midyear report of the Federal Statistical Office published on July 22, almost none of the major economic indicators showed satisfactory results in the first half of 1989. In reaction, the Czechoslovak leadership is attempting to push through the delayed economic reforms by calling for greater effort on the part of the people.

USSR, July 22, 1989 (MHC)

The Lithuanian Parliament declares the 1940 Soviet annexation of the Baltics illegal.

Hungary – July 22, 1989 (KCA)

As the result of a by-election in the Gödöllő constituency, Gabor Roszik becomes the first opposition deputy to be elected to the *Országgyűlés* (parliament) since the last multiparty general election in 1947. Defeating a candidate of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, Roszik wins 69.2% of the vote as the joint candidate of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF), the Alliance of Free Democrats and the Federation of Young Democrats.

Soviet Union – July 22, 1989 (KCA)

The Tajik Supreme Soviet gives legal status to the Tajik language, which is to be used for all business within official and elected bodies and in state enterprises (except where a majority of workers or delegates were non-Tajik, in which case the language of the majority will be used). Russian is to remain as the official language for communication between nationalities within Tajikistan.

The Chairman of Abkhazia's Council of Ministers, Otar Zukhbaya, an Abkhaz, is dismissed from his post and replaced by Givi Anchabadze, a Georgian. The First Deputy Chairman is also dismissed, as are two members of the leadership of the local committee of the Communist Party (CP) of Georgia.

Hungary – July 22, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy negotiated in the Croatian Socialist Republic (Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). His negotiation partners were Prime Minister Anton Milovic and Deputy Prime Minister Zivko Pregl. He was received by Federal Prime Minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Ante Markovic.

Soviet Union – July 23, 1989 (KCA)

After five decades of categorical denials, the first official Soviet public confirmation that the Nazi-Soviet friendship treaty contained secret protocols is made by Valentin Falin, head of the International Department of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. During a program on West German television, he announces that Soviet researchers are now convinced of the authenticity of a microfilm copy of the August 23 protocol and of a wealth of supplementary material in the archives of the West German Foreign Ministry.

Hungary – July 24, 1989 (PTH)

Chairman of HSWP Rezső Nyers and General Secretary Károly Grósz pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Hungary – July 24-25, 1989 (MNC)

Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, and Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party had an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union. They held talks with M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. Rezső Nyers held a lecture in the Academy of Sciences of the Soviet Union, Károly Grósz held one in the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Organization of African Unity, July 24-26, 1989 (MNC)

The 25th Summit of the Organization of African Unity was held in Ethiopia. With Egyptian Head of State Hosni Mubarak, the first Arab politician was elected to lead the organization.

Soviet Union – July 24-26, 1989 (KCA)

As was the case in April, the Abkhazia violence prompts demonstrations of over 20,000 people in Tbilisi. Tbilisi once again becomes the forum for Georgian nationalists voicing independence

demands.

Soviet Union / U.K. – July 24-28, 1989 (KCA)

A visit to the United Kingdom by Aleksandra Biryukova, the Soviet Deputy Chair responsible for social development and the consumer goods sector, is devoted primarily to the purchase of consumer goods and medical supplies. During a tour of manufacturing companies, she places orders worth around £100 million.

Soviet Union, July 25, 1989 (MNC)

Soviet-British military negotiations took place in London on the Ministerial level. Since the Second World War, this was the first time a Soviet Minister of Defense visited the United Kingdom.

Czechoslovakia - July 25, 1989 (DRC)

In his message to the congregation, Cardinal Tomášek mentions the steps he has recently taken in defense of the rights of the Church and the public.

Czechoslovakia – July 25, 1989 (VVR)

The opposition manifesto, “A Few Sentences”, with Havel and Krizan as lead authors, is published.

Czechoslovakia – July 25, 1989 (RFE)

Following a visit by a papal delegation in April, the Vatican announces the appointment of three new bishops and one new archbishop in Czechoslovakia.

Poland – July 25, 1989 (MHC)

Jaruzelski invites Solidarity to form a coalition government.

Hungary – July 25, 1989 (PTH)

AFD and HDF call for a general revision of street names in Budapest.

In Moscow Mikhail Gorbachev, Rezső Nyers and Károly Grósz agree to continue negotiations on the further withdrawal of Soviet troops from Hungary. They also agree that under appropriate international circumstances, the reduction of troops may lead to a complete withdrawal of armed forces.

The delegation of the Common Market visits Hungary to learn about the political and economic situation in the country.

Poland / EEC – July 25, 1989 (RFE / KCA)

In a meeting with President and First Secretary General Jaruzelski, Lech Walesa firmly rules out participation in a grand coalition government, however, telling Wojciech Jaruzelski at a meeting that Solidarity will either accept a mandate to constitute a government on its own, or will form the parliamentary opposition. Walesa comments after the meeting that Solidarity's role in a PUWP-led coalition would be simply “decorative”. They will set up a “shadow cabinet” and supervise the government’s activities from the outside. Until now, the Solidarity leadership had previously rejected the possibility of a Solidarity government. Commentators observe that Solidarity is reluctant to enter government as a junior partner for fear that it would share responsibility for unpopular economic austerity measures without having sufficient influence over policy.

It is also announced that the EU has reached an agreement with Poland on a five-year economic co-operation and trade pact, providing for a progressive reduction of import tariffs and import quotas on certain Polish products. Quotas for most Polish industrial goods are to be dismantled by 1994–95, and tariffs on Polish meat (duck meat and horse meat) are to be cut in 1990. Poland for its part agrees to lift tariffs on imports of EC processed foods, such as coffee, soya, baby foods and whisky.

Soviet Union – July 25, 1989 (KCA)

In a report to the Supreme Soviet concerning a June 4 rail disaster between the Urals cities of Ufa and Chelyabinsk, Vitaly Doguzhiyev, the Chairman of the new State Commission for Emergency Situations, discloses that the death toll stood at 645 people, including 181 children.

Soviet Union – July 25-26, 1989 (KCA)

The strikers end their action and return to work. Apparently, they are swayed by Gorbachev's appeals and by guarantees given by the Supreme Soviet and by Ryzhkov during meetings with strikers' representatives on July 24–25. Guarantees include that forthcoming legislation will enshrine the right to strike and formalize procedures for settling labour disputes, and will determine the conditions for enterprise independence.

GDR / Hungary – July 25, 1989 (OSA)

Hungary's Interior Ministry says 550 East Germans attempted to illegally cross Hungary's border in the first six months of this year. The official M.T.I. News Agency says any illegal crossing attempt is considered a criminal offense.

GDR – July 26, 1989 (OSA)

Despite officials' denials from East Berlin, Western circles in Vienna insist that the GDR is about to introduce massive restriction concerning GDR citizens travels abroad. According to this information, GDR citizens will no longer be allowed to travel to Hungary as of September 1.

Czechoslovakia – July 26, 1989 (OSA)

The appointment of Josef Koukl as Bishop of Litomerice, Frantisek Tondra as Bishop of Spis, Frantisek Vanak as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Olomouc, and Monsignor Jan Sokol as Archbishop of Tranva are formally announced in Prague in and in the Vatican on July 26. The appointment is another step forward in relations between the Church and the state in Czechoslovakia.

Hungary – July 26, 1989 (PTH)

The assembly of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences rules that redressing unfair grievances is a moral obligation, therefore the measures and resolutions that infringed the rights of members of the academy will be annulled and membership of those suspended or excluded will be restored.

Pope John Paul II announces that he will visit Hungary in 1991.

Furthermore, AFD demands that the Hungarian frontier guards should not put a special seal in the passport of East German citizens who are caught trying to escape from Hungary to Austria.

Yugoslavia – July 26, 1989 (RWE)

Bogić Bogićević and Vasil Tupurkovski were sworn in as the members for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia in the new Collective State Presidency, after the installation of new Collective State Presidency in May of 1989, when the election process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia had not yet been completed.

Yugoslavia - July 26, 1989 (OSA)

In two separate statements issued on July 26, Yugoslavia’s highest political and state bodies called for an end to nationalist disputes. Collective State Presidency said that ethnic conflicts had jeopardized the unity of multinational Yugoslavia and called for the “strict application of the law” in dealing with people who incited hatred on other ethnic groups. The Presidium of the Central Committee of the LCY called on all party leaders to direct their energies to economic and social reform “instead of engaging in unproductive and unprincipled coalitions.”

Hungary – July 27, 1989 (PTH)

The Hungarian October Party and the Budapest city council agree that Ferenc Münich Street will regain its original name, Nádor Street and a committee will be set up comprising representatives of political and social organizations and other experts to revise the political symbols and names of public places.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia / Estonia – July 27, 1989 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet endorses the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to begin a transition to economic autonomy. It votes overwhelmingly to allow them to introduce “regional cost accounting” from January 1, 1990, a year ahead of the rest of the Soviet Union. This will give the republics considerable independence in budgeting, taxation and economic planning. The Supreme Soviet also gives a first reading of a bill allowing the three republics to achieve complete economic independence, including ownership of their industry and natural resources and the right to introduce their own currencies, but put off voting on this law until the next Supreme Soviet session in October.

On the same day, Uzabakay Karamanov is appointed as Chairman of the Kazakh Council of Ministers, replacing Nursultan Nazarbayev, who in June had been named first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party.

Hungary / Austria / Soviet Union – July 28, 1989 (PTH)

The CC of HSWP declares that HSWP should make preparations for October 23 in the spirit of national reconciliation.

Valentyin Falin, leader of the international department of the CC of the Soviet Communist Party, says in his interview to *Új Fórum*, “I do not have any evidence confirming that the Soviet Union should have played a decisive or a significant role in determining the fate of Imre Nagy. The existing documents indicate that the final decision was not made over here”.

Otto von Habsburg is elected president of the Hungarian delegation in the European Parliament. The body will be composed by half of representatives of the European Parliament and by half of Hungarian members of Parliament.

European Parliament, July 28, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Paneuropean Union, Otto von Habsburg, was elected as the President of the 2nd Committee regarding Hungary (among others) of the European Parliament.

Poland – July 28, 1989 (KCA)

In a speech to the plenum, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski urges that in light of its result in the recent National Assembly elections, the party should rethink “what the party stands for, what it is defending, and what it is fighting for”. This follows the main party report on the elections by politburo member Janusz Rejkowski, who complains, “Society associates the party with economic and social crises, with Stalinism and bureaucracy, with arrogance and incompetence on the part of the authorities”.

Soviet Union / Byelorussia – July 28-29, 1989 (KCA)

Nikolai Dementei is appointed Chairman of the Presidium of the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet, replacing Georgy Tarazevich, who is “transferred to work in the USSR Supreme Soviet”. On the following day, Mircha Snegur is appointed Chairman of the Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet, replacing Aleksandr Mokuanu, who on June 26 was elected Deputy Chair of the Soviet of the Union.

Poland – July 29-30, 1989 (RFE/KCA)

Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, resigns the Office of First Secretary of the PUWP on the second day of a two-day Central Committee plenum. He also resigns from the Politburo and the Central Committee. General Jaruzelski had already become President on July 19. On Jaruzelski’s recommendation, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the outgoing Chairman of the Council of Ministers, is elected to replace him as First Secretary.

Other changes to the party leadership feature the resignations from the politburo of Kazimierz Barcikowski, Stanislaw Ciosek, Jozef Czyrek, and Alfred Miodowicz and from the Secretariat of Ciosek, Czyrek, Wladyslaw Baka, Zygmunt Czarasty and Marian Orzechowski. The Central Committee promotes Manfred Gorywoda and Janusz Kubasiewicz from candidates to full Politburo membership, and elects Leszek Miller as a full Politburo member. The CC also elects as new members of the Secretariat Marek Krol, Wlodzimierz Natorf, Marcin Swiecicki, and Slawomir Wiatr. The various personnel changes are intended to restore unity to the Party after the shock, disastrous election results. For the first time in the Party’s history, PUWP Sejm deputies attend the plenum.

Soviet Union / Latvia – July 29, 1989 (KCA)

The Latvian Supreme Soviet declares the republic “sovereign”, thereby giving itself the right to veto USSR laws.

Soviet Union – July 29, August 5 & 12, 1989 (KCA)

Demonstrations involve up to 80,000 Azerbaijanis in the centre of Baku under the auspices of an Azerbaijan Popular Front. In addition to demanding economic and political autonomy for their republic, fresh elections in Azerbaijan to the Congress of People's Deputies and legal recognition for the Popular Front, the demonstrators call for assurances that Nagorny Karabakh would stay within Azerbaijan and an end to direct rule from Moscow (which, they claim, favours the Armenian community).

Czechoslovakia – late July 1989 (KCA)

By the end of July, more than 11,500 people in Czechoslovakia sign the petition. Signatories include not only prominent dissidents such as the playwright Vaclav Havel, other prominent figures in the Charter 77 human rights group, and figures identified with the reformist administration of the 1968 “ Prague Spring”, but also Czechoslovaks not previously known for criticizing the regime.

Soviet Union – July 30, 1989 (MHC)

Yeltsin, Sakharov and others form the “Inter-Regional Group of Deputies” in the USSR Supreme Soviet by Yeltsin.

USSR / Yugoslavia - July 31-August 1, 1989 (JIS)

Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers Ivan Silayev visits Yugoslavia. He meets with Prime Minister Ante Marković and other Yugoslav representatives. The conversations revolve around the issues of economic cooperation, and around the ways to solve the problem of Yugoslavia’s trade surplus.

Soviet Union – July 1989 (KCA)

The Soviet Union experiences its worst-ever industrial unrest during the month of July. Strikes halt production in the country's main Donbass and Kuzbass coalfields and in five other coalmining areas. At the height of the strikes, President Mikhail Gorbachev calls them the most serious threat yet posed to his policy of *perestroika* (“restructuring”) (see July 10-11, 1989).

Soviet Union – July-August, 1989 (KCA)

A massive increase in crime in the Soviet Union is the subject of prominent media coverage and several official statements in July and August. Particular concern is expressed about the growth of organized crime perpetrated by armed gangs and about the inadequacy of police resources (see August 4, 1989).

Soviet Union / Hungary July 1, 1989 (MHC)

Shevadnadze visits Budapest. He tells Hungarian leaders: “Do what you think is best to preserve the position of the party”.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1989 (MHC)

Speaking on Soviet television, Gorbachev warns of ethnic conflict braking out in the USSR.

Hungary – July 1, 1989 (PTH)

The daily paper Magyar Nemzet launches a series of articles entitled "White Spots in Our History". On the same day, state control over church press and publications is abated.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1989 (KCA)

The Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* publishes a commentary attacking the party leadership in Belarus for being out of touch with public opinion and for lacking “the most important qualities of tolerance, respect, democracy, flexibility and readiness to make compromises”.

The *Pravda* attack comes only a week after the Belarusian authorities had banned the Belarusian Popular Front from holding its constituent congress in the republic and have denounced its

organizers as “extremists”.
On the same day, President Mikhail Gorbachev appears on Soviet television to appeal for an end to inter-ethnic violence and separatism. In a 20-minute address shown at the start of the main evening news bulletin, he warns of the threat to “the destiny of *perestroika* and the destiny and integrity of our state”.

Czechoslovakia - 1 July 1989 (DRC)
Celebrations of the 90th birthday of Cardinal Tomášek culminate in a special mass in St Vitus’s Cathedral in Prague. The celebrations are attended by many important people from others countries, and Václav Havel and Alexander Dubček personally wished the Cardinal a happy birthday. The mass is followed by a short demonstration in front of the Archiepiscopal Palace.

Hungary – July 2, 1989 (PTH)
According to Rezső Nyers, chairman of HSWP, the utilization of foreign and domestic private capital is not inconsistent with socialism, quite the contrary, it promotes the socialist system.

Soviet Union – July 2, 1989 (KCA)
Andrei Gromyko, who served as Soviet Foreign Minister from 1957 to 1985 and then as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet (de facto head of state) until 1988, dies, aged 79.

Czechoslovakia – July 3, 1989 (KCA)
Explicit press attacks on the petitioners (see June 29, 1989) are accompanied by renewed attempts to discredit pro-democracy activists by implicating them in alleged terrorist actions. *Rude Pravo* reports arson attacks and the murder of a youth in North Bohemia, which it attributes to a fascist group calling itself “Werewolf”, whose members were allegedly incited and controlled by “individuals presenting themselves as followers of Charter 77”.

Poland – July 3, 1989 (HDP)
Gazeta Wyborcza (The Electoral Gazette) publishes an article by Adam Michnik entitled “Your President, Our Premier”.

Czechoslovakia – 3 July 1989 (DRC)
Representatives of independent civil initiatives (Charter 77, the Democratic Initiative, the Independent Peace Association, the Club for Legal Support, the John Lennon Peace Club, the Czechoslovak Helsinki Committee, the Movement for Civil Liberty, the Friends of the USA Society, the Bohemian Children, and the Christian Union for Human Rights) send a letter to the premiers and houses of deputies of Bulgaria, Hungary – East Germany, Poland – and the Soviet Union, demanding that they officially distance themselves from the military intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Bulgaria / Turkey – July 4, 1989 (KCA)
The Bulgarian government issues a decree ordering civilian mobilization to cope with acute labour shortages resulting from the mass exodus of ethnic Turks from the country since the beginning of June (see May 20-23 and June, 1989). The decree makes all men aged between 18 and 60 and all women aged between 17 and 55 subject to conscription into work battalions, which could be anywhere in Bulgaria, to cope with “emergencies” threatening the economy. The decree reflects acute official concern for the harvest in rural areas affected by the departure of Turkish farm

workers.

Hungary – July 4, 1989 (PTH)

Minister of culture Ferenc Glatz says it is in the social and national interest of Hungary to return the immovable estates of the churches to their original owners.
In the future, HDF intends to function simultaneously as an intellectual movement and as a political party.

Poland – July 4, 1989 (KCA)

At the constituent sessions of the National Assembly chambers a ZSL deputy, Mikolaj Kozakiewicz is elected to the office of *Sejm* Speaker (the post was traditionally held by the ZSL), while Andrzej Stelmachowski of Solidarity is elected speaker of the Senate. Three deputy speakers are also elected in each chamber.

Soviet Union / France - July 4-6, 1989 (LBC)

Gorbachev visits Paris. The General Secretary of the CPSU gives a speech in the Council of Europe. He deems “Any interference in domestic affairs and any attempt to restrict the sovereignty of states – friends, allies or any others – are inadmissible.” He renounces the use of force or the threat to use force, both within and outside of the alliance. At the same time, he warns the Western states not to push “overcoming socialism” in the East bloc, which “would be a course to confrontation.” Gorbachev declares at a press conference: “how the Polish people and the Hungarian people will decide to structure their societies and lives will be their affair”.

Poland – July 4, 1989 (MHC)

The Polish Parliament convenes. Premier Rakowski and his cabinet offer their resignations but agree to stay on as caretakers.

Hungary – July 5, 1989 (PTH)

János Barabás, secretary of the CC of HSWP states in his press conference that "drawing a lesson from recent events HSWP will take the initiative in getting ready for the upcoming anniversary of the 1956 national uprising."
Also, one of the leaders of the Italian Socialist Party requests the city council of Rome in a letter to name a square after Imre Nagy in the Italian capital.

Hungary – July 6, 1989 (MHC)

Former Hungarian leader Kádár dies. On the same day, the Hungarian Supreme Court rehabilitates Imre Nagy and his associates.

Soviet Union / Europe – July 6, 1989 (MHC)

Addressing the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, Gorbachev says the USSR will not block reform in Eastern Europe and will promote comprehensive European political and economic integration in the framework of a “common European home”.

Hungary – July 6, 1989 (KCA)

János Kádár, the leader of Hungary's ruling Socialist Workers’ Party (HSWP) from the time of the 1956 anti-communist uprising and Soviet invasion until May 1988, dies at the age of 77. He

becomes deceased three days after being admitted to a Budapest hospital with severe breathing and circulatory problems.

By coincidence, Kádár's death occurs on the same day that the Hungarian Supreme Court declares null and void the 1958 treason verdicts handed down to Imre Nagy, Prime Minister at the time of the 1956 uprising, and to eight of his associates. The court accepts a petition by the Chief Public Prosecutor stating that no crimes had been committed by Nagy and his co- defendants, since their activity aimed at changing the existing social system had not violated the Constitution. This judicial rehabilitation comes three weeks after the remains of Nagy had been reinterred in a marked grave at a funeral ceremony in Budapest (June 16, 1989).

According to the statement of the Ministry of Justice, Béla Zsedényi, a former speaker of the national Assembly convicted in 1950, was innocent and the legal action brought against him was unlawful.

Warsaw Treaty Organization – July 7, 1989 (ADC)

An assembly of the Political Committee of the Warsaw Pact countries is held in Bucharest.

Hungary – July 7, 1989 (PTH)

Rezső Nyers meets with Mikhail Gorbachev and Miklós Németh with Czechoslovakian Prime Minister Vladislav Adamec at the meeting of the political council-board of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. The chairman of HSWP says at the summit meeting that there is no mandatory model for all the socialist countries to follow, therefore national character and determining one's own intentions and practices independently should be given utmost respect.

Rumania / Czechoslovakia - 7-8 July 1989 (DRC)

The Political Advisory Board of the Warsaw Treaty Organization holds a session. During the meeting of 'leading delegations only', an intense debate over the current political situation in the Soviet bloc takes place between supporters and opponents of reform.

Hungary – July 8, 1989 (PTH)

In the future, Hungary may send 6 representatives to sessions of the European Council as observers.

Hungary – July 9, 1989 (PTH)

Simultaneously while filing a protest on legal grounds in the cases of Imre Nagy and his associates, the Supreme Prosecution abates the criminal investigation for lack of crime in the case of Géza Losonczy. The decision highlights the fact that that the former minister of state was in custody illegally until his death.

Soviet Union / Estonia – July 9, 1989 (KCA)

Edgar Savisaar, a leader of the Estonian Popular Front, is appointed as a Deputy Chairman of the Estonian Council of Ministers and Chairman of the Estonian Planning Committee. Savisaar says that his appointment will speed Estonia's movement towards economic independence.

U.S. / Poland - July 9-10, 1989 (LBC)

Bush visits Poland. The President delivers a speech in the Polish parliament in which he asserts, "The future beckons with hope and uncertainty. Poland and Hungary each find themselves at crossroads: Each has started down its own road to reform without guarantee of easy success. The people of these nations and the courage of their leaders command our admiration...The way is hard

but the moment is right, both internally and internationally, for Poland to walk its own path.” Bush outlined an economic program of aid: with the approval of Congress 100 million dollars in investment in the Polish private sector; US assistance to reschedule the Polish debt, American support for a 325 million dollar World Bank loan, 15 million dollars to eliminate industrial pollution around Krakow and the establishment of cultural information centres. The Polish government is disappointed at the lack of American generosity. According to the Polish spokesman, Bush offered “very little concrete material”. The US national security advisor admitted that the 100 million dollar fund is “symbolic”. Bush had talks with Jaruzelski and Walesa.

Poland – July 9-11, 1989 (KCA / HPB)

US President George Bush arrives in Warsaw, accompanied by his wife Barbara Bush, the US Secretary of State James Baker, the White House Chief of Staff John Sununu and the National security Adviser Gen. Brent Scowcroft. The US party is met at Okęcie airport by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, then the Chairman of the Polish Council of State (head of state) and General Secretary of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP) and other senior officials.

On the morning of July 10, Bush and Jaruzelski hold talks, which reportedly concentrate on the political changes underway inside Poland. They also sign an agreement on the establishment of US and Polish cultural centres in each other's countries. Bush delivers his main speech of the visit in the afternoon of the same day to the first joint sitting of the two houses of the new National Assembly (Poland's restyled parliament). Bush offers only a modest increase in US economic aid to Poland. The US administration reportedly wants to avoid a repetition of the large-scale lending of the 1970s that had disguised the need for economic reform and was at the root of Poland's current problems. Neither the authorities nor Solidarity leaders hide their disappointment with the aid package. On July 11, Bush travels to Gdansk for a private lunch with Lech Walesa and to give a speech outside the shipyard. From Gdansk he departs to Budapest.

U.S. / Poland / Hungary – July 9-13, 1989 (MHC)

Bush is hailed by crowds in Poland and Hungary. His cautious speeches designed not to offend the Soviets, however, are later the subject of criticism.

Soviet Union – July 10, 1989 (MHC)

A wave of mining strikes begins in the USSR and continues for several weeks.

U.S. / Poland – July 10, 1989 (MHC)

Bush meets with Jaruzelski in the morning and tells him that he thinks the Polish leader might be able to “assist in a process, an evolution” in Poland. Jaruzelski subsequently reverses his earlier decision not to run for the presidency. Speaking before Parliament, Bush pledges \$100 million in aid to underwrite private enterprise development. Bush also meets Wałęsa in Gdansk.

Hungary – July 10, 1989 (PTH)

László Paskai, archbishop of Esztergom, sends a letter of request to Miklós Németh that the Hungarian government initiate the revision of József Mindszenty's trial. In his response, Miklós Németh says the Council of Ministers has already requested that the Supreme Prosecutor revise the legal action brought against archbishop Mindszenty.

The State Wage and Labor Office will cover 65% of the costs of retraining the Russian language teachers from the employment fund.

Péter Zwack, descendant of the former owner of the liquor company, establishes a limited liability company called Zwack Unicum with a registered capital of 60 million forints.

Soviet Union – July 10, 1989 (KCA)

Vadim Bakatin (who is subsequently confirmed as USSR Interior Minister) informs the Supreme Soviet that in the first six months of 1989, serious crime has risen by 40% and juvenile crime by 22%, compared with the same period in 1988. He blames economic and social problems caused by “unbalanced development” during the “transition period” of *perestroika* (“restructuring”) (see July-August, 1989, August 4, 1989, August 12, 1989, and August 24, 1989).

Soviet Union – July 10-13, 1989 (KCA)

A wave of strikes (see July 1989) begin when nearly 12,000 miners at Mezhdurechensk in the Kuzbass coalfield of Western Siberia stop work and start an occupation of the town's main square. On July 13, the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) newspaper *Pravda* reports that the strikers are effectively in control of the town, albeit conducting themselves with exemplary discipline.

Hungary – July 11, 1989 (PTH)

Ferenc Pintér, Deputy to the Leader of the Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice, says to the daily paper *Népszava* that 277 people are known to have been executed for their role in the 1956 events. On the same day, President of the United States George Bush arrives in Budapest. Over the course of the day, four Hungarian-American joint venture company contracts are signed. The Opposition Roundtable rules that, at least temporarily, representatives of the social democrats may participate only in the highest level of the political conciliatory negotiations.

U.S. / Hungary – July 11-13, 1989 (LBC / PTH)

Bush visits Hungary – where he meets several leading government and opposition politicians. In a speech given at Karl Marx University, the President announces, “the Iron Curtain started to ascend” and in this, “Hungary takes a leading role”. Bush presents a 25 million dollar fund to promote investment in the Hungarian private sector. In the case of the liberalization of Hungarian emigration policy, Bush will ask for Hungary’s long-term exemption from the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The President pledges the establishment of an international environmental protection centre in Budapest and asks Congress for 5 million dollars for this end. In the spring of 1989, the first group of the Peace Corps had arrived. Bush claims that the “Iron Curtain has begun to part”, with “Hungary leading the way”. Bush is “absolutely amazed” by the changes taking place in Eastern Europe, and credits the USSR with making changes possible.

The American Peace Corps will send English teachers to Hungary. The minister of culture says the costs of retraining the Russian teachers will be covered - in addition to the employment fund - by the local councils and schools, so Russian teachers need not bear the cost of their retraining. The Independent Police Trade Unions is established.

Soviet Union – July 12, 1989 (KCA)

Yury Solovlev, 63, the First Secretary of the Communist Party (CPSU) Committee in Leningrad *oblast* (region) since July 1985, is removed from his post at a meeting of the committee. President Mikhail Gorbachev attends the meeting in his capacity as CPSU General Secretary. Officially, “at his own request in connection with his retirement”, Solovlev's removal had been expected ever since his humiliating rejection by voters in elections for the Congress of People's Deputies on March 26.

West Germany / Czechoslovakia - July 13, 1989 (DRC)

On an official visit to Czechoslovakia –West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher meets also with Charter 77 signatories Václav Havel and Jiří Hájek, and with Cardinal Tomášek.

Bulgaria - July 13, 1989 (OSA)

In a speech to the Politburo, Zhivkov praises what has been done to reconstruct the economy so far, focusing on main Bulgaria’s economic problems and proposes to increase economic cooperation with nonsocialist states.

Hungary – July 14, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

János Kádár is accompanied by a crowd of more than 100 thousand, from his catafalque in the seat of the CC of HSWP to the Kerepesi Cemetery, where he is laid to rest in peace in the pantheon of the labour movement (see July 6, 1989).

On the same day, László Rajk Jr. issues a statement saying that he intends to have the mortal remains of his parents removed from the pantheon of the labour movement.

The Hungarian October Party and the Hungarian Radical party hold a demonstration in Budapest on Ferenc Műnich (Nádor) Street. They cover up all of the nameplates on the street and place the name "Nádor Street" on walls everywhere.

Archbishop of Esztergom László Paskai and Minister of Culture Ferenc Glatz, discuss the possibility of returning state immovable estates and establishing catholic schools.

Poland – July 14, 1989 (MHC)

Wałęsa offers his support to Jaruzelski for his bid to be Poland’s President.

Soviet Union – July 14, 1989 (MHC)

The CPSU Politburo debates a draft proposal to transform the USSR into a looser federation with a larger degree of autonomy.

Poland / Western Powers – July 14-16, 1989 (KCA)

The Paris summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations calls for the creation of an international aid program for both Poland and Hungary – to be coordinated by the European Communities (EC) in light of their expressed satisfaction with the trends toward multiparty democracy and economic reform in those countries. Poland receives the first of a series of credits and food aid programs in July and August 1989 as an international relief effort gets under way.

Soviet Union – July 14-16, 1989 (KCA)

From mid-July, inter-ethnic violence flares up again in the Abkhaz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR), where members of the native Abkhaz community are agitating for secession from the republic of Georgia (see April 9, 1989). The catalyst for the latest violence is reportedly a dispute over fixed admission quotas for Abkhaz and Georgian students to a branch in Sukhumi (Abkhazia's capital) of Tbilisi State University. Disturbances begin on July 14 and escalate on the night of July 15 into street fighting in Sukhumi, involving around 2,000 Abkhaz and Georgians. The fights leave 14 people dead and over 120 in need of hospital treatment.

G7 / Soviet Union - July 15, 1989 (LBC)

The joint declaration on the meeting of the seven leading industrial states as a departure from previous practice deals with Eastern Europe and not the Soviet Union. The declaration pledges to

support the economic transformation of the Polish and the Hungarian economies, for the maintenance of the political reforms. The declaration condemns Romania and Bulgaria for opposing democratic movements and implementing oppressive measures. The seven leading states admit Poland into the American debt reduction program and hold out food aid for the Poles. Gorbachev's letter to the seven, in which he states that the Soviet Union is interested in integration in the world economy, says, "Our Perestroika is inseparable from a policy tending toward our full and complete participation in the global economy." Bush deems Gorbachev's initiative premature.

Soviet Union – July 16, 1989 (KCA)

Major disturbances are reportedly occurring throughout Abkhazia (see July 14-16, 1989), and 3,000 Interior Ministry troops are drafted in from outside Georgia to try to restore order.

Bulgaria / Turkey – July 17, 1989 (KCA)

It is announced that schoolchildren, students and pensioners are being drafted into the fields (see July 4, 1989 and May 20-23, 1989). Meanwhile, the loss of skilled ethnic Turkish workers has reportedly forced the closure of some enterprises, while others are maintaining production only by introducing six- or seven-day workweeks and lengthening shifts from 8.5 to 12 hours.

Czechoslovakia – July 17, 1989 (KCA)

Dissident sources claim that leading actors, artists and musicians who signed the petition (see late July, 1989) have been officially barred from appearing on radio, television, stage or film.

Poland / Vatican – July 17, 1989 (HDP)

Poland re-establishes diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Soviet Union – July 17, 1989 (KCA)

A new Soviet Council of Ministers takes office. By the close of the constituent sitting of the new Supreme Soviet on August 4, however, three ministerial posts remain unfilled more than five weeks after the Supreme Soviet had begun to debate nominations made by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov. The process of selecting the new Council of Ministers becomes protracted as Supreme Soviet deputies insist on debating the merits of each candidate for office. On the same day, Abkhazia's Georgian population (which constitutes a majority of more than two-thirds) declares a general strike (see July 14-16, 1989, and July 16, 1989). On the same day, an armed gang occupies a hydroelectric station and succeeds in cutting power to several districts.

Hungary / Austria / East Germany – July 18, 1989 (PTH)

The volume on the funeral of Imre Nagy and his associates entitled "301" is published, edited by Éva Kapitány and Péter Grawátsch.

On the same day, an open letter the Opposition Roundtable requests that Prime Minister Miklós Németh revise his position on the issue of the Bős-Nagymaros dam.

According to official data from Bonn, at least 60 East German citizens have managed to get to Austria from Hungary in the last three weeks, since the beginning of the demolition of the technical sealing of the border.

Soviet Union – July 18, 1989 (KCA)

A conference of party first secretaries from the republics, regions and territories on the theme of *perestroika* within the party is held under the auspices of the central committee. Following

publication of the conference speeches in the CPSU newspaper *Pravda* on July 21, commentators remark that never before have the divisions between liberals and conservatives in the top ranks of the party been so clearly defined or the conservative position presented so explicitly. On the same day, the *Financial Times* comments on a recent wave of strikes (see July, 1989 and July 10-13, 1989): “The strike has brought to the surface details of the miserable conditions both in Siberia in general, and in the mines in particular.” The Kuzbass region is reportedly worse off than much of the rest of the country, in terms of food supplies (there being little local agriculture) and the provision of housing and social amenities, and suffers grave industrial pollution. While miners are among the highest paid workers in the country (earning on average 500 roubles per month, around 800 USD, compared with the national average wage of 220 roubles), their industry has an appalling safety record, with some 10,000 deaths in the past nine years. A state of emergency and a curfew are imposed throughout Abkhazia (see July 14-16, 16 & 17, 1989) and the military and police presence is reinforced. Clashes between armed gangs of Abkhazians and Georgians continue, however, and by July 21 the casualty figures rise to 20 dead (including a policeman and two soldiers) and up to 400 injured.

Hungary – July 19, 1989 (PTH)

Péter Borenich interviews Ferenc Vida, a retired judge who presided over Imre Nagy's case and many other cases of retortion.

Poland – July 19, 1989 (KCA / HPB / LBC / MHC)

Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski is elected by the two chambers of the National Assembly to the new post of Executive President of Poland for a six- year term. Jaruzelski, who is already the country's head of state in his capacity as Chairman of the State Council, is the only candidate for the new-style presidency, but he secures election only by a very narrow margin. Following his election as President, Jaruzelski urges the formation of a “grand coalition” government of all parties in parliament led by the (communist) Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP).

Soviet Union – July 19, 1989 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces that the long-awaited Communist Party central committee plenum to discuss ethnic relations in the Soviet Union and the constitutional relationship between the republics will be postponed from July until September. Commentators suggest that the reason lies in disagreements between the central party leadership and Republican Party leaders.

Soviet Union – July 19-21, 1989 (KCA)

The Kuzbass miners (see July, 1989, July 10-13, 1989, and July 18, 1989) return to work after a speech to the Supreme Soviet on July 19 in which Gorbachev warns of the threat posed to *perestroika* by the economic losses of the strike and the possibility of its spreading to other industries, particularly the railways. He expresses sympathy for the miners, but stresses that many of their demands are being met, while his appeal for a return to work contains a warning of emergency measures if the situation threatens to get out of control.

However, the return to work by Kuzbass miners does not stop the spread of strikes to the country's most productive coalfield, the Donbass in the eastern Ukraine. Strikers there are reported to be pressing roughly the same economic and social demands as the Kuzbass miners. Nevertheless, despite an announcement by Shchadov on July 20 that the concessions to the Kuzbass miners will apply to all coalfields, the Donbass strike is on July 20–21 reported still to be spreading. In total, the

number of participating strikers across the Soviet Union is estimated to be more than 300,000.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - 20 July 1989 (DRC)

On a working visit to Hungary – Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec holds talks with Hungarian Premier Miklos Németh mainly about the completion of the Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros hydroelectric dam. He also meets with Chairman of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party Rezső Nyers.

Hungary – July 20, 1989 (PTH)

The Czechoslovakian and the Hungarian Prime Ministers agree that further examinations are needed to clarify the potential environmental effects of the Bós-Nagymaros investment. They also agree that before the end of October, the Prime Ministers will sit down again to discuss the results of research, but until then no irreversible operations may be carried out at Nagymaros.

A leader of HDF conducts negotiations in Brussels with the Christian Democratic group of representatives of the European Parliament. According to József Antall, the general elections in Hungary must take place in November or in March at the latest.

U.S. / Hungary / Poland - July 21, 1989 (LBC)

US congress approves a 14.3 billion dollar aid program. Poland receives ten million dollars and Hungary five million, accounting together for 1% of the aid.

Hungary – July 21, 1989 (PTH)

The Left-Wing Youth Association, one successor organization of the Communist Youth Federation, calls on the political parties and organizations to declare October 23 "the day of non- violence."

USSR, July 22, 1989 (MHC)

The Lithuanian Parliament declares the 1940 Soviet annexation of the Baltics illegal.

Hungary – July 22, 1989 (KCA)

As the result of a by-election in the Gödöllő constituency, Gabor Roszik becomes the first opposition deputy to be elected to the *Országgyűlés* (parliament) since the last multiparty general election in 1947. Defeating a candidate of the ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party (HSWP), Roszik wins 69.2% of the vote as the joint candidate of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF), the Alliance of Free Democrats and the Federation of Young Democrats.

Soviet Union – July 22, 1989 (KCA)

The Tajik Supreme Soviet gives legal status to the Tajik language, which is to be used for all business within official and elected bodies and in state enterprises (except where a majority of workers or delegates were non-Tajik, in which case the language of the majority will be used). Russian is to remain as the official language for communication between nationalities within Tajikistan.

On the same day, the Chairman of Abkhazia's Council of Ministers, Otar Zukhbaya (an Abkhaz), is dismissed from his post and replaced by Givi Anchabadze (a Georgian). The First Deputy Chairman is also dismissed, as are two members of the leadership of the local committee of the Communist Party (CP) of Georgia.

Soviet Union – July 23, 1989 (KCA)

After five decades of categorical denials, the first official Soviet public confirmation that the Nazi-Soviet friendship treaty (September 28, 1939) contained secret protocols is given by Valentin Falin, head of the international department of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) central committee and a former ambassador to West Germany. During a discussion program broadcast on West German television, he announces that Soviet researchers are now convinced of the authenticity of a microfilm copy of the August 23 protocol and of a wealth of supplementary material held in the archives of the West German Foreign Ministry.

Hungary – July 24, 1989 (PTH)

Chairman of HSWP Rezső Nyers and general secretary Károly Grósz pay an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia - 25 July 1989 (DRC)

In his message to the congregation, Cardinal Tomášek mentions the steps he has recently taken in defence of the rights of the Church and the public.

Soviet Union – July 24-26, 1989 (KCA)

As had been the case in April (see April 9, 1989), the Abkhazia violence (see events mid-July onwards) prompts demonstrations involving more than 20,000 people in Tbilisi. Tbilisi once again becomes the forum for Georgian nationalists voicing independence demands.

Soviet Union / U.K. – July 24-28, 1989 (KCA)

A visit to the United Kingdom by Aleksandra Biryukova, the Soviet Deputy Chair responsible for social development and the consumer goods sector, is devoted primarily to the purchase of consumer goods and medical supplies. During a tour of manufacturing companies, she places orders worth around £100 million.

Czechoslovakia – July 25, 1989 (VVR)

The opposition manifesto “A Few Sentences”, with Havel and Krizan as lead authors, is published.

Poland – July 25, 1989 (MHC)

Jaruzelski invites Solidarity to form a coalition government.

Hungary – July 25, 1989 (PTH)

AFD and HDF call for a general revision of street names in the capital city.

In Moscow, Mikhail Gorbachev, Rezső Nyers and Károly Grósz agree to continue negotiations on the further withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary. They also agree that under appropriate international circumstances, the reduction of troops may lead to a complete withdrawal of armed forces.

The delegation of the Common Market visits Hungary also, in order to learn about the political and economic situation in the country.

Poland / EEC – July 25, 1989 (KCA)

Walesa firmly rules out participation in a grand coalition government (see July 19, 1989). He tells Wojciech Jaruzelski at a meeting, however, that Solidarity will either accept a mandate to constitute a government on its own or will form the parliamentary opposition. Walesa comments after the

meeting that Solidarity's role in a PUWP-led coalition would be simply “decorative”. Commentators observe that Solidarity is reluctant to enter government as a junior partner for fear that it would share responsibility for unpopular economic austerity measures without having sufficient influence over policy.

On the same day, it is announced that the EU has reached an agreement with Poland on a five- year economic co-operation and trade pact, providing for a progressive reduction of import tariffs and import quotas on certain Polish products. Quotas for most Polish industrial goods are to be dismantled by 1994-95, and tariffs on Polish meat (duck meat and horse meat) are to be cut in 1990. Poland in turn agrees to lift tariffs on imports of EC processed foods such as coffee, soya, baby food and whisky.

Soviet Union – July 25, 1989 (KCA)

In a report to the Supreme Soviet concerning a June 4 rail disaster between the Urals cities of Ufa and Chelyabinsk, the Chairman of the new State Commission for Emergency Situations Vitaly Doguzhiyev discloses that the death toll stands at 645, including 181 children.

Soviet Union – July 25-26, 1989 (KCA)

The strikers (see July, 1989, July 10-13, 1989, July 18, 1989, and July 19-21, 1989) end their action and return to work. Apparently, they have been swayed by Gorbachev's appeals and guarantees given by the Supreme Soviet and by Ryzhkov during meetings with strikers’ representatives on July 24–25. Guarantees include the prospect that forthcoming legislation will enshrine the right to strike and formalize procedures for settling labour disputes, and will determine the conditions for enterprise independence.

Hungary – July 26, 1989 (PTH)

The assembly of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences rules that redressing unfair grievances is a moral obligation, therefore the measures and resolutions that infringed the rights of members of the academy will be annulled and membership of those suspended or excluded will be continued. On the same day, Pope John Paul II announces that he will visit Hungary in 1991.

AFD demands that the Hungarian frontier guards not put a special seal in the passport of East German citizens who are caught trying to escape from Hungary to Austria.

Hungary – July 27, 1989 (PTH)

The Hungarian October party and the capital city council agree that Ferenc Münich Street will be given back its original name, Nádor Street, and a committee will be set up comprising representatives of political and social organizations and other experts to revise the status of political symbols and names of public places.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia / Estonia – July 27, 1989 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet gives its endorsement for the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to begin a transition to economic autonomy. It votes overwhelmingly to allow them to introduce “regional cost accounting” from January 1, 1990, a year ahead of the rest of the Soviet Union. This will give the republics considerable independence with budgeting, taxation and economic planning. The Supreme Soviet also gives a first reading of a bill allowing the three republics to achieve complete economic independence (including ownership of their own industry and natural resources and the right to introduce their own currencies), but put off

voting to implement this law until the next Supreme Soviet session in October.
On the same day, Uzabakay Karamanov is appointed to Chairman of the Kazakh Council of Ministers, replacing Nursultan Nazarbayev, who in June had been named first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party.

Hungary / Austria / Soviet Union – July 28, 1989 (PTH)

The CC of HSWP decides that HSWP should start making preparations for October 23, in the spirit of serving the cause of national reconciliation.

On the same day, Valentyin Falin, leader of the international department of the CC of the Soviet Communist Party, says in his interview given to the paper *Új Fórum*: ... I do not have any evidence confirming that the Soviet Union should have played a decisive or a significant role in determining the fate of Imre Nagy. The existing documents indicate that the final decision was not made over here."

Also, Otto von Habsburg is elected president of the Hungarian delegation in the European Parliament. The body is to be comprised half of representatives of the European Parliament and half of Hungarian members of Parliament.

Poland – July 28, 1989 (KCA)

In a speech to the plenum, Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski urges that in light of its result in the recent National Assembly elections, the party should rethink “what the party stands for, what it is defending, and what it is fighting for” (see July 19, 1989). This follows the main party report on the elections by politburo member Janusz Rejkowski, who complain: “Society associates the party with economic and social crises, with Stalinism and bureaucracy, with arrogance and incompetence on the part of the authorities.”

Soviet Union / Byelorussia – July 28-29, 1989 (KCA)

Nikolai Dementei is appointed Chairman of the Presidium of the Byelorussian Supreme Soviet, replacing Georgy Tarazevich who is “transferred to work in the USSR Supreme Soviet”. On the following day, Mircha Snegur is appointed Chairman of the Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet, replacing Aleksandr Mokuanu who on June 26 had been elected Deputy Chair of the Soviet of the Union.

Poland – July 29-30, 1989 (RFE/KCA)

Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski resigns the office of First Secretary of the PUWP on the second day of a two-day central committee plenum. He also resigns from the politburo and the central committee. On Jaruzelski's recommendation, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the outgoing Chairman of the Council of Ministers, is elected to replace him as first secretary.

Other changes to the party leadership feature the resignations from the politburo of Kazimierz Barcikowski, Stanislaw Ciosek, Jozef Czyrek, and Alfred Miodowicz; and from the secretariat of Ciosek, Czyrek, Wladyslaw Baka, Zygmunt Czarasty and Marian Orzechowski. The central committee promotes Manfred Gorywoda and Janusz Kubasiewicz from candidate to full politburo membership, and elects Leszek Miller as a full politburo member. It elects new members of the secretariat Marek Krol, Wlodzimierz Natorf, Marcin Swiecicki, and Slawomir Wiatr.

The various personnel changes are intended to restore unity to the Party after the shock, disastrous election results. For the first time in the Party's history, PUWP Sejm deputies attend the plenum.

Soviet Union / Latvia – July 29, 1989 (KCA)

The Latvian Supreme Soviet declares the republic “sovereign”, thereby giving itself the right to veto USSR laws.

Soviet Union – July 29, August 5 & 12, 1989 (KCA)

Demonstrations involve up to 80,000 Azerbaijanis in the centre of Baku under the auspices of an Azerbaijan Popular Front (see events mid-July onwards). In addition to demanding economic and political autonomy for their republic, fresh elections in Azerbaijan to the Congress of People's Deputies and legal recognition for the Popular Front, the demonstrators call for assurances that Nagorny Karabakh would stay within Azerbaijan and an end to direct rule from Moscow (which they claim favours the Armenian community).

Czechoslovakia – late July 1989 (KCA)

By the end of July, more than 11,500 people in Czechoslovakia sign the petition (see June 29, 1989). Signatories include not only prominent dissidents such as the playwright Vaclav Havel, thee prominent figures in the Charter 77 human rights group, and figures identified with the reformist administration of the 1968 “Prague Spring”, but also Czechoslovaks not previously known for criticizing the regime.

Bulgaria - July 30, 1989 (OSA)

The economic commentator Ivanko Chakarov, at an interview by Radio Sofia, explains that to improve Bulgaria’s economy it is necessary to enter the international economic world. For it he recommended an active anti-inflation policy.

Soviet Union – July 30, 1989 (MHC)

The “Inter-regional Group of Deputies” is formed in the USSR Supreme Soviet by Yeltsin, Sakharov and others.

August

Yugoslavia - August 1989 (RWE)

Unemployment is 16 %; foreign debt is \$18,000 million

GDR – August 1989 (OSA)

A few hundred East Germans began to cross the Hungarian border to Austria illegally. Within a few weeks the exodus had grown to staggering proportions, and by early November 120,000 East Germans, the majority of them young, highly skilled workers, had managed to make their way to the West by slipping out the back door – via Hungary, Czechoslovakia, or Poland.

East Germany (GDR) – August-October 1989 (KCA)

Over 30,000 East Germans leave the German Democratic Republic (GDR - East Germany) during August, September and early October. Although the numbers are small compared to the outflow to the West before the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the current exodus still represents a serious destabilization of the East German regime, especially since most of those leaving are young and often well-qualified.

The East German government is apparently temporarily paralyzed until late September by the

illness of Erich Honecker, 77, the head of state and general secretary of the ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED).

GDR – August 1, 1989 (OSA)

Despite attempts by the communist party leadership to squelch public discussion about reform, East German activists are continuing their independent debate about political change. The SED leadership has condemned these proponents of reform as counterrevolutionaries, but many of the activists consider themselves to be the true guardians of the German socialist legacy.

Czechoslovakia - August 1, 1989 (DRC)

A citywide assembly of leading functionaries of the People’s Militia and the State Police (SNB) is convened in Prague. At the assembly, First Secretary of the Municipal Committee of the CPCz Miroslav Štěpán called the ‘Several Sentences’ petition a ‘pamphlet and an anti-perestroika, counter-revolutionary program’, and says that units of the People’s Militia, the State Police, and if necessary, the Armed Forces would be deployed to maintain public order. In connection with the upcoming anniversary of the occupation of Czechoslovakia by five countries of the Warsaw Pact, on 21 August 1968, the StB had stepped up its persecution of representatives of independent civil initiatives the month before.

Czechoslovakia – August 1, 1989 (OSA)

In a nine-page open letter to the Czechoslovak party leadership, Alexander Dubcek calls on the party authorities to make radical reforms against the background of increasing social tension. This letter, which is dated June 23, is released to the public only now, after Dubcek has failed to receive any response from the authorities.

Czechoslovakia – August 1, 1989 (OSA)

The Czech branch of the International Poets Essayists and Novelists Club holds its first meeting in 18 years, which shows that the Czechoslovak authorities are continuing the slow process of liberalizing various areas of culture.

Hungary – August 1, 1989 (PTH)

It is said at the press conference of the National Planning Office that the rate of inflation in the first half of the year was 15%, and that it will presumably change in the rest of the year. The deficit of the convertible balance of payments is greater than expected, due to tourist shopping by Hungarians abroad.

Poland / EU / U.S. – August 1, 1989 (RFE/KCA)

One of the last acts of the outgoing Rakowski government is to proceed, in the face of significant parliamentary opposition, with the abolition of state food price controls and meat rationing together with the lifting of a month-long wage and price freeze. This is carried out with the introduction of “marketization”, a supposedly free market in agricultural produce. The result is food price increases of up to 500%, including an 80% rise in the price of meat, prompting long queues of panicked buyers outside shops on July 31. The price increases also produce a wave of wildcat strikes at enterprises across the country throughout August, as workers demand substantial wage rises.

On the same day, the EU Commission (see July 14-16, 1989) convenes an exploratory meeting in Brussels, which is attended by all 24 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). At the meeting, the USA promises food aid to Poland worth

50 million dollars (President Bush announces on September 14 that this amount is to be doubled). The EC (whose twelve member countries are OECD members) pledge to make a gift of 200,000 tons of wheat, 100,000 tons of barley, 2,000 tons of meat and 5,000 tons of olive oil, in addition to the provisions of a somewhat more substantial program announced on July 24. Other countries set out to examine further possibilities for food aid to both countries.

Hungary – August 2, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers does not intend to request easy terms of payment from Western creditors, however it would like Hungary to be able to get credits faster and more easily, so that it could improve its infrastructure and reduce the deficit of the balance of payments. At the same time, the Council of Ministers proposes to the Common Market that the trading quotas inflicted on Hungary should be lifted as early as next year.

Also, the Opposition Roundtable criticizes HSWP for not accepting publicity and public debate in the trilateral negotiations, and also for not taking written responsibility for the party's assets.

Hungary – August 2, 1989 (MNC)

Diplomatical relations were established on the ambassadorial level between the People's Republic of Hungary and the United Arab Emirates.

Poland – August 2, 1989 (RFE/KCA)

After twice postponing the voting for a Prime Minister to head the new government, the *Sejm* elects as Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Czesław Kiszczak (The nomination receiving 237 votes to 173), Interior Minister in the outgoing PUWP-dominated government and a member of the PUWP central committee politburo. Kiszczak had been nominated for the post by Wojciech Jaruzelski on August 1 on the proposal of outgoing Prime Minister and new PUWP first secretary Mieczysław Rakowski, and the PUWP parliamentary deputies. In his acceptance speech Kiszczak expresses his regret that a “grand coalition” has been ruled out by the opposition, but announces continuing efforts to include Solidarity members in his government.

Poland – August 3, 1989 (KCA)

The *Sejm* approves an OKP motion to set up a special parliamentary commission to investigate accusations by an OKP deputy (Tadeusz Kowalczyk) that the police and security services had committed up to 100 “political murders” since the imposition of martial law in December 1981. The motion is angrily denounced in the *Sejm* by the Deputy Interior Minister Zbigniew Pudysz, but passes by 174 votes to 91, with 33 abstentions, principally because many PUWP deputies are absent from the debate.

GDR – August 4, 1989 (OSA)

Evidently encouraged by reports that the Hungarians have begun to dismantle the “Iron Curtain”, increasing numbers of East Germans have been travelling to Hungary to escape across the border to Austria. The East German authorities have so far refrained from imposing restrictions on travel to Hungary, apparently realizing that such a move would only fuel growing domestic dissatisfaction. Yet, if the problem continues, the authorities may have no choice.

Hungary / East Germany / Romania / West Germany – August 4, 1989 (PTH)

The West German government intends to negotiate with representatives of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior and the foreign ministry about the status of East German citizens staying at the

embassy of the German Federal Republic in Budapest. 130 East German citizens are reported to be waiting for an entry visa to the GFR at the embassy. The Hungarian ministry of the interior says they are ready to investigate the applications for political asylum submitted by the East German citizens.
More than 17,000 Romanian refugees live in Hungary. 171 million forints have been used to cover the costs helping the refugees from the settlement fund.

Nicaragua - August 3-4, 1989 (MNC)

In Nicaragua, the government and the twenty-one opposition signed a treaty about the disarmament of the 12,000 armed opposition insurgents stationing in Honduras, and the organization of democratic elections in Nicaragua.

Hungary – August 4, 1989 (MNC)

The Foreign Ministry released a statement about the diplomatic statement of the Romanian Communist Party about a Hungarian TV show.

Soviet Union – August 4, 1989 (KCA)

In line with President Mikhail Gorbachev’s proposal, the fight against crime is debated in the USSR Supreme Soviet, and a resolution is adopted to set up local anti-crime committees and to increase the number of Interior Ministry troops (see July-August, 1989).

Czechoslovakia – August 4, 1989 (OSA)

Jan Fojtik, the chief ideologist of the CPCS, give a speech to a plenary meeting of the staff and students at the Party Political School in Prague in which he tries to justify the slow pace of reform in Czechoslovakia, by the need for prudence and political stability.

Hungary – August 5, 1989 (PTH)

By-elections are held in three electorates as a result of recalling the representatives. Candidates of HDF Ernő Raffay and József Debreceni win the seats in Szeged and in Kecskemét,. In Kiskunfélegyháza, no representative is elected because less than 50% of voters turn out at the election.

Representatives of the Opposition Roundtable go on a study trip to England.

Czechoslovakia – August 4, 1989 (RFE)

Czech primate Cardinal Tomasek writes a letter to the government expressing his concern about the ‘dangerous tension’ between the regime and those who are ‘demanding a say in how society is run’.

Czechoslovakia - August 5, 1989 (DRC)

In a broadcast on Radio Free Europe, Václav Havel discusses the different positions held by two groups of independent initiatives regarding the demonstrations planned for 21 August. He states that many fear the authorities will high-handedly provoke a confrontation and try once and for all to settle accounts with the independent initiatives and the emerging civil consciousness. He calls street demonstrations an extreme form of resistance, and says the time is not yet ripe for great risks and great sacrifices.

Hungary – August 6, 1989 (PTH)

The National Council of Trade Unions denies its intention to sell its resort places and to cease granting accommodation at its resort places for a nominal charge.

Rumania / Czechoslovakia - August 6-9, 1989 (DRC)

On an official visit to Romania – Secretary of the CPCz CC Jozef Lenárt holds talks with Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party CC Ion Stoian and General Secretary Nicolae Ceausescu.

East Germany (GDR) / West Germany (FRG) – August 7, 1989

The West German permanent mission in East Berlin is closed. At the time of its closing, it hosts 131 East German Asylum seekers (see September 8, 1989).

Poland - August 7, 1989 (RFE)

Lech Walesa announces that he will seek to form a small coalition government between Solidarity, the UPP and the SD (Alliance of Democrats). This “small coalition” would exclude the PUWP.

Hungary – August 7, 1989 (PTH)

According to some sources there are as many as 200 East German citizens staying at the West German embassy in Budapest. A high-ranking West German government official says that the authorities in Berlin are trying to prevent East German tourists from travelling to Hungary through the use of administrative measures.

Hungary is invited as a guest to the summit meeting of the non-allied countries. After 50 years, sailing on Lake Fertő is now possible without any restriction.

Cambodia, August 7, 1989 (MNC)

A Vietnamese-Chinese Foreign Ministerial negotiation was held in Paris about the situation in Cambodia.

Yugoslavia / Italy - August 8, 1989 (JIS)

President of the SFRY Presidency Janez Drnovšek and Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar visit Italy. Italian President Francesco Cossiga supports the ongoing economic and societal reforms in Yugoslavia. Borderland cooperation, minority issues, European security, integration, the forthcoming NAM summit conference, and the protection of the Adriatic are also topics in the conversations.

Hungary – August 8, 1989 (PTH)

The opposing factions of the Social Democratic Party of Hungary agree to convene both a congress in November and a party conference to be held before. On learning of the agreement, the Opposition Roundtable reinstates the social democrats into the roundtable.

Poland – August 8, 1989 (KCA)

It becomes clear that the newly elected Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak (see August 2, 1989) is experiencing grave difficulties in putting together a government, even along the lines of a traditional PUWP-ZSL-SD coalition. The rejection of a place in the new government by the outgoing Industry Minister Mieczyslaw Wilczek typifies Kiszczak's problems in recruiting some of the best qualified people, even in his own party.

On the same day, the PUWP central committee politburo accuses Walesa of reneging on the April roundtable agreements (see April 5, 1989 and April 7, 1989) by attempting to split the ruling

coalition in order to oust the PUWP from power. It criticizes Walesa's rival coalition proposals for complicating “the quick formation – so necessary for the country – of an efficient, effective and competent Cabinet”. However, both the ZSL and SD leaderships decide the next day to hold exploratory talks with Solidarity. Also on this day, the two EU agreements (see July 24, 1989 and July 25, 1989) are signed in Warsaw by representatives of the Polish government and the European Commission.

GDR – August 8, 1989 (OSA)

The stream of East Germans hoping to make their way West through Hungary creates a diplomatic headache for Bonn, Budapest and East Berlin alike. Ever since the news of Hungary’s plan to remove its barbed-wire border with Austria reached East Germans last May, there has been a steady increase of East German tourists trying to cross over to Austria through Hungary.

Soviet Union – August 8-10, 1989 (KCA)

Troops are reported to be “in full control” of the situation in the Abkhaz region (see events of July, 1989). On August 10, special passes are introduced to control the movement of people.

Czechoslovakia - August 9, 1989 (DRC)

Three independent initiatives (the Movement for Civil Liberty, the Democratic Initiative, and the T. G. Masaryk Association) issue a statement in which they call upon Czechoslovaks to join an hour-long promenade of protest in the pedestrian zone in Prague and at town squares throughout Czechoslovakia on the 21st of August. The promenade begins with two minutes of silence.

Czechoslovakia - August 10, 1989 (DRC)

Charter 77, the Independent Peace Association, the Bohemian Children, the John Lennon Peace Club, the Friends of the USA Society, and Polish-Czechoslovak Solidarity issue their statement ‘A Word about the August Anniversary’, in which they express fears about a potential brutal police action against people taking part in the protest in the centre of Prague on August 21, 1989. Consequently, they recommend that people express dissatisfaction by going on a peaceful walk in the centre of their own towns and by boycotting public transport during that period.

Bulgaria - August 10, 1989 (OSA)

A decree is issued that allowed the transformation of state-owned enterprises into joint-stock companies in which even foreigners could hold shares.

Soviet Union – August 10, 1989 (KCA)

A two-year experiment is decreed by the Soviet Council of Ministers, whereby Soviet collective and state farmers will be paid in hard currency for surpluses of certain crops. According to the official *Tass* news agency, the measure, which takes effect immediately, is considered “expedient” in order to stimulate domestic farm production and make possible a cut in imports.

South Africa, August 10, 1989 (MNC)

The Summit of the Heads of State of the African “front states” (Angola, Tanzania, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Zambia) was held in Lusaka, where the main issue was the situation in South Africa.

Hungary – August 11, 1989 (PTH)

The Supreme Prosecutor submits a protest on legal grounds against the legal action brought against high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1948.

Yugoslavia - August 11, 1989 (RWE)

A 2,000,000 dinar note was issued, being worth about US\$90 at the end July exchange rate of \$1,00 - 22,500 dinars (the rate in August 1988 was \$1,00 - 2,700 dinars); by the end of 1989 the exchange rate was \$1,00 - 170,000 dinars.

Soviet Union – August 12, 1989 (KCA)

The USSR State Prosecutor Aleksandr Sukharev stresses in an interview with the CPSU newspaper *Pravda* that every Soviet Republic is affected by the alarming growth in the crime rate. He highlights the problem of organized crime, revealing that since the beginning of 1989 alone, police have discovered 1,320 criminal gangs responsible for nearly 9,000 “dangerous crimes” (see July-August, 1989, July 10, 1989, August 4, 1989, and August 24, 1989).

Hungary – August 13, 1989 (PTH)

The Democratic Youth Federation launches a signature-collecting campaign so that the office of the president will be introduced before the general elections scheduled for next year.

GDR – August 13, 1989 (OSA)

Representatives of East Germany’s multifaceted dissident community announce that a nationwide opposition movement is to be formed out of many of the small, Church-affiliated groups scattered throughout the GDR. It will be the first such coordinated movement to emerge among the various groups that engage in political and social activities under the aegis of the Evangelical Church.

Czechoslovakia – August 13, 1989 (OSA)

Three leading Slovak artists, the writer Lubomir Feldek, the painter Ignac Kolcak and the sculptor Vladimir Kompanek, write a letter to the President of Czechoslovakia, Gustav Husak, demanding the reassessment of the Prague Spring and rehabilitation of its leader, Alexander Dubcek.

East Germany (GDR) / Hungary – August 14, 1989 (KCA)

The West German embassy in Budapest is closed due to overcrowding by people seeking entry to the West (see August 19, 1989).

Hungary – August 14, 1989 (PTH)

The West German embassy in Budapest is temporarily closed because it cannot accommodate any more East Germans who intend to emigrate. Jürgen Südhoff, West German Secretary of the Foreign Ministry, starts negotiations in Budapest to resolve the case of East Germans. The Hungarian opinion is that the emigration of East German citizens to West Germany is an issue to be resolved by the two German states, but in order to achieve a humanitarian solution to the problem, Hungary will discuss it with Berlin.

Poland – August 14, 1989 (RFE / KCA / HPB)

Prime Minister Lt.-Gen. Czeslaw Kiszczak (see August 2, 1989) admits defeat in his efforts to form a government acceptable to the *Sejm* (see August 8, 1989) and announces his intention to resign as Prime Minister. He proposes that the task of reviving efforts towards forming a “grand coalition” should pass to the ZSL chairman Roman Malinowski, the leader of the UPP, before General

Jaruzelski nominated him, but that Malinowski had refused due to Solidarity's opposition to a coalition with the UPP. Given that the circumstances have now changed, perhaps Malinowski will accept the post.

Soviet Union – August 14, 1989 (KCA)

Soviet press reports reveal growing official concern that Nagorny Karabakh (see events mid-July onwards) is close to anarchy, with all transport and communications severely disrupted, and clashes occurring daily between members of the rival communities armed with home-made weapons and explosives. The official Soviet news agency *Tass* reports, “the loss of life and number of casualties among the population is steadily growing”.

A general strike called by the Popular Front closes half of Baku's industrial enterprises when over 100,000 striking workers stage a mass rally in the city centre.

Hungary – August 14, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Jürgen Sudhoff consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest, regarding the GDR tourists wanting to settle in the Federal Republic of Germany without permission.

Czechoslovakia – August 14-30, 1989 (OSA)

On August 14, the Czechoslovak authorities start the criminal proceedings against four leading Slovak dissidents and on August 19, later proceeding is started against another dissident, Vladimir Manak. The prosecution of five Slovak dissidents has brought signed statements of protest from intellectuals. For example, on August 29 six Czechoslovak dissidents found the Committee for the Release of Slovak Democrats. On August 30, a group of 33 intellectuals write to the President of Czechoslovakia in support to arrested dissidents.

Hungary – August 14-31, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, foreign ministry, consulted with the political actors of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, and the International Red Cross, about the critical situation regarding the issue of the travelling to the FRG of the citizens of the German Democratic Republic, currently staying in Hungary as tourists – and waiting in the building of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in masses. (In the end, the Hungarian party did not oppose the departure of the East German citizens without a leaving permit from Hungary. See: September 11.)

Poland – August 15, 1989 (KCA)

Walesa reaffirms his proposal for Solidarity to form a coalition in conjunction with the ZSL and the SD. In what appears to a significant concession, however, he states that in any government resulting from such a coalition, “the most important ministries which are the basis of the physical continuity of the State” should remain in the hands of the PUWP. Observers take this to mean the Defence and Interior Ministries. Apparently sensitive to Soviet concerns about developments in Poland – Walesa also says that a Solidarity government would not withdraw Poland from the Warsaw Pact.

Soviet Union – August 15, 1989 (KCA)

Soviet import-export regulations are relaxed. Notable changes include: (i) Soviet citizens are allowed to bring into the country or to take abroad personal possessions, valuables and currency without limitation or customs duties, provided that goods are not intended for sale and that currency

(including hard currency) has been earned legally; (ii) “taking into account the poor state of the internal market” the value of goods brought duty-free into the Soviet Union as gifts by private citizens is increased to 500 roubles; (iii) all restrictions on imports of religious literature and works by previously banned authors are removed both for private citizens and state publishing houses; (iv) Soviet citizens are allowed to bring into the country an unlimited number of personal computers, the customs duty of 5,000 roubles per item only being payable if subsequently these are sold (personal computers are currently fetching up to 100,000 roubles on the black market).

Hungary – August 16, 1989 (PTH)

The Political Executive Committee of HSWP issues a statement saying that the party leadership does not endorse the military intervention in Prague in 1968.

According to Imre Poszgay, the signature-collecting campaign of the Democratic Youth Federation requesting/demanding/suggesting the early introduction of the office of the president is in conflict with the preliminary agreement made at the National Roundtable.

Poland – August 16, 1989 (KCA)

Intensive negotiations about a Solidarity-ZSL-SD coalition produce resolutions by the ZSL and SD parliamentary groups and the OKP in favour of them forming a “government of national responsibility”. Walesa tells OKP deputies that Solidarity cannot rightly remain as an ineffectual parliamentary opposition while the country's political and economic crises grows more desperate, and that the PUWP monopoly on power must therefore be brought to an end. For their part, the willingness of the ZSL and the SD to break ranks with the PUWP is explained by observers in terms of fears by the parties that without a show of independence, they would face annihilation at the next elections (due in 1991), in which their seats would be no longer be guaranteed.

Poland – August 16, 1989 (MHC)

Solidarity and the United Peasants’ and Democratic Parties agree to form a coalition government. Jaruzelski demands only that the PUWP be guaranteed the defence and interior portfolios.

Poland - August 17, 1989 (LBC)

Jaruzelski accepts the formation of a coalition government with Solidarity. Simultaneously, the Polish prime minister resigns; his successor is Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Poland - August 17, 1989 (RFE)

General Jaruzelski finally gives into Walesa’s demands to nominate a Solidarity member for Prime Minister.

Hungary – August 17, 1989 (PTH)

The Secretary of the Foreign Ministry of West Germany visits Budapest again to negotiate the case of East German refugees. According to the British news agency Reuters, 1,100 East German citizens have fled to Austria through the Hungarian border in the first half of the month.

Poland – August 17, 1989 (KCA)

President Jaruzelski accepts, in principle, the proposal that the Solidarity-ZSL-SD coalition should form a government “open to all pro-reform political forces represented in parliament” (see August 15, 1989 and August 16, 1989) at a meeting with Walesa, Malinowski and the SD chairman Jerzy Jozwiak. They are later joined by KiszczaK, who formally tenders his resignation to Jaruzelski (this

is accepted by the *Sejm* on August 24). Walesa submits a list of three candidates to Jaruzelski, proposed by Solidarity for the post of Prime Minister, namely Geremek, Mazowiecki, and Jacek Kuron.

Czechoslovakia / Poland- August 17, 1989 (DRC)

The Movement for Civil Liberty and the Democratic Initiative reacts negatively to the statement by the other independent initiatives and to the private statement of Václav Havel concerning the anniversary of the August occupation of Czechoslovakia. They say that to emphasize the danger of potential confrontations between the state authorities and demonstrating members of the public – which the independent initiatives are in fact not calling for – is to run against current public opinion. In Poland – one week after the Upper House of the Sejm have condemned the intervention by five countries of the Warsaw Treaty Organization in Czechoslovakia in August 1968, the Lower House follows suit. The Czechoslovak regime rejects this notion as ‘undisguised meddling in the internal affairs of Czechoslovakia’.

Following house searches of four Slovak democrats, the Chief Inspector of the District Department of the State Police in Bratislava initiates proceedings against Jan Čarnogurský, Miroslav Kusý, Anton Selecký, and Hana Ponická (later, charges are also brought against another Slovak activist, Vladimír Maňák) for sedition, because they have called upon Slovaks to take part in peaceful demonstrations marking the anniversary of the Soviet intervention in August 1968. Čarnogurský and Kusý are taken into custody.

The persecution of the ‘Bratislava Five’ evokes another great wave of protests and manifestations of solidarity in Slovakia, Bohemia, Moravia and abroad.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union / East Germany – August 18, 1989 (PTH)

Representatives of AFD hand a letter written to Gorbachev over to the Soviet embassy in Budapest. In it, they request the President of the Supreme Council to take steps so that the leadership of the Soviet state officially denounce the military interventions of 1956 and 1968, which violated international laws.

According to estimates of the trade unions, 1 million people take part in the warning strikes against the rise of meat prices. The National Council of Trade Unions and the Council of Ministers agree at their meeting that they will both ask the meat companies not to raise their prices.

The Czechoslovakian government sends a diplomatic communication to Hungary saying that they insist on complying with the contract signed by the two parties on the Bős-Nagymaros investment and on compensation for the damage inflicted by the suspension of work on the Hungarian side.

István Őszi, Deputy Foreign Minister, talks with the ambassador of East Germany to Budapest about the case of East Germans wishing to migrate to West Germany.

Soviet Union – August 18, 1989 (MHC)

Yakovlev holds a press conference to denounce unequivocally the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact, which led to the annexation of the Baltics. He states, however, that the Soviet government still considers the Baltics a part of the USSR and will resist any attempt to dislodge them from the Union.

GDR – August 18, 1989 (OSA)

The East German Party Daily says that East Germany supports the official Czechoslovak view that the 1968 Warsaw Pact Invasion was necessary to protect socialism. *Neues Deutschland* says attempts to reassess the invasion are “futile.” There has been official criticism of the invasion in both Poland and Hungary during the past week and rebuttal from Czechoslovakia.

East Germany (GDR) / Hungary / Austria – August 19, 1989 (KCA)

Some 600 people attend a “pan-European picnic” held on the border near Sopron, and cross the border when a border gate is opened by Hungarian guards to let Austrians join the picnic.

Hungary was the first Eastern bloc country to accede to the UN Convention on Refugees in March 1989 and had begun to dismantle fences along its border with Austria in May.

By the end of August, warnings remain only verbal, and by early September some 6,500 of an estimated 200,000 East German holiday makers in Hungary seek refuge in three camps, while many more stay on in hotels and campsites or with friends after their visas expire.

Hungary – August 19, 1989 (PTH)

The new draft program declaration of HSWP appears, characterizing the 1956 events as a popular uprising and pointing out that "Imre Nagy had undertaken the death of a martyr, and at the same time János Kádár was forced to make severe compromises with the hard-liners of the party."

A “pan-European picnic” is held near Sopron where 300 East German citizens flee to Austria through the temporarily open border.

HDF opens its own market, selling vegetables and fruits at a reduced price.

Hungary – August 19, 1989 (MNC)

With the name of Pan-European Picnic, the meeting of Hungarian, Austrian and West German politicians was organized on the Hungarian-Austrian border, where many GDR-tourists fled to Austria.

Vatican, August 19-21, 1989 (MNC)

Pope John Paul II visits Spain.

Poland – August 19, 1989 (RFE / KCA)

The PUWP central committee meets holds its 14th plenary meeting in a closed emergency session to work out its response to the new coalition. A resolution, published on the following day, concedes that the PUWP would prefer to participate in a new coalition government than go into opposition, but it appears to demand the party's control of more than just the promised Defence and Interior Ministries by asserting that the PUWP's “representation in the new government must reflect its political and state potential”. First Secretary, Mieczyslaw Rakowski recognizes the need to continue to mount pressure on the new coalition government to broaden PUWP participation in policy making. The resolution also renews the charge that by taking power, Solidarity has betrayed the round-table agreements.

Romania – August 19-20, 1989 (ADC)

Nicolae Ceausescu announces that he condemns the political changes in Poland.

Hungary – August 20, 1989 (PTH)

After a break of 41 years, the Holy Right procession is held again in Budapest.

In his ceremonial speech, Mátyás Szűrös says: in the spirit of national reconciliation the Parliament could propose a motion as early as its next session that the new constitution should declare October 23 a national holiday.

Poland – August 20, 1989 (KCA)

President Jaruzelski formally accepts the coalition proposal and nominates Mazowiecki as Prime Minister to form a government “based on broad agreement among Poland's political and social forces”. The *Sejm* approves Mazowiecki's nomination on August 24 by 378 votes to four, with 41 abstentions.

GDR – August 21, 1989 (OSA)

The West German government says it deplores East Germany’s unchanged support for the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia 21 years ago. Speaking at a press conference in Bonn, government spokesman Hans Klein notes there has been criticism of the invasion from Hungary and Poland. Klein says it is regrettable that similar criticism has not been heard from East Germany.

Czechoslovakia – August 21, 1989 (RFE / DRC)

Reportedly between 2,000 and 10,000 demonstrate in Prague to commemorate the Soviet Invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, despite the regime’s warnings against such a gathering-taking place. Political activists from Hungary – Poland – East and West Germany, and Italy take part in the demonstration. The police arrest 320 Czechoslovaks and 50 foreigners (including nine members of the Hungarian Union of Young Democrats), according to Radio Prague.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary – August 21, 1989 (OSA)

A leading member of the Hungarian Association of Free Democrats visits Czechoslovakia on August 21, where he issues a joint statement with the Charter 77 spokesmen entitled “Old Worries and New Hopes.”

Bulgaria / Turkey – August 21, 1989 (KCA)

The Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Bozer announces that Turkey's border with Bulgaria will be closed as of August 22, and that all Bulgarians wishing to visit Turkey will henceforth be required to produce visas. The decision is aimed at halting the flow of ethnic Turks from Bulgaria, whose numbers have reached some 310,000 by August 21 (see also May 20-23; June 1989), and follows the failure of the Soviet Union in its efforts to initiate direct talks between the two countries on ways to manage the crisis.

Hungary – August 21-29, 1989 (MNC)

The Foreign Ministry – via its Embassy in Prague – after long negotiations achieved the release of the nine Hungarian citizens, who were arrested during the demonstration on the anniversary of the 1968 military intervention in Czechoslovakia.

Organization of African Unity, August 21-24, 1989 (MNC)

On their consultation in Harare, the Heads of State and Prime Ministers of the Organization of African Unity expressed their support for the ceasefire agreement between the government of Angola and the UNITA made on August 22 (the Gbadolite Ceasefire).

Czechoslovakia – August 21, 1989 (KCA / MCH)

On the anniversary of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia (by troops from other Warsaw Pact countries) (see August 20-21, 1968), riot police clash for nearly four hours with several thousand demonstrators in Wenceslas Square in the centre of the capital, Prague. Nearly 400 people are arrested, including 56 foreigners.

The authorities had attempted to prevent any demonstrations from taking place by mounting a major security operation in the two days preceding the anniversary, which included taking leading dissidents into police custody, putting them under temporary house arrest or warning them to stay outside Prague on August 21. Opposition groups call on citizens to stage peaceful marches through the centres of Czechoslovak towns and cities, and to observe two minutes of silence at 5.00 p.m. local time.

Hungary – August 21, 1989 (PTH)

Several activists of FyD are arrested at the demonstrations held in Prague on the anniversary of the military intervention. Their fellows hold a sitting and hunger strike in front of the Czechoslovakian embassy in Budapest between August 22 and 29 for their release.

Also on this day, despite previous denial, the price of meat and meat products is raised.

Poland – August 21, 1989 (KCA)

Mazowiecki announces that he intends to present proposals for the composition of his government within ten days. By the end of August, however, no firm proposals have emerged. Negotiations are reportedly running into problems concerning the distribution of portfolios among parties, disputes having apparently arisen over control of Foreign Affairs, Finance and Press and Broadcasting.

East Germany (GDR) / Czechoslovakia / West Germany (FRG) – August 23, 1989 (KCA)

Some 400 East Germans remain in the West German embassy in Prague after it is closed (see September 12, 1989).

GDR – August 23, 1989 (OSA)

Writing in the August 1989 issue of the party monthly *Einheit*, Otto Reinhold, director of the SED Central Committee's Academy of Social Sciences, criticizes the introduction of "capitalist methods" in certain unnamed socialist countries. Reinhold warns that these efforts were doomed to failure because such strategies were only viable within a capitalist environment. Reinhold's comments are yet another example of the SED's commitment to orthodox socialist economics. The dramatic flight of East Germans to the West continues. But it has now resulted in the first death and forced West Germany to close another Embassy in the East. An East German trying to go West was shot dead on site. Budapest said the man struggled with Hungarian border guards and was killed when a shot went off accidentally. A Soviet report says East Germany has proposed building a public cultural center with entrances from both sides of the Berlin Wall. The Cultural Center is one of a number of proposals made by East Germany in agreement with West Berlin proposals to make the city a bridge between East and West. The West Germany Embassy in Prague is now closed to the public. West German officials in Bonn state that the capacity to accommodate East German refugees in the Embassy is "fully exhausted."

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia / Estonia – August 23, 1989 (KCA)

More than 1,000,000 people in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia form a 600-km long human chain, linking the capital cities of their republics to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

Secret protocols, attached to the pact and to a Nazi-Soviet friendship treaty signed on September 28, 1939, had divided Eastern Europe into Soviet and German spheres of influence, serving as the pretext for Soviet annexation of the three Baltic republics in 1940.

East Germany (GDR) / Hungary / West Germany (FRG) – August 24, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

In what is described as an exceptional measure, and after consultations between the Hungarian and West German Foreign Ministries, 108 East Germans who had stayed on in the Budapest embassy were flown to Vienna and then taken by bus to West Germany (see August 14, 1989). Foreign Minister Gyula Horn announces at a press briefing that at least 20 thousand of the 200 thousand East German citizens staying in Hungary do not intend to go back home.

The Council of Ministers proposes to convene a prompt meeting of the Interest Reconciliation Council in order to ease the tensions caused by the price rises.

The three parties of the trilateral political conciliatory negotiations agree to set up a Committee for Impartial Information with the task of supervising the Hungarian Radio, the Hungarian Television and the Hungarian News Agency.

The National Council of Consumers' Cooperatives protests the Council of Ministers' plan of to unilaterally modify the housing loan contracts already in force.

GDR – August 24, 1989 (OSA)

Over 100 East German refugees, many of them young couples with children, arrive in West Germany after a plane-and-bus journey sponsored by the government in Bonn. Hungary allows the pre-dawn exodus by chartered aircraft to Vienna and bus through Austria as an “exceptional humanitarian gesture”, the Foreign Ministry stresses.

Poland – August 24, 1989 (RFE / KCA / UNW / MHC)

Nearly 45 years of communist monopoly over political decision-making in Poland ends when the *Sejm*, the lower house of the National Assembly, elects Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a leading member of the Solidarity trade union, as Prime Minister after being nominated for the post on August 21. Mazowiecki, a Catholic intellectual, journalist and opposition advisor has a long record of public service. He becomes the first non-Communist, Polish Prime Minister in 43 years and the first non-Communist Prime Minister in an Eastern European country in 40 years. He receives the mandate to form a Solidarity-led coalition government embracing all four main parties in parliament. This represents the culmination of 17 remarkable days. On the initiative of the Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa, a complete realignment of Polish politics and the dismantling of the government coalition in power since the end of the Second World War takes place.

Soviet Union – August 24, 1989 (KCA)

Pravda reports that organized crime by mafia-style gangs in the Central Asian republic of Turkmenia have become so extensive that ordinary people are “keeping entire arsenals at home” for their own protection (see July-August, 1989, July 10, 1989, and August 4, 1989).

Bulgaria / Turkey – August 25, 1989 (KCA)

The Turkish actions of August 21 (see entry above) are followed on August 25 by the closure of the country's only railway link (the Istanbul Express) with the rest of Europe. This development is condemned by the Bulgarian government as “absolutely contrary” to Turkey's previous

commitments to ensure the “unobstructed receipt of all Bulgarian citizens who wish to visit Turkey”. It is also condemned by the main Turkish opposition parties.

Hungary – August 25, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, and Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister took a work-visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. Their negotiation partners were Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Romania / Czechoslovakia - August 25, 1989 (DRC)

A Romanian proposal to the Warsaw Treaty Organization countries, that they not adopt a position allowing for Solidarity representatives at the head of the Polish Government, is rejected by the Presidium of the CPCz. The Presidium adds that who ever stands at the head of the Polish Government is a matter ‘within the sovereign competence of the Polish people’.

GDR – August 25, 1989 (OSA)

Otto Reinhold, the SED’s top ideologist, says that the GDR cannot afford to adopt the type of reforms being pursued by some of its allies because that would dilute the differences between East and West Germany, making the existence of the GDR superfluous.

Hungary / East Germany / West Germany – August 25, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh and Foreign Minister Gyula Horn conduct negotiations in Bonn on the issue of East German refugees staying in Hungary.

The Hungarian National Bank says it will take up a loan of 2.3 billion USD in 1989 in foreign countries. This will be used to finance the deficit of the current balance of payments, the expiring loans and the interests of standing credits.

The Presidential Council makes an executive order that gives monastic orders permission to function, and another one to enforce the Geneva Refugee Convention in Hungary.

Hungary – August 26, 1989 (PTH)

The district court of Prague rules that legal action will be brought against Tamás Deutsch and György Kerényi. The participants of the meeting organized by AFD on the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights march to the Czechoslovakian embassy in Budapest in protest of the charges. The Free Democrats say at the meeting that HSWP makes every effort possible to preserve its power; for instance, it established the one-man NEXT 2000 limited liability company that looks after the party's resort places worth 1.2 billion forints.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia / Estonia – August 26, 1989 (KCA)

A hard-line statement condemning Baltic nationalism is issued in the name of the CPSU central committee. Using language more reminiscent of official statements from the era before President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985, the Central Committee warns that the “virus of nationalism” in the Baltic republics is “pushing the region into an abyss”, causing alarm and hysteria, threatening the “fundamental interests of the entire Soviet people” and raising the prospect of “armed conflict”. It states that unless the local Communist Parties take “resolute and urgent measures to purge the process of *perestroika* in the Baltic of extremism and of destructive, harmful tendencies”, the

republics’ “very viability could be called into question”.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary – August 26, 1989 (OSA)

The Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Democratic Initiative, opposition groups from Hungary and Czechoslovakia, set up a joint Committee for Czechoslovak-Hungarian Democratic and the committee’s first meeting takes place in Prague on August 26, 1989.

Czechoslovakia - August 27, 1989 (DRC)

The Movement for Civil Liberty, the Democratic Initiative, and the T. G. Masaryk Association issue a statement in which they claim that their appeals for Czechoslovaks to take part in the August demonstrations are in accord with the opinions of much of civil society. In their view, all independent initiatives are now entering a new phase in the struggle for the reation of a democratic, pluralist society, in which their united approach would be the decisive factor.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - August 28-31, 1989 (DRC)

Top-level employees of the Czechoslovak Ministry of the Interior, under František Kinel, are in the Soviet Union for talks with leading representatives of the KGB and the Interior Ministry of the Soviet Union.

Hungary – August 28, 1989 (MNC)

Crown Princeof the Kingdom of Thailand Prince Vajiralonkorn arrived to Hungary for a three- day visit. His host was Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary. He consulted with Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State, and Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy.

Iraq-Iran, August 28-29, 1989 (MNC)

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf urged final peace between Iraq and Iran in a joint statement.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia – August 28, 1989

The foreign minister summons the interim chargé d'affaires of the Czechoslovakian embassy to Budapest, and says Hungary has filed a protest against the legal procedure brought against the two Hungarian citizens arrested at the demonstrations in Prague.

The court in Prague finds Tamás Deutsch and György Kerényi guilty, inflicts a fine of 5,000 crowns on them and expels them from Czechoslovakia. After the two youngsters return home, the sitting and hunger strike in front of the Czechoslovakian embassy in Budapest comes to an end.

Poland - August 28, 1989 (RFE)

Solidarity’s parliamentary group formally proposes a law setting forth rules for privatizing Poland’s industry. The privatization of industry has been earmarked as one of the new coalition government’s main priorities.

Poland / West Germany – August 28, 1989 (KCA)

In a message to Jaruzelski, West Germany’s President Richard von Weizsäcker reaffirms the commitment (Warsaw Treaty, December 7, 1970) between their two countries that West Germany has no territorial claims in Poland “now or in the future”. Originally, it had been planned that von Weizsäcker should mark Polish-German reconciliation by visiting Poland to take part in the

September 1 Westerplatte ceremony (see September 1, 1989). These plans had been abandoned in July, however, as West German-Polish relations had become strained by the cancellation of a visit to Poland by Kohl because of problems in negotiating economic aid. The West German delegation at the Westerplatte ceremony is led by Johannes Rau, the (Social Democratic) Minister-President of North-Rhine Westphalia.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia / Estonia – August 28, 1989 (KCA)

The Communist Party leaderships in all three Baltic republics issue carefully worded and apparently coordinated replies to the CPSU central committee statement (see August 26, 1989), admitting the existence of separatist elements but stating a commitment to their republics' "sovereignty" in the context of the Soviet Federation. Nevertheless, in individual statements, some leaders are more critical.

GDR – August 29, 1989 (OSA)

A state-run East German newspaper publishes a harsh letter on the mass exodus of escapees from the communist country, calling the refugees traitors. The letter appeared in *Junge Welt* (Youth World), the East German Communist Party Youth Newspaper.

Hungary – August 30, 1989 (PTH)

Close to 10 thousand people demonstrate in Pécs against the planned reduction of mining in the area. The crowd jeers at the Minister of Industry at the meeting when Ferenc Horváth starts saying that the shut-down of the mines will have to begin at the beginning of the 90s.

On the same day, the National Council of Trade Unions walks out of the political conciliatory negotiations because they believe the forum is gradually turning into an inter-party discussion. Furthermore, the Opposition Roundtable proposes at the conciliatory negotiations that the law on the office of the president should be made in the transitional period, but the office should be filled in only after the general elections. According to the opposition, the rights of the president should be exercised in the interim period by the Speaker of the House.

Yugoslavia - August 31, 1989 (OSA)

The Macedonian Central Committee issued a draft program on economic and political reforms that it intended to adopt at its 10th party congress in November. The congress is being held in preparation for the 14th (Extraordinary) Congress of the LCY. The Macedonian party's document stated that Macedonian Communists would insist on the establishment of the system of direct elections. It also defined political pluralism as "the right of all citizens to political associations, including the right to form political parties." (*Večernji list*)

GDR – August 31, 1989 (OSA)

GDR Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Helmut Ziebart tells to Czechoslovak journalists: "The GDR has been exposed to hostile pressure and attacks of West German Intelligence Services and several politicians. For more than 37 years we were asked not to adopt any Soviet experience, and now we're described as dogmatists when not mechanically accepting the changes carried in the Soviet Union." He also says he appreciates Czechoslovakia's stance toward East Germans who have taken refuge in the West Germany Embassy in Prague. The West German government says it believes that veteran East German leader Erich Honecker is very sick after what sources described as an unsuccessful gall bladder operation earlier this month.

Hungary – August 31, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Politburo Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister took a work-visit to the German Democratic Republic. His host was Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer. He was received by Günter Mittag, member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, Secretary of the Central Committee.

Hungary – August 31, 1989 (PTH)

Five members of the House set up an opposition parliamentary group led by Zoltán Király.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia / Estonia – August 31, 1989 (KCA)

A meeting of the “Baltic Council” in Riga (the Latvian capital) publishes a declaration condemning the CPSU central committee statement as “the high point of a disinformation campaign” and asking whether the authorities were threatening military intervention.

Romania / Czechoslovakia – August 31, 1989 (DRC)

CPCz CC Secretary for Economic Affairs Ivan Knotek visit Rumania (and then East Germany on 4 September, and the Soviet Union on 6 September) to discuss economic cooperation in connection with the forthcoming Prague meeting of economic committees of Communist parties and the COMECON talks in Sofia in December.

September

Czechoslovakia – September 1989 (VVR)

Citizens of East Germany begin migrating from the country through Czechoslovakia.

Poland – September-October, 1989 (KCA)

Poland presses for the rescheduling of government debts in the context of its continuing negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and campaigns for foreign aid (including not only food aid but development capital). The total foreign debt is estimated at 39,000 million US Dollars.

Hungary – September 1-6, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of Cambodia, Long Visalo, had a non-official visit to Hungary.

Yugoslavia / Libya - September 1, 1989 (JIS)

Member of the SFRY Presidency Bogić Bogićević leads a Yugoslav delegation to Libya, where they take part in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of Libyan revolution.

Hungary – September 1, 1989 (PTH)

The pioneers' camp of Csillebérc in Budapest fills with 2,500 East German refugees, so newcomers are transported to the pioneers' camp in Zánka by bus.

New rules of military service are laid down at the ministry of defence. As of the middle of September, soldiers can exercise their religion and their right of association outside the barracks just like any civil person.

Poland / West Germany (FRG) – September 1, 1989 (KCA)

The 50th anniversary of the Nazi German invasion of Poland – which started the Second World War, is commemorated in Poland with a wreath-laying ceremony by Polish leaders and foreign delegations at the Westerplatte fortress outside Gdansk. The bombardment of the Polish garrison inside the fortress by the German battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* was officially regarded in Poland as the first exchange of shots of the war.

Hungary – September 2, 1989 (PTH)

The secretary of the CC of HSWP says that some ten thousand people leave the party each month, membership being estimated at roughly 730 thousand at present.

Hungary – September 3, 1989 (PTH)

Led by foreign minister Gyula Horn, a Hungarian delegation participates in the meeting of non-allied countries as an invited guest.

Poland – September 3, 1989 (KCA)

Mazowiecki says in an interview with the *Tygodnik Solidarnosc* weekly newspaper that some appeasement of the PUWP is necessary to prevent it from going into opposition while still controlling the Army and police. Nevertheless, he resists the compromise of Solidarity's full control of the key economic portfolios and refuses to countenance PUWP claims to the Skubiszewski Finance Ministry. The appointment of Skubiszewski, the government's only non- party member, enables Mazowiecki to avoid rival PUWP, ZSL and Solidarity claims to the Foreign Affairs portfolio.

Hungary – September 3-5, 1989 (MNC)

Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party visited the Republic of Finland. He consulted Peerti Paasio, President of the Social Democratic Party of Finland, Foreign Minister, and Ilkka Suominen, President of the National Coalition Party, Minister of Trade and industry. He was received by Prime Minister Harri Holkeri, and Head of State Mauni Koivisto.

Hungary – September 3-5, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of HSWP, Foreign Minister took part in the IX Conference of the Non-Alligned Nations in Belgrade.

Hungary – September 4-5, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Parliamentary Relations and State Secretary of Spain, Virgilio Zapatero Gomez, visited Hungary. He negotiated with Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Minister of State.

Hungary – September 4-6, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy UN Secretary General Jan Martenson visited Hungary. He met Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee, Foreign Minister.

Yugoslavia / NAM - September 4-7, 1989 (JIS)

The 9th Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Movement takes place in Belgrade. Representatives of 120 member states, 10 observer states, and 20 guest states take part in the conference. The Summit

is opened by Chairman Robert Mugabe. President of the Presidency of the SFRY Janez Drnovšek is elected the chairman of the NAM for following three years. The conclusions adopted at the conference include the need for nuclear disarmament, readiness to find effective solution to the problem of economic cooperation and inequality among the countries, right of self-determination and independence of all peoples under foreign domination, protection of human rights and of environment, support for a more important role of the UN in solving international crises.

Hungary – September 4-7, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Defense of the United Kingdom Tom King visited Hungary – where he was received by Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense.

Non-aligned nations – September 4-7, 1989 (MNC)

The 9th conference of the non-aligned countries was held in Belgrade. Here, Venezuela became the 102nd member of the movement, and for the first time, Hungary was invited as well.

East Germany (GDR) – September 4, 1989 (KCA)

Police in Leipzig, East Germany's second largest city, violently disperse several hundred church and civil rights activists gathered outside the Nikolaikirche in the city centre. Following a prayer meeting in the church, the activists demand that the authorities initiate democratic reforms and address the political and social problems behind the current mass emigration. An undisclosed number of arrests are made.

These events are repeated on September 11 and 18, when on each occasion police make over 100 arrests. However, a demonstration of up to 8,000 people is allowed to take place on September 25 with little police interference.

Hungary – September 4, 1989 (PTH)

Representatives of the Endre Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Society, the Independent Smallholders' Party, the Christian Democratic Party of Hungary – HDF, the Hungarian People's Party, the National Alliance of Political Prisoners and the Reck Alliance set up the October 23 Committee to organize the ceremony commemorating the 1956 revolution and freedom fighters and to have October 23 pronounced as a national holiday. The committee proposes that the House declare October 23 a national holiday and a rest-day in its next session.

Intermediate level representatives of the members of the National Roundtable agree that the modified constitution should rule: the Republic of Hungary is a sovereign, democratic constitutional state in which principles of civil democracy and democratic socialism both play a crucial role. The National Commandership of the Workers' Militia accepts the proposal that in the future, the militia should only contribute to fixing the damage caused by the forces of nature and to maintaining order and public safety. For the latter, however, they believe they will need arms.

Hungary – September 5, 1989 (PTH)

AFD urges the television to broadcast the intermediate level talks of the political conciliatory negotiations.

Rumania / Czechoslovakia - 5-6 September 1989 (DRC)

On an official visit to Romania – Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec meets with Romanian Deputy Premier Ion Dinca and General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party Nicolae

Ceausescu.

Hungary – September 5, 1989 (MNC)

The People’s Republic of Hungary and the Republic of Chile by diplomatic means (vie their Embassies in Vienna) agreed on the mutual creation of Consulate Generals in their capitals.

Czechoslovakia –September 5-6, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Czechoslovakia –L. Adamec, took an official friendly visit to Romania.

Czechoslovakia – September 6, 1989 (OSA)

More than 100 Czechoslovak intellectuals found a group called The Circle of Independent Intelligentsia. A working committee composed of five academics is formed to direct the group’s activities.

East Germany (GDR) – September 6, 1989 (KCA)

The police break up a demonstration in East Berlin's main Alexanderplatz, called to protest against the failure of the authorities to answer opposition charges. The charges referred to a 1,000-signature petition passed to the State Council on June 13 claiming that the results of local elections in May had been falsified. At least 40 demonstrators are arrested.

U.K. / Poland - September 6, 1989 (LBC)

Prime Minister Thatcher calls on the Western world to unite its forces to assist the Polish economy. She recommends Western food aid, the lifting of import restrictions and new loans for Poland. (October 3, 1989.)

Hungary – September 6, 1989 (PTH)

Imre Pozsgay announces at the intermediate level round of the trilateral negotiations that HSWP is willing to give an account of its assets to the new Parliament.

Hungary – September 7-8, 1989 (MNC)

José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the MPLA-Labour Party of Angola, Head of State of the Angola People’s Republic had an official friendly visit to Hungary. His negotiation partners were Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’ Party, and Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary. He consulted with Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Indonesia, September 7-12, 1989 (MNC)

Head of State of Indonesia Suharto had an official visit to the Soviet Union. For the first time in 26 years (since the establishment of diplomatic relations), this was the first visit by an Indonesian Head of State.

Soviet Union, September 7-18, 1989 (MNC)

As a member of the Parliament, Boris Yeltsin took a private visit to the United States.

Hungary – September 8-9, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Republic of Venezuela Carlos Andrés Perez had an official visit to Hungary. His host was Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of

Hungary. He consulted with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian People’s Republic.

East Germany (GDR) / West Germany (FRG) – September 8, 1989 (KCA)

After the closing of the West German permanent mission in East Germany (see August 7, 1989), the remaining 116 asylum seekers agree to leave upon receiving assurances that they will be given legal assistance for their exit applications, although without specific guarantees that they will be allowed to emigrate.

Hungary – September 8, 1989 (PTH)

It is agreed that Hungarian Television will cover the political conciliatory talks once every week and the intermediate level negotiations will be given the widest publicity possible.

Soviet Union – September 8-10, 1989 (MHC)

Rukh, the nationalist movement in the Ukraine, holds its constituent congress in Kiev and displays the banned blue-and-yellow flag of independent Ukraine.

Albania/ Czechoslovakia - September 9, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovakia normalizes diplomatic relations with Albania.

Czechoslovakia – September 9, 1989 (OSA)

The Czech playwright and opposition activist Vaclav Havel send an open letter to Imre Pozsgay, an HSWP Politburo member and leading Hungarian reformer, and to the new Polish Prime Minister and Solidarity activist, Tadeusz Mazowiecki in order to ask them to show their support for two Slovak activists currently in prison in Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia – September 9, 1989 (OSA)

A group of young people set up a Club of Conscientious Objectors, which strives for the introduction of an alternative military service in Czechoslovakia.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary – September 9, 1989 (OSA)

Hungarian and Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy and Pavel Hrivnak meet in Bratislava on September 9 and discuss “Czechoslovak guarantees to protect the environment and to get the best use out of the dam system.”

Soviet Union – September 9, 1989 (KCA)

In a live 23-minute televised address on September 9, Gorbachev attacks both radical and conservative critics of his policies. Observers are unanimous in assessing, however, that in his strong condemnation of “scare stories” about impending chaos and civil war, he is primarily targeting high-ranking CPSU conservatives, notably Ligachev and Chebrikov, who during Gorbachev's recent absence (on a month-long holiday) have publicly called for firmer measures to curtail the recent social upheavals, especially nationalist discord and strikes.

Soviet Union / U.S. – September 9-18, 1989 (KCA)

Boris Yeltsin makes a privately arranged lecture tour of the United States, during which he has a brief meeting with US President George Bush on September 12 and more substantive discussions with Secretary of State James Baker and National security Adviser Brent Scowcroft. Yeltsin's typically controversial media statements during the tour include a prediction that unless *perestroika*

delivers concrete economic benefits within a year, Gorbachev would face being ousted by a “revolution from below”, and an assessment that a leader “more decisive than Gorbachev” is needed to deal with the multiple crises afflicting the Soviet system.

Hungary / East Germany - September 10, 1989 (LBC / KCA / LTH)

Hungary allows the East German refugees to leave Hungary. The FRG welcomes the move; the GDR condemns it. Foreign minister Gyula Horn announces that Budapest is renouncing a twenty-year-old agreement with the GDR – which had obliged Hungary to stop GDR citizens from emigrating to the West. TASS later reports that the Hungarian leaders had consulted with the Soviets before making this move.

Over 12 thousand people take up this opportunity over the next three days.

Hungary – September 10, 1989 (MHC)

Hungarian authorities announce that they will no longer prevent East German citizens from crossing Hungary’s borders into Austria, a move that eventually makes it possible for 180,000 East Germans to join the West.

Hungary – September 11, 1989 (MNC)

The government of the People’s Republic of Hungary released an official statement about the fact, that the Hungarian authorities will not oppose the citizens of the German Democratic Republic to travel to a different country through Hungary.

Poland – September 11, 1989 (MHC)

Mazowiecki nominates a cabinet in which representatives of the PUWP are a minority.

Poland – September 11, 1989 (KCA)

Roman Malinowski resigns as president of the ZSL at a plenum of the party central committee. He protests over Mazowiecki's rejection of a recommendation (by the ZSL national leadership and parliamentary group) that the latter should invite Kazimierz Olesiak, the ZSL Agriculture Minister in the outgoing government, to continue in this post. The appointment of Janicki, who is identified with the pro-Solidarity wing of the ZSL, represents a compromise between rival claims to the agriculture portfolio by the ZSL and Rural Solidarity. Malinowski is immediately replaced by Dominik Ludwiczak.

Yugoslavia - September 11 - 12, 1989 (RWE)

Meeting of LCY central committee was held. The delegates discussed a proposal to abolish the existing 23-member presidium, with its annually rotating chairmanship, and to replace it with an executive body headed by a secretary serving longer terms, in an attempt to reduce the country’s regionalism and to enhance the party’s authority. It was also agreed to postpone the LCY Congress, originally planned for December 1989, until January 20-22, 1990.

GDR / Hungary – September 11, 1989 (OSA)

Hungary announces that the thousands of East Germans in Hungary are refusing to return to the GDR, will be allowed to go to West Germany. Hungary’s decision to renounce a bilateral agreement with the GDR restricting such passage to third countries is likely to put a strain on relations with East Berlin and may well prompt the East German regime to impose restrictions on travel to Hungary.

GDR – September 12, 1989 (OSA)

The GDR Foreign Ministry sends a note to the Hungarian Foreign Ministry in connection with Hungary’s unilateral decision to enable GDR citizens to travel to third countries without the consent of the GDR. Hungary has thus violated the internationally legal agreements and the interests of the GDR. The Hungarian side is fully responsible for the current situation, the note stresses. East and West Germany officials hold talks in the West Germany Embassy in Prague. East German lawyer Wolfgang Vogel and West German State Secretary for Inner-German Affairs Walter Priesnitz are reported talking to the refugees. The exodus of thousands of East Germans from Hungary to the West is continuing. The Austrian Interior Ministry says more than 10,000 refugees – mostly young people – have crossed into Austria since Hungary opened its border early yesterday. It said more than 8,000 of them went on to West Germany. The Czechoslovak News Agency *Ceteka* issues a statement on what it calls a “campaign” against East Germany waged by mass media and “certain political circles” in West Germany. The *Ceteka* statement describes as “regrettable” the fact that the East German citizens’ “illegal departures” through third countries are made possible through “violation of agreements” which East Germany has concluded with other states.

China / Czechoslovakia - September 12, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Minister of National Defence Milán Václavík starts an official visit to China.

East Germany (GDR) / Czechoslovakia / West Germany (FRG) – September 12, 1989 (KCA)

Over half of the remaining 400 East German asylum seekers leave the West German embassy in Prague upon receiving assurances similar to the ones given to those who had left earlier (see September 8, 1989).

Poland – September 12, 1989 (KCA)

Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki forms a new coalition Council of Ministers dominated by members of the Solidarity trade union. The junior partners in the coalition are the three political parties, which, for the past 40 years, had constituted Poland's government bloc, namely the (communist) Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP), the United Peasants’ Party (ZSL) and the Democratic Party (SD). The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Krzysztof Skubiszewski is the only independent minister, he is a former advisor to Jozef Cardinal Glemp.

The *Sejm*, the lower house of the Polish National Assembly, votes overwhelmingly (by 402 votes for and none against, and 13 abstentions) to approve Mazowiecki's list. The Solidarity-led government formed under Tadeusz Mazowiecki begins work to fulfill the promises promised in his inaugural speech to the Sejm: immediately begins work on what amounts to a progressive abolition of the command economy, featuring the encouragement of private ownership, scrapping subsidies and limiting wage increases.

Yugoslavia - September 13, 1989 (RWE)

Around 10,000 people demonstrated in Belgrade, threatening a general strike in support of wage claims and demanding government action to curb inflation.

GDR / Hungary – September 13, 1989 (OSA)

Hungary reportedly plans to reject an East German protest about East Germans being allowed to leave Hungary for the West. MTI says the Foreign Ministry is preparing a reply to the East German

protest. It quotes Hungarian diplomatic sources saying the reply will refute East German charges “point by point.”

Hungary – September 13, 1989 (PTH)

Miklós Németh sends a letter to the Independent Rehabilitation Committee and the Recsk Alliance. In it he states that "... the present Council of Ministers does not assume responsibility for the injustice and the unlawful measures taken by the former regime. On initiating rehabilitation the Council is determined to push the process through to its end with no compromise."

Czechoslovakia-Albania, September 13, 1989 (MNC)

The diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and Albania, which were lowered to the level of charge d'affaires was once again raised to ambassadorial level.

Hungary – September 14, 1989 (MNC)

The Foreign Ministry of the People’s Republic of Hungary sent a reply to the memorandum of the German Democratic Republic from September 12 1989, regarding the departure of the citizens of the German Democratic Republic from Hungary.

Hungary – September 14-17, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of Spain Fernando P. R. Peyra consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary – September 14-20, 1989 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös visited the United States of America. He held talks with the representatives of the legislature, government and business life. On September 18, he met UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Hungary – September 14, 1989 (PTH)

The Committee for Historical Justice demands that October 23 be declared a national holiday and a day of rest.

The Vatican and Hungary express their willingness to start negotiations on re-establishing diplomatic relations.

U.S. / Poland - September 14, 1989 (LBC)

After congressional pressure, Bush announces that in the next fiscal year, the US will be doubling the amount of food aid to Poland – which will amount to 100 million dollars. (October 14, 1989.)

Poland – September 15, 1989 (KCA)

At the first session of a PUWP central committee plenum called to discuss the party's future, politburo member Leszek Miller delivers a report. He warns that the PUWP will face further marginalization and ultimate extinction unless it transforms itself into a new, more broadly based “party of the Polish left”, capable of winning votes in a democratic system.

Czechoslovakia – September 15, 1989 (OSA)

A group of 22 prominent signatories to the “Just a Few Sentences” declaration writes a letter addressed to the Czechoslovak Prime Minister offering to hold talks with the Czechoslovak authorities mediated by Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek. When the signatories receive no answer, they

release the text of the letter to the press on September 30. by October 13 the number of signatories to the petition exceeds 33,000.

GDR – September 15, 1989 (OSA)

West German officials think the East German leadership has been crippled by the illness of 77-year-old General Secretary Erich Honecker. Officials in Bonn note contradictory and varying reports about the health of Honecker who is suffering from gallstones. But they say it is clear that Honecker is seriously ill and East Germany is leaderless.

GDR – September 16, 1989 (OSA)

East Germans without permits to enter Hungary are swimming across rivers from Czechoslovakia in a desperate and illegal rush to join their compatriots' exodus to the West.

Czechoslovakia – September 16, 1989 (OSA)

The constituent conference of the Democratic Initiative, an independent political group that was founded two years ago, take places in Prague on September 16 in order to adopt a program and an organizational structure. The conference is attended by representatives of the Democratic Initiative from various regions of Czechoslovakia and it approves three documents: a statement condemning political oppression in Czechoslovakia, principles of the organizational structure of the movement and a platform.

Czechoslovakia - September 16, 1989 (DRC)

Radio Free Europe broadcasts comments by CPCz CC General Secretary Miloš Jakeš at an action-group meeting of Party functionaries of the west Bohemian region held at Červený Hrádek. They had been secretly taped by someone at the meeting and then sent abroad. Jakeš's incoherent and fragmentary statements, consisting of Communist functionary clichés and outmoded ideological phrases, immediately become the subject of numerous jokes and innuendos in Czechoslovakia. The General Secretary's speech thus becomes an unintended but welcome political cabaret. The form of his impromptu remarks provides a prime example of the dismal intellectual and political qualifications of the supreme representative of the Communist Party; its content demonstrates the continued isolation that the Czechoslovak state and Party leadership are ever more clearly falling into.

Hungary – September 16-19, 1989 (MNC)

Crown Prince of Malaysia Kedah took a private visit to Hungary.

Hungary – September 16, 1989 (KCA)

A parliamentary by-election in the Zalaegerszeg constituency is won by Gyula Marx of the Hungarian Democratic Forum (MDF). He stands on a combined opposition platform comprising the MDF, the Alliance of Free Democrats and the Federation of Young Democrats (Fidesz). Marx had polled 69.1% of the vote against candidates of the ruling Socialist Workers' Party and the recently revived Social Democratic Party. MDF candidates are the winners of three of the four previous by-elections held in July and August.

On the same day, heading a Hungarian parliamentary delegation Mátyás Szűrös, while staying in the United States, lays a wreath on the memorial monument of the Hungarian freedom fighter in the city of Passaic.

Additionally, the Movement for Democratic Hungary is established and Imre Pozsgay becomes its interim chairman.

Poland – September 16, 1989 (KCA)

Trybuna Ludu, the newspaper of the (communist) Polish United Workers’ Party, breaks with the previous practice of ignoring the anniversary of the Soviet Attack of Poland (September 17, 1945), publishing an editorial in which it condemns the Soviet Union for “mass crimes which involved millions of Poles”. It asserts: “Revealing the truth about those events is necessary if Polish-Soviet relations are to be cleared of the ballast left by the Stalinist era.” The Soviet Union had colluded with the Nazis in the invasion and partition of Poland under the secret protocols of the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact of August 23, 1939. Following the Soviet invasion, over 1,000,000 Poles had been deported to Siberia, and the whole of eastern Poland had been annexed by the Soviet Union. Only a small part of this area had been returned to Poland at the end of the Second World War, the rest having been awarded to the Soviet Union by the Allies at the 1943 Tehran conference.

Poland / Soviet Union – September 17, 1989 (KCA)

Rallies, church masses and wreath-laying ceremonies take place throughout Poland (with government approval) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of eastern Poland (September 17, 1945). Although some rallies feature aggressive anti-Soviet slogans from militant groups, such as Fighting Solidarity and the Confederation for an Independent Poland – most participants at the commemorative events heed a government call for restraint.

Italy / Yugoslavia - September 17, 1989 (JIS)

Prime Minister of Italy Giulio Andreotti and Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis visit Yugoslavia. They meet with the President of the Federal Executive Council Ante Marković, and Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar. Italian side expressed their support for economic reforms taking place in Yugoslavia, as well as for Yugoslav cooperation and integration into the EC. Various aspects of bilateral cooperation are discussed as well.

GDR – September 17, 1989 (OSA)

East Germans trying to reach the West are said to be having their visas for Hungary taken from them. About 16,000 have crossed to West Germany since the Hungarian border was opened.

GDR – September 18, 1989 (OSA)

An East German man is reported to have drowned during an attempt to escape across the Danube river from Czechoslovakia to Hungary overnight.

Czechoslovakia – September 18, 1989 (OSA)

Czechoslovakia’s decision to increase the price of gasoline for Hungarian visitors from September 18, is likely to increase tension between the two countries.

Hungary – September 18, 1989 (KCA)

The trilateral round table talks, involving the HSWP, the Opposition Round Table alliance of opposition groups, and the “third side” of Communist-led social organizations and movements, hold 238 sessions in all before a compromise agreement is signed.

A framework for a representative democracy is set out at the end of the talks. It is given legislative effect by Hungary's parliament, the *Országgyűlés*, on October 17–20.

On the same day, the October 23 Committee has its meeting, joined now by FYD, the Hungarian October Party, AFD and the Committee for Historical Justice. A resolution is made at the meeting saying that the anniversary of the revolution will be commemorated at the memorial sites of the 1956 events. Additionally, after 22 years, Hungary and Israel restore diplomatic relations.

Soviet Union / U.S. – September 18, 1989 (KCA)

The CPSU newspaper *Pravda* of Sept. 18 publishes a report on Yeltsin's US visit, reproduced from the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*, which alleges that Yeltsin had been drunk during public engagements and that instead of setting aside the profits from his lecture fees (estimated at US\$25,000 a time) for Soviet AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) research, as promised, he was squandering them on US video cassettes, suits and shoes. The article draws widespread condemnation for *Pravda*, notably from the Supreme Soviet committee on *glasnost* and from the pro-reform newspaper *Moscow News*, and sparked off demonstrations by Yeltsin's supporters in several Soviet cities. On Sept. 21, *Pravda* publishes a retraction and apologizes to Yeltsin for the report, acknowledging that its sources were suspect.

Hungary – September 18, 1989 (MNC)

The previously cut diplomatic ties between the People’s Republic of Hungary and the State of Israel from 1967 were renewed on an ambassadorial level.

United Kingdom, September 18-23, 1989 (MNC)

British Prime Minister M. Thatcher had an official visit to Japan, where she met the Vice- President of the United States as well.

Hungary – September 18, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the State of Israel Moshe Arens visited Hungary – where he was received by Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administration Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister. They signed the documents about the recovery of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Hungary – September 18-19, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Trade of the United States of America Robert Mosbacher visited Hungary. His negotiation partners were Minister of Trade Tamás Beck and Minister of Industry Ferenc Horváth. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – September 18, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár took a four-day official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. His negotiation partner was Minister of Justice Hans Engelhard. He consulted with federal court President Walter Odensky.

Hungary – September 18-23, 1989 (MNC)

Leading a delegation, Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense had an official friendly visit to the Republic of India. His negotiation partner was Minister of Defense K. C. Pant.

Hungary – September 19-21, 1989 (MNC)

Guy Spiaels, President of the Belgian Francophone Socialist Party, President -in-office of the Union

of Socialist Parties of the European Communities visited Hungary. He consulted with the leaders of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party.

Hungary – September 19-22, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of Mongolia Gombosurengiy consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary – September 19, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian government and opposition representatives reach an accord to create multiparty system in 1990. The agreement provides for a unicameral legislature to be filled by free elections, a strong presidency with the authority to choose their premier and the legalization and granting of rights to political parties.

East Germany (GDR) – September 19, 1989 (KCA)

New Forum applies for official permission to establish local organizations in 11 of East Germany's 15 administrative districts, with a view of ultimately to creating a national organization (see September 21, 1989).

New Forum describes itself as an umbrella movement independent of the state and the church, intended to co-ordinate the activities of informal political groups in various parts of East Germany and to campaign openly for democratic reforms.

Soviet Union – September 19-20, 1989 (KCA)

The central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) convenes its long-awaited plenary meeting on nationalities policy, first mooted by Mikhail Gorbachev, as party general secretary, in February 1988. The explosion of inter-ethnic violence in Transcaucasia and Central Asia and the rise of nationalist aspirations, especially in the Baltic republics, towards greater autonomy or even ultimate secession, confirms nationalism as the greatest current threat to the stability of the Soviet Union and to Gorbachev's reform policies.

Gorbachev's keynote speech to the plenum on September 19 proposes a restructuring of the Soviet federal system according to the formula “a strong center and strong republics”.

Gorbachev repeatedly stresses that a solution to the nationalities crisis is vital for the success of his whole perestroika (“restructuring”) program. He secures approval by the central committee to bring the 28th CPSU congress forward to October 1990, nearly six months ahead of schedule.

GDR / Hungary – September 19, 1989 (OSA)

A statement carried by East Germany's official AND News Agency denounces Hungary's decision to let East Germans leave Hungary for the West. The statement says it is regrettable Hungarian officials let themselves be led into violating treaties and agreements by supporting an action prepared by West Germany.

GDR – September 20, 1989 (OSA)

West Germany closes its Embassy in Warsaw to the public because it is full of East Germans trying to get to the West. About 110 refugees are inside the building. West German officials are trying to find alternative homes for them and other East German refugees in Poland. The Foreign Ministry in Bonn said West Germany assumes Poland won't send any of them back to East Germany. Hungarian Justice Minister Kalman Kulcsar says Hungary will continue to keep its border open for East Germans wanting to go West. Kulcsar makes remarks in the West Germany city of Heidelberg

saying that his government will stick to its open-border decision as long as the two Germanies don't reach agreement on the issue. The Italian and Belgium communist parties have strongly supported Hungary's decision to let thousands of East German citizens flee to the West and criticized the repressive aspects of the GDRP. More conservative Western communist parties such as the French and Austrian react with embarrassment.

Hungary – September 20, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh receives the representatives of the Evangelical Church, the National representation of Israelites and the Council of Denominational Churches which intend to take part in the activities of the National Council of Religious Affairs.

Poland – September 20, 1989 (KCA)

The PUWP central control and auditing commission rescinds a 1984 decision to expel from the party Adam Schaff, a leading liberal Marxist theorist, and asks him to renew his party membership. His ideas coincide with the reforms being contemplated for the PUWP.

On the same day, the conflict between the ZSL and Rural Solidarity, which had been in evidence when choosing the new Agriculture Minister, flares up again after Rural Solidarity Chairman Jozef Slisz announces plans to transform that movement into a new political grouping calling itself the Polish Peasant Party-Solidarity (PSL-S).

GDR – September 21, 1989 (OSA)

A West German parliamentary delegation calls on the Czechoslovak government to find a "humanitarian solution" for East Germans being sheltered in Bonn's Embassy in Prague. Nearly 18,000 East Germans have arrived in West Germany since Hungary opened its borders with Austria on September 11. Leading East German Politburo member Kurt Hager charges Western countries with using slander and calls for reform to undermine communism and urged party ideologists to collaborate and defy the attacks. The official news agency AND says Hager addressed an annual meeting of the seven Warsaw Pact allies and Cuba, Mongolia, North Korea, Laos, and Vietnam, saying that Western attempts to subvert the East were increasing in intensity.

East Germany (GDR) – September 21, 1989 (KCA)

Permission for the New Forum to establish local organizations is refused by the Interior Ministry, on the grounds that "the goals and concerns of the applicants are in contradiction to the East German Constitution and represent a platform hostile to the state". New Forum leaders Rolf Henrich and Bärbel Bohley announce that the group will attempt to fight the decision through the courts, but in the meantime will continue as a "citizens' action group".

Soviet Union – September 21, 1989 (KCA)

The *Financial Times* comments that Gorbachev "may have preferred to keep Ligachev in the top echelons, rather than see him gather support outside" on the radical reform wing of the party, as had Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin, a former Moscow city party first secretary, was dismissed from the politburo in February 1988 (see September 9, 1989).

Yugoslavia - September 21, 1989 (OSA)

Yugoslav State Presidency appointed several new commanders to the Yugoslav People's Army (YPA) and a new in the federal Defense Ministry. RFE author Milan Andrejevich states that the appointments signal that important changes are coming in both military and non-military sectors of

the Yugoslav political system. Most of the new appointments are high ranking army generals who have not held important posts in organizations of the YPA Central Committee or the League of Communists Central Committee.

Czechoslovakia – September 21, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak government approves a document called “A Proposal for the General Development of Foreign Travel until the Year 2000”. The proposal suggests changes in the laws that control travel to the West.

U.S. / Soviet Union - September 21-23, 1989 (LBC)

Shevardnadze has talks in Washington with Bush and Baker, focusing on the START negotiations.

Soviet Union - September 22, 1989 (LBC)

The Soviet side accepts that an agreement on SDI should not be a precondition of a START treaty. Another concession made by Gorbachev is that the Soviet Union no longer requires the observation of the ABM treaty for a specified time period. Additionally, the Soviets demolish a radar station in Krasnoiarsk that violates the ABM treaty.

Slovenia / Yugoslavia – September 22, 1989 (LBC)

The Slovenian parliament accepts a constitutional amendment that makes it legally possible for the republic to secede from Yugoslavia.

Hungary – September 22, 1989 (PTH)

The Supreme Prosecutor announces at the meeting of the Council of Ministers that the revision of the show trials is in progress: in eight cases, he filed a protest on legal grounds, among others in the cases of József Mindszenty and his associates and József Grósz and his associates. The Council of Ministers puts on its agenda the draft of a decree on the rehabilitation of those interned or relocated between 1953 and 1956 and of those convicted for their participation in the 1956 events.

In accordance with the international agreement, the Presidential Council makes an executive order to acknowledge the Hungarian citizenship of those who are granted refugee status.

Poland – September 22, 1989 (KCA)

The Independent Students’ Union (NZS) wins its legal battle for official registration. The Supreme Court upholds an appeal by the NZS against a May 1989 ruling by the Warsaw provincial court, refusing it registration because of NZS draft statutes insisting on the right to strike.

Soviet Union / U.S. – September 22-23, 1989 (MHC)

Shevardnadze meets Baker at his ranch in Wyoming. They discuss START, chemical weapons, regional conflicts and independence movements in the USSR.

Hungary – September 22-30, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Political Administrative Committee of the Central Committee of the HSWP, Foreign Minister took part in the 44th Summit of the UN General Assembly in New York. On September 28, he made a speech in the General Assembly. During his stay in New York, he engaged in bilateral negotiations with the following leaders:

- President of the United States of America George H. W. Bush (on a banquet);
- The Secretary of State of the United States of America, J. Baker;

- Foreign Minister of Austria, Alois Mock;
- Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, Boyko Dimitrov;
- Foreign Minister of France, R. Dumas (who was also President of the EEC);
- Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar;
- Foreign Minister of Republic of Korea, Cho Ho Djung;
- Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, Oskar Fischer;
- Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, Hans-Dietrich Genscher;
- Foreign Minister of Norway, Thorvald Stoltenberg;
- Foreign Minister of Italy, Gianni de Michelis;
- Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, E. A. Shevardnadze;
- UN Secretary General, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

USA / Soviet Union – September 22-23, 1989 (MNC)

Soviet-American Foreign Ministerial negotiations were held in Washington, where the Soviet Union announced: they are ready to sign the START-Agreement, even if at the same time there is no agreement on the prohibition of space weapons; they reached an agreement on the issues of the monitoring of nuclear weapons tests and the prior announcement of military exercises as well.

United Kingdom, September 23, 1989 (MNC)

On her way home, British Prime Minister M. Thatcher held talks in Moscow.

Soviet Union – September 23, 1989 (MHC)

The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet makes the Azeri the official language of the Republic, reasserts sovereignty over Nagorno-Karabakh and reaffirms Azerbaijan’s right of secession from the USSR.

Poland – September 23, 1989 (KCA)

Andrzej Drawicz, a well-known journalist and a Solidarity member, is appointed by Mazowiecki to replace Jerzy Urban as Chairman of the Radio and Television Committee.

Yugoslavia / UN - September 23-26, 1989 (JIS)

The president of the presidency Janez Drnovšek visits New York to attend the General assembly of the UN. He informs the General Assembly about the results of the NAM summit conference, which took place in Belgrade earlier that month.

Soviet Union / United Kingdom – September 23, 1989 (MNC)

On her way home, British Prime Minister M. Thatcher held talks in Moscow.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan – September 23, 1989 (KCA)

The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet adopts a new law defining the republic's sovereignty. Notable clauses assert (i) Azerbaijani sovereignty over Nagorny Karabakh and the inviolability of the republic's frontiers; (ii) Azerbaijan's right to secede from the Soviet Union; (iii) the right of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet to veto any legislation imposed by the Moscow authorities; (iv) Azerbaijan’s full control over its natural resources. The new law also made Azeri the republic's state language.

Hungary – September 24, 1989 (PTH)

AFD starts a signature-collecting campaign in order to call a referendum for four questions: 1: Should HSWP leave work places? 2. Should HSWP give an account of its assets? 3. Should the

Workers' Militia be dissolved? 4. Should the president be elected before or after the free general elections?

On the same day, Anders Björck, president of the parliamentary assembly of the European Council says Hungary can be the first country to be granted full membership in international organizations in the 90s.

Additionally, the workers' militiamen in Békés County threaten with armed retortion if "the incitement to counter-revolutionary riots" does not come to an end.

Also, the Parliament passes the Act on Emigration and Immigration, which declares emigration to be a fundamental human right, and the Act on Passport, which no longer restricts the length of stay abroad.

East Germany (GDR) / West Germany (FGR) – September 25-28, 1989 (KCA)

Hans Modrow, first secretary of the Dresden area SED and an SED central committee member who is hailed by the Western media as a reforming figure, visits Stuttgart, West Germany, on September 25-28.

Poland / Czechoslovakia - September 25, 1989 (DRC)

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party Mieczyslaw Rakowski is in Prague on a working visit.

Yugoslavia - September 26, 1989 (RWE)

David Tasić, a journalist and one of the “Slovene four” who had been sentenced in July 1988 to prison terms for disclosing secret plans for a military crackdown in Slovenia, was conditionally released from prison, after serving one third of his 10-months sentence.

Yugoslavia – September 27, 1989 (HR)

Amendments to the Slovenian Constitution are adopted, which practically signify the beginning of the Slovenian independence.

Soviet Union – September 25-November 28, 1989 (KCA)

The second session of the USSR Supreme Soviet passes legislations on the judicial system. This includes the introduction of trial by “an expanded collegium of people's assessors” for defendants accused of crimes carrying sentences of at least 15 years in prison or the death penalty, and establishment of a defendant's right of access to defence counsel from the beginning of a preliminary investigation (approved on November 13). Other judicial reforms (approved on November 2) include laws on procedure for appeals against malpractice by officials and on contempt of court, and supplementary provisions to a law adopted at the first Supreme Soviet session on the status of judges. Furthermore, a Law on Leasing is approved on November 23.

Cambodia, September 26, 1989 (MNC)

Vietnam announced that it will withdraw all of its forces from Cambodia, with that, their ten year presence in the country ended.

Soviet Union, September 26, 1989 (MNC)

In his speech on the 44 Summit of the UN General Assembly, Soviet Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze submitted a Four-Point Proposal regarding the limitation of nuclear and chemical

weapons.

Hungary – September 26, 1989 (KCA)

Parliament approves new laws liberalizing the regulations governing emigration and immigration and the holding of passports. As from January 1, 1990 citizens will have “the fundamental right... to choose their place of residence freely, to emigrate from Hungary and to return there”. The approval of other reforms is postponed until October.

The passage of the new laws allows the United States, as stipulated by President Bush in July, to release Hungary from the restrictions of the 1975 Jackson-Vanik amendment on the granting of most favoured nation (MFN) trading status. The status is accordingly made valid for a three-year period, rather than for one year only.

Soviet Union – September 26, 1989 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet rejects, by 205 votes to 190, a proposal to close down all trading co-operatives altogether. During the debate, strong resentment is expressed over alleged profiteering by co-operatives. Gorbachev joins in the criticism, saying that “if we do not impose order in this area we shall destroy the co-operative movement in general and everything good in it”, and adding, “We have to take account of the mood of the people”.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – September 26-28, 1989 (KCA)

The central committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY—the federal ruling party) goes into emergency session. It passes a resolution urging postponement of a Slovene Assembly vote (see September 27, 1989) on the grounds that some of the proposed constitutional amendments contravene the federal Constitution, and that furthermore, those amendments concerning sovereignty and rights of parliamentary veto pose a threat to the stability and territorial integrity of the Yugoslav Federation.

On September 27 Miran Potrč, the Assembly’s President stated: “Yugoslavia as a federation can only survive as a community of free nations with rights. This is not secession. We wish to remain part of Yugoslavia.” On September 28 the Federal Chamber, one of the two chambers of Yugoslavia’s Federal Assembly, called upon the federal Constitutional Court to examine the Slovene constitutional changes.

Yugoslavia - September 27, 1989 (RWE)

More than 50,000 people took part in a demonstration in Titograd, the capital of Montenegro, to protest that the Slovene constitutional changes represented an attack on Yugoslavia’s unity and integrity. Demonstrators reportedly threatened to take up arms against Slovenia in defense of the federal Constitution and called upon the Slovene people to overthrow their political leaders. Similar demonstrations were reported on the following day in several Serbian towns.

Hungary – September 27, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament passes the motions for an amendment concerning the Criminal Code and the law on legal procedure and modifies the tax law.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – September 27, 1989 (KCA)

The Assembly (parliament) of Slovenia, Yugoslavia's most liberal republic, adopts amendments to the Slovene constitution in the face of opposition from other republics and from Yugoslavia's federal authorities. The most controversial amendment features a declaration that Slovenia is “an

independent, sovereign and autonomous state” whose rights of self-determination include the right of secession from the Yugoslav federation (subject to approval by a referendum in Slovenia).

Hungary – September 28, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament distances itself in its statement from the military intervention of 1986 in Czechoslovakia –and condemns that at that time the Hungarian troops were sent to Czechoslovakia without the approval of the House.

Soviet Union – September 28, 1989 (KCA)

Shcherbitsky retires as First Secretary of the Ukrainian CP, officially at his own request, “in view of his age and state of health”, at a plenum attended by Gorbachev of that party's central committee in Kiev (the Ukrainian capital). He held the post since 1972. In a secret ballot, the central committee elects to succeed him Vladimir Ivashko, 56, who had been the party second secretary, and is generally regarded as more pragmatic, but not necessarily more pro-reform than Shcherbitsky.

Poland – September 28, 1989 (KCA)

Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz announces that the government intends to change the indexation system that had linked salaries to prices; (i) to reduce subsidies on coal and food; (ii) to “de-monopolize” the food sector; (iii) to tighten discipline in state enterprises; (iv) to revise the social security system; (v) to reform the state's budgetary system. In the first quarter of 1990,

Balcerowicz continues, the government will also abolish all remaining price controls; (i) tighten monetary policy and fiscal policy, partly by raising interest rates above the level of inflation; (ii) further reduce economic subsidies and budget spending; and (iii) reform the system of personal taxation so as to encourage private enterprise.

Hungary – September 28, 1989 (MNC)

The Parliament released a statement, in which it condemns the Hungarian participation in the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Hungary – September 29-30, 1989 (MNC)

Kalevi Sorsa, President of the Social Democratic Party of Finland, President of the Parliament visited Hungary for three initiatives. During his stay in Budapest, he met President of the Parliament, Mátyás Szűrös.

Hungary – September 29-October 2, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Republic of Portugal Mario Alberto Soares had an official visit to Hungary. His host was Brúnó F. Straub, President of the Presidential Council of the People’s Republic of Hungary. He held talks with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Workers’c Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

Vatican, September 29-October 2, 1989 (MNC)

Archbishop of Canterbury R. Runcie, head of the Anglican Church had an official visit to the Vatican; along with Pope John Paul II, they released a joint statement about the restoration of unity between the two churches witch was broken in 1534.

Hungary – September 29, 1989 (PTH)

In New York, Gyula Horn negotiates with the foreign minister of the GDR on the issue of East German refugees. Since the middle of September 23, thousand East German citizens have left for West Germany via Hungary.

On the same day, the Hungarian October Party nominates Sándor Rácz, chairman of the Workers' Council of Greater Budapest, as their 1956 presidential candidate.

Poland - September 29, 1989 (RFE)

The Sejm approves the government’s first legislative initiative, which aims to fight hyperinflation, which has soared to worrying levels in the last month. The measure is a proposal to print an additional 1,500 billion zloty of “empty money” to cover the necessary expenditures by the government for October 1989. This move signals the government’s intention to build a stable foundation for radical economic reform in the last months of 1989, rather than try to shift to a market economy overnight.

Poland – September 29, 1989 (KCA / HDP)

Gen. Zenon Trzcinski, the commander-in-chief of the Civic Militia, orders that the militia's “motorized units” (more commonly known as the ZOMO riot police) are to be disbanded. An Interior Ministry official says that the decision had been taken as much for financial as symbolic reasons, but in an allusion to the ZOMO's notoriety as the chief instrument for enforcing martial law regulations in 1981–82, he describes the 12,000-strong units as “a social irritation”. New units are to be set up to take charge of the ZOMO's patrol work.

Hungary – September 29-October 2, 1989 (PTH)

FYD organizes nationwide strikes against the Workers' Militia.

Hungary – September 30, 1989 (PTH)

Pál Shciffer's documentary film entitled "Conciliation 1956 - 1989" is finished. It talks about two commanders of the armed guard of the steel factory in Salgótarján, their tragic execution and the fate of their families afterwards.

HDF, the National Alliance of Political Prisoners, the capital City Council and representatives of the Kerepesi cemetery announce at a press briefing that since tidying up the graveyard has been completed, section 21 of the cemetery is now to be regarded as the resting-place for the heroes of the 1956 revolution and fight for freedom. The cornerstone of the monument in honour of those killed in the fights will be laid on October 22.

Czechoslovakia – September 30, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak news media have launched an intensive campaign against Poles who travel to Czechoslovakia to sell their goods or who travel through Czechoslovakia on their way to Austria and Hungary. On September 30, in an effort to reduce the number of Poles entering the country, the Czechoslovak and Polish authorities agree to abide by safety regulations restricting the number of passengers on international trains.

East Germany (GDR) / Czechoslovakia / Poland / West Germany (FRG) – late September 1989 (KCA)

Faced with rumours that Czechoslovak border guards are stopping East Germans from crossing into Hungary – and that the Austro-Hungarian border will be closed again on October 7 (the 40th anniversary of the founding of the GDR), the numbers of those seeking asylum in West German

embassies reach nearly 4,000 in Prague and over 600 in Warsaw. Although they are guaranteed immunity from prosecution and are assured that emigration will follow within six months, few agree to return to East Germany.

October

Soviet Union / Armenia / Azerbaijan – early October 1989 (KCA)

Contradictory reports about the lifting of the Azerbaijani blockade of rail freight destined for Armenia follow an October 3 USSR Supreme Soviet decree, authorizing the Army to take over the railways in Azerbaijan. Troops intended for duty on the railways arrive in Armenia on October 4, and as early as October 6, reports from Moscow are claiming that traffic is rapidly returning to normal. However, on October 8, the official Soviet news agency *TASS* concurs with reports by officials in Yerevan (the Armenian capital) that services are still running at only a fraction of their normal level, and furthermore that those freight wagons now reaching Armenia are being looted for their contents deliberately. Apparently genuine improvements are reported from mid-October, but bottlenecks, which have built up throughout the Transcaucasian railway network during the blockade, are still far from being cleared by the end of the month.

Bulgaria – October 1989 (KCA)

From mid-October in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, the presence of foreign delegations attending an international conference on environmental protection, held under the auspices of the Conference on security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), compels the Bulgarian authorities briefly to show much greater tolerance towards dissident groups.

Initially, without police interference, the unofficial Eco- Glasnost environmental group is allowed to collect signatures on a pro-conservation petition and to stage a rally and press conference; the Independent Association for the Defence of Human Rights holds its first public rally and groups such as the Committee for Religious Rights and Freedoms and the *Podkrepa* unofficial trade union also hold public meetings and press conferences. However, after little more than a week, there is a renewed clampdown.

Poland / United States – October 1989 (HDP)

The American-Polish Union is founded with the aim of establishing friendly, close relations between Poland and the United States.

Romania – October 1989 (ADC)

Dan Petrescu announces on Radio Free Europe that he is against the re-election of Nicolae Ceausescu as Secretary General.

Soviet Union / Ukraine / Moldova – October 1989 (KCA)

Violent clashes between militia officers and nationalist demonstrators occur in the West Ukrainian city of Lvov on October 1. According to unofficial reports, the violence begins when the militia is set upon a march by members of informal political groups intending to disrupt an official festival celebrating the 50th anniversary of the formal incorporation of the (hitherto Romanian) West Ukraine into the Soviet Union. Shortly afterwards, police use rubber truncheons to disperse people who are gathering outside the Lvov militia headquarters to request information about marchers who had been arrested, and later in the evening up to 20 demonstrators and a similar

number of policemen are reported injured when police again clash with demonstrators outside the building. Demonstrations against the militia action on October 3 and 15 each involve between 30,000 and 40,000 people. On October 13, it is announced that the USSR Supreme Soviet has set up a commission to investigate the incident.

Violence is reported in the centre of Kishinev, the Moldavian capital, on October 7, when a militia unit intervenes to disperse a rally in the city centre by around 200 people protesting against the Moldavian CP and against the retention of Russian as an official language in Moldavia by legislation passed in August. On the following day, a rally organized by the Moldavian Popular Front and attended by up to 15,000 people witnesses the condemnation of the militia action, while on October 22, some 40,000 people take part in a Popular Front rally against Moldavian CP leader Semyon Grossu.

GDR – October 1989 (OSA)

At the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the founding of GDR, thousands of people took to the streets in Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden in what became at times violent protest. The demonstration reached a climax on October 9, when 70,000 people marched through the streets of Leipzig.

East Germany/ Czechoslovakia - Late September-early October 1989 (DRC)

During the last week of September, several thousand East Germans gather at the West German Embassy in Prague, trying to immigrate to West Germany. On the night of 30 September, West German Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher comes to Prague to tell them that now, on the basis of an agreement between the two German states, they can legally leave for West Germany. After an agreement with the Czechoslovak authorities, a special train sets out immediately for West Germany. In early October, however, another 1,000 East Germans gather in the West German Embassy and nearby, and are then also allowed to go to West Germany. The exodus continues in smaller waves throughout October. (According to official statistics, by 6 November approximately 13,000 East Germans have left the country for West Germany by way of Czechoslovakia –by 7 November 33,000, and by 8 November a total of about 42,000.)

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - October 1, 1989 (DRC)

In the UN General Assembly in New York City, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister is able to talk with his American opposite for the first time in eleven years. US Secretary of State James Baker tells Jaromír Johanes that better relations between their two countries depend on greater respect for human rights in Czechoslovakia. Baker also presents Johanes with a partial list of political prisoners and expresses the view that economic reform would not be successful without commensurate changes in the political sphere.

East Germany (GDR) / Czechoslovakia / Poland – October 1, 1989 (KCA)

Some 4,000 East Germans, who took refuge in the West German embassies in Pragu (Czechoslovakia) and Warsaw (Poland) during August and September, are taken to West Germany (shortly before the GDR's 40th anniversary). They pass through the GDR in trains, where another 2,000 East Germans take the chance of boarding them.

Hungary – October 1, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh and Minister of State Imre Pozsgay also sign the call for demanding political and economic self-government for the cities and villages of the country. The leaders of the

secretariat responsible for church affairs of the Council of Ministers confirm that the state is ready to return the former immovable church properties to their original owners.

USA – October 1-6, 1989 (MNC)

Soviet-American official negotiations were held on the defense Ministerial level in Washington D. C., where D. Yazov became the first Soviet Minister of Defense to take an official visit to the United States.

Poland – October 1, 1989 (KCA)

The government begins to issue short-term treasury bills worth some Zl 600,000 million, in the first attempt of recent decades to capitalize its budget deficits. The interest offered, at 86% per annum, was well below the inflation rate, however.

East Germany (GDR) – October 2, 1989 (KCA)

Shortly before the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev in East Germany, some 12,000 protesters, many chanting “Gorby, Gorby” and “we want to stay” (i.e. as opposed to emigrating to the West), march through Leipzig.

Hungary – October 2, 1989 (PTH)

A new Marxist left-wing concentration is established by 15 left-wing organizations and the HSWP platform, because in their view, “the restoration of capitalism is Hungary is a real danger.”

Soviet Union – October 2-3, 1989 (KCA)

At the government's proposal, Lev Voronin, a First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, introduces an emergency resolution, proposing a 15-month ban on strikes in “organizations and enterprises in all sectors of the economy” and special measures to ensure normal working of the railways. He states that more than 5,000,000 man-days have been lost in strikes during 1989, indirectly costing the state around 2,000 million roubles (1 rouble=US\$0.6323 as Oct. 2, 1989). President Mikhail Gorbachev insists that the Supreme Soviet must pass the resolution by the following day. However, on October 3 the latter instead adopts a hastily drafted resolution temporarily banning strikes in key sectors including transport, energy, chemicals and iron and steel until a comprehensive law on strikes and labour negotiations is passed (see October 9, 1989).

East Germany (GDR) / Czechoslovakia / West Germany (FRG) – October 3, 1989 (KCA) The authorities announce that visa- and passport-free travel to Czechoslovakia (the only country where this is possible for East Germans) is temporarily suspended. It is reinstated from November 1, as announced on October 27.

Hungary – October 3, 1989 (KCA)

The Council of (Foreign) Ministers of the European Communities (EC) agrees to provide some \$300 million dollars in additional aid to Hungary and Poland in 1990. Two-thirds of this is to come from the 1990 Community budget, with the remainder to come from member states’ national budgets.

Poland – October 3, 1989 (KCA)

At the plenum's second session, it is announced that a majority of respondents in a poll of the 2,160,000 PUWP members agree that the next PUWP congress (expected in early 1990) should

change the party's name and adopt a revamped statute and program (see September 15, 1989).

EEC / Hungary / Poland - October 3, 1989 (LBC)

The foreign ministers of the EEC approve a 325 million dollar aid for Poland and Hungary for 1990.

Panama, October 3, 1989 (MNC)

A military coup started against General-President Noriega, into which the United States interfered later.

Nicaragua, October 3-4, 1989 (MNC)

Soviet-Nicaraguan Foreign Ministerial negotiations took place in Managua. This was the first time a Soviet Foreign Minister visited Nicaragua.

Hungary – October 4, 1989 (MNC)

By diplomatic means, the Foreign Ministry opposed the decision of the government of the Romanian Socialist Republic to reject the proposal for a commemoration on October 6 for the 140th anniversary of the revolution and freedom fight of 1848-1849.

U.S. / Poland - October 4, 1989 (LBC)

Bush announces that he asked for 200 million dollars more from Congress for the economic assistance of Poland. The White House speaker declares that Poland can get the new aid if it agrees with the IMF on economic austerity measures. (Earlier the foreign relations committee of the Senate approved of 1.2 billion dollars in aid for Poland and Hungary over three years.) October 11, 1989.

Hungary – October 4, 1989 (PTH)

It is announced that the Council of Ministers does not intend to declare October 23 a national holiday; rather, it would prefer to see the memorial ceremonies to serve national reconciliation. The Council of Ministers - without a successor - retires the commander-in-chief of the Workers' Militia.

The foreign ministry protests that Romania does not allow Hungarian politicians to travel to Arad on the anniversary of the execution of the martyrs.

East Germany (GDR) / West Germany (FRG) /Czechoslovakia / Poland – October 4-5, 1989 (KCA)

In Dresden, 8,000-10,000 citizens clash with police as many seek to board eight trains taking some 10,000-11,000 East Germans from the West German embassy in Prague to West Germany. This second mass exit via the West German embassy in Prague (see October 1, 1989) is accompanied by over 600 East Germans from the West German embassy in Warsaw.

Hungary – October 5, 1989 (PTH)

According to the communiqué issued by the National Coordination Council of the Reform Circles and Basic Organizations of HSWP, October 23 must be declared a national holiday and day of rest. The Marxist united platform of HSWP holds a meeting. Róbert Ribánszky, leader of the platform, says, “If the country continues its course in the spirit of Imre Nagy, then people's power will be overthrown.”

Tibor Soós, leader of the office of the Parliament, makes an offer to the October 23 Committee

saying that if requested, the illumination of the red star on top of the house of Parliament will be turned off, and it will not be turned on any more in the future.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan – October 5, 1989 (KCA)

The Azerbaijan Popular Front is registered as an official organization by the Azerbaijan authorities.

Soviet Union / Estonia – October 5, 1989 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet votes to revoke the controversial residence qualifications for voters, which had featured in a new Estonian electoral law passed in August and had provoked a storm of protest.

Hungary – October 5, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ferenc Somogyi took part in the 44 Summit of the UN General Assembly in New York (taking over the leadship of the delegation from the Foreign Minister).

Hungary – October 5-6, 1989 (MNC)

Max Streibl, Prime Minister of Bavaria, and Lothar Späth, Prime Minister of Baden- Württemberg of the Federal Republic of Germany visited Hungary. Their negotiation partner was Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSWP, President of the Cabinet.

East Germany (GDR) / Soviet Union – October 6, 1989 (KCA)

In a key speech at East Berlin's Palace of the Republic, Gorbachev stresses that “matters affecting the GDR are decided not in Moscow but in Berlin”. As regards the “common process of modernization and rejuvenation which the socialist world has embarked upon now...no one can stand aloof from global problems and the demands of the scientific and technical revolution”. In informal discussions the following day, Gorbachev is reported as having warned Honecker that leaders who failed to respond to popular pressures “put themselves in danger”.

Hungary – October 6, 1989 (PTH)

The Budapest organization of the Independent Smallholders’ Party starts a signature-collecting campaign for nominating Otto von Habsburg to the office of president.

Soviet Union / GDR – October 6, 1989 (MHC)

Gorbachev meets with Honecker in East Berlin and advises that he begin a reform program. He later tells aides that Honecker “can’t stay in control” and must go.

Czechoslovakia – October 6, 1989 (OSA)

Karel Urbanek, the new CPCS Secretary-General, recently complained the fact that membership in the communist party has been dropping in all regions of the Czech Republic and growth in party membership has also slowed down in Slovakia.

Hungary – October 7, 1989 (MHC)

The Hungarian Communist Party formally dissolves, renaming itself the Hungarian Socialist party and adopting democratic socialist politics instead of Marxism.

East Germany (GDR) / Soviet Union – October 6-7, 1989 (KCA)

A visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the German Democratic Republic for the country's 40th anniversary acts as the catalyst for the resignation of the East German leader Erich Honecker, after his 18 years in power (see October 18, 1989). Within hours of Gorbachev's departure, a crowd of 5,000-7,000, which gathered in East Berlin's Alexanderplatz and marched on the Palace of the Republic, is violently broken up by police, who reportedly arrest 500-700 people. In a continuing daily protest in Dresden, 5,000-10,000 demonstrators are dispersed with tear gas and water cannons.

German Democratic Republic / Romania – October 6-8, 1989 (PER)

Nicolae Ceausescu participates in the 40th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic in Berlin.

Hungary – October 6-10, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

Hungary's ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) is fundamentally restructured at its 14th extraordinary congress in Budapest.

Reform Circles' demands include a change of name symbolizing the formation of a new party, the exclusion of hardliners from leadership positions and the adoption of economic policies providing for privatization, a mixed economy within a socialist welfare state and the encouragement of foreign investment. The party emerges under the new name "Hungarian Socialist Party" (HSP), as advocated by its reformist wing.

On its opening day, it approves rules allowing an open vote in electing the party president, who could then appoint the members of the party presidium. Votes on the party's statutes are carried on October 9, as is that on the manifesto for forthcoming elections. A vote approves the election of leading bodies and officials in camera. After a recess, it is announced that Nyers has been elected as party president, having been the only candidate. Later that evening, PózsGay is approved as a presidential candidate, and the names of 24 members of the presidium are revealed, reportedly including a majority of reformers (among them PózsGay, Németh and Foreign Minister Gyula Horn) but also some more conservative grassroots members. 70% of them had not previously held leadership positions. The measures to disentangle the party and state governing apparatus are considered essential if the HSP is to participate in a multiparty system.

Soviet Union – October 7, 1989 (KCA)

An estimated 20,000 demonstrators defy an official ban and form a human chain stretching from Gorky Street in the centre of Moscow to the north-western suburb of Zelenograd. The idea had come from a group of Zelenograd residents wishing to express support for Telman Gdlyan, who represents the Zelenograd constituency in the Congress of People's Deputies and who is currently under investigation for his practices as a senior anti-corruption investigator. The human chain turns into a demonstration by a number of unofficial groups in support of accelerating the Soviet reform process.

Hungary – October 7, 1989 (LBC)

The Hungarian Socialist Workers Party dissolves itself and is succeeded by the Hungarian Socialist Party. Its president is Rezso Nyers.

U.S. / Soviet Union - October 7-11, 1989 (LBC)

The President of the US Federal Reserve Board visits the USSR. The aim is to have consultations on constructing a market-oriented financial system in the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / Latvia – October 7-8, 1989 (KCA)

Delegates to the second annual congress of the Latvian Popular Front in Riga give almost unanimous endorsement to a radical program that, for the first time, openly commits their movement to the long-term goal of achieving Latvia's complete independence from the Soviet Union, rather than just greater autonomy. The program also calls for Latvia to become a multiparty democracy with a market economy, and for a “common market” of the three Baltic republics.

Yugoslavia - October 8, 1989 (RWE)

A Roman Catholic Mass attended by some 7,000 people was held in Solin, Croatia in honor of King Zvonimir, the King of Croatia and Dalmatia from 1075 to 1089. Archbishop Ante Jurić, addressing the congregation, said that all of Croatia’s history, and the actions of all its kings, refuted the allegations of genocide during the World War II on the part of Croatian people and confirmed that it had acted only in self-defense against external attacks.

East Germany (GDR) – October 8-9, 1989 (KCA)

A march by some 30,000 in Dresden (where the noted reformist Hans Modrow is local party leader) disperses after the authorities agree to meet a delegation for discussions. The following day in Leipzig, at the now weekly Monday march after “peace prayers”, more than 50,000 people hear a Leipzig SED statement declaring, “We all need a free exchange of ideas”.

On October 8, a group of some 50 people announces the formation of a Social Democratic Party, the first such party in the GDR since the Social Democrats were forcibly united with the Communists in 1946.

Hungary – October 9, 1989 (PTH)

The Independent Lawyers' Forum proposes to the opposition parties that the former roundtable should continue its activities in a new form under the name "Opposition Political Conciliatory Forum".

GDR – October 9, 1989 (MHC)

Over 70,000 East Germans demonstrate against their government in Leipzig. Local communist leaders refuse to attack the marchers.

Soviet Union – October 9, 1989 (KCA)

The autumn session of the Supreme Soviet passes a new labour law, which includes recognition of the right to strike for the first time in Soviet history. Adopted by 373 votes to 12, this is the first full law to be passed by the Supreme Soviet since its reform under constitutional changes adopted in late 1988 (see October 2-3, 1989).

Hungary – October 10, 1989 (PTH)

Deputy foreign minister Béla Havas says that anyone may freely enter Hungary and that the 1956 rebels forced to live in exile can come home any time they wish to.

Poland – October 10, 1989 (KCA)

Chairman of the Central Planning Office Jerzy Osiatynski says at his first press conference that his Office will move away from the adoption of executive decisions and will increasingly become a

think-tank for formulating economic solutions as executive power shifts to the enterprises. On the same day, Poland's first stock exchange since the Second World War opens in Warsaw, under the ownership of a private company. The exchange's first declared objective is to create a market for short-term currency transactions with which to fund the process of economic change.

Czechoslovakia – October 10, 1989 (OSA)

The Czechoslovak Association of Anarchists is founded. The Association plans to continue the activities of the Czech Federation of Anarchists founded 85 years ago.

Czechoslovakia – October 11, 1989 (OSA)

During his main speech to the 15th Plenum of CPCS CC on October 11, the CPCS Secretary-General Milos Jakes announces that the party will submit a proposal to the Federal Assembly to shorten military service from the present 24 months to 18.

Czechoslovakia - October 11-12, 1989 (OSA)

The meeting of the Central Committee of the CPCS on October 12 and 13 is expected to be a routine occasion marked by predictable criticism of shortcomings and pledges to improve environmental protection. The two most important speeches delivered by party leader Milos Jakes and CPCS CC Presidium member Ivan Knotek highlight the need for effective reforms.

U.S. / Hungary / Poland - October 11, 1989 (LBC)

The foreign relations committee of the House of Representatives grants an 837.5 million dollars in aid to Hungary and Poland. (November 13-20, 1989.)

Czechoslovakia – October 11, 1989 (VVR)

The Central Committee of the Communist Party rejects the demands of the opposition.

East Germany (GDR) – October 11, 1989 (KCA)

The *Guardian* reports that in an emergency SED politburo meeting on October 10-11, there was a split between hardliners and more liberal-minded leaders from Leipzig and Dresden. A statement officially mentions for the first time the exodus of East Germans to the West, saying, “we must and will look for them [the reasons for the exodus] amongst ourselves”. The document also declares “we are open to discussion... as to how we can further advance socialism”.

Hungary – October 11, 1989 (PTH)

No progress is made in reconciling the positions of the two parties on the issue of the Bős-Nagymaros dam at the meeting of the prime ministers of Czechoslovakia and Hungary. Miklós Németh asks the Czechoslovakian party to study the Hungarian proposal, according to which only the Bős dam would be run, and only at a basic level of power.

On the same day, the Hungarian Television signs an agreement with the opposition parties on covering their respective congresses.

Additionally, several hundred photos, posters, flyers, newspapers and various objects relating to the period between October 23 and November 4, 1956 are put on display at the exhibition in the Museum of Labour Movements.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - October 11, 1989 (DRC)

Hungarian Premier Miklós Németh meets in Prague with Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec

to discuss economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

Czechoslovakia - October 11-12, 1989 (DRC)

The 15th session of the CPCz CC takes place in Prague and concerns environmental issues. In the CPCz CC Presidium report, General Secretary Miloš Jakeš calls for the political situation in the country to be stabilized and adds that Party policy has enjoyed the support of the people.

Hungary – October 11, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the HSP, President of the Cabinet took a work-visit to the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Latin America, October 11-13, 1989 (MNC)

For the first time in history, heads of state of seven Latin American countries held a summit in Peru, regarding the drug situation.

Hungary – October 12, 1989 (MNC)

Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Franz Vranitzky took a work-visit to Hungary (in the municipality of Balf). His negotiation partner was Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet.

Hungary – October 12-14, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister had an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. He met Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He was received by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl as well.

Hungary – October 12-14, 1989 (MNC)

President and President of the parliamentary faction of the Social Democratic Party of Germany Hans-Jochen Vogel visited Hungary. He consulted Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet, Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of State, and State Secretary of Foreign Affairs László Kovács.

Czechoslovakia - October 12, 1989 (DRC)

The Editor-in-Chief of the popular *samizdat* monthly *Lidové noviny*, Jiří Ruml, and his Assistant Editor Rudolf Zeman, are imprisoned and accused of sedition. (Throughout the rest of October and the first half of November, more than 200 journalists, mostly those from the state-controlled mass media, sign the petition demanding the release of the two detained men and the respect of human rights.)

In the Černý pivovar restaurant in Prague, a meeting takes place between representatives of four politically-oriented initiatives (Rebirth, the Independent Peace Association, the Movement for Civil Liberty, and the Democratic Initiative). About twenty minutes after it starts, however, the meeting is broken up by the StB, and its participants are detained, searched, interrogated; several hours later they are released.

Hungary / Austria – October 12, 1989 (KCA)

Roland Antoniewicz announces the formation of the János Kádár Society as a hardline communist party and the “only legal heir” to the HSWP.

On the same day, at the meeting of the Austrian and Hungarian prime ministers in Sopron, Chancellor Vranitzky says, “they will doubtless take into consideration the future decision of Hungary on Bős-Nagymaros, but they lay a claim to the compensation of the Austrian companies involved under any circumstances”. Additionally, the HSP criticizes the signature-collecting campaign run by AFD in the case of the presidential elections. As for the future of the Workers' Militia, the inter-ministerial committee of the Council of Ministers proposes that the militia should be integrated into the regular armed forces as a voluntary body guarding the territory of the country.

Poland – October 12, 1989 (RFE/KCA /MCH)

Prime Minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki presents his government’s economic program to the public. The program is a blueprint for the creation of a totally new economic system, to be modeled on successful Western economies and rooted in private ownership. a market economy “with features resembling the proven systems of highly developed economies”, and envisaging “the full introduction of market mechanisms and institutions” by the start of 1991. It is divided into two stages. The first, which will last until the end of 1989, is designed to stifle inflation and prepare the economy for the transformation to a market system. The second stage, which should begin in January 1990 and last until 1991, will implement the changes and create a market economy. Mazowiecki acknowledges that the success of this program depends on the public’s capacity for forbearance. Public support for the new government remains very high, but the plans for economic reform will likely adversely affect the Polish people before things get better.

East Germany (GDR) / Czechoslovakia / Poland / West Germany (FRG) – October 13, 1989 (KCA)

After a Polish-West German meeting, East Germans who sought refuge in the West German embassy in Warsaw are allowed to leave for West Germany – not this time via East Germany (see October 1-5, 1989) – once they have renounced their East German citizenship. Some 2,000 East Germans leave by the end of the month, while 141 East Germans in the Prague embassy are also allowed to leave under the same conditions. On the same day, in response to repeated demands by demonstrators and reportedly as per the advice of Honecker's legal adviser Wolfgang Vogel, the official news agency ADN announces that all those arrested in the previous week's demonstrations have been released, except for 11 accused of violence (see October 6-7, 1989).

Hungary / Czechoslovakia – October 13, 1989 (PTH)

The AFD submits 67 thousand signatures to the Parliament, supporting the referendum in the case of, among other things, electing the president of Hungary.

Czechoslovakia believes it is feasible to modify the interstate contract made in 1977 on the Bős-Nagymaros dam, but its precondition is that Prague and Budapest should agree on the degree of compensation. According to the legal committee of the Parliament, it should be forbidden for political parties to establish and maintain organizations at work places.

Poland – October 13, 1989 (KCA)

The moves to cement private ownership as a permanent feature of the economy meets resistance

from the Co-operative Movement: its chairman, Kazimierz Barcikowski (formerly a senior member of the Polish United Workers’ Party politburo), resigns from his post. Meanwhile, the Movement expresses its “fundamental opposition” to what it describes as the violation of the principle of the protection of co-operative ownership.

Hungary – October 14, 1989 (PTH)

It is decided at the 2nd national congress of FYD that, for the time being, the organization will not be transformed into a political party and they will not elect a presidential candidate of their own. Also, the trial issue of Magyar Narancs is published.

Czechoslovakia - October 14, 1989 (DRC)

In Prague, 73 representatives of the ‘revival stream’ of the Czechoslovak People’s Party hold a meeting. It elects six spokesmen, who, in the name of the 12,000 members of the People’s Party, demand that a congress be convened in June 1990.

Czechoslovakia – October 14, 1989 (OSA)

A group of members and officials of the Czechoslovak People’s Party, an organization closely allied with the Communists, forms a group called The Stream of Rebirth, which is clearly distanced itself from the current leadership of the CPP.

Hungary – October 14, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Parliament Mátyás Szűrös had an official visit to Transcarpathia, in the Soviet Union.

Hungary – October 15-18, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister had an official visit to the Kingdom of Thaliand. His negotiation partner was Deputy Prime Minister Pong Sarasin. He was received by Prime Minister Chaticha Chuntavan, and Crown PrinceMaha Vajiralongkorn. Later, in the Soviet Union, he consulted with Minister of the economy Pinkayan.

West Germany / Czechoslovakia - October 15, 1989 (DRC)

In Frankfurt am Main, with West German President Richard von Weizsäcker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl in attendance, Václav Havel is awarded the 1989 Peace Prize of the German Booksellers. As the Czechoslovak regime has made it impossible for him to leave the country, Havel is unable to accept the award in person.

Hungary – October 15, 1989 (PTH)

Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár is elected as chairman of the movement, and as its presidential candidate, at the congress of the Patriotic People's Front. The chairmanship of HDF nominates Lajos Für for its presidential candidate.

East Germany (GDR) – October 16, 1989 (KCA)

The number of those attending the weekly march in Leipzig (the first to be reported in the official East German media) doubles to 100,000-120,000. Slogans include “Young people to power”, “We are the people” and “Legalize New Forum”. Similar marches by thousands are held in Dresden, Magdeburg, Plauen, Halle and other towns.

U.S. / Soviet Union - October 16, 1989 (LBC)

Baker announces that Washington recognizes the “historical opportunity” to strengthen Soviet-American relations with the help of Gorbachev’s reforms. “We want perestroika to succeed. We have reached this conclusion not because it is our business to reform Soviet society or to keep a particular Soviet politician in power – we can really do neither – but because perestroika promises Soviet actions more advantageous to our interests. We are prepared to provide technical assistance in certain areas of Soviet economic reform...” The statement is in sharp contrast to the position expressed by other members of the Bush administration, including the president himself.

Hungary – October 16, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

A petition with over 200,000 signatures, calling for a referendum on four issues, is presented to parliament by the SzDSz and FIDESZ. The major issue is their demand that presidential elections should follow, rather than precede, the parliamentary elections.

As a referendum is obligatory when a petition gathers 100,000 valid signatures, the parliament votes on October 31 to hold a referendum on November 26, 1989 (originally the date intended for presidential elections), with presidential elections provisionally scheduled for January 7.

A communist meeting is held in Budapest, organized chiefly by Róbert Ribánszky, in which a call is made to preserve and renew HSWP.

Poland – October 16, 1989 (KCA)

The *Sejm* (parliament) approves a law modifying the country's wage indexation system (see September 28, 1989). Future wage increases will reflect only 80% of the increase in food prices (indexation to non-food price increases being already restricted to 80% under existing legislation). With the abolition of subsidies, meanwhile, the retail cost of consumer goods and services soars (car prices increasing by some 300%, and electricity prices rising by 150% from November 1), although the government introduces cheap bread rations and soup kitchens for the poorest.

Soviet Union – October 16, 1989 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet passes an amendment to the May 1988 law on co-operatives giving local *soviets* (councils) powers to set upper limits on prices charged for goods or services provided by co-operatives. The state will also have the power to set prices for products that it purchases from co-operatives under contract.

Romania – October 16-November 3, 1989 (MNC)

During the environmental forum of the signing countries of the Helsinki Accords, Romania prevented the acceptance of a closing document.

Hungary – October 16-18, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, General Secretary of the Warsaw Pact, Ivan Aboimov, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest. He was received by Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister, and Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet.

Bulgaria - October 16 - November 2, 1989 (OSA)

Talks in Sofia about the Turks situation which proved a crucial umbrella for the opposition to make itself heard internationally.

Hungary – October 17, 1989 (MNC)

In Budapest, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees started its work.

Yugoslavia - October 17, 1989 (OSA)

Ivan Cvitković, the Secretary of the 13 member Presidium of the Central Committee of Bosnia-Herzegovina, criticized Serbia and its State Security Service of “impermissible interference” in the internal affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Cvitković said that Bosnia had asked Serbia for an official explanation, and added that if Serbia ignored the request, Bosnia would ask the eight member collective State Presidency and the federal government to investigate the matter. (*Večernje Novosti*)

Yugoslavia - October 17, 1989 (OSA)

The City Conference of the Belgrade League of Communists elected its Central Committee and ruling Presidium. The conference is the highest party organization in the city, and the Belgrade League of Communists is the most influential party organization in Serbia, although theoretically the Serbian party’s Central Committee holds the reins of political power in the republic. Among the 19 members elected to the Belgrade party Presidium was Professor Mirjana Marković-Milošević, the wife of Serbia’s State President Slobodan Milošević.

Czechoslovakia - October 17, 1989 (OSA)

During the International Conference on Ecology that begins in Sofia on October 17, 1989, the deputy head of the Czechoslovak delegation Pavel Patzel, who is Director of the Section for Environmental Protection at the State Commission for Scientific-Technological and Investment Development, discusses Czechoslovakia’s environmental policy with an editor from RFE. This is the first time that a Czechoslovak government official has given an interview with RFE.

Soviet Union – October 17, 1989 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet passes a resolution prohibiting co-operatives from buying products in the state network and reselling them.

On the same day, the (Soviet) All-Union Society of Neurologists and Psychiatrists is readmitted as a full member of the World Psychiatry Association (WPA) during the eighth meeting of the WPA's general assembly (the International Congress of Psychiatrists), which is held in Athens and attended by psychiatric associations from 72 countries.

Additionally, a report by the human rights organization Amnesty International, *USSR: Human Rights in a Time of Change*, notes a “dramatic” improvement in the Soviet human rights situation since 1986. Amnesty reports that the known total number of “prisoners of conscience” has fallen from some 600, in 1986, to 81; (i) 337 political prisoners have obtained an early release since February 1987; (ii) a further 79 people have been discharged from compulsory confinement in psychiatric hospitals in the same period. The generally positive picture is, however, made “deeply confusing” by many new arrests, “including those of conscientious objectors and advocates of national rights in some Soviet republics”.

Hungary – October 17-20, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The *Országgyűlés* approves an amended constitution, a law on the operation and financing of political parties, a ban on parties operating in the work place, an electoral law, the disbanding of the Workers’ Guard and on rectifying "the sentences passed by courts in connection the 1956 national uprising." It is announced that Hungary is a parliamentary republic, a sovereign, democratic

constitutional state. It is decided that, in the future, parties should not be present at the work place. Speaker of the House Mátyás Szűrös is elected Interim President. The People's Militia is dissolved without any legal successor. The Parliament does not declare October 23 a national holiday.

East Germany (GDR) – October 18, 1989 (KCA)

At a special session of the 163-member central committee, Honecker, 77, resigns ostensibly for “health reasons” as SED General Secretary, Chairman of the Council of State and Chairman of the National Defence Council. At the suggestion of the politburo, Egon Krenz, 52, is elected SED General Secretary, with his appointment to Honecker's other posts to be confirmed by the *Volksversammlung* (parliament) (see October 7, 1989 and developments August-October, 1989). Faced with this crisis of confidence, Honecker's successor Egon Krenz (initially regarded as a hardliner) progressively introduces reforms while continuing to stress that socialism in the GDR is not negotiable.

Hungary – October 18, 1989 (PTH)

An article written by army general Lastchenko, the commander of the special army corps in Székesfehérvár in 1956, is published in the journal of military history Zsurnal, in which he states that 1956 was a counter-revolution, that Imre Nagy is a traitor and that the events were arranged by forces in the West.

Poland - October 18, 1989 (RFE)

In a press conference the government’s spokesman, Malgorzata Niezabitowska outlines the government’s new foreign policy. It is dominated by a new approach to relations with the Soviet Union, an opening-up towards Western Europe and a redefinition of security relations in Europe.

Poland – October 18, 1989 (KCA)

Kristof Lis, a Solidarity member, is appointed to the new Cabinet-level post of Plenipotentiary for Changes in Ownership, with responsibility for implementing the privatization of state assets. The European Investment Bank agrees to fund projects in Poland and Hungary worth up to 1,000 million European currency units (1,090 million dollars) over a three-year period. Italy agrees on October 19 to offer 400 million dollars worth of new credits, West Germany reschedules debts of DM 2,500 million on October 9. Japan agrees on October 25 to reschedule some 400 million dollars of official debts.

British Commonwealth, October 18-25, 1989 (MNC)

The summit of the heads of state and Prime Ministers of the members of the British Commonwealth was held in Kuala Lumpur, where a document was accepted, in which the 48 members of the Commonwealth (without the United Kingdom) declared the tightening of the sanctions on the Republic of South Africa.

Hungary – October 19-21, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy had an official visit to the Republic of Indonesia. His negotiation partner was Coordinating Minister of Economy-Finance-Industrial Development, Radius Prawiro, Minister of Finance Sumarlin, Minister of Trade Arifin Siregar, Minister of Industry Hartarto, Minister of planning Saleh Ariff, Minister of Telecommunication and Tourism Soesiló Soedermann, and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas. He was received by Head of State Suharto.

Hungary – October 19, 1989 (PTH)

The Budapest Main Police Office makes investigation in the case of the Hungarian Nazi leaflets that had appeared a few days ago in the streets of Budapest. The leaflets contain the telephone numbers of well-known opposition figures. According to the information given by the ministry of the interior, it will soon be found out who made the posters advertising the reestablishment of the Hungarian Arrow-Cross Party.

Eight years after its first issue, the trial number of *Beszélő* as a legal journal is for sale. The journal *Kis Újság* gives a picture of October 1956 through the eyes of the former participants of the events.

Poland / U.S. – October 19, 1989 (KCA)

In the United States, the House of Representatives approves a three-year 837 million dollar aid package for Poland and Hungary – intended to finance business loans and investments. Poland's share amounts to 485 million dollars (including 125 million dollars worth of food aid). The whole package for the two countries is almost double the (already) revised 451.5 million dollars originally proposed by the Bush Administration.

Soviet Union – October 19, 1989 (KCA)

Viktor Afanasyev is removed as editor-in-chief of *Pravda*, the daily newspaper of the Communist Party (CPSU) central committee. He is replaced Bylvan Frolov, one of President Mikhail Gorbachev's closest political advisers and former editor of the CPSU theoretical journal *Kommunist*. Afanasyev had held the post since 1976, and with the advent of *glasnost* (“openness”) following Gorbachev's appointment as CPSU leader in 1985, he had been periodically under fire for making *Pravda* a mouthpiece of the party's conservative wing.

Czechoslovakia - October 20, 1989 (DRC)

The CPCz CC Presidium, which since February 1989 has convened for eight meetings to debate the draft of a new constitution, decides to publish the draft in March 1990, and following a public discussion, to send it to the Federal Assembly for approval in October or November 1990.

Hungary – October 20, 1989 (PTH)

The Social Democratic Party of Hungary distances itself from the 1956 Soviet military intervention. According to the statement by the Ministry of the Interior, the police will help with organizing and holding the memorial ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the national uprising if they are in accord with the existing laws and regulations of the country.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan – October 20, 1989 (KCA)

Birlik activists are behind a demonstration in Tashkent against the adoption of legislation providing for only a gradual elevation of Uzbek to the status of state language by the Uzbek Supreme Soviet earlier that day. *Birlik* (“Unity”) People's Movement, had previously published its founding charter at the end of September. Although claiming to be active on behalf of all nationalities in the republic, the charter stresses a commitment to promoting Uzbekistan's sovereignty and to enhancing the status of the Uzbek language.

Hungary – October 20-22, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The HDF holds a national conference. Lajos Für, a historian, is chosen as presidential candidate and Jozsef Antall, also a historian, as chairman. The HDF electoral program is approved, reflecting the movement's liberal, Christian Democratic and rural traditions. It envisions economic reconstruction

through foreign investment and privatization, reparations for farmers dispossessed during collectivization, full protection of minorities within Hungary and of Hungarians in Romania and long-term neutrality in foreign policy.

Hungary – October 20, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister took a two-day official visit to the Kingdom of Norway. His negotiation partner was interior Minister Kyell Magne Boldevik. He consulted with Ms. Gro Harlem Bruntland, President of the Norwegian Labour Party. He was received by Prime Minister Jan P. Syse. Then, from October 22-23, he visited Sweden, where he negotiated with the President of the Swedish-Hungarian Committee for Trade Development. He was received by King Carl Gustav XVI.

Hungary – October 21-22, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister József Bényi consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Indonesia.

Hungary – October 21, 1989 (PTH)

It is announced in Parliament that on October 23, Interim President Mátyás Szűrös will declare the Hungarian Republic from the balcony of the House of Parliament.

The supplement of the daily papers Népszabadság and Magyar Nemzet publishes photos and essays in connection with 1956.

On behalf of the Committee for Historical Justice, Alajos Dornbach and András Hegedűs B. give an interview to the radio program 168 Hours about issues of the administration of justice.

György Konrád talks about October 23, Sándor M. Kiss about the history of the State Security Authorities and Mária Wittner, an armed rebel sentenced to death, about her own fate. Gyula Obersovszky hold an author's night entitled “A Prelude After Death” at the Jurta theater.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan – October 21, 1989 (KCA)

Irakhmat Mirkasymov is elected at a session of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet as Chairman of the Uzbek Council of Ministers, replacing Gaydat Kadyrov who had held that post since 1984.

Hungary – October 22, 1989 (PTH)

On the eve of the October 23 ceremonies, Miklós Németh turns to all citizens of the country in a statement, calling everyone to show maturity and restraint and to concentrate on the tasks the country has to face after having come to an end of a long historical period.

The 1956 Reverence Committee hold a commemoration service in section 21 of the Kerepesi cemetery. They lay the cornerstone of the Memorial of the War Dead and place a provisional wooden headboard to mark the place of the future memorial.

The plans submitted to the competition, announced by the Committee for Historical Justice for the memorial to be erected in section 301 in memory of the 1956 martyrs, are exhibited in the National Gallery.

Soviet Union – October 22, 1989 (KCA)

A group calling itself the Popular Front of the RSFSR (Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic) is established at a meeting in Yaroslavl. According to Western reports, the 99 delegates at the meeting range from radical supporters of informal pro-democracy movements and independent trade unionists to fundamentalist Orthodox Christians and sympathizers of the ultra-nationalist and anti-Semitic *Pamyat* group. Russian Tsarist flags are reportedly strongly present at the meeting.

Hungary – October 22-24, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy had an official visit to the Republic of Korea. His negotiation partner was Deputy Prime Minister Chon Sun. He was received by Prime Minister Kang Yung Hun, and President of the Republic, Ro Te Vu.

Hungary – October 23, 1989 (MNC)

The Republic of Hungary was proclaimed.

Hungary – October 23-24, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister József Bényi consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Singapore.

East Germany (GDR) – October 23, 1989 (KCA)

The Monday demonstration in Leipzig is attended by 100,000–300,000 people, according to widely varying estimates in press reports. Demonstrations are also held in many other cities and towns. Demands include the dismantling of the Berlin Wall and incitement of free elections (the validity of local elections in May have been widely questioned).

Hungary – October 23, 1989 (KCA / PTH / LBC / MHC)

Nationwide memorial services are held to commemorate the 33rd anniversary of the 1956 revolution. In Budapest, a memorial mass is celebrated to honour the martyrs of the revolution at 10 am in the Basilica. At noon, Interim President Mátyás Szűrös, Speaker of the House, declares the Hungarian Republic from the balcony of the House of Parliament before a crowd of 70,000- 80,000 (indicating the increasing strength of nationalist feeling). Over the course of the day, several ceremonies and wreathing services are held in section 301, section 21 of the Kerepesi cemetery, on Heroes' square, in Corvin place, at the Kilián barracks, at the Hungarian Radio and in front of the central building of the Technical University. In the evening, a mass meeting is held on Kossuth Square (some 100-150 thousand people come together) where Imre Fónay, Gyula Obersovszky, György Krassó, Mária Wittner and Sándor Rác make a speech. Early in the evening, a torch-lit procession is held in Debrecen and Pécs.

In Jászberény, a memorial tablet is inaugurated in honour of the martyrs of the revolution. In Pápa, Miskolc, Nyíregyháza, Eger and Veszprém, the opposition parties hold joint memorial ceremonies, wreathing services and other programs. Representatives of the Council of Ministers say that as of January, all subsidies will be frozen, except those for health care and education.

It is established that the Hungarian Nazi leaflets were provocative papers made by Roland Antoniewicz.

Poland – October 23, 1989 (KCA)

Lech Walesa, Solidarity's chairman, is increasingly distancing himself from the government's actions during this period. He warns repeatedly that the authorities are taking an unacceptable risk of civil disturbance by allowing prices to rise. Walesa also announces his intention to withdraw from a central role in political life, saying that the centre stage now belongs to specialists. However, on October 23, he is appointed as executive president of Solidarity at a meeting at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, where the union had been founded in 1980.

Soviet Union – October 23, 1989 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet appoints Stepan Sitaryan as a Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers

and Chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission. The post has been vacant since the formation of the new Soviet government in July. On the same day, President Gorbachev, addressing the USSR Supreme Soviet, argues against direct presidential elections on the grounds that this will weaken the power of the elected soviets, which are the cornerstone of the political reforms being implemented under his leadership; he also says that it is too early for a presidential system in the Soviet Union (see October 24, 1989).

Czechoslovakia – October 23, 1989 (OSA)

110 officially sanctioned Czechoslovak journalists send a petition to Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec in which they demand that the prosecution of two editors of the samizdat periodical *Lidove Noviby* be stopped. This is the first such appeal by officially sanctioned Czechoslovak journalists in behalf of their prosecuted dissident colleagues.

Bulgaria – October 23-27, 1989 (KCA)

According to reports, the restriction of dissident groups (see October, 1989) begins on October 23-24, when the authorities start to deport certain leading dissident activists from Sofia to the provinces and threaten others with arrest. On October 26, the police move against the Eco- Glasnost petition organizers, beating up around 30 of them as they collect signatures in the centre of Sofia and making more than 20 arrests. However, faced with strong protests by Western participants in the CSCE conference, the Bulgarian authorities on October 27 issue a statement regretting the police action.

Poland – October 23-28, 1989 (KCA)

The modifications to wage indexation (see September 28, 1989 and October 16, 1989) are condemned by the executive committee of the Communist-led National Trade Union Accord (OPZZ) as an infringement of workers' rights. The OPZZ organizes nationwide non-strike protests on October 23-28.

Bulgaria – October 24, 1989 (KCA)

Petur Mladenov offers his resignation as Foreign Minister (reportedly following a quarrel with general secretary Todor Zhivkov) over the events of May-June concerning the ethnic Turkish minority (see May 20-23, 1989). His request is rejected. Days later, Mladenov allegedly stops off in Moscow en route from a visit to China, and secures backing from the Soviet leadership for a challenge to Zhivkov (see November 10, 1989).

Hungary – October 24, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers issues a communiqué in which it "evaluates the ceremonial programs commemorating the anniversary of the 1956 national uprising." They find it regrettable that "the events commemorating the fight against Stalinism were used by some to raise anti-Soviet sentiments."

AFD presents further signatures to the Parliament; now, more than 200 thousand people are demanding a referendum. The Supreme Prosecution makes a motion for a retrial in the case of the murder of a policeman in Pócspetri, 41 years ago.

Soviet Union – October 24, 1989 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet passes, by 254 votes to 85 with 36 abstentions, (1) an amendment to the constitutional reforms adopted in late 1988 abolishing reserved seats (making up one-third of the

2,250 total) for the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and social organizations in the newly established USSR Congress of People's Deputies. Under the terms of the amendment, deputies will henceforth be elected solely from territorial and national-territorial constituencies. The amendment requires the approval of the Congress of People's Deputies to enter into force. Furthermore, the Supreme Soviet supports, by 281 votes to 40 with 43 abstentions, (2) an amendment allowing each union republic to choose how to elect its Chairman of the republican Supreme Soviet (i.e. republican president). This will open the possibility of direct elections of republican presidents, rather than their election by the republican Congress of People's Deputies, as laid down in the 1988 constitutional changes. (3) Under a third amendment approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet, republics will be granted the right to decide whether or not to have a Congress of People's Deputies (as well as a Supreme Soviet), as laid down in the 1988 reforms.

Romania – October 24-25, 1989 (ADC)

Nicoale Ceausescu announces that he is against changes to the Romanian political system.

Czechoslovakia / Austria – October 24-25, 1989 (RFE / OSA)

Czechoslovak Prime Minister and CPCS CC Presidium member Ladislav Adamec visits Austria at the invitation of Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. Talks focus on improving bilateral trade relations and in a new agreement on nuclear safety and radiation protection. In an interview with Western journalists, he defends the regime’s poor human rights record. He describes the Charter 77 activists Vaclav Havel and Jiri Hajek as ‘political nobodies.’

Poland / Soviet Union - October 24-25, 1989 (RFE)

The Soviet Union’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eduard Shevardnadze pays an official two-day visit to Poland. The visit is devoted to bilateral talks and is described as having been satisfactory by both countries. Shevardnadze’s decision to do an unprecedented interview in Solidarity’s daily paper is a sign of the opening of a new chapter in Polish-Soviet relations.

Hungary – October 24, 1989 (MNC)

Interior Minister of the French Republic, Pierre Joxe, took a work-visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was interior Minister István Horváth.

Hungary – October 24-25, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark Uffe Ellemann-Jensen took a non-official work- visit to Hungary. He consulted with Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister.

Hungary – October 25-27, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister took part in the Summit of Committee of Foreign Ministrers of the members of the Warsaw Pact in Warsaw.

Soviet Union, October 25-27, 1989 (MNC)

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Head of State of the Soviet Union M. S. Gorbachev had an official visit to Finland, where he submitted the proposal of the Soviet Union, the main point of which was that the heads of state of the signatoires of the Helsinki Accords should hold the planned pan-European summit by the name of “Helsinki-2”.

Hungary – October 25-28, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of State visited the United Kingdom for three days as the Hungarian patron of the Hungarian Cultural Festival. He was received by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Austria / Czechoslovakia - October 25, 1989 (DRC)

At a press conference during his official visit to Austria, Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec states that Charter 77 signatories, in particular the two spokesmen Václav Havel and Jiří Hájek (Czechoslovak Foreign Minister in 1968), are ‘political nobodies’.

Finland / Soviet Union – October 25-27, 1989 (KCA)

President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union visits Finland. It is the first visit by a Soviet head of state since Brezhnev had attended the Helsinki Final Act signing ceremony in 1975. On October 26, Gorbachev and President Mauno Koivisto sign a joint declaration entitled “the new thinking in action”, outlining the principles and priorities of the two parties in European and international practice. Other documents signed include a ninth five-year bilateral trade agreement covering 1991-95, a protocol on the joint development of the Kola Peninsula in the Soviet Arctic, and other political, trade, joint venture and environmental agreements. The same day, in a key speech in Helsinki's Finlandia Hall, Gorbachev declares that the two countries had “already done a great deal to build the northern wall and northern roof of the common European home”. Whereas in the past, Soviet leaders had spoken of Finland's “policy of neutrality”, Gorbachev stated that the Soviet Union “unreservedly” recognized Finland's “neutral status” and would continue fully to observe it.

Hungary / U.S. – October 26, 1989 (PTH)

US president George Bush signs the decision on the basis of which Hungary is granted the status of a most favoured nation for a longer period of time.

Following another unsuccessful round of talks between Czechoslovakia and Hungary – Miklós Németh announces the Council of Ministers will propose to the Parliament that the building of the Bős-Nagymaros dam should be terminated for good.

A film by Pál Závada and András Sipos entitled "martial Law" has its first night show, which portrays the kulak trials of the 50s.

Soviet Union – October 26, 1989 (MHC)

Shvardnadze calls for the dissolution of NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Hungary – October 26, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet took a work-visit to Czechoslovakia (Pozsony/Bratislava). He consulted Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec.

Hungary – October 26, 1989 (MNC)

The President of the United States announced that Hungary will receive the treatment of most favored nation from the United States.

Soviet Union, October 27, 1989 (MNC)

The last short-range missile falling under the regulations of the Soviet-American INF-treaty from December 1987 was destroyed in the Soviet Union.

East Germany (GDR) – October 27, 1989 (KCA)

In a decision hailed as the “first step” that the New Forum has been waiting for, the Council of State announces an amnesty for those attempting to leave the country illegally and for those committing criminal acts during “riotous demonstrations” before October 27. Western diplomats estimate that 2,000-3,000 people will be released as a result.

Warsaw Pact – October 27, 1989 (LBC)

The declaration of the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Pact is announced: “One of the essential prerequisites for the building of a secure, peaceful and indivisible Europe is to respect the right of each nation to independently decide about its fate and freely choose the road of its social, political and economic development, with no external interference”.

Hungary – October 27, 1989 (PTH)

Gyula Horn announces at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Warsaw Treaty Organization that Hungary will make even more efforts in the future to follow its own course of foreign policy, independent of its membership in the organization.

Géza Bőszörményi and Livia Gyarmaty's film entitled "Recsk" is awarded the Felix prize as the best European documentary.

AFD hold its conference of delegates. In their statement issued the next day, they urge the Council of Ministers to renew talks with the parties.

Czechoslovakia – October 28, 1989 (RFE)

Reportedly between 10,000 and 20,000 gather in Wenceslas Square to demand free elections and leadership changes on the anniversary of Czechoslovak independence. Riot police detain 355.

Smaller demonstrations take place in Brno, Ostrava and Chomutov.

Czechoslovakia - October 28, 1989 (DRC)

In a joint statement dated 23 October, the independent initiatives Charter 77, the Movement for Civil Liberty, the Democratic Initiative, Rebirth, and Independent Peace Association call upon Czechoslovaks to take part in the peaceful demonstrations in Prague and other towns to mark the 71st anniversary of the establishment of Czechoslovakia. On the afternoon of the 28th, a spontaneous demonstration takes place on Wenceslas Square in Prague, with about 10,000 people expressing their disfavour of the Czechoslovak Communist regime. The demonstration is brutally broken up by armed units of the Interior Ministry and the People’s Militia.

The October edition of the *samizdat* monthly *Lidové noviny* runs an article by Václav Havel, entitled ‘Between Bankrupt and Politician’ (Hodina mezi zkrachovancem a politikem). In the article, Havel expresses the conviction that Czechoslovak independent initiatives have a long way to go before they can transform themselves into a genuine political opposition. He also appeals for political realism: these initiatives, he says, should not become euphoric simply because people attend demonstrations, they organize or perceive the initiatives as a political alternative. Havel cautions against overestimating the importance of the anti-regime demonstrations and underestimating the everyday small-scale political work that the independent initiatives are calling for.

Hungary – October 28-November 2, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of State visited Canada. He consulted with politicians from the government.

Czechoslovakia – October 28, 1989 (KCA)

In defiance of a ban on unofficial rallies to mark Czechoslovakia's national day, up to 10,000 people follow a call by opposition groups and gather in Wenceslas Square in the centre of Prague (the capital) to call for the removal of the country's hard-line Communist leadership and for democratic reforms.

Seven demonstrators and three police officers are reported injured after several hundred riot police forces move in to break up the crowd, although observers report less violence by police than at similar demonstrations in January. Nevertheless, 355 people are detained. In an attempt to forestall the protests, at least 11 prominent dissidents had been taken into police custody on October 26-27.

Hungary – October 28, 1989 (PTH)

Béla Király, former commander of the Militia in 1956, is rehabilitated.

A memorial tablet is placed on the wall of the Reformed Theological Academy of Budapest in memory of the students died in action in the 1956 revolution.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan – October 28, 1989 (KCA)

The Soviet government newspaper *Izvestiya* reports that politically motivated strikes by Ossetes have been disrupting work at enterprises in the *oblast* for the past two months, and that a Popular Front of South Ossetia had been set up. Ossetes had constituted 66% of the nearly 100,000 inhabitants of South Ossetia at the last (1979) census.

East Germany (GDR) – October 29-30, 1989 (KCA)

“Mass discussions” organized by the SED are held in East Berlin and at least nine other towns. Over 300,000 attend the weekly Leipzig protest on October 30, at which the mayor, Bernd Seidel, addresses the demonstrators. Marches by between 20,000 and 50,000 are held on the same day in Halle, Schwerin, Karl Marx Stadt, and Cottbus.

Hungary – October 29, 1989 (PTH)

The conference of the delegates of AFD believes that the best time for the general elections is the period around March 15.

Hungary – October 30, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Belgian Francophone Socialist Party and Vice President of the Socialist International Guy Spiatels visited Hungary. He consulted with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, and Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister. He was received by Mátyás Szűrös, Temporary President of the Republic of Hungary.

Hungary – October 30, 1989 (PTH)

The Czechoslovakian government confirms in a statement that it will demand compensation if Hungary does not build the dam at Nagymaros.

The Budapest Committee of HSP holds a wreathing ceremony in honour of the fallen defenders the party building on Köztársaság Square. The memorial is followed by an incident between the organizers and some, mostly elderly, representatives of the former HSWP.

Romania / U.N. – October 30, 1989 (ADC)

The UN Office claims that they can prove 131 cases in which Romania has ignored people’s human rights.

Soviet Union – October 30, 1989 (KCA)

Valentin Pavlov, the Soviet Finance Minister, outlines the draft state budget for 1990 to the Supreme Soviet. The budget anticipated income of 434,000 million roubles and expenditure of 493,000 million roubles, leaving a deficit of 59,000 million roubles. This is the first time that an anticipated budget deficit has been announced. It was earlier disclosed that the 1988 budget deficit had been 120,000 million roubles. Pavlov proposes tax increases on certain luxury products (i.e. tobacco) to increase revenue as well as a series of measures to cut expenditure. The budget deficit is to be covered through the issue of state bonds.

In the evening of the same day, up to 1,000 people take part in a candlelight vigil organized by the unofficial Memorial group outside the Lubyanka, the Moscow headquarters of the State security Committee (KGB), in memory of the victims of Stalinism. Shortly afterwards, riot police man barricades around the nearby Pushkin Square, the focal point for unofficial demonstrations in Moscow, and use batons against supporters of the opposition Democratic Union as they attempt to hold a rally there.

Yugoslavia - October 30 - November 2, 1989 (RWE)

Azem Vlasi, an Albanian and former Kosovo party leader, went on trial together with 14 other ethnic Albanians, charged with “counter-revolutionary actions endangering the social order.” Vlasi was accused by the court in Titova Mitrovica of having encouraged the strikes and the anti-Serbian riots during February and March of 1989. The trial prompted the brief resurgence of the ethnic unrest. Gangs of youths stoned police on October 30 and 31, and five people were shod dead in the city on November 1 and 2.

Hungary – October 30-31, 1989 (PTH)

István Fodor is elected interim speaker of the Parliament. The House decides on the final termination of the Bős-Nagymaros dam project, calls a referendum for November 26 (on the basis of the signatures collected by AFD and FYD) and passes a law on general amnesty, on establishing the Public Board of Audit and the Constitutional Court. The representatives decide that the presidential elections should be called for January 7, the day of the referendum on the state coat-of-arms.

Yugoslavia / USSR - October 30-November 3, 1989 (JIS)

Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs Budimir Lončar visits the USSR. Various international issues are discussed, including the East-West relations, international economic order, global inequality, CSCE, and the struggle for peace. Bilateral issues are discussed as well, mainly the problem of Yugoslav surplus in the trade exchange with the USSR.

Hungary – October 31-November 1, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iceland Jón Baldvin Jannibalsson took a two-day official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister.

Turkey - October 31, 1989 (MNC)

For the first time in Turkey since 1960, a civilian person, the Prime Minister to that point, Turgut Ozal was elected as Head of State.

Hungary – October 31-November 5, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs László Kovács consulted in the Department of State in the United States of America.

GDR / FRG – October 31, 1989 (MHC)

Facing growing economic problems, Krenz authorizes secret meetings with West Germany to obtain emergency loans in exchange for a certain liberalization of movement between the two German states.

Soviet Union – October 31, 1989 (KCA)

The official Soviet news agency *TASS* reports that two people have been sentenced to death by firing squad for murders committed during the June pogrom against the Meskhetian community in Uzbekistan's Fergana valley.

Soviet Union – late October-early November 1989 (KCA)

Around 18,000 miners stop work at nine Vorkuta pits on October 24-25. In addition to grievances about the non-fulfilment of management and government promises, they announce overtly political demands, including an end to the constitutional guarantee of the Communist Party's leading role and direct election of the Soviet head of state. Pressure by local officials and a ruling that the strike is illegal by the Komi ASSR Supreme Court persuade miners to return to work on October 27 in all but the largest mine, Vorgashorskaya. However, the strike resumes at most Vorkuta pits on November 2 and spreads on November 4 to the nearby Inta coalfield.

On November 15, the Russian Federation Supreme Court upholds the earlier court ruling and imposes 1,000 rouble (US\$ 1,600) fines on each of the strike leaders.

Slovakia / Czechoslovakia - October 31, 1989 (DRC)

The Slovak National Council debates a bill by a group of Federal Assembly deputies to legislate the means of adopting new constitutions for the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The bill presumes the constitutional amendment of all basic relations between the Federation and the two republics in the form of a single document (a three- in-one constitution). Some deputies of the Slovak National Council express their disagreement with the bill and call for greater autonomy for the national republics, which would be guaranteed in their own separate constitutions.

Czechoslovakia - October 31, 1989 (OSA)

The CPCS publish a modernized draft of its own statutes. The main innovation concerns the federalization of the party through the creation of a Czech counterpart to the long-existing Communist Party of Slovakia. Also, the draft perpetuates the prescriptive tenets of “democratic centralism” designed to ensure the party’s exclusive role in the political system.

Czechoslovakia - Late October 1989 (DRC)

On the anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovak state, the Independent Student Association *Ribbon* (Nezavislé studentské združení Stuha) is established. Its founders call for the active participation of students in the democratization of society, the renewal of independent academic

life, an end to the criminal prosecution of students for activity in independent initiatives and the creation of a student organization independent of the Socialist Youth Organization.

China / Czechoslovakia - October 31 - November 5, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jaromír Johanes makes an official visit to China.

November

Romania – November 1989 (HOR)

Former Olympic Gymnast Nadia Comaneci defects across the border into Hungary – drawing further international attention to the oppressive conditions in Romania. She settles in the United States.

Bulgaria - November 1989 (OSA)

A demonstration of 10,000 people in Sofia run by Eco-Glasnost.

Hungary – November 1, 1989 (PTH)

The opposition parties make an agreement that they will receive financial support from the 100 million forints put aside by the Council of Ministers in proportion to the number of their members. HSP announces that it is planning to join the Socialist Internationale.

Poland – November 1, 1989 (KCA)

President Wojciech Jaruzelski appoints Jozef Koziol and Piotr Nowina-Konopka as Ministers of State. Koziol, a member of the United Peasant Party (ZSL), had served in the last two governments dominated by the communist Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP), while Nowina-Konopka was from the Roman Catholic wing of Solidarity and since May 1988 has been press spokesman for Solidarity chairman Lech Walesa.

Soviet Union / GDR / Czechoslovakia – November 1, 1989 (MHC)

Gorbachev meets with Krenz at the Kremlin and calls on him to speed up reforms and open borders “to avoid an explosion”. The GDR does so the same day, with respect to Czechoslovakia –and two days later Czechoslovakia allows the transit of East Germans to the West.

Poland – November 1, 1989 (MNC)

Poland established diplomatic ties with South Korea, after witch the PDRK called back their Ambassador from Warsaw.

Yugoslavia - November 1, 1989 (RWE)

Official figures showed that customer prices were rising at annualized rate of 1,470 %.

Spain-Albania, November 1-2, 1989 (MNC)

Albanian-Spanish negotiations took place on the Foreign Ministerial level in Madrid, the first such visit since the establishing of diplomatic relations (1986).

Hungary – November 1-4, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Belgium, Guy Coeme, had an official visit to Hungary. His

negotiation partner was Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense.

Hungary – November 2-3, 1989 (MNC)

Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, and accompanying him, Csaba Vass, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP stayed in Denmark. They consulted with President of the Social Democrats of Denmark (SFD) Svend Aukend. They met President of the Socialist People’s Party of Denmark Gert Petersen. They were received by Prime Minister Poul Schlüter.

Hungary – November 2-4, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of state visited the United States of America. He consulted with public personalities. He was received by President of the United States, George H. W. Bush.

Hungary / U.S. – November 2, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers suspends the financial provisions for tourists for the period between November 2 and November 20, later introducing a new, much stricter system of providing hard currency for private people. As a result of the increasing deficit of the convertible balance of payments, the hard currency quota for private people will be 300 USD for four years at the maximum. Following the announcement of the new regulation, thousands of Hungarians leave for Austria to do their shopping.

The minimum amount of unemployment benefit is set at 80% of the current minimum wage.

US president George Bush receives Minister of State Imre Pozsgay in Washington, DC. After the news of raising custom duties, more than 300 cars are imported by Hungarian tourists from Western countries every month.

The company council of the Zsolnay Porcelain Factory in Pécs decides to sell the firm to the American Riverside Company (spontaneous privatization).

Hungary – November 3, 1989 (PTH)

The congress of the Social Democratic Party of Hungary pronounces the 1948 party congress null and void, which had declared the merger of the social democratic party and the communist party. HSP calls the society to celebrate the anniversary of the great October Socialist Revolution.

Romania – November 3, 1989 (KCA)

Chairing a meeting of the RCP's executive political committee, Ceaucescu calls for ‘resolute steps’ to be taken to overcome production ‘shortfalls’ during 1989.

The meeting removes Ion Stoian and Ion Sirbu from the RCP central committee secretariat, appointing in their place Ilie Matei and Iosif Szasz. Stoian is promoted to Foreign Affairs Minister, replacing Ioan Totu, who is appointed chairman of a new State Committee for Planning and Techno-Material Supply. This replaces two existing ministries: the State Planning Committee and the Ministry of Technico-Material Supply and Control of Fixed Asset Management.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – November 3, 1989 (KCA)

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet adopts controversial new laws regarding both Lithuanian citizenship and the holding of referendums in the republic. The citizenship law stipulates that all current Soviet residents of Lithuania, irrespective of ethnic origin, are eligible to apply for Lithuanian citizenship (a prerequisite of future voting and property rights). Future immigrants, however, must wait ten years or marry a Lithuanian citizen in order to become eligible.

Bulgaria, November 3, 1989 (MHC)

The Bulgarian environmental group Eco-Glasnost holds pro-democracy demonstrations in Sofia. An estimated 9,000 protesters attend the event.

Poland / Czechoslovakia - November 3-5, 1989 (DRC)

The Polish-Czechoslovak Solidarity association holds an international conference on the arts and culture of central Europe in Wroclaw, Poland – in conjunction with a festival where Czechoslovaks active in independent arts and cultural activity at home and exile are meeting. About 4,000 people from Czechoslovakia attend the festival, despite the Czechoslovak authorities having taken measures at the Polish-Czechoslovak frontier to make it difficult or impossible for them to attend.

Hungary – November 3-4, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet took a two- day friendly visit to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. His negotiation partner was President of the Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Ante Markovic. He held talks with Prime Minister of the Serbian Republic Desimir Yertic. He was received by President of the State Chairmanship of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Yanez Drovnssek. During the visit, the signing of the trade exchange protocol of 1989 also took place.

Hungary – November 3-4, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet – during his friendly work-visit in Yugoslavia – was received by the President of the Chairmanship of the Central Committee of the Leage of Communists of Yugoslavia Milan Pancevski.

Hungary / Yugoslavia - November 3-4, 1989 (JIS)

Hungarian Prime Minister visits Yugoslavia and meets with Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Marković. Internal developments within both countries are discussed. Both sides are satisfied with the level of bilateral cooperation.

GDR – November 4, 1989 (MHC)

A crowd of 500,000 East Germans demonstrates for democracy in East Berlin.

Hungary – November 4, 1989 (PTH)

Miklós Németh hopes HSP and HDF will have the chance to form a coalition government after the elections, supported by a few other parties. The Hungarian October Party and the Hungarian Radical party demonstrate in front of the soviet embassy in Budapest, demanding the immediate withdrawal of soviet troops. The Council of Ministers distances itself from the demonstration.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan – November 4-7, 1989 (KCA)

The constituent congress of the Armenian National Movement is held in Yerevan, embracing informal political groups in Soviet Armenia and Nagorny Karabakh and representatives of the Armenian diaspora elsewhere in the Soviet Union and abroad. The 900 congressional delegates adopt a program that includes calls for ‘genuine sovereignty’ for the Armenian people, economic independence, reconstruction of the regions devastated by the December 1988 earthquake and for a

political solution to be found to the Nagorny Karabakh dispute. Prior to the congress, the Movement is granted official registration by the Armenian Supreme Soviet, while speakers at the congress included Armenian Communist Party first secretary Suren Arutyunyan.

Hungary – November 4-7, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of State visited the Repulic of Finland. His negotiation partner was Minister of Trade and Industry Ilkka Suominen. He consulted Foreign Minister Pertti Paasio. He was received by President of the Parliament Kalevi Sorsa, Prime Minister Harri Holkeri, and Head of State Mauno Koivisto.

Philippines, November 4-11, 1989 (MNC)

Head of State of the Philippines, Corazón Aquino, had an official visit to Canada and the United States.

Hungary – November 5, 1989 (PTH)

At the congress of the Social Democratic Party of Hungary – the party states that it intends to join the Socialist Internationale as the sole representative of social democratic values. Anna Petrasovics is elected chairman of the party.

At the meeting of the Independent Smallholders' Party for canvassing new members, they resolve that there must be a way for Hungarian peasants to regain the land they had owned in 1947.

GDR – November 5, 1989 (MHC)

East German Premier Willi Stoph and his cabinet resign.

Hungary – November 6, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of state of the Republic of Korea Pak Chol On negotiated about the preparation of the Presidential visit in Budapest, with Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of State Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn, and Minister of Justice Kálmán Kulcsár. He was received by Mátyás Szűrös, President of the Parliament, temporary President of the Republic.

European Economic Community, November 6, 27, 1989 (MNC)

Effective January 1, 1990, the ECC declared the dissolution of the quantitative import limit on Hungarian and Polish goods, and accepted the extension of the General tariff preference on the two countries; on November 27, it accepted the extension of the tariff preferences to agricultural and textile goods.

Hungary – November 6-8, 1989 (MNC)

Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, and accompanying him, Csaba Vass, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP visited the Kingdom of Sweden. He consulted with President of the Social Democratic Worker's Party of Sweden, and Prime Minister of Sweden Ingvar Carlsson, and member of the EC of the party Anna-Great Leijon, and leader of the event-committee of the party Enn Kokk. He met Foreign Minister Sten Andersson. He also met the President of the Left Party-Communists of Sweden Lars Werner. He gave a lecture to the heads of the 20 large corporations interested in the Hungarian-Swedish relations, and in the Institute of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm. He gave an interview to the Swedish Television.

Hungary – November 6, 1989 (PTH)

The foreign ministers of member states of EEC decide that, as of January, the Common Market will open up its borders for Hungarian and Polish goods.

Hungary / Czechoslovakia - November 6, 1989 (DRC)

Hungarian television broadcasts a short interview with Václav Havel.

Bulgaria - November 6, 1989 (OSA)

Three PCUS responsables visit Sofia.

Bulgaria - November 7, 1989 (OSA)

British journalist who photographed policemen beating members of an environmental group is assaulted by the police.

Hungary – November 7, 1989 (PTH)

The temporary national body of deputies of HSWP hold a political meeting on the occasion of the anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The meeting is attended by János Berecz, Károly Grósz, Frigyes puja and Róbert Ribánszky.

The Chairman of the Suzuki Car Company conducts negotiations in Hungary over establishing an assembly plant in the country.

Soviet Union / Moldova – November 7-12, 1989 (KCA)

The military and civilian parade on November 7, which is traditionally central to official celebrations of Revolution Day in major Soviet cities, is disrupted in the Moldavian capital, Kishinev, by supporters of the Moldavian Popular Front. The arrest and detention of approximately 20 of those responsible for this disruption leads to far more serious disturbances on November 10, when up to 6,000 people, some armed with stones and petrol bombs, stage an assault on the Interior Ministry headquarters in Kishinev to demand the detainees’ release.

The November 10 rioting prompts the dispatch to Kishinev on November 11-12 of around 2,000 USSR Interior Ministry troops and the declaration of an effective state of emergency, including a ban on public meetings (see November 16, 1989).

GDR – November 7, 1989 (MHC)

Hans Modrow is named the new Premier of East Germany.

GDR – November 7, 1989 (OSA)

In the wake of a mass exodus to the West via Czechoslovakia, the new government’s spokesman, Wolfgang Meyer, is forced to appeal to the population “to ensure that all functions vital to people, to society and to the economy are maintained.” He listed “the smooth functioning of industry, construction, transportation, agriculture and the food economy, trade and health and social services” as vital to the country’s well-being.

Hungary / Romania – November 8, 1989 (PTH)

AFD, FYD the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Social Democratic Party of Hungary jointly turn to the people of Hungary – asking them to participate in the referendum called for November 26 and vote yes for all the four questions.

The foreign ministry protests at the Romanian embassy to Budapest in the case of László Tőkés,

minister in Temesvár.

Poland – November 8, 1989 (KCA / HDP)

The national council of the Patriotic Front for National Rebirth (PRON) (the umbrella organization set up in 1982-83 to unite the ZSL, the Democratic Party (SD) and various approved social organizations behind the PUWP) decides to dissolve itself and advises the rest of the movement to follow suit.

Hungary – November 8, 1989 (MNC)

The Republic of Hungary protested against the atrocities against the Pastor of Timisoara (Temesvár) László Tőkés at the government of the Romanian Socialist Republic by diplomatic means.

Hungary – November 8-9, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party, and Prime Minister of Spain Felipe Gonzalez had an official visit to the Republic of Hungary. His negotiation partner was Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet. He held talks with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, Imre Pozsgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of State, Kálmán Kulcsár, Minister of Justice, President of the Patriotic People’s Front, and other public figures.

Hungary – November 8-10, 1989 (MNC)

Political director of the Foreign Ministry of Switzerland (Deputy Minister rank) Jenő Staehelin consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Germany – November 9, 1989 (MNC)

The German Democratic Republic opened its border points towards the Federal Republic of Germany.

GDR – November 9, 1989 (OSA)

Egon Krenz, General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, opens the East German borders to the West, allowing for unlimited travel for East Germans; he embarks on major political reforms recognizing the opposition and promising free and democratic elections.

Federal Republic of Germany, November 9-14, 1989 (MNC)

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Helmut Kohl had an official visit to Poland for the first time since 1979. (He interrupted his visit on the 10th of November for the news of the opening of the borders of the German Democratic Republic.)

Czechoslovakia – November 9, 1989 (VVR)

The Socialist Youth Union criticizes the policies of the Communist Party.

East Germany - November 9, 1989 (LBC)

The GDR’s frontiers are opened, including the points of crossing through the Berlin Wall. Earlier, Bush had declared that he does not “share the concern that some European countries have about a reunified Germany because I think Germany’s commitment to, and recognition of, the importance of” the NATO alliance is ‘unshakable’.”

Hungary – November 9, 1989 (PTH)

Gyula Horn says the aim of the government is to speed up the withdrawal of soviet troops significantly next year, so all soviet units still in the country should leave as soon as possible. The presidency of the National Council of Trade Unions resigns as a body. A national coordination committee is set up, headed by Sándor Nagy, whose task is to pave the way for the establishment of the national trade union association.

Poland / West Germany – November 9, 1989 (KCA)

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl travels to Poland for a six-day visit with the objective of reconciliation between the two countries. However, the visit is overshadowed by events in East Germany, and Chancellor Kohl interrupts it on November 10-11 to spend 27 hours in Bonn, the West German capital, and in West Berlin.

Soviet Union – November 9, 1989 (MHC)

The CPSU Politburo debates a proposal to grant Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Byelorussia the right of economic “self accountability”.

Poland / FRG – November 9, 1989 (MHC)

Helmut Kohl visits Warsaw. Wałęsa expresses concern that the opening of the wall between East and West Germany will divert FRG resources to the GDR and away from Poland.

GDR – November 9, 1989 (MHC)

The GDR announces the opening of all borders, including the Berlin Wall. Berliners from both sides cross through the eight checkpoints and began to chip away at the concrete and steel barrier.

Bulgaria, November 9, 1989 (MHC)

Zhivkov, General Secretary of the Bulgarian Party since 1954 and President since 1971, is deposed and replaced by Peter Mladenov.

Bulgaria – November 10, 1989 (KCA)

Todor Zhivkov, Eastern Europe's longest-serving leader, is ousted as General Secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) in a “palace coup”. His successor and the principal engineer of his removal is Petur Mladenov, the Foreign Minister. Sweeping personnel changes in the Bulgarian administration follow, as well as statements by the country's new leadership committing the BCP to political reforms.

Zhivkov's departure is officially at his own request, but it is subsequently revealed that Mladenov had tabled a vote on Zhivkov's removal at a meeting of the politburo on November 9. The ten voting members were apparently divided, six to four, in favour of Mladenov. Mladenov's decision to move against Zhivkov is allegedly prompted by his outrage at the renewal, in May 1989 (see May 20-23, 1989), of the repressions against Bulgaria's ethnic Turks.

In his first speech as party leader, Mladenov tells the central committee that Bulgaria's restructuring efforts so far have failed and that the economic situation had actually got worse. He stresses the urgency of “turning Bulgaria into a modern democratic and law-governed state”, noting that this will mean “constructing political relations on a new foundation by giving real power to the people”.

Hungary – November 10, 1989 (PTH)

Miklós Németh announces that the Council of Ministers have started negotiations with various parties concerning the date of the general elections.
The Supreme Prosecution orders investigations for a retrial in the case of József Mindszenty and his associates because it finds the charges of the people's court of 1949 unlawful.

Hungary – November 11-12, 1989 (MNC)

During the Deputy Prime Ministerial and Foreign Ministerial meeting of Hungary – Yugoslavia, Italy and Austria, in Budapest the following people participated in the meeting:

- From Yugoslavia, Deputy Prime Minister Aleksander Mitrovi, and Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar;
- From Italy, Deputy Prime Minister Claudio Martelli, and Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis;
- From the Republic of Austria, federal chancellor Josef Riegler, and federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Alois Mock;
- From Hungary – Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy, and member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn.

Czechoslovakia – November 11, 1989 (VVR)

The opposition group Democratic Initiative is founded.

Czechoslovakia - November 11, 1989 (OSA)

The leaders of the Democratic Initiative, an independent political group that is founded two years ago, send a letter to the Czechoslovak Minister of Internal Affairs asking for official registration as a political party. This application is accompanied by two documents: a statement of ideological and organizational principles and a program.

Hungary / Italy / Austria / Yugoslavia – November 11, 1989 (PTH)

The Italian, the Yugoslav, the Austrian and the Hungarian foreign ministers negotiate in Budapest over the possibility of more intensive cooperation in the Alps-Adriatic-Danube region.

Bulgaria - November 11, 1989 (OSA)

A celebration rally initiated after Zhivkov resignation.

Czechoslovakia - November 11-17, 1989 (DRC)

In the north Bohemian towns of Teplice, Litvínov, Most and Děčín, spontaneous demonstrations take place, at which people protest against the catastrophic state of the natural environment in this region. Local Communist functionaries promise demonstrators that they will commence public and open discussions on these problems.

Italy / Czechoslovakia - November 12, 1989 (DRC)

In Rome, the Blessed Agnes of Bohemia is canonized, with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia –the Czechoslovak state and several thousand Czechs and Slovaks from home and abroad in attendance.

U.S. / Soviet Union - November 12, 1989 (LBC)

Baker declares that the US has no wish to exploit East European events for unilateral advantage. Two days earlier, Bush had said in Dallas that he does not “want to exacerbate tension” in Eastern Europe. In a telegram to Bush, Gorbachev assures the President that Moscow supports changes in

East Berlin and the rest of the East European states.

Hungary – November 12, 1989 (PTH)

The Independent Smallholders' Party holds a canvassing meeting in Kunszentmiklós, where chairman Vince Vörös points out that land must be returned to its former owners, in accordance with the ownership structure that existed in 1947.

Soviet Union / Georgia – November 12, 1989 (KCA)

The first secretary of the Georgian CP committee in South Ossetia, Anatoly Chekhoyev, is dismissed for having failed to act ‘firmly and consistently’ to tackle the region's mounting ethnic tensions.

Soviet Union / Estonia – November 12, 1989 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet effectively annuls the vote taken in July 1940 by its predecessor, the Duma (parliament) of independent Estonia, to join the Soviet Union. It overwhelmingly approves a report by a commission of the Estonian Academy of Sciences that concludes the vote had been illegal, having been secured by Soviet military coercion, and that Estonia's incorporation into the Soviet Union in August 1940 amounted to forced annexation.

Soviet Union / Moldova – November 12 and 14, 1989 (KCA)

The first congress of the Gagauz-Khalky People's Movement (officially registered at the beginning of November and representing the 140,000-strong Turkic-speaking Gagauz minority in Moldavia) demands the creation of a Gagauz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. The Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet on November 14 rejects the demand, but nevertheless forms a special commission to formulate proposals for Gagauz autonomy.

The Moldavian Popular Front alleges that promoting Gagauz autonomy is a crude attempt, encouraged by the authorities in Moscow, to ‘divide and rule’ Moldavia.

Czechoslovakia – December 12, 1988 (VVR)

A meeting of independent groups, approved by the Communist Party, is held in Prague.

Czechoslovakia - November 12, 1989 (OSA)

In a letter of November 22, addressed to President George Bush and to Gorbachev, the Civic Forum says that one of the demands heard at the rallies in Prague is the departure of discredited politicians from the political scene.

GDR – November 13, 1989 (MHC)

The East German Parliament confirms that Modrow will replace Stoph as Premier.

Bulgaria – November 13, 1989 (KCA)

A meeting of the BCP politburo promises to reinstate everyone dismissed from their jobs or expelled from the party for activities connected with unofficial or dissident groups.

Hungary – November 13, 1989 (PTH)

The country is in a critical financial situation, as said by the secretary of the National Planning Office.

Minister of Culture Ferenc Glatz announces that the ministry is planning to reintroduce the four-year elementary and eight-year secondary schooling system in the 90s, and tuition will be gradually

introduced.
HDF calls for the boycott of the November 26 referendum.

Soviet Union / Latvia / Lithuania – November 13, 1989 (KCA)

The authorities in Latvia and Lithuania put forward, at the beginning of November, proposals that their conscripted citizens should be required to serve as part of autonomous republican defence forces only in their home republics. This idea is flatly rejected by Gen. Dmitry Yazov, the Soviet Defence Minister, in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Pravda on November 13, in which he also condemns ‘anti-army manifestations’ by nationalist extremists.

U.S. / Poland - November 13-20, 1989 (LBC)

Walesa visits the US. He aims to garner economic support for Poland. Walesa delivers a speech in the Congress urging a new Marshall Plan for Eastern Europe.

Bulgaria - November 13, 1989 (OSA)

Faculty vote names professor Nikola Popov as the new rector, after he had been dismissed from the economics department the previous year, after declaring in a speech that the communist party was “in a state of crisis.”

Bulgaria - November 14, 1989 (OSA)

The head of Bulgaria’s Official Human Rights Committee complains about the government’s foot-dragging on legal reforms and reluctance of the state-run press to publish his appeals.

Bulgaria - November 14, 1989 (OSA)

Bulgaria’s communist leadership offers to reinstate 11 former party members who had been purged for anti-government criticism.

Soviet Union / France - November 14, 1989 (LBC)

Gorbachev meets the French foreign minister in Moscow. Gorbachev warns him against the West taking advantage of East European changes. “It is useless to shout about victory in the Cold War, about the disintegration of one or the other social system. Everything should be analysed realistically and interests should be balanced. When [Western] accusations of ‘exporting revolution’ are replaced with calls for ‘exporting capitalism’ we have at hand a dangerous manifestation of old thinking.”

Hungary – November 14-16, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister took part in the summit of the Ministerial committee of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. He presented the admission request of the Republic of Hungary to the Council of Europe.

People’s Republic of China, November 14-21, 1989 (MNC)

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng had an official visit to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Hungary – November 14-19, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy took part in the Ministerial conference of the GATT in

Tokyo.

Bulgaria – November 14, 1989 (KCA)

Mladenov meets with prominent intellectuals, including members of the dissident Club for Support of Glasnost and Perestroika. He reportedly offers support for the right to organize independent political associations and to freedom of the press.

U.S. / Hungary – November 15, 1989 (LBC)

The US General Electric Co. announces that it is purchasing 50% of the world-renowned Hungarian Tungsram plant (which makes lighting equipment). Tungsram had been owned by GE prior to its nationalization in 1948.

Hungary – November 15, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

In another example of its moves towards a Western-style democratic political system, Hungary becomes the first Eastern European country to apply for full membership of the Council of Europe, whose existing members are 23 West European democracies.

The Hungarian Foreign Minister, Gyula Horn, who personally presents the formal application at the Council's headquarters in Strasbourg, expresses the hope that membership will improve the prospects for Hungary's eventual accession to the European Communities.

AFD, FYD the Independent Smallholders' Party and the Social Democratic Party of Hungary sharply criticize HDF for calling for the boycott of the November 26 referendum.

Hungary / Romania – November 15, 1989 (ADC)

In Budapest, the Federation of Young Democrats (FIDESZ) organizes a demonstration in front of the Romanian embassy to protest the situation in Romania. 400 people participate and many of them start a hunger strike.

GDR – November 15, 1989 (OSA)

300 East Germans in Potsdam gathered outside the Romanian Embassy, hold up banners demanding freedom for the Romanian people and read out a resolution denouncing human rights abuses and Bucharest's draconian economic austerity regime. Organizers oppose sending a delegation from the East German Communist Party to the Romanian Communist Party's 40th Congress.

Czechoslovakia / Romania – November 16, 1989 (ADC)

Members of the Radical European Party protest against the human rights violations in front of the Romanian embassy in Prague.

Hungary – November 16-17, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of the Republic of France and President -in-Office of the Ministerial Council of the European Communities, Roland Dumas, and President of the Commission of the European Communities Jacques Delors visited Hungary. Their negotiation partner was Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister.

Bulgaria – November 16, 1989 (KCA)

As a consequence of the developments of November 10, 1989 (see November 10, 1989), a central committee plenum approves the removal of Grisha Filipov (Prime Minister in 1981- 86), Milko Balev (party second-in-command to Zhivkov) and Lt.-Gen. Dimitur Stoyanov as full members of

the politburo; Stoyan Ovcharov and Petko Danchev (a relative of Zhivkov) are removed as candidate members; Filipov, Balev, Stoyanov, Emil Khristov and Vasil Tsanov Vasiliev are removed as members of the secretariat. Yordan Yotov loses his seat in the secretariat (where he had been responsible for ideology), but remains in the politburo.

Hungary – November 16, 1989 (PTH)

At the meeting of the European Council, Foreign Minister Gyula Horn hands over the application of Hungary for admission into the organization.

Soviet Union / Moldova – November 16, 1989 (KCA)

The dismissal of Semyon Grossu as First Secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party (CP) by a plenum of the party central committee appears to be a direct consequence of the rioting in the Moldavian capital (see November 7-12, 1989). He is replaced by Petr Luchinsky, also an ethnic Moldavian, who had served as party leader in Kishinev before being posted in 1986 to serve as second secretary of the Tadjik CP. Apparently as a gesture of goodwill towards the Popular Front, one of Luchinsky's first acts as party leader is publicly to place ultimate responsibility for the deteriorating political situation within Moldavia on hardliners in the party leadership (November 19). He authorizes the withdrawal of the USSR Interior Ministry Troops (November 20).

Bulgaria – November 16-17, 1989 (KCA)

At both the central committee plenum and the National Assembly session on the following day, former general secretary Zhivkov (see November 10, 1989) is accused of ruling the party and the country by decree, ignoring responsible leadership bodies, nepotism and maintaining an extravagant personal lifestyle. On November 17, over 100,000 people take part in an officially sponsored rally outside the National Assembly in support of political reforms.

Bulgaria - November 16, 1989 (OSA)

Andrei Lukanov is promoted to the politburo.

Bulgaria - November 16, 1989 (OSA)

After a 10-hour Central Committee meeting, many important political charges that had been working with Zhivkov were destituted.

Bulgaria - November 17, 1989 (OSA)

A rally is organized by the political and public forces committees with the fatherland front.

Yugoslavia - November 17, 1989 (RWE)

A fire in coal mine in Aleksinac, Serbia, claimed the lives of 99 miners. Only around 20 miners on the morning shift managed to escape the fire, which broke out in shaft nearly 800 meters below ground.

GDR – November 17, 1989 (MHC)

Modrow disbands the East German Ministry for State Security.

Bulgaria – November 17, 1989 (MHC)

Mladenov is elected president of Bulgaria.

Bulgaria – November 17, 1989 (KCA)

Following the National Assembly session, Mladenov expresses his support for free elections while Lukanov, now widely regarded as second in seniority in the leadership, says that the Assembly elections scheduled for 1991 will be “free elections in conditions of pluralism”. On the same day, the National Assembly abolishes Article 273 of the Penal Code, which had dealt with “disseminating rumours which could harm the work of the government”. There is an amnesty for all persons thereby convicted.

Czechoslovakia – November 17, 1989 (VVR)

The Police intervene in demonstrations in Prague. The Velvet Revolution begins.

Hungary – November 17, 1989 (PTH)

Gyula Horn states that there is a real danger in Hungary that extremist left and right-wing forces may exploit the social tension deriving from economic transformation for their own good. The restoration of the original riverbed begins in the Danube bend.

Soviet Union / Georgia – November 17, 1989 (KCA)

Otar Cherkeziya is removed as President of the Georgian Supreme Soviet Presidium and replaced by Givi Gumbaridze, First Secretary of the Georgian Communist Party (CP). It is unclear whether Cherkeziya's removal is connected with the continuing tensions in Georgia in the aftermath of the April 9 massacre of peaceful demonstrators by troops in the capital, Tbilisi.

Soviet Union / Turkmenistan – November 17, 1989 (KCA)

The Turkmen Supreme Soviet dismisses Annamurad Khodzhamuradov from the post of Chairman of the Turkmen Council of Ministers (Prime Minister). This follows an official reprimand handed down to Khodzhamuradov by the Turkmen CP for his failure to combat corruption.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan – November 17 and 22, 1989 (KCA)

On November 17, more than 300,000 people take part in a rally organized by the Front in the centre of Baku, which is reportedly attended by representatives of Tatar and Uzbek nationalist groups and features speakers openly expressing pan-Turkic sentiments. On November 22, the Azerbaijan Popular Front has organized a further one-day general strike in Baku to demand the return of Nagorny Karabakh to Azerbaijani control.

Romania / Italy / Hungary / Palestine – November 17-18, 1989 (KCA)

The Hungarian Foreign Affairs Minister, Gyula Horn, announces on November 18 that the Hungarian Socialist Party will not be sending a delegation to the RCP congress (see November 20-24, 1989), a decision also taken by the Italian Communist Party. The only significant international political figure to attend the congress is the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Yasser Arafat.

The Hungarian press reports that Romania has begun to impose restrictions at its border with Hungary from November 17 and that up to 40% of those wishing to enter Romania (including Hungarians, Poles, Soviets and Czechoslovaks) have been turned back.

Soviet Union / Georgia – November 17-19, 1989 (KCA)

A session of the Georgian Supreme Soviet debates and approves amendments to the Georgian Constitution which declare sovereign Georgian ownership of all natural resources within its territorial boundaries, reaffirm the republic's right to secede from the Soviet Union and assert the right of the Georgian Supreme Soviet to ‘suspend Soviet laws and regulatory enactments’ if it is considered that they ‘run contrary to Georgian interests’.

Czechoslovakia – November 17-23, 1989 (KCA)

An officially approved student march is organized by the official Socialist Youth Union in Prague to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the murder of a Prague student by Nazi German occupiers, which had led to a brief student uprising (November 17). The march, involving over 30,000 people, turns into a demonstration against communist rule. They stage a sit-in, ignoring warnings to disperse, until police set upon them with batons and dogs. 143 people are detained and 17 people are taken to hospital, some of them seriously injured.

Within a week, an upsurge in mass street protests leads to the resignation of Milos Jakes, General Secretary of the Communist Party (CPCz), and a majority of the party leadership. Leaders who remain in their posts, notably Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec, enter into discussions with the protesters and promise democracy.

Czechoslovakia - November 17, 1989 (DRC)

In the afternoon, a demonstration with the permission of the authorities is held in Prague to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of the Czechoslovak student Jan Opletal, a victim of Nazi persecution during the German occupation of Bohemia and Moravia. About 25,000 people meet at the Albertov street campus of the university and make clear their dissatisfaction with the current regime and their desire for freedom and democracy.

Shortly after the official part of the demonstration within the walls at Vyšehrad, a procession spontaneously forms and heads back towards Wenceslas Square in the centre of town. Other people join the procession and their numbers grow to about 50,000. At Národní třída, a police cordon blocks the procession. Many of the demonstrators flee before the crowd is hemmed in, and others are allowed to leave. Then the police move in, and using large batons, severely beat many of the 2,000 or so peaceful demonstrators.

Czechoslovakia - November 18, 1989 (DRC)

In Prague, post-secondary school students, actors, and other people active in the arts agree this afternoon on a week-long strike of protest and propose a general strike to take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, 27th of November. Over the course of the day, other theatres outside Prague (including ones in Slovakia) join them, cancel all performances for the week, and make their theatres available for public meetings.

Soviet Union / Latvia – November 18, 1989 (KCA)

More than 500,000 people gather on the streets of Riga (the Latvian capital) to take part in the first officially sanctioned celebrations of the anniversary of Latvia's foundation in 1918 as an independent republic since 1939. The Latvian Supreme Soviet on November 10 had declared Independence Day a public holiday.

Bulgaria - November 18, 1989 (OSA)

Thousands of citizens fill the square in front St. Aleksandur Nevski Memorial church and the surrounding streets.

Bulgaria - November 18, 1989 (OSA)

Mladenov said that he supports free elections and an independent parliament.

Bulgaria - November 19, 1989 (OSA)

Bulgarians gather in parks to discuss political ideas, including the creation of opposition parties to challenge the ruling communist regime.

Czechoslovakia – November 19, 1989 (KCA / VVR)

Around 300 leading opposition activists meet in Prague to form the Civic Forum, encompassing 12 opposition groups including the Charter 77 human rights movement. At a press conference on the following day, the playwright Vaclav Havel, the country's best known opposition figure, says that the Civic Forum's objectives include the unconditional resignation of Milos Jakes (General-Secretary of the Communist Party) and other senior politicians who had colluded with the Warsaw Pact invaders in crushing the “Prague Spring” reforms of 1968, a commission to investigate the police actions of November 17 and punishment of those responsible for the violence and the immediate release of all prisoners of conscience.

Hungary – November 19, 1989 (PTH)

Hungary receives prompt short-term aid of 1 billion USD from the Common Market.

Czechoslovakia - November 19, 1989 (OSA)

The Socialist Youth Union, which has only very rarely shown signs of independence from the CPCS, makes a declaration to sponsor the demonstration of November 17. The declaration is read out at a protest gathering in Wenceslas Square on November 19.

Czechoslovakia - November 19, 1989 (OSA)

Representatives of People’s Party and of the Socialist Party, including the later’s Central Secretary, Jan Skoda, hold a meeting at which a new reform group, the Civil Forum, is set up.

Czechoslovakia - November 19, 1989 (MHC / OSA)

On November 19, amid the country’s growing political crisis, democratic forces in Czechoslovakia in the Prague theatre Činoherní klub, ally to create two major opposition groups, the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence. The Civic Forum is predominantly active in the Czech Republic and the Public Against Violence operates in Slovakia. Both groups have formulated political programs, which are likely to become the joint focus of future talks between the authorities and opposition forces.

In its statement, the Civic Forum supports the appeal for a two-hour general strike, which had been called by the students and actors for Monday, November 27, 1989, and demands the resignation of the eight main representatives of the state leadership, the release of political prisoners and the setting up of a parliamentary commission to investigate the police action at last Friday's student demonstration. The 18 activists who form the first Coordinating Committee of the Civic Forum sign the statement. In Bratislava, at a public gathering of artists’ unions, cultural and arts institutions, and post- secondary schools, the Public Against Violence movement is established.

Poland / United States – November 19, 1989 (HDP)

Lech Wałęsa visits the United States and asks for more aid for Poland.

Czechoslovakia - November 20, 1989 (DRC)

In Prague, more than 100,000 people spontaneously gather on Wenceslas Square to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with the regime. At the same time, large demonstrations take place in Brno, Ostrava and Bratislava.

Hungary – November 20, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet took a four-hour work-visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. His host was Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The meeting took place in the private residence of Chancellor Kohl.

Czechoslovakia / Chile - November 20, 1989 (MNC)

Czechoslovakia and Chile renewed their diplomatic relations, previously cut in 1973, on the Consul General level.

GDR – November 20, 1989 (OSA)

East German Head of State and Party Secretary General Egon Krenz indefinitely postpones a visit to Czechoslovakia. Krenz had been invited by the Czechoslovak Communist Party and President Gustav Husak.

South Korea, November 20-21, 1989 (MNC)

Head of State of South Korea, Ro Te Vu had an official visit, to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hungary – November 20-21, 1989 (MNC)

Interior Minister István Horváth visited the Republic of Austria. His negotiation partner was Federal Interior Minister Franz Löschnak.

Hungary – November 20-22, 1989 (MNC)

Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense had an official friendly visit to Czechoslovakia. He negotiated with Minister of Defense Miloslav Vacek.

Austria-Soviet Union, November 20-23, 1989 (MNC)

Soviet-Austrian military negotiations took place on the defense Ministerial level in Austria, this was the first time a Soviet Minister of Defense – D. Yazov –had an official visit to Austria.

Czechoslovakia –November 20, 1989 (MHC)

Mass demonstrations take place in Prague’s Wenceslas Square.

Czechoslovakia – November 20, 1989 (KCA)

The demonstrators in Wenceslas Square number over 200,000, the protest spreads to other cities, including the Slovak capital, Bratislava, and strikes stop work in most universities and theatres (see November 17-23, 1989).

Hungary – November 20, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers gives up the right to control and supervise the Hungarian Radio and

Television; a committee of 15 members is commissioned to perform the task.

Romania – November 20, 1989 (ADC / CEC)

At the XVI Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, delegates break out in frantic applause when Ceaușescu states that he does not condone any “change of socialism.”

Romania – November 20-24, 1989 (KCA / HOR / ADC /CEC)

The 14th congress of the Romanian Communist Party (RCP), attended by 3,308 RCP delegates, is held in Bucharest's Republic Palace Hall. West European and the United States communist parties boycott the congress. It is attended by generally low-level delegations from other East European communist parties. President Nicolae Ceausescu is unanimously re-elected (November 24) as RCP general secretary for a further five-year term. Ceausescu states that he does not permit the „change of socialism” and that Romania will not initiate a reform program. In elections (November 24) to the executive political committee at the RCP congress, Ilie Matei, Ion Radu, Ioan Totu (all formerly candidate members) and Barbu Petrescu become full members. In subsequent elections to the EPC's permanent bureau, Ion Dinca becomes the only new member.

Czechoslovakia – November 21, 1989 (KCA / MCH)

Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec opens discussions with leading dissidents, including the Civic Forum. The official communiqué issued after the meeting insists that protests should be halted and reiterates that socialism is “not up for discussion”. However, opposition participants in the meeting disclose that Adamec is willing to entertain a redefinition of the “leading role” of the CPCz, including a reshuffle of the federal government to bring in non-communists and an open dialogue with the opposition. He also rules out any future police violence against demonstrators and promises an official investigation into the police action on November 17 (the latter is set in train on the same day by the State Prosecutor) (see November 17-23, 1989). He indicates his interest in a dialogue with the opposition, including Charter 77, mentions the possibility of a coalition government, and even proposes a discussion on a different concept of the “leading role of the CPCS.” Adamec reportedly also guarantees that police would not again be used against demonstrators.

Czechoslovakia – November 21, 1989 (RFE)

A crowd of 50-80,000 gathers in Brno to protest against the regime.

Cardinal Tomasek issues an appeal to Czechoslovak Catholics: ‘in this fateful hour of history, none of you may stand aside’. He urges them to continue to pursue non-violent protests against the regime.

Secretary-General of the CPCS Milos Jakes appears on television insisting a ‘quiet social atmosphere is needed for the success of perestroika’, and blames dissidents for trying to ‘manipulate... the youth and misuse their sincere interest’.

Hungary – November 21, 1989 (PTH)

Miklós németh announces in Parliament that the gross foreign debt of Hungary will amount to 20 billion USD by the end of the year; the net debt will be 14 billion. At the same time, he acknowledges that the leadership of the country published false data on the outstanding total debt in the mid-80s, fearing that it would discourage foreign creditors. The Prime Minister also announces that Lajos Czinege is resigning from his military rank of army general. László Maróthy, minister of environmental protection and management of water supplies, also resigns. The presidency of HDF

urges the parliament to dissolve itself on December 11 and to proclaim presidential elections and general elections for March 11 of the next year.
The American General Electric Concern buys up 50% of the shares of Tunsgam.

Soviet Union – November 21, 1989 (KCA)

Lev Zaikov, a member of the Communist Party (CPSU) central committee politburo and secretariat who was widely identified with the party's conservative wing, is relieved of the post of First Secretary of the Moscow city CPSU committee at a plenum of the committee.

President Mikhail Gorbachev attends the plenum. Yury Prokofiev, until then the second secretary, is elected as Zaikov's successor. Zaikov is named First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Defence Council, in which capacity he will be directly subordinate to Gorbachev. On the same day, a plenum of the CPSU committee in Leningrad city removes Anatoly Gerasimov as its First Secretary. The post is given to Boris Gidasov, who is to combine it with his existing post as First Secretary of the CPSU committee in Leningrad oblast (region).

Czechoslovakia - November 21-27, 1989 (DRC)

Every afternoon in Prague, Bratislava and other towns throughout the country, hundreds of thousands of people take part in peaceful demonstrations organized by Civic Forum in Bohemia and Moravia and by the Public Against Violence in Slovakia. On Saturday, November 25th, a pilgrimage takes place in honour of St Agnes of Bohemia, who had been canonized in Rome just over two weeks ago. About one million people gather at Letenské Plan Park and parade grounds in Prague for a demonstration organized by the Civic Forum. After the general strike on Monday, 27th November, the Civic Forum announces the end of the large daily popular demonstrations and the beginning of a dialogue with the state authorities.

Bulgaria - November 21, 1989 (OSA)

Peter Mladenov meet with the party activists of the BCP Sofia Branch. Top party and state functionaries meet with workers in Sofia. The Central Committee of the Dimitrov Young Communist League holds a plenum and notes that the organization should become voluntary and independent.

Bulgaria - November 22 - 29, 1989 (OSA)

Rabotnichesko Delo reports about the strikes first time in its history.

Bulgaria - November 22, 1989 (OSA)

The Politburo meet and set the net Central Committee Plenum for December 11.

Bulgaria - November 22, 1989 (OSA)

A group of media people tries to create an Independent Journalists Association, but they fail and decide to carry on the discussion.

Hungary – November 22, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament votes down the three-year economic policy program of the Council of Ministers.

Czechoslovakia – November 22, 1989 (RFE)

Around 250,000 participate in a demonstration at Wenceslas Square. An activist reads out a statement from former-president Alexander Dubcek calling on the government to resign.

Czechoslovakia - November 22, 1989 (OSA)

In Bratislava, tens of thousands of protesters call for free elections, and Dubcek himself briefly addresses the crowd after attending party of the trail of the prominent Slovak dissident Jan Carnogursky.

Czechoslovakia / USSR - November 22, 1989 (OSA)

Milos Jakes discusses the crisis with Soviet Ambassador Viktor Lomakin. They brief each other on the situation in Czechoslovakia and the USSR and reportedly discuss cooperation.

Czechoslovakia - November 22, 1989 (DRC)

The CPCz leadership calls back units of the People’s Militia, which have, by order of the General Secretary, been sent into Prague during the past few days from various parts of the country.

U.S. - November 22, 1989 (LBC)

Bush’s Thanksgiving speech says, “America believes that liberty is an idea whose time had come in Eastern Europe. Change is coming swiftly. And with this change the dramatic vindication of free Europe’s economic and political institutions...I want President Gorbachev to know exactly where the United States stands. And let me be clear: America stands with freedom and democracy. We are not meeting [at Malta] to determine the future of Europe. After all the peoples of Europe are determining their own future...We will miss no opportunity to expand freedom and enhance the peace. But to those who question our prudent pace, they must understand that a time of historic change is no time for recklessness.”

Hungary – November 22-24, 1989 (MNC)

President of the Republic of Korea Ro Te Vu (and his wife) had an official visit to Hungary. He negotiated with temporary President of the Republic, Mátyás Szűrös. He met the acting President of the Parliament István Fodor, Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet, and Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party. He also met Presidential candidates Imre Pozsgay, Kálmán Kulcsár and Lajos Für, and the leaders of newly created opposition parties, public and business personalities. During the visit, agreements on public aviation and tourism were signed.

Hungary – November 23-24, 1989 (MNC)

Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans- Dietrich Genscher had an official visit to the Republic of Hungary. His negotiation partner was Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister. He held talks with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, and other public and business personalities. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet.

United Kingdom – November 23-24, 1989 (MNC)

British Prime Minister M. Thatcher consulted with President G. Bush in Camp David, in the United States about the situation in Eastern Europe and the preparations of the Soviet-American summit.

Poland – November 23-27, 1989 (MNC)

Polish Prime Minister T. Mazowieczki had an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Hungary – November 23-December 3, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Trade Tamás Beck visited the United States of America. He held talks in business circles.

Czechoslovakia - November 23, 1989 (DRC)

In the General Staff of the Czechoslovak People’s Army, preparations are completed for a military strike against demonstrators and centres of opposition. At a session of the CPCz CC the next day, Czechoslovak Minister of National Defence Milán Václavík offers to provide Special Forces. The CPCz leadership, however, decides not to use the armed forces and chose to solve the situation by ‘political means’.

Czechoslovakia – November 23, 1989 (KCA)

The authorities, apparently attempting to reassert control after a week of paralysis in the face of the mounting protests, reportedly order the CPCz-controlled People's Militia to “restore order” in Prague, but the militia refuses to do so.

Hungary – November 23, 1989 (PTH)

The Parliament elects five members of the Constitutional Court and the Vice President of the Public Board of Audit.

The chairmanship of HSP decides that the resort places, the Political College and the Institute for Social Studies managed by the party will be handed over to the state, and that furthermore, the Next 2000 limited liability company will be closed down.

Bulgaria - November 23, 1989 (OSA)

The Council of Ministers starts a two-day meeting with scientists and business executives for discussing the country’s economic problems.

Bulgaria - November 23 - 30, 1989 (OSA)

The Church and Society Sub-Unit of the World Council of Churches (WCC) hold its annual session in Sofia.

Bulgaria - November 24, 1989 (OSA)

Senior party and state officials meet members of the public representatives of various official organizations in 13 towns in the country.

Bulgaria - November 24, 1989 (OSA)

Information on radiation levels in the country appear for the first time in the *Otechestven Front* daily.

Bulgaria - November 24, 1989 (OSA)

The EcoGlasnost association adopts a new statute and admitted thousands of new members.

Czechoslovakia – November 24, 1989 (KCA/ LBC)

The CPCz central committee, in a closed emergency session, unanimously accepts the resignation of Milos Jakes from the position of General Secretary, electing in his place Karel Urbanek. Major changes are made in the central committee presidium (equivalent to a politburo) and secretariat. Miroslav Stepan (First Party Secretary in Prague) is held responsible for the police action of

November 17 (see November 17-23, 1989) and removed from the presidium. On the same day, Alexander Dubcek (the Communist Party leader responsible for the 1968 “Prague Spring” reforms), makes a triumphant appearance at a rally of over 250,000 in Wenceslas Square. Dubcek told the rally: “We have been too long in the darkness. Once already we have been in the light, and we want it again.”

Czechoslovakia - November 24, 1989 (OSA)

After 21 years of banishment, Alexander Dubcek, the architect of the Prague Spring in 1968, makes his most triumphant comeback on November 24. On November 23, Dubcek appealed to the Czech and Slovak nations to keep on fighting. He condemned the “legacy of normalization” and demanded the ouster of all party leaders connected with that period.

Czechoslovakia - November 24, 1989 (OSA)

The CPCS CC organizes a plenum to respond to the quickly accelerating crisis in the country by making personnel changes in the top leadership of the party. The CPCS CC elects a new Secretary-Genera, Karel Urbanek, and sets the new 9-member Presidium, compared with the previous Presidium’s thirteen.

Czechoslovakia - November 24, 1989 (OSA)

Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec resigned as a member of the CPCS CC Presidium on November 24 in protest at the slow implementation of reform.

Romania – November 24, 1989 (MHC)

Ceausescu is elected to another term as General Secretary. He calls the party “the vital centre” of Romanian life.

Czechoslovakia - November 24, 1989 (DRC)

At an extraordinary session of the CPCz CC, General Secretary Miloš Jakeš and the whole CPCz Presidium resign. Karel Urbánek, until now Head of Party Work in the Czech Republic, is elected General Secretary. The composition of the newly elected Presidium and Secretariat precipitates a storm of resistance among the public, because compromised people, including Miroslav Štěpán, Miroslav Zavadil and Jozef Lenárt, remain in positions of power.

Czechoslovakia – November 24, 1989 (MHC)

Jakeš and the rest of the Politburo and Secretariat resign their party posts. Karel Urbánek is named the new CPCz leader.

Hungary – November 24, 1989 (PTH)

After supplies run short in the counties by the borders, after a large volume of tourist shoppers, the Council of Ministers extends the range of food products that may not be exported. The Socialist Internationale restores full membership of the Social Democratic Party of Hungary.

Bulgaria – November 25, 1989 (KCA)

It is announced that the Interior Ministry will abolish its “sixth department”, a secret police unit responsible for surveillance and harassment of dissidents.

Bulgaria - November 25, 1989 (OSA)

Mladenov meets the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to discuss the reorganization of this vital branch of the Government. The list of changes included a cutdown in the stuff and a simplification of structures.

Bulgaria - November 25, 1989 (OSA)

Delegates of nearly 150 work-forces from around the country attend a heated Plenum of the Central Council of the Trade Unions. The resolution adopted by the Plenum declares the Trade Unions independence and offers the government to dialogue on a number of problems such as including minimum wages, the high labor turnover, the bad working conditions and the alarming state of health care, education and recreation.

Hungary – November 25-26, 1989 (PTH)

Miklós Németh states at the meeting of the Association of Writers, "the government renounces its right to control literature and the arts for good."

Czechoslovakia – November 25, 1989 (RFE)

Representing the Civic Forum on national television, Vaclav Havel demands free elections.

Soviet Union / Georgia – November 25-27, 1989 (KCA)

A wave of popular protests since September by ethnic Ossetes in the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast (region) in north Georgia gives rise to violent clashes in the regional capital, Tskhinvali, between Ossete residents and several thousand Georgians, most of whom have arrived from outside the region to stage protests against the Ossetes’ autonomy demands. Around 20 people are reported injured, and on November 27, it is reported that almost 1,000

Soviet Interior Ministry troops have sealed off Tskhinvali to protect the inhabitants.

Czechoslovakia – November 26, 1989 (KCA)

At an emergency central committee session, Karel Urbanek (new secretary-general) announces that an extraordinary party congress will be held in late January 1990 and endorses the start of talks with the Civic Forum. Further radical personnel changes are made.

On the same day, Ladislav Adamec joins Havel and Dubcek in addressing a crowd of nearly 500,000 people at the Letna Field, on outskirts of Prague. He says that he would present the protesters’ demands to the central committee, but is jeered at when he counsels against a two- hour general strike planned for the following day. Earlier this day, Adamec had led the party and government delegation in the first session of negotiations with representatives of the Civic Forum. Subsequently, he had announced the release of all political prisoners.

Czechoslovakia - November 26, 1989 (OSA)

The second extraordinary session of the CPCS CC adopts a number of personnel changes, reshaping the party’s top leadership for the second time in 48 hours. Seven new full Presidium members are elected on November 26.

Hungary – November 26, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

A referendum (“referendum of four yes votes”) narrowly approves the petition of the SzDSz and FIDESZ opposition groups (see October 16, 1989), who advocate postponing the election of a president until after legislative elections will have been held and having the parliament then choose

the president. The turnout of voters is 58%, and just over 50% of voters choose ‘yes’ to electing the president of the country after the general elections.

Czechoslovakia - November 26, 1989 (DRC)

Political talks begin between a delegation of the Civic Forum led by Václav Havel and Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec. At the talks, the Civic Forum insists on the basic demands of 19 November (see above) and invites Adamec to attend the afternoon demonstration at Letenské Plan. Adamec’s speech is interrupted by whistling demonstrators and chants of disapproval.

Hungary – November 26-28, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan Ovada Hiroshi consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

Hungary – November 26-29, 1989 (MNC)

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs László Kovács – for the preparation of a Prime Ministerial visit – consulted in the Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom.

Hungary – November 27-29, 1989 (MNC)

During the summit of the Committee of Ministers of Defense of the members of the Warsaw Pact, Minister of Defense of Poland Florian Siwicki and Minister of Defense of the Soviet Union Dmitri Yazov stayed in Budapest. The other member countries represented themselves on a deputy Ministerial level. Hungary was represented by Colonel General Ferenc Kárpáti, Minister of Defense.

Czechoslovakia - November 27, 1989 (DRC)

A general strike takes place throughout the country from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., with the participation of the vast majority of Czechoslovaks either individually or as part of a larger body, such as an enterprise or organization. The Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence indicate that the general strike is tantamount to an ‘informal referendum on the Communist Party’s leading role in society’. The slogans most heard during the general strike are ‘The end of one-party rule!’ and ‘Free elections!’

Hungary – November 27, 1989 (PTH)

The Chairman of the Hungarian television network resigns. Gyula Bereczky justifies his decision by suggesting that the committee commissioned to supervise the radio and the television has turned the editorial offices into an arena of merciless political fights, thereby making real professional work impossible.

217 employees responsible for making radio programs sign the letter addressed to the Prime Minister, in which they call for the dissolution of the supervisory committee of the radio and the television, because in their view, by setting up the committee, the authenticity and objectivity of information has been jeopardized.

Czechoslovakia – November 27, 1989

The Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party declares itself independent from the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – November 27, 1989 (KCA)

The three Baltic republics achieve a further measure of economic independence when the USSR

Supreme Soviet grants the republics, from January 1, 1990, full control over land and other resources and autonomy in planning, regulations and in most financial operations. The authorities in Moscow will retain half the revenues generated by centrally administered industrial enterprises in the republics, as well as ownership of ‘commodities of nationwide importance’, such as oil and gas pipelines. The necessary legislation is passed following three days of heated debate, by 296 votes to 67 with 37 abstentions.

Bulgaria - November 27, 1989 (OSA)

A Politburo session discusses the results of party meetings held at all levels in the past few days, as well as of public meetings in various towns and with different work forces.

Bulgaria - November 27, 1989 (OSA)

Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) functionaries meet with activists of the Sofia BZNS municipal organizations.

Bulgaria - November 28, 1989 (OSA)

A poll is conducted on 1,513 people from 127 work collectives. The result shows that there is only 32% of general trust in any political organizations.

Czechoslovakia – November 28, 1989 (KCA)

At another meeting with Civic Forum representatives, Ladislav Adamec announces an effective capitulation to the opposition's demands. He works to put forward, by December 3, proposals for the composition of a new government, including non-communists. It is also announced that the Civic Forum has been given official registration.

East Germany / West Germany - November 28, 1989 (EWR)

Helmut Kohl announces a ten-point program for FRG-GDR confederation. The program contains a plan of rearrangements for the coalition of both states.

Czechoslovakia – November 28, 1989 (MHC)

Adamec, now serving on a caretaker role after resigning on the 24th, pledges that the communists will give up their monopoly on power.

Hungary – November 28, 1989 (PTH)

The executive speaker of the House, AFD, The Hungarian People's Party and the Christian Democratic Party believe the most suitable date for general elections is March 18. The Social Democratic Party of Hungary considers this date premature.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – November 28, 1989 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet votes to end direct rule from Moscow over Nagorny Karabakh, the predominantly Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan. The authorities in the republic of Azerbaijan are to resume control of the disputed enclave and to take over the responsibility for resolving the conflict there between the Armenian and Azerbaijani populations. It is decided, with only four votes against and 20 abstentions, to dissolve the special administrative committee set up in January under Arkady Volsky, and to give the Azerbaijani authorities two months to pass new legislation guaranteeing ‘full and real autonomy’ to Nagorny Karabakh and establishing new government bodies for the enclave.

Czechoslovakia - November 28, 1989 (DRC)

In the second round of talks between Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec and the joint delegation of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence led by Václav Havel, the joint delegation increases its demands to the Communists, presenting five of them, as follows: the immediate resignation of the Federal Government and the creation of a temporary caretaker government of experts; the immediate dropping of three articles of the Constitution, namely those on the Communist Party's leading role in society and the political system of the National Front and on Marxism-Leninism as the state ideology; the resignation of Czechoslovak President Gustáv Husák by 10 December 1989; the release of political prisoners; the legalization of the Civic Forum, the assignment to it of buildings for its work, and space in the mass media. The Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence also state they will not take part in the formation of a new Government.

Federal Republic of Germany - November 28, 1989 (MNC)

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Helmut Kohl released his Ten-Point Plan for the German reunification.

Hungary – November 29-30, 1989 (MNC)

First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party Mieczysław Rakowski visited Hungary. He held talks with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party.

Middle East, November 29, 1989 (MNC)

The UN Security Council prolonged the Middle East mandate of the UN forces monitoring the army separation (UNDOF).

Soviet Union, November 29-December 1, 1989 (MNC)

M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Head of State of the Soviet Union had an official visit to Italy. In his speech there, he proposed to organize a second "Helsinki"-conference in 1990, as soon as the disarmament negotiations are successfully finished.

Hungary – November 29-30, 1989 (MNC)

Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg of the Federal Republic of Germany Lothar Späth visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet.

Czechoslovakia - November 29, 1989 (DRC)

The Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia votes to amend the Constitution by dropping both the articles on the Communist Party's leading role in society and in the National Front and the article on Marxism-Leninism as the state ideology. A parliamentary commission is established to oversee the investigation into the events of 17 November 1989. It is to include representatives of the striking students. Leader of the Federal Assembly Alois Indra resigns his post.

Czechoslovakia – November 29, 1989 (KCA / VVR)

Constitutional changes, abolishing the articles in the constitution guaranteeing the CPCz its "leading role" in the state and society, and the article basing the education system on Marxist-

Leninist ideology, are put forward by Ladislav Adamec (Prime Minister) and approved by the Federal Assembly. Adamec, in a television address, expresses his support for the opposition demand for a reassessment of the official interpretations of the Warsaw Pact invasion of 1968 and the crushing of the “Prague Spring.”
The Czechoslovak Parliament removes the clause in the Constitution concerning the “leading role” of the Communist Party.

Hungary – November 29, 1989 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh assures the defence ministers of the Warsaw Treaty Organization in Budapest that Hungary will continue to be a member of the Eastern European military alliance, but he also stresses that the alliance needs to be modernized.
HSP urges the Parliament to ensure that the president of the country be elected directly by the people.

Bulgaria - November 29, 1989 (OSA)

The police beat up about 35 leaders of Econ-Glasnost.

Czechoslovakia (Slovakia) - November 30, 1989 (DRC)

The Slovak National Council accepts the resignation of its Chairman, Viliam Šalgovič, and in a secret vote elects Communist Party member Rudolf Schuster to take his place.

Hungary – November 30, 1989 (PTH)

The International Monetary Fund accuses Hungary of delaying the taking of the necessary unpopular measures. The Opposition Roundtable hold a meeting. In a joint communiqué, 14 parties and organizations demand that negotiations on the modification of the interstate contract on the Bős-Nagymaros dam should be conducted only by the newly elected government. In the meantime, any construction or restoration work must be suspended. They also demand that the present Parliament should dissolve itself and the parliamentary elections should be proclaimed for next March.

Soviet Union – November 30, 1989 (MHC)

Speaking in Rome, Gorbachev calls for “a common European home”.

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Slovenia – late November-December 1989 (KCA)

Relations between the Yugoslav republics of Serbia and Slovenia deteriorate considerably during late November and December, leading to reciprocal economic sanctions, and eventually to the effective closure of the frontier between the two republics. The immediate cause of the split is the decision of the Slovene authorities on November 29, to ban a rally by Serbs that had been scheduled to take place in the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, on December 1.

The rally had been called by Serb nationalist groups to protest what they had described as the harassment of Serbs by ethnic Albanians in the autonomous province of Kosovo, and it had been expected to attract at least 40,000 Serbs from outside Slovenia. It is believed that the organizers choose Slovenia as the venue, rather than any other republic, to protest also against constitutional changes implemented by Slovenia in September 1989 which had included an effective right of secession from the Yugoslav Federation (see September 27, 1989).

The Slovene authorities prevent the rally by banning the holding of all demonstrations and

empowering the police to turn back demonstrators at the republic's borders. Serbian-Slovene relations deteriorate further in the following days as the Belgrade Chamber of Commerce responds to a call by the Serbian Socialist Alliance by ordering some 130 major enterprises to end all economic ties with Slovenia. Slovenia, for its part, reacts on December 3 by sealing off its frontier with Serbia. The Slovenian executive council (government) declares on December 7 that Serbia's economic blockade “aimed above all at damaging the functioning of the overall Yugoslav market”.

Yugoslavia's Collective State Presidency says on December 2 that the actions of both sides amount to a “violation of Yugoslavia's constitutional order”. By mid-December, a clear division of national opinion is emerging, with the Croatian Republican Assembly (parliament) voting on December 4 to back Slovenia's actions, whereas the Montenegrin League of Communists declares itself on December 11 to be in support of Serbia. On December 19, The Federal Assembly approves a constitutional change giving the central government extended powers in dealing with economically inspired unrest in the republics. The Assembly also repeals the “verbal offences” laws under which prosecutions could be brought for verbal criticisms of the communist regime in Yugoslavia.

December

Czechoslovakia – December 1, 1989 (RFE)

The Democratic Socialist Party declares its existence.

East Germany (GDR) – December 1, 1989 (KCA)

The *Volkskammer* (parliament) approves, with 420 votes to none, with five abstentions, the removal of the SED's constitutionally guaranteed leading role, amending Article 1 of the Constitution by deleting the words indicated here in square brackets: “The German Democratic Republic is a socialist state of workers and peasants [led by working class and its Marxist- Leninist party]. It is the political organization of the working people in town and country.”

On the same day, a committee established on November 22 to investigate abuses of office and corruption presents an interim report outlining key incidents under investigation. These include

(i) houses built at the expense of other housing projects and then rented or sold for nominal sums to children of former politburo members; (ii) various hunting lodges kept amongst others for the former head of state Erich Honecker and the former official FDGB trade union leader Harry Tisch; (iii) honorary membership of the state building commission, with pay and use of resources, held since 1978 by Honecker and Gunter Mittag (formerly responsible for economic affairs); (iv) personal privileges and access to Western luxuries allowed to SED leaders especially at the Wandlitz residential village north of Berlin; (v) illegal foreign currency transactions in particular by the SED Foreign Trade Commission.

GDR – December 1, 1989 (OSA)

The Socialist Unity Party joins in the parliament’s unanimous vote to abolish from the constitution the provision guaranteeing the leading role of the communist party in society. East Germany joins Poland and Hungary in condemning the 1968 Warsaw Pact Invasion of Czechoslovakia. Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennady Gerasimov says his country and Czechoslovakia should jointly reassess the Invasion.

Hungary – December 1989 (PTH)

The last issue of *Irodalmi Újság* (Literary Journal) appears in Paris.

Hungary – December 1, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

Plans are announced to cut compulsory military service from 18 months to 12 months and to reduce armed forces personnel to 73,000 by 1991. The Council of Ministers' position is that Hungary should maintain its military defence within the Warsaw Treaty Organization, although in the long run, it would like to see a Europe without any military blocks.

The Council of Ministers confirms its decision on the establishment of the supervisory committee of the Hungarian Radio and Television and commissions Imre Pozsgay to start negotiations on setting up expert committees to ensure the proper operation of these institutions. Temporary accommodation is provided for the homeless in Budapest, whose situation is also discussed by the Council of Ministers.

Romania – December 1, 1989 (ADC)

Romanian Chief of Department of State Security General Iulian Vlad informs Nicolae Ceausescu that a meeting between the US and the Soviet President will change the international situation (see December 2-3, 1989).

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – December 1, 1989 (KCA)

In defiance of the ruling by the USSR Supreme Soviet ending direct rule over Nagorny Karabakh (see November 28, 1989), Armenia declares the enclave to be part of a “unified Armenian republic”.

Soviet Union / Vatican – December 1, 1989 (KCA)

President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union is received at the Vatican by Pope John Paul II, the Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. In speeches following a 75-minute private audience – the first between a Pope and a Soviet head of state – Gorbachev announces that a Soviet law guaranteeing freedom of conscience is in preparation. Additionally, the establishment official relations between the Soviet Union and the Holy See are agreed upon, and Gorbachev invites the Pope to visit the Soviet Union. The Pope states that the meeting has enabled the Church “to look with confidence to the future of the communities of believers in the Soviet Union”.

GDR – December 1, 1989 (MHC)

The East German Parliament abolishes the Communist Party’s special status.

Soviet Union-Vatican - December 1, 1989 (MNC)

M. S. Gorbachev visited the Vatican, where it was announced that soon, diplomatic relations would be set up between the Soviet Union and the Vatican.

Philippines, December 1, 1989 (MNC)

In the Philippines, the military uprising against the Augino-leadership was crushed by American forces.

USA / Soviet Union - December 2-3, 4, 5, 1989 (MNC)

A M. S. Gorbachev-G. Bush meeting was held in Malta (on the Soviet ship called *Gorky*, because of a storm), where they agreed in the following: a next summit will be in Washington, in the June of

1990, until then, the disarmament negotiations will be sped up (G. Bush notified his NATO-allies on December 4 in Brussels, M. S. Gorbachev notified the leaders of the members of the Warsaw Pact on December 3-5 in Moscow about the results of the summit).

Soviet Union / U.S. – December 2-3, 1989 (MHC)

The Malta summit takes place. Gorbachev tries to get Bush to commit to his idea of the gradual transformation of Eastern Europe with the close cooperation of the superpowers to prevent instability. The U.S. president states that he will not “jump on the wall”, but pressures the Soviet leader on regional conflicts, especially in Central America. Gorbachev suggests recognizing the primacy of common democratic values, rather than Western ideals, in the final communiqué.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – December 2, 1989 (KCA)

In Azerbaijan, the declaration to make the region of Nagorny Karabakh a part of a unified Armenian republic (December 1, 1989) prompts a protest rally of up to 500,000 people in the capital, Baku, and a week-long resumption of the rail blockade which had crippled Armenia's economy during September.

Bulgaria - December 2, 1989 (OSA)

About 150 ethnic Turks demonstrate in Sofia’s South Park putting their faith in Mladenov’s promised reforms.

Czechoslovakia - December 2, 1989 (OSA)

Reacting to the political crisis in Czechoslovakia as well as to the crisis in its own ranks, the CPCS publishes an Action Program which calls for reassessing the Prague Spring, introducing political pluralism and radically democratizing the party.

Soviet Union / U.S. – December 2-3, 1989 (KCA / PER / LBC)

President George Bush of the United States and President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union hold their first summit meeting. The meetings take place aboard U.S. and Soviet warships, and on a Soviet liner anchored off the Maltese port of Marsaxlokk. No concrete agreements are reached, but the leaders conduct eight hours of talks on disarmament issues, developments in Eastern Europe, US-Soviet economic relations and regional problems. On December 3, at the first joint press conference ever held by a Soviet and U.S. leader, Gorbachev formally accepts Bush's invitation to Washington for a full-scale US-Soviet summit in the second half of June 1990, by which time it is hoped that a strategic arms treaty can be made ready for signature.

East Germany – December 2-8, 1989 (KCA)

An arrest warrant is issued on December 2 for Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, former Secretary of State at the Foreign Trade Ministry. He is suspected of involvement in illegal arms dealing, after armaments shipments are found at a warehouse of the IMES GmbH Company in Rostock. Schalck-Golodkowski gives himself up in West Berlin on December 7. On December 3, Harry Mittag, Gunter Tisch and a regional party leader are arrested for abuse of office.

Criminal proceedings are opened on December 8.

On the same day, former Prime Minister Willi Stoph, former head of the secret police Gen. Erich Mielke and two other former politburo members are arrested. Hermann Axen, formerly responsible for the economy, is also wanted on corruption charges.

Because of his health, Honecker is not detained, but put under house arrest on December 5. He is later released on January 4. His immunity from prosecution had been lifted on November 30, when criminal proceedings are opened for alleged misuse of office.

Czechoslovakia – December 3, 1989 (VVR)

The new Government with Ladislav Adamec as Prime Minister is appointed.

GDR – December 3, 1989 (OSA)

Pressure from the party’s rank and file and leading reformists force the resignation of the entire SED Politburo and Central Committee (CC).

East Germany - December 3, 1989 (LBC)

The resignation of East German leader Egon Krenz is announced. (January 30; March 18, 1990.)

East Germany – December 3, 1989 (KCA)

The entire politburo and central committee resigns at an SED central committee session intended to prepare for the emergency party congress scheduled for December 15-17. A 25-member working committee is set up to prepare for the congress.

On the same day, up to 2,000,000 join hands in a human chain across East Germany. Besides calling for democratic renewal, demonstrators increasingly demand the punishment of those guilty of corruption.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – December 3, 1989 (KCA)

The Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet Presidium declares that the “observation commission” due to take over supervision of troops in Nagorny Karabakh constitutes an infringement of Azerbaijani sovereignty (see December 1, 1989 and following).

GDR – December 3, 1989 (MHC)

The East German politburo resigns, including Krenz and Modrow. Krenz is reinstated as General Secretary, Modrow as Premier; Honecker and Stoph are expelled from the Party.

Czechoslovakia –December 3, 1989 (MHC)

The Civic Forum rejects Adamec’s proposal for a cabinet headed by him and including non-communists.

Czechoslovakia - December 3, 1989 (DRC)

The reshuffled Federal Government is presented to the public. Its composition (15 Communists, 1 Socialist, 1 member of the People’s Party, and 3 men without party affiliation) immediately brings about a wave of resistance and disapproval. The public begins to organize meetings and a protest petition. The Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence also reject the reshuffled government and call upon Premier Ladislav Adamec to rearrange it.

Hungary – December 4-5, 1989 (MNC)

In Moscow, Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party, and Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet took part in the conference of the leaders of the members of the Warsaw Pact, where they were notified about the results of the Soviet-

American summit in Malta by M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, President of the Chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union. Taking advantage of the opportunity, Miklós Németh engaged in a bilateral talk regarding the economy with N. I. Rizhkov, member of the PC of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Prime Minister of the Soviet Union.

Warsaw Pact – December 4, 1989 (MNC)

The leaders of the members of the Warsaw Pact (staying in Moscow for notification at the moment) condemned the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact in 1968 in a joint statement; at the same time, the government of the Soviet Union distanced itself from the misguided actions of the government at that time in a separate statement.

Hungary – December 4-5, 1989 (MNC)

Imre Pozgay, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Minister of state visited France. He was received by President of the French National Assembly Roland Fabius, and Prime Minister Roland Dumas. He took part in the public debate-programme called”Le Heure de vérité” of the television (Antenna-2).

Yugoslavia / West Germany - December 4-6, 1989 (JIS)

President of the Presidency Janez Drnovšek and Foreign Minister Budimir Lončar visit West Germany, where they meet with the FRG President Richard von Weizsäcker, Prime Minister Helmut Kohl, Honorary Chairman of the SPD Willy Brandt, and other party leaders. Drnovšek informs the German counterparts on the ongoing political and economic reforms, which are, according to him, supposed to help the country overcome internal crisis and international conflicts. They also discuss the situation in the Eastern Europe, and especially in the GDR. The German side expresses their support for Yugoslavia’s approach with the EC, especially in the field of economic cooperation.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia - December 4, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec and General Secretary Karel Urbánek leave for Moscow to meet with representatives of the Warsaw Treaty countries. Gatherings of hundreds of thousands of people take place in Prague, Bratislava and other towns throughout the country, at which the public, led by the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence, protest the composition of the Federal Government. The representatives of the five participating states declare the intervention of August 1968 a contemptible interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. The Soviet Government calls this act unjustifiable and mistaken.

Soviet Union / Eastern Bloc – December 4, 1989 (MHC)

Gorbachev meets with leaders of the Warsaw Pact nations in Moscow. Bulgaria is represented by Mladenov; Czechoslovakia by Urbánek; East Germany by Krenz and Modrow; Hungary by Nyers; Poland by Mazowiecki; Romania by Ceausescu. They issue a condemnation of the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia –although Ceausescu refuses to sign on.

East Germany – December 4, 1989 (KCA)

150,000-200,000 protest in Leipzig, many carrying banners declaring “One nation, one fatherland, one state” or “The people say no to the SED”. Animosity flares between protesters chanting opposing slogans (in particular on the issue of reunification) and some demonstrators break through

a cordon of opposition and storm the Leipzig area Office for National Security to search files. While Modrow and Krenz are attending a Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow, the Modrow government announces the formation of a joint investigation committee into corruption, which is to include government officials and representatives of political parties and opposition groups.

Hungary – December 4, 1989 (PTH)

The secretary of the Ministry of Finance says in the presence of members of Parliament that the reserves of the country have reached a minimum, which will result in declaring insolvency of the country if Parliament does not pass an act on the budget. The International Monetary Fund expects Hungary to radically reduce its deficit the balance of trade in 1990, otherwise it will not grant further credits to the country.

NATO / Warsaw Treaty Organization – December 4, 1989 (KCA / PER / ADC)

The Malta summit (see December 2-3, 1989) is followed by NATO and Warsaw Pact summits, in Brussels and Moscow respectively. On his arrival in Brussels, Bush speaks of “the crossroads of history on the way to a Europe whole and free”. He has come to Brussels, he says, “to share with the allies the results of [their] vision of better times and peace”. An assembly of the leaders of the Warsaw Pact countries is held in Moscow. Nicolae Ceausescu states to Gorbachev that the Romanian Communist Party is isolated in the international world. The Polish situation had changed in the spring of 1989, and in Bulgaria and Hungary the Communist leaders have already been changed.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – December 4, 1989 (KCA)

The *Financial Times* commented that “Armenia is openly flouting the [USSR] Supreme Soviet's authority by declaring that Armenian laws apply in Nagorny Karabakh (see December 1, 1989), and that, in Armenian eyes, the legal government of the enclave is the national council”.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia – December 4-5, 1989 (KCA)

The Armenian Supreme Soviet building is besieged for more than ten hours by up to 40,000 demonstrators protesting the outcome of a parliamentary session on December 4. A majority of deputies have refused to back radical proposals, including abolition of the Communist Party's “leading role”, an end to Armenia's formal designation as a “Soviet Socialist” republic, a right of veto by the Armenian Supreme Soviet over legislation approved by the authorities in Moscow and refusal to accept appointments made in Moscow to republican posts.

East Germany – December 5, 1989 (KCA)

The Interior Ministry orders the transfer of arms and equipment from “combat groups” in factories to Interior Ministry establishments. On the same day, virtually the entire leadership of the National Security Office resigns.

Czechoslovakia – December 5, 1989 (RFE)

Communist Party publishes an ‘Action Programme’ in an attempt to quell opposition. The programme promises a reappraisal of the Prague Spring, the democratization of the party and the implementation of political pluralism.

The Czechoslovak Agricultural Party declares its existence.

Czechoslovakia - December 5, 1989 (DRC)

The Presidium of the Czech National Council names a new Government of the Czech Socialist Republic, composed of eight Communists, two Socialists, two members of the People’s Party, and five men without party affiliation. The Civic Forum accepts the challenge of the Chairman of the Czech National Council, František Pitra, and nominate several representatives without party affiliation.

The Civic Forum decides to designate six people to lead key ministries of the Federal Government. The Ministers from the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence are to monitor economic reform, legislation and the security apparatus, state finance, foreign policy, labour and social affairs and minority affairs. The Civic Forum presents its proposal for the composition of the Federal Government to Premier Ladislav Adamec in the third round of talks. Adamec rejects the proposal, saying that he intends to resign, and demands support from the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence in his candidacy for the office of Czechoslovak President.

Representatives of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence agree on the candidacy of Václav Havel for the office of Czechoslovak President and agree to inform the public about this at the appropriate moment.

Hungary – December 5-6, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of the State of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

European Economic Community, December 5, 1989 (MNC)

The representatives of the European Economic Cooperation and sixty-six developing countries renewed the North-South economic cooperation treaty by the name of the “IV. Lomé Convention”.

Hungary – December 5-7, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister took a two-day official visit to the Republic of Ireland. His negotiation partner was Foreign Minister Gerhard Collins.

Hungary – December 6, 1989 (MNC)

Temporary President of the republic Mátyás Szűrös sent a letter to Romanian party General Secretary and Head of State Nicolae Ceausescu, expressing his protest against the harassment of Calvinist pastor of Timisoara/Temesvár László Tőkés and his family. The Romanian Ambassador in Budapest distanced himself from receiving the letter meant to be delivered by diplomatic channels.

France / Soviet Union –December 6, 1989 (MNC)

French Head of State, F. Mitterrand, visited the Soviet Union in Kiev.

Hungary – December 6-11, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Trade Tamás Beck – leading an economic delegation – visited the State of Israel. He negotiated in business circles.

France / Yugoslavia - December 6-7, 1989 (JIS)

French Prime Minister Michel Rocard visits Yugoslavia. Ante Marković informs Rocard about the undergoing political and economic reforms. Political changes taking place in Eastern Europe are

being discussed, as well as the ways in which bilateral cooperation could be improved.

Czechoslovakia - December 6, 1989 (DRC)

After the fourth round of talks with Czechoslovak Premier Ladislav Adamec, the delegation of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence led by Václav Havel presents its proposals for the composition of the Federal Government. The delegation proposes Vladimír Dlouhý (of the CPCz) as Deputy Premier entrusted with economic affairs, Ján Čarnogurský as Deputy Premier entrusted with legislation and home affairs, Václav Klaus as Minister of Finance, Petr Miller as Minister of Work and Social Affairs and Gyula Popely as Minister of Minority Affairs. The delegation also states that it will not support Adamec's candidacy for the office of Czechoslovak President.

East Germany – December 6, 1989 (KCA)

Egon Krenz resigns as Chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the National Defence Council. He is replaced temporarily by Manfred Gerlach, chair of the liberal democratic LDPD. The emergency SED congress (see December 3, 1989) is brought forward to December 8-9.

Hungary – December 6, 1989 (PTH)

According to sources in Washington, it is quite possible that, as a result of serious disagreement, negotiations are suspended between experts of the International Monetary Fund and Hungary.

The European Community is willing to give a loan of 1 billion ECU to Hungary if it can reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund.

The Mosonmagyaróvár plant of the Rába Works holds an 8-hour strike, in order to put pressure on the leadership, to let them break away from the company and become independent.

Soviet Union / Turkmenistan – December 6, 1989 (KCA)

The Turkmen Supreme Soviet elects Khan Akhmedov to fill the post of Chairman of the Turkmen Council of Ministers (Prime Minister), vacant since the previous month.

GDR – December 7, 1989 (OSA)

Four major new independent groups emerge in the course of the emigration crisis: New Forum, Democratic Awakening, Democracy New and the Social Democratic Party. At the first session of their roundtable discussions, the participants agree that free elections should be held on May 16. They also propose to draft a new constitution and set up a working group for this purpose.

GDR / Romania – December 7, 1989 (OSA)

New Forum demands a clear distancing of the GDR government from the Romanian leadership and the taking back of all medals presented by the GDR to Ceausescu. It also calls for the immediate initiation of an aid program by all social forces of the GDR under the supervision of the International Red Cross.

East Germany – December 7, 1989 (KCA)

Round table talks are held. Participants agree that general elections shall be held on May 6, 1990 (subject to endorsement by the *Volkskammer*).

Hungary / Romania – December 7, 1989 (ADC)

President of Hungary Mátyás Szűrös writes a letter to Nicolae Ceausescu stating that the Calvinist

priest László Tókéš should be restored to his position in the church.

Hungary – December 7, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers obliges the organization responsible for reorganizing companies that have gone bankrupt to indicate within 48 hours if they are willing to give financial support to the bankrupt company.

Károly Grósz proposes at a meeting in Miskolc that the HSWP should organize its own guard of activists, because in his view, the dissolution of the Workers' Militia was a political mistake.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – December 7, 1989 (KCA)

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet decides by 243 votes to one, with 39 abstentions, to delete the clause in Article 6 of the Lithuanian Constitution guaranteeing the “leading role” of the Communist Party and to substitute a new clause enshrining a multiparty system in the republic. The entire Lithuanian CP leadership reportedly votes in favour.

GDR – December 7, 1989 (MHC)

The East German government announces multiparty elections scheduled for May 6, 1990.

Czechoslovakia – December 7, 1989 (MHC)

Jakeš is expelled from the CPCz.

Bulgaria – December 7-9, 1989 (MHC)

Independent opposition groups in Bulgaria merge to form the Union of Democratic Forces.

Czechoslovakia - December 7, 1989 (DRC)

Premier Adamec resigns. The Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence accepts his proposal that the current Deputy Premier, Marián Čalfa, a Slovak Communist, should become Czechoslovak Premier, providing he accepts the proposals of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence concerning the composition of the Czechoslovak Government and that the Czechoslovak President be a Czech without any party affiliation.

Czechoslovakia - December 8, 1989 (DRC)

In Prague, the first roundtable talks with the ‘decisive political forces’ are held to discuss the Federal Government. Representatives of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –the Socialist Youth Organization, the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, the Czechoslovak People’s Party, the Party of Slovak Rebirth and the Party of Freedom (also Slovak), agree on the composition of the new Federal Government. The delegation of the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence, led by Václav Havel, successfully push through all demands without meeting any resistance.

Czechoslovakia – December 8, 1989 (RFE)

The Slovak Party of Free Farmers declares its existence.

Bulgaria – December 8, 1989 (KCA)

The BCP central committee, at an unscheduled plenary meeting, relieves of their posts as full politburo members Pencho Kubadinski, Ivan Panev and Yordan Yotov, and as candidate politburo

members Grigor Stoichkov and Georgi Yordanov. All five of these members are widely regarded as hardliners associated with the ousted party General Secretary Todor Zhivkov. However, new General Secretary Mladenov appears to acknowledge their co-operation in Zhivkov's removal in November (see November 10, 1989) by publicly thanking them for their party work, and they all remain on the central committee.

Also removed as a full politburo and secretariat member is Nacho Papazov, whose appointment less than a month before had attracted strong criticism from opposition activists accusing him of having expelled pro-reformists from the party at former general-secretary Zhivkov's bidding.

The plenum restores full membership of the central committee, politburo and secretariat to Aleksandur Lilov, who had been dismissed in 1983 for criticizing Zhivkov. Belcho Belchev, the new Finance Minister, is elected as a full politburo member, Ivan Ivanov and Petko Danev Petkov as candidate politburo members and Dimo Uzunov as a member of the secretariat.

GDR – December 8 and 9, 1989 (OSA)

The first installment of a SED special party congress brings dramatic changes in the shape of a completely new party leadership under the 41-year-old reformist lawyer Gregor Gysi. The party is not given a new name, as had been expected. Instead, it is given the designation “Socialist Unity Party – Party of Democratic Socialism”, a compromise until a new name can be agreed upon at the next regular party congress in the spring. Similarly, the final formulation of a new program statutes is deferred until the next congress.

East Germany – December 8-9, 1989 (KCA)

On the first day of the emergency SED congress, 95.32% of the 2,753 delegates approve the election of Gregor Gysi, 41, as party leader, now to be known as chairman rather than Secretary General. Modrow, Berghofer and Wolfgang Pohl, first SED chair in Magdeburg, become deputy chairmen (with one such post left vacant) and six presidium members are elected.

Hungary – December 8-10, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

A three-day summit meeting is held by the Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the various political parties and conciliatory organizations. The majority of the participating 16 parties believe that after the Parliament dissolves itself, it should only legislate laws serving the stability of the country. The participants of the summit meeting agree that the parliamentary elections should take place in the second half of March. Prime Minister Miklós Nemeth agrees to support an opposition proposal for elections in March.

European Economic Community – December 8-9, 1989 (MNC)

The summit of the Heads of State and Prime Ministers of the EEC was held in Strasbourg, where a commitment was made about the support of the reforms in Eastern Europe and about the issue of the German reunification.

Czechoslovakia – December 9, 1989 (LBC)

A coalition government is formed in Czechoslovakia at the same time the country’s president, Gustav Husak, resigns. Czechoslovakia’s new prime minister is Marian Calfa. (December 29, 1989.)

Soviet Union / Ukraine – December 9, 1989 (KCA)

The CPSU central committee plenum elects Vladimir Ivashko, the recently appointed Ukrainian CP

first secretary, as a full member of the politburo. Ivan Frolov, the new editor of *Pravda*, is elected a central committee secretary. It is also decided at the plenum to set up a central committee “Russian buro”, in line with the decision taken at the September nationalities policy plenum, to enhance republican institutions in the Russian Federation. Gorbachev is named as chairman of the 16-member buro.

GDR – December 9, 1989 (MHC)

Gregor Gysi replaces Krenz as GDR’s Communist leader.

Czechoslovakia - December 9, 1989 (DRC)

Premier designate Marián Čalfa leads talks with representatives of the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the People’s Party, Rebirth—the Club for Socialist Restructuring, the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence. The outcome of the talks is an agreement on the formation of a Federal Government known as the ‘Government of National Understanding’. The 21 ministerial posts are now held as follows: The Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence send six representatives (Valtr Komárek [still a member of the Communist Party] and Ján Čarnogurský takes the posts of the two First Deputy Premiers; Vladimír Dlouhý [still a member of the Communist Party] becomes Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Committee; Jiří Dienstbier becomes Foreign Minister, Václav Klaus becomes Minister of Finance, and Petr Miller becomes Minister of Work and Social Affairs). The composition of the Federal Government is now as follows: the CPCz now hold nine ministerial posts and the premiership; the People’s Party and the Socialists each receive two ministerial posts; independents receive seven.

Bulgaria- December 9, 1989 (OSA)

2,000 people march through Sofia demanding greater democracy and the resignation of the parliament.

Bulgaria - December 10, 1989 (OSA)

There is a pro-democracy rally attended by 50,000 people and led by Petar Beron.

Czechoslovakia - December 10, 1989 (DRC)

At Prague Castle, Czechoslovak President Gustáv Husák names the new Government and resigns. At a demonstration on Wenceslas Square, the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence announces the candidacy of Václav Havel for the office of Czechoslovak President.

Czechoslovakia – December 10, 1989 (MHC)

Husák, leader of the CPCz from 1968 to December 1987 and president since 1975, resigns from the presidency.

Czechoslovakia – December 10, 1989 (RFE)

Following popular pressure, the government formed on December 3 collapses due to a continued preponderance of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia members. It is replaced by a government of non-communists.

The Green Party of Czechoslovakia declares its existence.

Bulgaria – December 10, 1989 (KCA)

The Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) (see December 7, 1989) is behind demonstrations called in in many Bulgarian towns to put pressure on the December 11-13 BCP plenum (see December 11-13, 1989). In Sofia, more than 50,000 people demonstrate to demand democratic reforms and talks between the authorities and the opposition. On both December 11 and 12, up to 15,000 people hold candlelight vigils outside the central committee building.

Czechoslovakia – December 10, 1989 (VVR)

The new Government with Marián Čalfa as Prime Minister is appointed.

Hungary – December 10, 1989 (PTH)

A sharp dispute develops between representatives of the Council of Ministers and the members of Parliament. The legislators do not agree on whether the 1990 budget plan should be discussed as early as December, while the Council of Ministers urges the debate forward, because the approval of the budget is a precondition of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund. The jury of the tenders nominates the Lágymányos area of Budapest as the site of the 1995 World Fair.

GDR – December 10, 1989 (OSA)

East German human rights protesters urge their new reformists leaders to condemn Romania’s harsh communist policies. The protesters urge Prime Minister Hans Modrow to speak out against Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romania – December 10-11, 1989 (ADC)

On the streets of Timisoara, an unidentified person spreads anti-Ceausescu manifestations. They use phrases like “down with the dictator” and “down with the Ceausescu regime”.

Bulgaria – December 11, 1989 (KCA)

The Sofia district court, reversing a decision taken in September, grants legal registration to Ecoglasnost (see December 25, 1989).

Hungary – December 11, 1989 (PTH)

As of January next year, the Democratic Youth Federation is to renounce all assets in favour of the government.

Czechoslovakia - December 11, 1989 (DRC)

Civic Forum representatives Václav Havel and Petr Pitharc appoint a sixteen-member ‘Council of the Coordinating Centre of the Civic Forum’ led by Pithart. The Civic Forum defines itself as a civil political movement that will go into the elections with its own list of candidates and enable non-party members to be involved in politics even after the elections. Additional candidates are announced for the office of Czechoslovak President: Alexander Dubček (supported by Slovak state institutions), Ladislav Adamec (supported by the Communist Party) and Čestmír Císař (supported by the Socialist Youth Organization).

During the second round of roundtable talks between the ‘decisive political forces’, the CPCz proposes the popular election of the president. The Civic Forum (led by Petr Pithart) rejects the proposal, and comes out in favour of the election of the president in accordance with the Constitution, that is to say, by the Federal Assembly and within two weeks. Representatives of the People’s Party, the Socialist Party, the Socialist Youth Organization are also taking part in the talks.

Czechoslovakia - December 11, 1989 (OSA)

In a letter to the Czech Primates Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, Czechoslovakia’s procommunist priests’ association Pacem in Terris announces that it has “terminated its activities” which is briefly reported on December 11. The disbanding of the procommunist priests’ association Pacem in Terris, gives the Catholic Church hope for better relations with the state, especially under the new government, in which Communists are in the minority.

Czechoslovakia – December 11, 1989 (RFE)

Pacem in Terris, the pro-regime element of the Czechoslovak Church, officially disbands.

Hungary – December 11-12, 1989 (MNC)

Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe O. T. Ndanga consulted in the Foreign Ministry in Budapest.

West Berlin – December 11, 1989 (MNC)

In West Berlin, the negotiation of the four great powers on an ambassadorial level was held about the future of the divided city and the German question for the first time since 1970.

Bulgaria – December 11-13, 1989 (KCA)

In a three-day central committee plenum, former General Secretary Petur Zhivkov (See November 10, 1989) is expelled from the BCP along with his son Vladimir Zhivkov and his former second-in-command Milko Balev. Petur Dyulgerov resigns as a candidate politburo member on December 13. He is dismissed as Chairman of the Central Council of Bulgarian Trade Unions on December 26.

East Germany – December 11, 1989 (KCA)

Per Soviet request, ambassadors of the four World War II Allies meet at the Allied Control Council building in West Berlin for the first time since the signing of the Four-Power Agreement in Berlin, 1971. The British, French and US ambassadors to West Germany and the Soviet ambassador to East Germany say afterwards that they had reached a “common understanding of the importance of stability... in and around Berlin”.

At the Monday demonstration in Leipzig, the 100,000-150,000 protesters are divided. A majority of banners favour reunification, but a large and vocal minority is shouting them down. A week later, a silent candlelight march is held to commemorate the victims of Stalinism, and is attended by over 100,000 people.

Bulgaria – December 11, 1989 (MHC)

Bulgarian leader Mladenov announces support for free elections and pledges to end the Party’s leading role in the society.

Bulgaria - December 11, 1989 (OSA)

Rabotnichesko Delo publishes a guest commentary in which the author called for an extraordinary congress to be held.

Bulgaria - December 11, 1989 (OSA)

Mladenov accedes to the leading demands of a pro-democracy rally attended the day before by 50,000 people.

Bulgaria - December 12, 1989 (OSA)

Mladenov promises a constitutional reform in which the BCP power is suppressed, free elections and to dialogue with the opposition in equal conditions.

Bulgaria - December 12, 1989 (OSA)

15,000 people fill Sofia's 9 September Square carrying tiny candles for democracy, while the Central Committee Plenum debates about the new leader.

Hungary – December 12-13, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of Foreign Trade of Italy Renato Ruggiero visited Hungary. His negotiation partner was Minister of Trade Tamás Beck.

Hungary – December 12-15, 1989 (MNC)

Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister took part in the consultation of the Foreign Ministers of 24 (European) countries in Brussels. On December 13, he made a speech on the summit.

Yugoslavia / US / UN / Canada -December 12-16, 1989 (JIS)

The Presidency member Vasil Tupurkovski attends the special meeting of the UN General Assembly devoted to apartheid. On his way back, he visits Canada on December 16.

Slovakia / Czechoslovakia - December 12, 1989 (DRC)

The Presidium of the Slovak National Council names the Government of the Slovak Socialist Republic at the proposal of Premier designate and current Slovak Minister of Justice Milán Čič (a CPCz member). The Slovak Government is composed of six Communists and nine individuals without party affiliation. The Public Against Violence sends only Deputy Premier Vladimír Ondruš as an observer, to provide information on the situation in the Slovak Government.

Soviet Union – December 12, 1989 (MHC)

The second session of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies convenes. Gorbachev refuses to discuss the elimination of Article VI stipulating the role of the Communist Party, and he hounds Sakharov from the podium.

Hungary – December 12, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

Defence Minister Lt.-Gen. Ferenc Kárpáti announces the withdrawal to the Soviet Union of the Soviet forces at the Debrecen Air Force base. However, on a suggestion by an assembly deputy that the government should seek the total withdrawal of Soviet troops by the end of 1991, he refers only to hopes for success in international negotiations, such as those in Vienna over conventional forces in Europe.

Soviet Union – December 12-24, 1989 (KCA)

The Congress of People's Deputies, the new-style Soviet parliament constituted in May, holds its second session. Proceedings on the opening day are overshadowed by efforts from radical deputies to place a debate on repealing Article 6 of the Soviet Constitution on the Congressional agenda. This article features a clause confirming the Communist Party (CPSU) as “the leading and guiding force in Soviet society and the nucleus of its political system”.

Hungary – December 13, 1989 (MNC)

Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet took a (one-day) work-visit to the United Kingdom. His negotiation partner was Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He consulted with Deputy Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe, Minister of Finance John Major, and President of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the House of Commons of the Parliament David Howell. He met the leader of the British Labour Party Neil Kinnock. He also met leading businessmen.

Hungary –Poland – December 13, 1989 (MNC)

In Brussels, the Foreign Ministers of the 24 Western countries supporting the economic reform of Hungary and Poland held a conference.

Czechoslovakia - December 13, 1989 (DRC)

Disputes in the Federal Assembly over the way in which the President is to be elected come to a head. The Communist deputies, who have an absolute majority in the Federal Assembly, present a Bill on a referendum, part of which includes the election of the Head of State by popular vote.

In the third session at the roundtable, the ‘decisive political forces’ do not reach an agreement on the means of electing the president. Participating in the talks are representatives of the CPCz, the Socialist Party, the People’s Party, the Socialist Youth Movement, the Civic Forum and the Public Against Violence.

Bulgaria – December 13, 1989 (KCA)

The BCP central committee announces that the party is renouncing its automatic right to the “leading role” in society, as enshrined in Article 1 of the Constitution, and proposes that the National Assembly delete the relevant clauses

Hungary – December 13, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn warns the Western countries of the risks involved in the painful transition to a free market economy. He tells a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Group of 24 in Brussels (gathered to review implementation of the resolution of the July Paris economic summit meeting on assistance to Eastern Europe) that without sustained aid, Hungary will need to apply such severe austerity measures that “a general wave of social unrest and resistance” could encourage “conservative and retrograde forces”.

Soviet Union – December 13, 1989 (KCA)

The main item of Congressional business is a report on the economy in the 13th five-year plan period (1991-95) delivered by Nikolai Ryzhkov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister). Ryzhkov announces that the government has ruled out the “extremist solutions” proposed by some economists to solve the country's severe economic problems: on the one hand, an immediate switch to a full market economy including reintroduction of private ownership, widespread denationalization and immediate monetary reform; on the other, the introduction of rationing, a six-day working week and an economic state of emergency in some regions. The government is to retain a large part of the “administrative-command” system of economic management, including central planning, while implementing a two-stage reform plan to provide economic recovery in 1990-92 and to create a “socialist market economy” and a 25% increase in national income by 1995.

Soviet Union – December 13, 1989 (KCA)

President Mikhail Gorbachev is described by the *Financial Times* as “blatantly using his position as president to dominate the discussion.” He drastically curtails contributions by other speakers, guillotining debate on the proposal after only three deputies have spoken. In his reply, Gorbachev reiterates his argument that the CPSU monopoly is necessary “at this historic phase.” He calls for the Congress to devote itself to urgent economic matters while putting aside the question of Article 6 until work is set in motion, at the October 1990 CPSU congress, on drafting a new Constitution. He warns radicals not to “transform this question into a matter of political profiteering”. He moves straight to a vote, deputies dividing 839 for and 1,138 against, with 56 abstentions.

NATO / NAC – December 13-15, 1989 (KCA)

A regular meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC—composed of NATO Foreign Ministers) in Brussels on December 14-15 is preceded on December 13 by a statement issued by NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner, in which he calls on NATO to become “increasingly an instrument that can shape political change”. A December 15 NAC communique resolves to strengthen NATO's political role to help design a “new architecture for Europe, whole and free”.

Bulgaria – December 13, 1989 (MHC)

Zhivkov is expelled from the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Poland – December 13, 1989 (MHC)

Twenty-Four Western nations announce a \$1 billion emergency fund for Poland’s economy.

Bulgaria - December 13, 1989 (OSA)

The Policy-Setting Central Committee approves to relinquish the party’s leading role.

Bulgaria - December 14, 1989 (OSA)

During a press conference, Alexander Lilov, explains his interest in improving the relations of Bulgaria and Turkey. He also talks about the ethnic problems with the Turkish minority, specifying that he wants to implement a political direction in which the country respects the human rights by the time it preserves its own interests.

Bulgaria - December 14, 1989 (OSA)

About 20,000 people jeers and whistles outside the parliament to press it to scrap a constitutional guarantee of the communists leading role.

Soviet – December 14, 1989 (MHC)

Sakharov dies.

Bulgaria, December 14, 1989 (MHC)

About 20,000 protesters surround the Bulgarian Parliament building and demand an end to the Communist Party’s political monopoly.

Bulgaria – December 14, 1989 (KCA)

The mandates for Todor and Vladimir Zhivkov to sit as National Assembly deputies are withdrawn (see November 10, 1989, December 11-13, 1989).

East Germany (GDR) – December 14, 1989 (KCA)

The government decides to disband the National Security Office. Instead, a smaller intelligence unit (*Nachrichtendienst*) and a body for protection of the Constitution are to be established.

Hungary – December 14, 1989 (PTH)

The planning and budgetary committee of the Parliament approves the plan for the 1990 budget but rejects the housing program, which envisages rising the interest rate housing loans and the rental rates for state-owned apartments.

Budapest and Vienna are granted the right to organize the 1995 World Fair.

Romania – December 14, 1989 (CEC)

The anti-Ceausescu manifestation shocks Romanian authorities.

Soviet Union – December 14, 1989 (KCA)

Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet Union's foremost human rights campaigner, dies after suffering a heart attack at his Moscow home. He is 68. Sakharov first rose to prominence as a physicist, one of the creators in 1947-53 of the first Soviet hydrogen bomb. In 1953, he became the youngest ever member of the USSR Academy of Sciences. During the late 1950s, however, Sakharov began to challenge the Soviet establishment by advocating a worldwide ban on nuclear testing, and by the early 1960s that challenge embraced general humanitarian, political and social issues. In 1968, in his *Thoughts on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom*, he warned of “mortal danger” inherent in the world's division into socialist and capitalist camps.

Poland – December 14, 17 and 29, 1989 (KCA)

A budget and economic reform and austerity package, approved by the Solidarity-led government on December 14, is presented to the *Sejm* (lower house of parliament), by Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz on December 17, and passed on December 29 after prolonged debate.

Balcerowicz describes the package as involving deep surgical cuts, which will begin to come into effect on January 1, 1990. It aims to balance the budget and to cut inflation drastically by April, the official inflation rate being currently 557% for the year to November 1989. It is intended to reduce wages by 25% in real terms, remove price controls and cut government subsidies, and restrict credit. One result of cutting state support for uneconomic enterprises will be a marked increase in unemployment. The government is budgeting for an additional 400,000 on the unemployment register. The objective is to lay the basis for creating a market economy. Key elements of this are expanding the private sector, liberalizing foreign exchange rules and creating internal convertibility of the currency.

Bulgaria – December 14-15, 1989 (KCA)

The National Assembly introduces bills to amend Article 1 of the Constitution (see December 13, 1989). Under the statutes governing constitutional amendments, however, a vote must be deferred until mid-January 1990.

Up to 50,000 people stage a noisy demonstration in front of the Assembly building to demand an immediate decision to abolish Article 1, dissolution of parliament and the resignation of the government. After the demonstration had gone on for several hours, Mladenov joined deputies on the steps of the Assembly building and warned that extremism would “push Bulgaria along the road to ruin”.

The National Assembly appoints Nadya Asparukhova as a Deputy Chair of the Council of Ministers (Deputy Prime Minister); Yordanov and Stoichkov are removed as Deputy Prime Ministers. Furthermore, the Assembly makes substantial changes to the State Council, including the appointment of Angel Dimitrov as First Vice-President (de facto first deputy head of state) in place of Petur Tanchev. The following day, the Assembly allows first readings of bills to legalize unofficial demonstrations and to allow new political groups to be established, decrees an immediate amnesty for all political prisoners charged with “anti-state activity”, abolishes 11 articles of the penal code used against dissidents and revokes several decrees passed by the former leadership without Assembly approval, including the civilian mobilization introduced in July at the height of the exodus of ethnic Turks (see May 20-23, 1989 and July 4, 1989). The Assembly also establishes a commission to investigate corruption.

Romania - December 15, 1989 (LBC)

An uprising breaks out in Timisoara, Romania over attempts by the political police to arrest the Protestant priest, László Tőkés.

East Germany – December 15, 1989 (KCA)

The government decides to abolish the SED-controlled workers’ militia, which had operated in factories.

GDR / Czechoslovakia – December 15, 1989 (OSA)

East German Acting Head of State Manfred Gerlach meet in Prague today with Vaclav Havel, an independent candidate for President of Czechoslovakia. East Germany’s ADN News Agency says they agreed that democratic reform offers better conditions for cooperation between the two countries. AND says Gerlach also met Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa and Socialist Party Chairman Bohuslav Kucera.

Bulgaria - December 15, 1989 (OSA)

A group of four charts are published by Sofia Narodna Mladezh. This charts shows the popularity of the country’s official leaders (Alexander Lilov is one of the most popular, but the most one is Dobri Dzhurov), the popularity of the main sociopolitical parties and movements (the BCP is the most popular, but it isn’t supported by a majority of the population), the popularity of the leaders of the independent associations (Petur Beron is the most popular one) and the popularity of the independent organizations and associations (the Ecoglasnost is the most popular).

Hungary – December 15, 1989 (PTH)

The chairman of the National Planning Office says that the Council of Ministers would like to hand in its application for admission to the European Association of Free Trading in 1990. The independent Hungarian Democratic Party, the Christian Democratic Party, the Hungarian Independence Party, the Social Democratic Party of Hungary and the National Alliance of Political Prisoners form an electoral alliance for the upcoming general elections.

Romania – December 15, 1989 (KCA)

Fr Laszlo Tőkés is ordered to be deported. The Protestant pastor had persistently criticized the government's treatment of his fellow ethnic Hungarians in Romania. This incident serves as the

immediate trigger for the unrest which culminates in the revolution of December 21-25, 1989 (see below).

Czechoslovakia - December 15, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Premier Marián Čalfa initiates a secret meeting with Václav Havel, at which he offers to help Havel in his candidacy for the presidency. Čalfa promises to ensure that the Federal Assembly will accept Havel as the only presidential candidate, while voting for Alexander Dubček (in view of Slovak public opinion) as Leader of the Federal Assembly. Both elections are to take place in 1989.

East Germany (GDR) – December 15-16, 1989 (KCA)

At an extraordinary conference in East Berlin, the Christian Democrats (CDU, one of the National Front parties) elect the pastor Martin Kirchner as general secretary and approve a Christian program envisaging a market economy supported by Western investment. Eberhard Diepgen, the former Christian Democrat mayor of West Berlin, and Erwin Huber, secretary- general of the Bavarian Christian Social Union (CSU), attend the congress.

Hungary – December 15, 1989 (MNC)

Minister of foreign affairs and trade of Australia Gareth Yeans took a one-day official visit to Hungary. His negotiation partner was Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister. He held talks with Minister of Trade Tamás Beck. He met and consulted with Rezső Nyers, President of the Hungarian Socialist Party. He also met the leaders of the Hungarian opposition parties. He was received by Miklós Németh, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, President of the Cabinet, and Mátyás Szűrös, temporary President of the Republic of Hungary.

Hungary – December 16, 1989 (MNC)

Foreign Minister of Japan Nakayama Taro, and Federal Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Republic of Austria Alois Mock took a joint (one-day) work-visit in Hungary – in Sopron (interrupting the Australian visit of the Japanese Foreign Minister). Their negotiation partner was Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister.

USA / France, December 16, 1989 (MNC)

An American-French Foreign Ministerial meeting was held in the island of Saint Martin in the Caribbean Sea.

Hungary – December 16, 1989 (MNC)

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Helmut Kohl arrived to Hungary for a two-day official visit. He negotiated with Miklós Németh, President of the Cabinet. He visited and made a speech in the session of the Parliament. He met acting President of the Parliament István Fodor. He was received by temporary President of the republic Mátyás Szűrös. The Faculty of State and Law of the ELTE University awarded him with an honorary doctorate. During the visit, the signing of several agreements took place as well.

Czechoslovakia - December 16, 1989 (DRC)

Václav Havel, in a speech broadcast on Czechoslovak Television, gives a concise assessment of the changes that have been achieved since 17 November 1989, and referring to the forthcoming election of the President, states that if he is elected President, Alexander Dubček must stand at his side in

some other top-level state office.

Hungary – December 16, 1989 (PTH)

The General Secretary of the National Council of Trade Unions anticipates even more radical steps than a warning strike if the Council of Ministers does not manage to ease the tension due to unemployment, and if it does not implement the liberalization of wages and the reform of proprietary rights.

Romania – December 16, 1989 (CEC)

The anti-communist manifestos in Timisoara. Military troops fire shots into the crowd.

East Germany (GDR) – December 16-17, 1989 (KCA)

At the resumed session of the emergency party congress, a party name change is approved by 92% of the delegates. The party’s name is changed from SED to the SED-PDS (*Sozialistische Einheitspartei Deutschlands-Partei des Demokratischen Sozialismus*, or Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism).

Romania – December 16-18, 1989 (KCA)

Several hundred people surround Fr Laszlo Tokes's home in the western city of Timisoara, in an effort to prevent the police from deporting him (see December 15, 1989). The crowd, which reportedly becomes enraged when Fr Tokes appeared at a window bearing marks of beatings, is joined by others in a march through the centre of Timisoara, chanting “Down with Ceausescu!” and “Give us bread!”. Further protests, involving several thousand people, take place in the town on December 17. Securitate police and troops, some of whom are in tanks or helicopter gunships, open fire on the crowd; several hundred people are reportedly killed. Further demonstrations are reported on December 18 from the towns of Arad and Brasov. A feature of the early days of the revolution is that all on-the-spot reports come from Soviet and Eastern European journalists.

Romania – December 17, 1989 (MNC)

Uprising broke out in Romania. During bloody fights, Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife were captured, found guilty and executed on December 25.

Hungary – December 17, 1989 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers decides on reorganizing the ministry of the interior and the defence ministry. Inside the Ministry of the Interior, functions of state security and those of public security are separated.

The 14th congress of HSWP begins; its organizers do not recognize the resolutions made by the October congress.

Romania – December 17, 1989 (MHC)

Romanian security forces fire on demonstrators in Timisoara.

Soviet Union / EEC – December 18, 1989 (MHC)

Modrow and Kohl meet in Dresden.

EEC / Soviet Union - December 18, 1989 (LBC)

The EEC signs a ten-year agreement with the Soviet Union.

Hungary / Romania – December 18, 1989 PTH)

The Parliament calls on the Romanian government to respect its commitments as accepted in international agreements. The Parliament expresses its support for László Tőkés. The Romanian authorities seal off the Hungarian border, as the day before, there had been an anti-government demonstration in Temesvár.

Several thousand people demonstrate in Budapest, on Heroes's Square, in support of László Tőkés. The left-wing fraction of the former HSWP re-establishes the party under the same name and elects Gyula Thürmer as its chairman.

Soviet Union / EEC – December 18, 1989 (KCA)

A 10-year Soviet-European Communities (EC) trade and co-operation agreement is signed in Brussels during a ceremony attended by the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, and all 12 EU Foreign Ministers. Shevardnadze describes the accord as a “majority economic building-block in the foundation of a common European house”. The President of the EC Council of Ministers, Roland Dumas, says that it will open the way to a “political dialogue on the many matters of common interest to all in Europe.”

GDR / Romania – December 18, 1989 (OSA)

The East German Government-Opposition “Round-Table” Conference condemns political repression in Romania. A statement unanimously adopted at today’s East Berlin session of the Conference calls on Romania’s leaders to stop using force against the people and to stand no longer in the way of a democratic development.

Czechoslovakia - December 18, 1989 (DRC)

The Czech National Council elects Jaroslav Šafařík (of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party) as Chairman. A new Presidium is also elected, in which the Communists do not have a majority.

Romania / Iran – December 18-20, 1989 (PER / CEC)

During the tensions in Timisoara, Nicolae Ceausescu visits the Islamic Republic of Iran to sign an economic, trade and technical collaboration agreement.

Czechoslovakia – December 19, 1989 (DRC)

Czechoslovak Premier Marián Čalfa, at a meeting of the Federal Assembly, presents the program of the ‘Government of National Understanding’, and in the name of the Government, nominates Václav Havel for the office of Czechoslovak President. The Assembly approves the program.

GDR – December 19, 1989 (OSA)

West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl tells cheering East Germans in Dresden that his goal remains German Unity, but Bonn will respect their decision. The Chancellor tells the crowd of at least 10,000 to continue peaceful demonstrations for democracy, peace, freedom and self-determination.

Hungary – December 19, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

The Parliament approves the 1990 economic policy program of the Council of Ministers. The Association of Hungarian Independents denounces those parties which "conduct roundtable

talks without listening to the people."
Miklós Németh resigns from his membership in the presidency of HSP. Árpád Göncz is elected president of the Association of Writers.
The Minister of Environmental Protection and Water Management, Lászlo Maróthy, resigns in the face of a motion of censure over the handling of the Nagymaros dam project (see November 3, 1989). The censure motion, however, is subsequently defeated.

East Germany / West Germany (FRG) – December 19-20, 1989 (KCA)

Kohl receives an enthusiastic welcome from crowds upon his visit to Dresden for talks with Modrow and with opposition and church leaders. The two leaders agree to conclude a “joint treaty on co-operation and good neighbourliness” by the “spring of 1990”.
At a joint press conference, Modrow announces that the implementation of an agreement reached on December 5 (lifting visa and currency requirements for visiting West Germans and West Berliners) will take place from January, 1990 on. The two-year agreement establishes a joint fund to finance a favourable exchange rate for East Germans to acquire up to DM 200 per head per year in hard currency for foreign travel. West Germany is to divert to this the funds formerly required as “welcome money” each year, and a further DM 750,000,000, with East Germany also contributing DM 750,000,000.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – December 19-20, 1989 (KCA)

An extraordinary congress of the Lithuanian Communist Party (CP) declares the party independent of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). Commentators describe the move as the most serious nationalist challenge to President Mikhail Gorbachev to date.
Brazauskas, in his keynote address on December 19, tells the 1,027 congressional delegates representing more than 200,000 party members that party independence is needed for a complete break with the Stalinist past and vital if the party is to express effectively the interests of Lithuanians and to compete on equal terms within Lithuania's new conditions of political pluralism.

Hungary – December 19, 1989 (MNC)

An agreement was made between the Republic of Hungary and the Kingdom of Denmark about the partial visa-free regime regarding their mutual citizens.

France /GDR – December 20-22, 1989 (MNC)

Head of State of France, F. Mitterrand, visited the German Democratic Republic.

Hungary / Romania – December 20, 1989 (KCA)

The Assembly passes a one-year emergency economic program, having already rejected (on November 22) a proposed three-year program. Prime Minister Nemeth, in his efforts to secure the program's adoption, had cut his planned three-day UK visit to merely one day.
Opposition within the ruling Hungarian Socialist Party (HSP) over some austerity measures (particularly cuts in housing subsidies) provoked Neméth's resignation on December 19 from the party's 24-member presidium (see October 9, 1989). He had also reportedly threatened to resign as Prime Minister if the program is not approved. The eventual Assembly vote is 252 to 23, with 52 abstentions.
The Parliament approves of the slightly modified housing program of the Council of Ministers. Consequently, the rental rates will rise by 35% as of February 1 and a tax will be levied on state housing loans.

The Council of Ministers submits an official protest to the ambassador of Romania for the denigration of László Tőkés and the crackdown on the demonstration in Temesvár.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia – December 20, 1989 (DRC)

In Moscow, Czechoslovak Premier Marián Čalfa and Foreign Minister Jiří Dienstbier take part in talks concerning relevant questions of economic cooperation. Čalfa meets with Mikhail Gorbachev. In Prague, a two-day extraordinary congress of the CPCz opens. It elects Ladislav Adamec Party Chairman and Vasil Mohorita Secretary. General Secretary Karel Urbánek becomes Chairman of the Central Auditing Board.

Romania – December 20, 1989 (KCA / CEC)

Troops in Timisoara withdraw from the streets after workers occupy and threaten to blow up a petrochemical plant. After a demonstrating crowd of over 50,000 people attack and ransack Communist Party and police offices, the Mayor of Timisoara invites people to elect a committee to voice their grievances. Despite the killings of the previous days, the demonstrations in Timisoara and other cities grow in magnitude, spreading to other parts of the country.

On the same day, upon returning from a three-day visit to Iran, Ceausescu gives a broadcast speech, declaring a state of emergency in Timisoara and blaming “terrorists, fascists, imperialists, hooligans [and] foreign espionage services” for the disturbances.

Bulgaria - December 20, 1989 (OSA)

A chart is published by Sofia Narodna Mladezh in which it is presented the results of questions related to topical issues of Bulgarian sociopolitical life today. The three most popular issues are the participation of all political forces, removing limits of labor wages and unemployment.

East Germany / France – December 20-22, 1989 (KCA)

French President Francois Mitterrand visits East Germany, holding talks with Manfred Gerlach (Liberal Democrats), Hans Modrow (East German Prime Minister) and Gregor Gysi (SED-PDS party leader) in Berlin. He also visits the Nikolaikirche in Leipzig, the starting point of the city's weekly marches. *Le Monde* of December 22 comments that he is adopting a more positive tone than in Kiev. In Leipzig, Mitterrand declares: “German unity is first and foremost for Germans. France will not stand in the way, but the German people must take the European balance into account in its decisions.”

GDR – December 21, 1989 (OSA)

Thousands of East German soldiers and border troops urge their Warsaw Pact comrades in the Romanian Forces not to fire on their fellow citizens peacefully demanding their human rights. The official news agency AND says, that as the soldiers had no direct means of contacting the Romanians, their representatives telephoned AND asking it to circulate their appeal.

Romania / U.S. - December 21, 1989 (LBC)

The anti-Ceausescu rebellion spreads to Bucharest; the Ceausescu regime falls. The US assures Romania of its support on the road to democratization.

Hungary – December 21, 1989 (KCA / PTH)

Hungary's National Assembly, the *Országgyűlés*, votes to dissolve itself with effect as of March 16,

1990, so that multiparty elections can be held.
The representatives pass the 1990 Budget Act.
Hungarian financial leaders and the International Monetary Fund agree in Washington that they will resume talks in Budapest in the first half of January.
Defence Minister Ferenc Kárpáti announces further withdrawal of soviet troops.

Romania – December 21, 1989 (KCA / CEC /HOR)

Ceausescu addresses a large rally in central Bucharest, promising across-the-board monthly wage increases of 100 lei (about US\$12). His speech, to his evident astonishment, is interrupted by unprecedented heckling, leading to scuffles between members of the crowd and Securitate men. Sections of the crowd break away and stage small anti-government demonstrations elsewhere in the capital. The army troops fail to intervene. Later in the day, fierce clashes break out in the capital, with Securitate men firing on demonstrators and, in some cases, crushing them under the tracks of tanks. Clashes are also reported in Timisoara, Brasov, Cluj, Arad and Sibiu, where Ceausescu's son, Nicu Ceausescu, is the party leader. Some reports speak of troops exchanging fire with the Securitate.

Czechoslovakia – December 21-22, 1989 (VVR)

A special congress of the Central Committee of the Communist Party is held. Ladislav Adamec and Ivan Mohorita become party leaders.

Romania – December 21-25, 1989 (KCA)

President Nicolae Ceausescu's Communist regime is overthrown in a bloody revolution. After attempting flight, the deposed President and his wife Elena Ceausescu are captured.
On December 25, they are both executed after a brief trial before a military tribunal.

East Germany (GDR) / West Germany (FRG) – December 22, 1989 (KCA)

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow (accompanied by the mayors of East and West Berlin) meet at the Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate) to celebrate the opening of the gate, which since the building of the Wall in 1961, had symbolized the division of Europe.

Germany, December 22, 1989 (MNC)

In the presence of the heads of state of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, a new border crossing point was opened at the Brandenburg Gate.

Hungary / Romania – December 22, 1989 (KCA)

Interim acting state President Mátyás Szűrös sets the election date for March 25, 1990. Several Hungarian organizations and institutions send food and medicine supplies-in-aid to Romania.

Romania – December 22, 1989 (KCA / CEC / HOR)

On the morning of December 22, while huge crowds gather in Bucharest to protest the regime, Ceausescu declares a national state of emergency. The radio reports the “suicide” of Defence Minister Col.-Gen. Vasile Milea, whom it denounces as a “traitor”. It later comes out that he had been shot dead by one of the presidential bodyguards, after refusing to order troops to disperse the crowds by force. This is later portrayed as having had a catalytic effect in persuading the Army to make common cause with the revolutionaries.

A few hours later, Ceausescu makes a final attempt to address the hostile crowd from the balcony of the Communist Party central committee building, but is shouted down with cries of “Death! Death!” Shortly after he finishes speaking, demonstrators break into the building.

Apparently under orders from their commanders, troops make no attempt to intervene. Shortly after 1 p.m. local time, Ceausescu and his wife, accompanied by bodyguards, are airlifted by helicopter from the roof just as the first demonstrators emerge on to it. Within minutes, revolutionaries also take control of the television and radio stations.

As the news of Ceausescu's flight is broadcast across the country, the remnants of Communist authority collapse. By late afternoon, the Army formally declares its backing for the uprising. Revolutionaries obtain weapons, either from the Army or from ransacking Securitate buildings, and set up roadblocks. Nicu Ceausescu is arrested at one of these blocks as he tries to flee Sibiu. By the end of the day, the revolutionaries in Bucharest have, to some extent, organized themselves into the National Salvation Front (NSF), with its headquarters in the television station. Speculation over the identity of those in control is overshadowed in the evening, when well-armed units of the Securitate police launch a counterattack. Although outnumbered by the Army, the Securitate are generally better equipped and better trained. They attack crowds of celebrating demonstrators and soldiers, succeeding in forcing their way into the television station building in Bucharest, but are fought off by soldiers inside.

Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu are captured on the same day near Tirgoviste, 80 km north-west of Bucharest. They had abandoned their helicopter near the Boteni air base, commandeering a car which had subsequently broken down, and travelling on in a second car to a nearby agricultural station, where they are swiftly arrested and held under close guard in an armoured car.

Czechoslovakia - December 22, 1989 (DRC)

In the fourth of the roundtable talks, the ‘decisive political forces’ reach an agreement on then filling of the offices of President of the Republic and Leader of the Federal Assembly, whereby the only candidates for these offices would be Václav Havel and Alexander Dubček. The ratio of Czechs to Slovaks occupying the vacant seats in the Federal Assembly, as well as the principles for further reshuffling of the legislative committees, are also decided.

Czechoslovakia - December 23, 1989 (DRC)

In Prague, the first Conference of the Civic Forum is held, with representatives of the regional Civic Forums in attendance. Its agenda includes the question of the internal structure and program orientation of the movement. At the proposal of Václav Havel, the Conference, by large majority, approves the definition of the Civic Forum. Havel proposes that the Civic Forum should not become a political party or a coalition of several parties, but a political movement that would represent the large part of the public that is without party affiliation, making it a guarantor of reform.

GDR – December 23, 1989 (MHC)

The Brandenburg Gate is reopened in Berlin.

Romania – December 23, 1989 (MHC)

Provisional Romanian leader Ion Iliescu declares himself in favour of a renovated socialism. He calls for a program of action that commits itself to promoting the “common values of humanity”.

Hungary / Romania – December 23, 1989 (PTH)

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn announces that Hungary recognizes the Council for Saving the Nation

as the official representative of Romania.

Romania – December 23, 1989 (KCA)

At the height of the fighting, the NSF appeals to the Soviet Union to intervene militarily on its behalf. A Soviet spokesman says the following day that Moscow would only intervene if the revolution was under attack from foreign forces. Both the US and Soviet governments, together with most of those of the rest of Europe, East and West, declare open support for the revolution.

Soviet Union – December 23, 1989 (KCA)

The Congress (see December 12-24, 1989) approves the creation of a Committee for Supervision of the Constitution, although this is strongly opposed by Baltic deputies who claim that it threatens to infringe republican sovereignty.

Hungary / Romania – December 24, 1989 (PTH)

An ecumenical midnight mass is held in Budapest, where several thousand people pay tribute to the memory of the victims in Temesvár.

U.S. / Soviet Union / Romania - December 24, 1989 (LBC)

The US announces that it would support the Soviet Union if it were to join the anti-Ceausescu forces in their armed struggle. Moscow announces that the USSR does not intend to interfere.

Romania / U.S. / Soviet Union – December 24, 1989 (MHC)

On NBC television’s interview program “Meet the Press”, Baker says that the U.S. will not object if the Warsaw Pact decides to intervene in Romania. On the same day, in a conversation between Soviet

Deputy Foreign Minister Aboimov and U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock, the Soviet diplomat responds to the idea that Moscow should consider becoming military involved in Romania by suggesting that the USSR is offering the Brezhnev Doctrine to the United States “as a gift”, adding that Soviet use of force in Eastern Europe is out of question.

U.S. / Romania - December 25, 1989 (LBC)

The US establishes diplomatic relations with the Romanian National Salvation Front. Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena are executed.

Bulgaria – December 25, 1989 (KCA)

The government concedes one of Eco-Glasnost's (see December 11, 1989) main demands, when it announces that a hydro-electric project in the Rila Mountains has been cancelled.

Romania – December 25, 1989 (KCA / CEC / HOR)

Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu are placed on trial before a military tribunal at a barracks near Targoviste. Facing a range of charges including genocide, corruption and the destruction of the national economy, they are both condemned to death and executed by a firing squad. Televised excerpts of the trial, and pictures of their corpses, are broadcast on Romanian television the following day. The announcement and subsequent proof of Ceausescu's death are seen as key factors in persuading many Securitate men to give up their fight. Shortly before the trial, the barracks where the Ceausescus were being held is attacked by the Securitate. This is considered to

have encouraged the NSF to proceed rapidly with the trial and execution.

By December 25, the NSF's two leading figures are established as Petre Roman, an administrator at Bucharest Polytechnic, and Ion Iliescu, a former Communist Party leader who had studied with Gorbachev at Moscow University and held senior posts in regional administration before progressively falling out with Ceausescu since the early 1980s. Iliescu is named as President and Roman as Prime Minister. Dumitri Mazilu, an international lawyer and former permanent representative at the UN who had repeatedly criticized his country's human rights record, is named as Vice President. Sergiu Celac, a former president of the Union of Communist Youth who had served as Ceausescu's interpreter until 1979, is subsequently named as Foreign Minister.

Romania – December 25-29, 1989 (KCA)

By December 25, the Securitate threat (see December 22, 1989) is largely neutralized. Many buildings in the capital and other town centres are destroyed in the fighting. Large numbers of Securitate men are killed after capture. On December 27, they are given an ultimatum: to give themselves up by the following day or face summary execution. A final small-scale Securitate assault on the television station is beaten off on December 27 and the Army is able to withdraw from the capital's streets on December 29. Initial casualty estimates of 70,000-80,000 are later reported to be greatly exaggerated, with the final total believed to be under 10,000 killed, many of them civilians.

During the final week of December, the new government issues a number of decrees, foremost among being the abolition of the leading role of the Communist Party and the cancellation of the “rural systematization” program. The previous regime's prohibition of abortion and the regular inspection of women, to ensure that they did not practice birth control until they had at least five children, are scrapped on December 26. The government also announces (on December 27) that the death penalty is to be abolished, promises that free elections will be held in April and invites political parties to apply for registration. By the end of December, some 10 parties have been established, including the Democratic Party and the National Christian Peasants’ Party.

On December 28, Bucharest radio broadcasts the NSF's decrees, announcing that the name of the country is now Romania (rather than the Socialist Republic of Romania), that the form of government is a republic, and that the flag is a simple tricolour of blue-yellow-red. Constitutional amendments, published on December 29, also include provisions for the restructuring of the economy along free enterprise lines, respect for “the rights and liberty of our national minorities” and full freedom of worship, “the reorganization of ecological balances which will eliminate subsidies to any goods or processes bad for the earth and the environment” and a foreign policy based on “peace, good relations with our neighbors and integrating into the process of a united Europe”. The new government confirms that Romania will respect both the Warsaw Pact and the 1975 Helsinki Agreement.

Hungary / Romania – December 26, 1989 (PTH)

Mátyás Szűrös and Miklós Németh send a telegram to welcome the new Romanian leaders, who repeatedly thank Hungary for its assistance and solidarity.

Bulgaria – December 27, 1989 (KCA)

Maj.-Gen. Georgi Tanev is dismissed as Interior Minister, apparently in response to the demands of the opposition that had held him responsible for a crackdown against dissidents in Sofia (the capital) on October 26 (see October 23-27, 1989). He is replaced by Col.-Gen. Atanas Semerdzhiev, until then the Chief of General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army and First Deputy Minister of

National Defence.
On the same day, The BCP politburo gives in to opposition demands and agrees to begin discussions on convening round table negotiations with the UDF. The decision follows the success of a two-hour strike on December 27, called by *Podkrepa*.

Hungary – December 27, 1989 (KCA)
It is announced that the discussions on an IMF credit agreement are to continue in the New Year, focusing on currency policy. As in Poland – an IMF agreement would unlock large-scale multilateral funding and bilateral assistance from Western countries.

Romania – December 27, 1989 (KCA)
The NSF announces that it has a total of 145 members, who elect from among their numbers an 11-strong executive bureau.

Czechoslovakia – December 28, 1989 (VVR)
Alexander Dubček becomes Chairman of the Federal Assembly.

Czechoslovakia - December 28, 1989
At a meeting of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly, the first round of co-optation is carried out to fill the seats from which the most compromised deputies have resigned.
Among the 23 co-opted members is Alexander Dubček, whom the plenum quickly elects Leader of the Federal Assembly. The Presidium of the Federal Assembly is also reshuffled so that the CPCz loses its majority. The passage in the Presidential Oath of Office, which declares loyalty to socialism, is dropped.

Czechoslovakia - December 29, 1989
At the Prague Castle, at a special, ceremonial session of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia –Václav Havel is unanimously elected President of Czechoslovakia.

Hungary – December 29, 1989 (MNC)
Gyula Horn, member of the Chairmanship of the HSP, Foreign Minister visited Romania. He consulted with Ion Iliescu, President of the Council of the National Salvation Front, Prime Minister Petre Roman, Foreign Minister Sergiu Celas, and leading personalities of the Hungarians in Romania – Károly Király and Géza Domokos.

Romania – December 29, 1989 (MHC)
Romania’s provisional government announces that Romania is no longer a communist state.

Czechoslovakia –December 29, 1989 (MHC)
Havel is elected Czechoslovakia’s new president. Dubček becomes speaker of the Federal Assembly.

Hungary / Romania – December 29, 1989 (PTH)
The deputy chairman of the Hungarian National Bank says that there are signs of insolvency right before the December session of the Parliament.
An aid concert is held in the Budapest Sports Stadium to support those in need in Romania.

The Independent Smallholders' Party is split in two: the National Smallholders' Party is established in Szeged.

Poland – December 29, 1989 (UNW)

Changes to the constitution are approved by the Sejm. The name of the country is changed to the Republic of Poland and the nation is defined as a democratic state under the rule of law. The constitutional changes include a rule specifying political pluralism and the removal of articles about socialism and a central economy. The economic plan of the Mazowiecki government, known later as the Balcerowicz Plan, is approved

Romania – December 29, 1989 (KCA)

The Chief of Staff, Gen. Stefan Guze, is dismissed from his Army and NSF post on “for reasons of extreme gravity”. He is replaced by Gen. Ionel Stefan Vasile.

Czechoslovakia - December 29, 1989 (LBC)

The Czechoslovak parliament elects Vaclav Havel as Czechoslovakia’s President. June 8-9, 1990.

Bulgaria - December 29, 1989 (OSA)

The Central Committee of BCP meet at an emergency session where the growing opposition demands for the speeding up of democratic reforms.

Czechoslovakia - December 30, 1989 (DRC)

After consulting with Czechoslovak Premier Marián Čalfa, President Václav Havel appoints Minister without Portfolio Richard Sacher (of the Czechoslovak People’s Party) to the position of Federal Minister of the Interior.

1990

Kazakhstan - 1990 (AJ) - The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the CPSU adopted a resolution, which recognized that the assessment of mass violations of public order in Alma-Ata in December 1986, as a manifestation of Kazakh nationalism, was erroneous.

January

Romania - January 1990 (KCA)

The National Salvation Front declares its intention to constitute itself as a political party, reversing

an earlier decision. Drawing into its ranks many former communists, including Prime Minister Petre Roman, the NSF capitalizes on its position as a broad centre-left grouping that fills the vacuum left by Ceausescu's demise.

Soviet Union / U.S. - January 1, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

The United States and Soviet Presidents, George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, each send televised New Year messages to the other's country. The two leaders express enthusiasm in developing closer ties between their countries during the 1990s and refer to the Malta Summit in December 1989 as a turning point in their relations and in the disarmament talks.

In Bush's New Year message to the USSR, he said that neither the U.S. nor its allies will exploit the "extraordinary changes" in Eastern Europe.

Referring to the changes in Eastern Europe Gorbachev asserts, "The world is forging ahead in pursuit of happiness, freedom and democracy," and adds that it would be "naive, preposterous, and dangerous to stop that quest."

Romania – January 1, 1990 (OSA)

New Prime Minister Petre Roman expresses what the new leadership have in mind - to initiate some measures aimed at economic decentralization and to create better links between planning and marketing.

Romania – January 1, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian government celebrates the New Year by officially abolishing capital punishment and proposing the replacement of the six-day work week with the European standard of five days.

Yugoslavia - January 2, 1990 (KCA)

Yugoslavia introduces a new dinar, worth 10,000 old dinars and fully convertible. The exchange rate is pegged to the West German deutschmark at DM 1.00=7 dinars until at least June 30, 1990. Prime Minister Ante Markovic, introducing the currency reform in line with a controversial IMF-backed package of economic austerity measures announced by him on Dec. 18, 1989, also says that wage increases will be linked to the new dinar's exchange rate, meaning that wages are thus effectively frozen for six months at November 1989 levels. The wage freeze is part of a campaign to bring down inflation from 2,000–2,500% to a target of 13%.

Yugoslavia -- January 2, 1990 (OSA)

The news agency TANJUG reports that in the past year 100,000 members of the communist party have renounced their membership- with 600,000 expected to leave the party by the end of the year. Most of whom are from Croatia and Slovenia where attitudes express that the economic and political struggle could easily be fixed by a multi party system.

Hungary – January 2, 1990 (PTH)

Mátyás Szűrös states that the greatest political danger is that instability and chaos might dominate the life of the country. Therefore, he believes that during the period of the general elections, the local council should ensure peaceful and undisturbed circumstances.

Romania – January 2, 1990 (ADC)

The Association of Political Prisoners in Romania is established (in Romanian: Asociația Foștilor Deținuți Politici din România – A.F.D.P.R.). The President is Constantin Tîcu Dumitrescu.

Bulgaria - January 2-4, 1990 (OSA)

The nationalist protest against the official policy on the Muslim minority in the city of Kardzhali spreads to Sofia and Plovdiv, despite Politburo attempts to calm the situation. Strikes break out in Kardzhali on January 4.

Bulgaria - January 3, 1990 (Crampton, OSA)

Under the pressure of the demonstrations organized by the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF; a coalition of opposition parties), the BCP agrees to the start of roundtable negotiations. The demonstrations had called for the abrogation of clause 1 of the Bulgarian 1971 constitution. This clause gave the BCP a paramount role in Bulgarian society.

In response to a series of demonstrations and strikes in Kardzhali, in a statement, the Politburo 'once again' stresses that 'the local party, state, and other leaders do not bear any political responsibility' for the assimilation campaign against the Turkish minority.

Romania – January 3, 1990 (HOR)

A decree law signed by Ion Iliescu, President of the National Salvation Front, reestablishing political parties in Romania.

Hungary – January 3, 1990 (PTH)

Representatives Zoltán Király and Ernő Raffay propose that in the future the president of the country should always be elected directly by the people.

The Independent Smallholders' Party distances itself from the (Szeged-based) National Smallholders' Party, and emphasizes that there is no split in the party.

East Germany - January 3, 1990 (KCA)

Christa Luft, Minister of the Economy, reveals at a round table meeting that the country's budget deficit in 1989 was 5–6 billion Marks, of which agricultural losses due to adverse weather conditions totals 1.3 billion Marks. Foreign debt to non-socialist countries was \$ 20.6 billion.

Furthermore, eight opposition groups threaten to withdraw from the round table talks unless a complete report is presented at the next session on the disbanding of the security police and the disarming of former security officers.

East Germany - January 4, 1990 (KCA)

The government announces that military service is to be reduced from 18 to 12 months.

GDR / Soviet Union - January 4, 1990 (OSA)

USSR protests about Neo-Nazi activities in the GDR and attacks on Soviet war memorials in East Germany. Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadii Gerasimov says there was clear evidence of close connections between neofascist in East Germany and the West German right-wing Republican Party.

Bulgaria - January 4, 1990 (OSA)

The first day of meetings of the roundtable negotiation between BCP and UDF ends with a

resolution condemning the Zhivkov regime and the repression of the Turkish minority.

Bulgaria - January 5, 1990 (OSA)

Nikilay Kosev, deputy head of the Central Committee Organizational Department, dismisses claims of a mass exodus in membership from the BCP.

Hungary – January 5, 1990 (PTH)

The outbreak of the "Danubegate" scandal: Alliance of Free Democrats announces that Main Division No. 3 of the Ministry of the Interior kept opposition politicians under surveillance and collected data and information on the opposition parties and movements even after the new constitution had come into effect. AFD files a report with the police in the case and calls Prime Minister Miklós Németh to distance the government from the unlawful activities of the state security service, and to relieve Head of Department of the Ministry of Interior, József Horváth, Deputy Minister Ferenc Pallagi, and to initiate the resignation of Minister of the Interior István Horváth. Miklós Németh dissociates himself from the wire-tapping activities and calls the Supreme Prosecutor to conduct prompt investigations in the case.

Romania – January 5, 1990 (OSA)

Radu Campeanu, a liberal politician who has spent nine years in communist prisons, returns from Paris after 14 years of exile.

Romania – January 6, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian leader Ion Iliescu says he has never met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, denying persistent rumors that the two men are old friends from Moscow State University days.

Yugoslavia – January 6, 1990 (HR)

The first political party is established in Serbia by Vuk Drašković and Mirko Jović. It is named the Serbian National Renewal. Drašković leaves the party not long after its foundation and forms the Serbian Renewal Movement. The SRM soon becomes one of the strongest opposition parties to Slobodan Milošević.

East Germany - January 6, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Hans Modrow is unable to sustain a viable communist-led coalition government, but makes repeated calls during round table talks for opposition leaders to join a broader coalition.

Soviet Union / Romania / Warsaw Pact - January 6, 1990 (LBC)

Shevardnadze declares in Bucharest: “What political parties will lead Romania is the business of the Romanians themselves”. Talking about the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Foreign Minister declares: “It seems to me that the Warsaw Treaty is not arbitrarily linked to any political system. There are some common interests. I think these interests – national, geopolitical – are to be preserved so long as another political and military alliance, NATO, exists”.

Romania – January 7, 1990 (ADC)

The death penalty becomes illegal in Romania.

Romania – January 7, 1990 (OSA)

Members of the Students’ League and representatives of other student associations across the

country organize a meeting at Bucharest Polytechnic. Also, in attendance are student delegations from the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Poland and Czechoslovakia, who are greeted warmly while offering their support and solidarity. A number of demands are made at the meeting, both political and educational – such as by the student representation on the Council of the National Salvation Front.

Current student representatives on the Council (for there are a small number) are described as ‘co-opted’, for they were not elected to their positions by other students. One such student, Marian Mierla, says that student members of the Executive Bureau are regarded as ‘marionettes’ whose participation have no more relevance than a ‘piece of furniture’. In terms of education, they ask for a complete systemic restructuring, the abolition of compulsory attendance at seminars and courses, respect for the autonomy of universities, the awarding of more merit-based scholarships, the abolition of compulsory post-graduation job assignment and a number of other demands.

Romania – January 8, 1990 (OSA)

Former front Vice President Dumitru Mazilu agrees with this criticism, saying that “everyone must be allowed access to television.”

Romania – January 8, 1990 (TCR)

Military tribunals begin in Romania. The country's security forces are accused of resisting the revolution that toppled the Ceaușescu regime.

East Germany - January 8, 1990 (KCA)

At a round table meeting, Peter Koch, who is responsible for disbanding the National Security Office, reveals that there had been over 85,000 Stasi employees, 25,000 of whom are already dismissed. Describing the report as "shamefully inadequate" the Social Democrat delegate and others walk out and declare that they will withdraw completely if Prime Minister Modrow does not present a satisfactory report at the next session on January 15.

Also on this day, at the weekly Monday demonstration in Leipzig, protesters for the first time call for the resignation of both Modrow and Gregor Gysi, the Socialist Unit Party-leader.

Demonstrations by tens of thousands are held in numerous other towns.

Hungary / Soviet Union - January 8, 1990 (PTH)

The military Supreme Prosecution orders investigations in the Dunagate case.

Furthermore, Soviet deputy chief-of-staff announces that further troops will be withdrawn from Hungary in 1990.

Hungary – January 9, 1990 (PTH)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh states at the summit meeting of Comecon in Sofia that either the organization changes fundamentally or it will cease to exist.

East Germany - January 9, 1990 (KCA)

The Prosecutor-General's office announces that preliminary proceedings are being held for abuse of office and corruption against 30 former senior GDR officials, including 10 former Socialist Unit Party politburo members.

Romania / U.S. - January 9, 1990 (RCN)

The National Salvation Front notifies the U.S. that Romania wants to begin negotiations to restore MFN.

Soviet Union / Moldova - January 9, 1990 (KCA)

The Moldavian State Security Committee (KGB) chief, Georgy Lavranchuk, announces that border controls are being eased along Moldavia's frontier with Romania – including simplified crossing procedures at seven crossing points and the removal of barbed wire border fences. This easing of border controls appears to be an attempt by officials on both sides of the frontier to take the heat out of demands, expressed since the December 1989 Romanian revolution most vociferously by radical supporters of the Moldavian Popular Front, for Soviet Moldavia's reunification with Romania.

Romania – January 9, 1990 (OSA)

The government adopts a resolution on matters of higher education meeting some of the students’ demands. Several steps towards autonomy for higher education institutions are recommended, while course and seminar attendance is made optional and graduate job assignment is to be abolished. Institutions earning hard currency are allowed to keep two-thirds, with only one third going to the state. Also, compulsory military service before the beginning of university studies is abolished, together with the compulsory study of ‘scientific socialism’. The same is replaced by an optional course known as ‘elements of democracy’ from March 1st. Finally, the Front sets up the Commission on Youth Problems, an advisory body serving the authorities.

Romania – January 10, 1990 (OSA)

The Ecological Movement of Romania is registered at the Municipal Courts in Bucharest, becoming the second legally constituted party in Romania after the National Peasants Party.

Hungary – January 10, 1990 (PTH)

The National Coordination Council of Trade Unions predicts demonstrations and strikes if no agreement can be achieved with the government on an anti-inflation economic package.

Soviet Union / Moldova - January 10, 1990 (KCA)

The Presidium of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet appoints Pyotr Paskar as Chairman of the Moldavian Council of Ministers (Prime Minister) in place of Ivan Kalin, who is to take up a diplomatic post.

GDR – January 10, 1990 (OSA)

Erich Honecker, former East German Communist leader, has a successful operation to remove a tumour from his right kidney.

Yugoslavia -- January 10, 1990 (OSA)

Establishment of Hungarian Democratic Alliance in Vojvodina

Yugoslavia -- January 11, 1990 (OSA)

Riots in northern Albania foreseen by Serbian press “Polityka”, with the home of the Albanian president being protected by Yugoslav police. Riots began following the killing of 6 Albanians accused of distributing anti-yugoslav propaganda.

Bulgaria - January 11, 1990 (OSA)

The Supreme Muslim Theological Council states its support for the new government policy toward national minorities and the retention of Bulgarian as the sole official language. The Council also opposed any demand for "autonomy or territorial partition."

France / Romania - January 11, 1990 (LBC)

France announces an economic aid package for Romania.

East Germany - January 11, 1990 (KCA)

In a session in which round table delegates also participate, the Volkskammer hears a statement by Modrow, approves changes to the Council of Ministers, and discusses legislative reforms. Outside the building, there are skirmishes among several thousand protesters when a minority attempts to protect the East German flag.

GDR – January 11, 1990 (OSA)

East German settlers continue to pour into West Germany. The Interior Ministry reports that 14,226 people arrived in the west in the first eight days of 1990. Last year, 343,854 East Germans settled in West Germany, more than eight times as many as in 1988.

Romania – January 11, 1990 (OSA)

A Hungarian-Romanian Trade Agreement is signed that will benefit the Hungarian minority in Romania.

Romania – January 12, 1990 (OSA)

A demonstration takes place in Bucharest in which Iliescu, Roman and Mazilu are accused of trying to preserve the communist system.

Romania – January 12, 1990 (OSA)

The government declares a National Day of Mourning in memory of the victims of the 1989 Revolution. Romanian state TV resumes its German-language broadcasting services, previously suspended during the Ceaușescu regime due to the policy of Romanianization. An independent student radio station run by Bucharest University students also begins round-the-clock broadcasting, using equipment donated by France’s Fun Radio. Faced with thousands of anti-communist demonstrators in Bucharest, interim President Ion Iliescu also announces a formal ban on the Romanian Communist Party, which he claims is ‘against the national spirit and our ancestors' law’, as well an abolition of the death penalty. The influential daily Romania Libera runs an editorial from former communists, which calls on ‘all the honest members’ to burn their party cards ‘at places where martyrs of the revolution died, as a public condemnation of any idea of recreating a new Communist Party’.

Romania – January 12, 1990 (HOR / ADC)

Over 250,000 people participate in an anti-communist rally in front of Victoria Place. The rally results in proclamations that abolish the Romanian Communist Party and reintroduce the death penalty (which was made illegal after the execution of the Ceaușescus). Ion Iliescu annuls both of these proclamations the following day. The Romanian Social Democratic Party (lead by President Sergiu Cunesu) is re-established.

Azerbaijan/Armenia/ Baku pogroms - January 12, 1990 (NK)

In the frame of the ethnic war between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, a pogrom occurred in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan. This Azerbaijani raped, killed, robbed, set on fire and destroyed belongings of Armenians living there. A high number of death casualties resulted. The Soviet troops move into the city to stop the violence. This day is still remembered by the Armenians as the beginning of the Black January.

East Germany - January 12, 1990 (KCA)

In the face of severe criticism from all parties, Modrow concedes that no office to replace the hated Stasi will be set up until after the general election.

Furthermore, at the first national delegate conference of the Social Democratic Party, delegates agree to change the party's name from the Social Democratic Party of the GDR (Sozialdemokratische Partei der DDR) to the Social Democratic Party of Germany (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands).

GDR – January 12, 1990 (OSA)

East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow announces that he will not, after all, proceed with his plans to set up immediately a replacement for the disbanded Office of National Security. Modrow comes under heavy fire from his coalition partners and the opposition on this issue.

Romania – January 12-13, 1990 (OSA)

Mass demonstrations in Braşov lead to the dismissal of the interim military administration at a local level and the promise to hold democratic elections for municipal offices.

Romania – January 13, 1990 (OSA)

The Community of Lippovan Russians in Romania is officially established as a political party. This is a group fighting for the rights of the Lippovans, a group of ethnically Russian Old Believers primarily based in Dobruja.

Hungary / Soviet Union - January 13, 1990 (PHT)

Miklós Németh states that Hungary and the Soviet Union believe there is no need for stationing Soviet troops on Hungarian land, and therefore agree on a speedy withdrawal of all units.

Yugoslavia - January 13, 1990 (KCA)

The authorities in Serbia ban an opposition party calling itself the Serbian National Renewal because of its overtly nationalist program. Currently the only group claiming to be a nationwide opposition party is the Association for a Yugoslav Democratic Initiative.

Yugoslavia -- January 13, 1990 (OSA)

First free teacher’s union formed in Croatia, independent of any one party, employer, or state.

Yugoslavia -- January 13, 1990 (OSA)

An Albanian communist leader reports that movements are widespread in his country, but the military has squashed it... The state reports no state of emergency in Albania.

Bulgaria - January 14, 1990 (OSA)

A mass rally is called by the UDF to keep up the pressure on the government.

Soviet Union / U.S. - January 14, 1990 (KCA)

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* reports that a former Soviet diplomat has recently been sentenced to death for passing Soviet defense secrets to the United States. The spy, referred to in the report only by his U.S. code name "Donald F.", had been recruited by the US Central Intelligence Agency in 1961 while working at the Soviet mission to the United Nations in New York. He is said to be one of the highest-placed spies unmasked by Soviet intelligence in recent years.

East Germany - January 15, 1990 (KCA)

In a round table meeting, Modrow promises that the Office of National security will be disbanded by January 25.

Tens of thousands of protesters take part in demonstrations called by New Forum to lend "emphasis to demands for the unconditional dissolution of the Stasi." Outside the old Stasi headquarters in the Lichtenberg district of East Berlin demonstrators storm and ransack the building and are only persuaded to stop after Modrow and New Forum round table delegates brake off their meeting and appeal for calm at the scene itself.

Bulgaria - January 15, 1990 (LBC, OSA)

The National Assembly, convening for the first time in 1990, eliminates the political monopoly of the Bulgarian communist party.

The Assembly also establishes a 30-member commission to study the 'nationalities question' and work out policies regarding the ethnic minorities in Bulgaria.

Romania – January 15, 1990 (OSA)

Attila Palfalvi, Romania’s new Deputy Education Minister, announces the opening of Bolyai University in Cluj from autumn 1990. This was a centre of Hungarian-language education, and the planned reopening involves the re-introduction of courses in both Hungarian and German. At the same time, it is also announced that the German-language higher education unit in Sibiu will be re-established.

Yugoslavia -- January 15, 1990 (OSA)

Ramiz Alia (Albanian Worker party leader) denounced Yugoslavian and Serbian officials for the reporting of riots in Albania.

Yugoslavia -- January 15, 1990 (OSA)

Formation of two more opposition parties in Yugoslavia- Democratic Party in Crna Gora and the Workers party in Slovenia.

Yugoslavia -- January 16, 1990 (OSA)

Demonstrations in Skopje calling for the resignation of the Macedonian government after government wages were increased 70%, despite a freezing of wages in June of 1989.

Romania – January 16, 1990 (OSA)

The Hungarian Minister of Culture, Ferenc Glatz, travels to Bucharest in order to discuss the establishment of cultural and educational ties between the two countries that could benefit the Hungarian minority.

Bulgaria - January 16, 1990 (Melone, OSA)

The roundtable negotiations between UDF and BCP resume. UDF representatives reiterated their demands to hold multi-party elections as soon as possible and to have access to radio and television. It was also agreed that the negotiations be broadcast live on radio and television would broadcast extensive parts of them.

The communist youth organization Komsomol delivers a petition to the Grand National Assembly requesting to participate in the roundtable talks, threatening strikes and demonstrations.

Cartoonist Todor Zonev puts on show for the first time political caricatures of Todor Zhivkov and other Eastern European leaders that he had been making since 1958. It is the first display of anti-communist political drawings in Sofia since Todor Zhivkov was ousted in November 1989.

East Germany / West Germany - January 16, 1990 (KCA)

In the first such visit by an East German head of government, Prime Minister Modrow travels to West Berlin for talks on improving links and simplifying travel arrangements between the two halves of the city.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia - January 16, 1990 (KCA)

In order to control the clashes in Azerbaijan between Armenians and Azerbaijani, the leader of the Soviet Union, Michael Gorbachev, decides to send troops to the country.

Hungary – January 16, 1990 (PTH)

An inter-party conciliatory committee is set up by HSP, the Opposition Roundtable, and the organizations of the third party which have already constituted themselves a political party with an aim to regulate the publicity of the elections in the media.

Hungary – January 17, 1990 (PTH)

József Horváth, head of the Internal Security Service of the Ministry of the Interior, hands in his resignation.

East Germany / West Germany / France - January 17, 1990 (KCA)

At the French Institute on International Relations in Paris, West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl makes his first major speech abroad since presenting his 10-point plan for a German confederation on November 28.

Yugoslavia -- January 18, 1990 (OSA)

In a Communist congressional hearing, the release of a statement acknowledging the loss of monopolization of government by the communists. The party hopes to win democratically to establish political legitimacy.

Hungary / Soviet Union - January 18, 1990 (LBC)

At the CSCE conference Hungary proposes that the USSR pull out all its troops from Hungary.

Romania – January 18, 1990 (ADC)

The Council of the National Salvation Front (*Consiliului Frontului Salvării Nationale* or C.F.S.N.) decrees that the Romanian Communist Party is to be inherited by the state.

Romania – January 18, 1990 (OSA)

Patriarch Teoctist resigns as a result of widespread criticism of his collaboration with Nicolae Ceausescu’s regime.

Soviet Union / Turkmenistan - January 19, 1990 (KCA)

As the result of republican elections on January 7, a new Turkmen Supreme Soviet is constituted. It elects to the new post of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet, Saparmurad Niyazov, the Turkmen Communist Party First Secretary.

Azerbaijan/Armenia/ Black January - January 19-20, 1990 (LJ and KU)

The following aftermath to the Armenian pogrom was the suppression of political activists in Baku, Azerbaijan, by regular Soviet army troops. More than a hundred civilians died. This was the turning point of the independence movement in Azerbaijan, and there was no return.

East Germany - January 20, 1990 (KCA)

At an emergency meeting, the Socialist Unity Party–Party of Democratic Socialism executive decides, despite pressure from the rank and file, not to disband the party, since this will "lead to greater social tension, not less." Wolfgang Berghofer, the popular mayor of Dresden and a deputy chairman, is one of 40 officials to leave the party.

Also on this day, the German Social Union is founded in Leipzig to unite all Christian, liberal, and conservative forces in the GDR. The umbrella organization hopes for funding from the West German Christian Democrat parties and at this stage comprises 12 opposition groups, including the German Forum Party, the Progressive People's Party, and the Christian Social Party of Germany.

Hungary – January 20, 1990 (PTH)

Two thousand people demonstrate in front of the Ministry of the Interior for the slow investigation of the Dunagate scandal.

Romania – January 20, 1990 (OSA)

Attila Palfalvi announces that the right of Romania’s minorities to mother-tongue state education will be reintroduced from autumn 1990, and that the Ministry of Education has begun reorganising schools, gymnasia and colleges on linguistic grounds.

Soviet Union - January 20-21, 1990 (KCA)

The group "Democratic Platform of the CPSU," is formed at a conference of more than 1,200 representatives of "party clubs" comprising reformist communists in more than 100 Soviet cities. Advocating a full multiparty democratic system and the CPSU's abandonment of "democratic centralism," this is effectively the first faction openly to have emerged in the CPSU since the 1920s.

Yugoslavia - January 20, 1990 (KCA, OSA)

The ruling League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) begins its 14th extraordinary congress in Belgrade. The main item on the agenda is a policy declaration committing the party to the creation of a pluralist political system in Yugoslavia. 2 million communists await to see if the party has come to terms on a way to deal with the economic and national chaos that currently stands in Yugoslavia. In the four decades since the break with the Soviet Union in 1948, Yugoslavia has been the most open and liberal communist state, but in the wake of the recent overthrow of communist monopolies across Eastern Europe it now finds itself, as *The Times* notes, "at the tail-end of East European reforms."

Yugoslavia -- January 21, 1990 (OSA)

Debate opens up on whether or not to remove the Communist Party's leading role in politics and allow for political pluralism. A meeting between the Slovenian delegation ignites worries of not only a withdrawal and collapse of the party or the congress, but Yugoslavia as a whole.

Yugoslavia - January 21, 1990 (KCA)

The Slovene party presents proposals for a new federal party structure, with eight independent parties free to make reforms at their own pace. This is immediately rejected outright by the Serbian state presidency, President, and leading hardliner Slobodan Milosevic, who accuses the Slovenes of creating a climate for "internecine warfare in the party and in the country."

Romania – January 21, 1990 (OSA)

Students return to the streets in Bucharest protest against what they view as a continuation, for the most part, of the government's previous educational policy. In a meeting of the University of Bucharest Students' League on University Square, demands are made for the removal of teachers having collaborated with the Ceaușescu regime, the removal of communists and Securitate members from all leading positions and that university senates be composed solely of professors receiving at least 51% student approval in a vote of confidence. They also condemn the government's decision to recognise diplomas from the Ștefan Gheorghiu Academy of Social and Political Sciences, a university created in the Communist period for agitprop purposes. Ion Iliescu, Petre Roman and other senior Front figures agree to meet with student leaders to set up representative (but non-political) student organisations and to further the mutual dialogue.

Hungary – January 21, 1990 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers dissolves main division 3, the state security office responsible for the illegal surveillance. The Ministry of the Interior immediately bans the use of any secret means and stops the elimination of documents.

GDR – January 21, 1990 (OSA)

PDS' Deputy Chairman and Dresden's popular mayor Wolfgang Berghofer resigns from the party. His example is followed by 39 other senior party members from the Dresden area.

East Germany - January 22, 1990 (KCA)

Faced with the progressive disintegration of the Socialist Unity Party–Party of Democratic Socialism, Prime Minister Modrow calls at the ninth round table meeting for immediate talks on a grand coalition. On the same day, 100,000 people demonstrate in Leipzig chanting "Down with the SED" and "Germany united fatherland."

Modrow also announces that Uta Nickel has resigned as Finance Minister. She is under investigation for allegedly ordering unspecified illegal payments in her former post but denies direct responsibility or any resulting personal gain.

Yugoslavia - January 22, 1990

The congress votes to endorse abolition of the League of Communist of Yugoslavia's constitutionally guaranteed leading role in society. This is approved by an overwhelming majority (only 28 delegates voted against). However, a vote on the Slovene proposals to restructure the federal party is resoundingly defeated. Within a few hours, the 126-member Slovene delegation walks out in protest over this defeat and over votes on amendments to the draft congress declaration, which has thereby rejected clear commitments to human rights and to closer ties with West European organizations. Slovene LC leaders announce that links between their party and the LCY are suspended.

Czechoslovakia – January 23, 1990 (VVR)

The establishment of new political parties is legalized.

Czecholovakia - January 23, 1990 (VVR)

120 deputies are incorporated into the Parliament.

Bulgaria - January 23, 1990 (Melone, OSA)

The BCP and UDF agree to a 'quick' transition to democracy. However, Communist leader Lukanov insists that the 'nation-wide witch-hunt' against 'good Communists' had to be stopped. The Bulgarian Agrarian Party Justice Minister Daskalova argues against a postponement of elections and for the ban on political parties in the workplace.

The talks between the Komsomol and other youth groups officially open. The talks are set up as a working group of the roundtable between BCP and UDF.

Yugoslavia - January 23, 1990 (KCA)

A proposal by Milosevic that the congress should continue without the Slovene delegation is rejected, and Pancevski finally declares that the session, which is due to adopt the full congress declaration and resolutions on the congress debate, as well as elect a new party leadership, had been adjourned. He sets no date for its resumption, however.

Hungary / Soviet Union - January 23, 1990 (LBC)

Prime Minister Miklós Németh announces that in theory the USSR consented to the troop withdrawal.

Romania – January 23, 1990 (ADC)

The C.F.S.N. decides to participate in upcoming elections. The Romanian Liberal Socialist Party (lead by President Nicolae Cervenii) is established.

Romania – January 23, 1990 (OSA)

Reversing its previous stance that it would not participate in the following democratic elections, the National Salvation Front officially announces its intention to participate in all upcoming elections. Prominent human rights activist and dissident Doina Cornea resigns in response, calling the Front’s behavior ‘demagogic’ and solely aimed at winning power.

Romania – January 24, 1990 (OSA)

Hungary and Romania agree to encourage Romanian citizens to return to their country of origin.

Romania – January 24, 1990 (OSA)

Ion Ratiu, the leader of the World’s largest group of Romanian exiles, returns to his homeland for the first time in 50 years with plans to stand as a candidate in national elections scheduled for May.

Romania – January 24, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian national anthem is changed from ‘Trei culori’ (‘Three Colours’) to a song with no reference to communism – ‘Deșteaptă-te, române!’ (‘Awaken, Romanian!’), an 1848 poem by Andrei Mureșanu set to the music of Anton Pann.

Romania – January 24, 1990 (ADC)

A new national anthem (“Deșteaptă-te, Române”) is adopted.

Bulgaria - January 24, 1990 (Crampton, OSA)

The politburo bans party cells in the army and in places of work.

The organization Mothers against the Nuclear plant at Belene join Ecoglasnost (environmental independent organization) for a rally in Sofia. The two groups hand a petition with 30,000 signatures to the National Assembly to stop the construction of the nuclear plant of Belene.

Yugoslavia -- January 24, 1990 (OSA)

20,000 protest in an anti-Serb demonstration in Kosovo in support of free elections, the freeing of political prisoners and an overall general strike.

Slovenia cuts support for underdeveloped areas of Serbia following an economic sanction placed on the republic a month ago. Issue to be solved by Slovenian House of Representatives by February 7th... the cuts mostly affect areas in Kosovo and Crna Gora.

Yugoslavia - January 24, 1990 (KCA)

A crowd of more than 10,000 ethnic Albanians gathers outside the provincial LC headquarters in the capital, Pristina, and a representative of a new independent students' group reads out a list of demands. These include a multiparty system, the resignation of the provincial LC leadership, equal rights for Kosovar Albanians, the release of political prisoners, an end to political trials, and the lifting of the state of emergency in the province.

Yugoslavia – January 24, 1990 (YC, HR)

Massive demonstrations of Albanian students take place in Kosovo. They demand lifting of emergency measures, calling off the trial to Azem Vllasi, and the proclamation of the “Albanian Republic of Kosovo”.

Romania – January 25, 1990 (OSA)

The three largest emerging political parties in Romania call on the provisional government to resign and allow a new caretaker government to run the country until elections are held in May.

Yugoslavia -- January 25, 1990 (OSA)

Hard crackdown on protests in Pristina of 40,000 people... 100 arrests made whilst riot police responded to protesters advances with force.

Yugoslavia -- January 26-27, 1990 (OSA)

General strikes widen in Albania... Serbian government assures the world that Kosovo is still a part of the republic.

Yugoslavia - January 26, 1990 (KCA)

As rioting spreads to several towns in Kosovo (see January 24), the security presence is heavily reinforced throughout the province. In Pristina, special police units armed with automatic weapons line the main thoroughfares and surround key buildings and the university campus, while guards are posted around villages inhabited by Serbs.

Bulgaria - January 26, 1990 (OSA)

The leaders of ASO (Alternative Socialist Organisation, a self-proclaimed faction within the BCP) allege that the elections for the upcoming BCP Congress are being manipulated by the incumbent leadership.

Radio Sofia broadcasts a document on Chernobyl issued by the National Program on Public Radiation Defense. The document charged that the authorities had played down the radiation risks and accused senior government and party officials of playing down the risks of the incident.

Romania -- January 26, 1990 (OSA)

Dumitru Mazilu, Vice-President of the Council of the National Salvation Front, resigns.

Romania -- January 27, 1990 (OSA)

Attila Palfalvi is fired for ‘taking decisions on his own in such a manner that contributed to creating tension between the Hungarian population and the Romanian population in some Transylvanian settlements’. The agreements he made previously on minority-language education are not repealed, however. Elsewhere, Romania’s ‘traditional’ parties open negotiations with the government. Backing down from the previous demand of wholesale resignation, they ask to be represented in the Council, the name of which they want changed to the Council of National Unity. The Front agrees to negotiate on this matter, but asks that the opposition parties move the demonstration planned for the next day in Victory Square, (where the Front has its headquarters) to University Square. In exchange, it offers to announce on television its intention to negotiate according to the parties’ demands.

Romania -- January 27-February 2, 1990 (OSA)

The trial of four of Nicolae Ceaușescu’s closest allies (Manea Mănescu, Tudor Postelnicu, Emil Bobu and Ion Dincă) takes places in Bucharest Military Court. On February 2nd, all defendants are charged with the crime of complicity to commit genocide and sentenced to life imprisonment, while all of their personal property is confiscated. Only evidence from the five days of the Revolution is considered, and the Romanian Minister of Justice expresses concern to Helsinki Watch that the first major post-Ceaușescu trial is not ‘emphasising scrupulous attention to legal procedure’ but merely satisfying the public’s desire for revenge. The indictment states that the defendants’ responsibility for the deaths of at least 689 persons and the injuries of at least 1,200, although no effort is made to prove these figures are accurate. Although all of them acknowledge their guilt, three of the four

defendants (Mănescu, Postelnicu and Bobu) announce that they will appeal the verdict, although they do not explain the grounds on which this will be done this will be done.

Yugoslavia - January 27, 1990 (KCA)

The first deaths in the Kosovo-conflict (see January 24/26) occur, when, according to unofficial reports, at least nine Albanians are shot dead during clashes with police in the towns of Orahovac and Djakovica. The Yugoslav media, which claims only four fatalities from the incidents, says that police have acted in self-defense after demonstrators fired on them with automatic weapons.

East Germany - January 27, 1990 (KCA)

At a party congress of the German Peasant Party, delegates representing 117,000 members approves an electoral program which includes continued support for cooperative and state ownership of farms.

East Germany / West Germany - January 28, 1990 (KCA)

An agreement is reached to form an all-party government of national responsibility, which will hold office until an early general election. The election date is being brought forward from May 6 to March 18. Around 2,000 East Germans continue to leave for West Germany each day.

Yugoslavia - January 28, 1990 (KCA)

At least four demonstrators (see January 24-27) are shot dead by police at Suva Reka in the Kosovo province.

Romania – January 28, 1990 (ADC)

A meeting takes place between the Christian Democratic National Peasant’s Party and the Social Democratic Party. They discuss competing in elections with the National Salvation Front. Meanwhile, the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (*Uniunea Democrată a Maghiarilor din România*) is established.

Romania – January 28, 1990 (OSA)

After NSF’s decision to register as a party and participate as such in the May elections, the opposition organizes a demonstration. The NSF responds with a counterdemonstration on the same day and organizes a show of support in its favour the next day with thousands of miners from the Jiu Walley, brought to Bucharest on special trains.

Romania’s provisional president, Ion Iliescu, addressing tens of thousands of protesters surrounding the headquarters of the governing National Salvation Front called Sunday for talks with the opposition.

Romania – January 28-29, 1990 (OSA)

Following an ambiguous television declaration from the Front, the parties decide to defy an official interdiction from Bucharest city authorities and go ahead with their planned protest in Victory Square on the 28th. An estimated 100,000 protesters peacefully call on the Front to respect its prior promise not to run in elections. Romanian state television subsequently calls on workers to ‘rush to its aid’, summoning those from Bucharest’s largest factories to counter-protest. Fearing violent confrontations, the opposition parties call on their supporters to disperse in the evening. However, negotiations that day do not lead to anything, and protests are resumed on the 29th. This time the government plans even more effectively, and sends thousands of miners down from the Jiu Valley

on special trains to support them. These miners arrive with clubs and chains, and, desperate to silence the opposition, demolish the headquarters of the Peasant Party and the Liberal Party while brutalising their members. Outside of Bucharest, similar anti-opposition violence occurs in a number of provincial cities throughout Romania.

Yugoslavia -- January 28, 1990 (OSA)

The Belgrade Bor, the only weekend print media in Yugoslavia, has had significant less number of pages this past weekend due to strikes in the printing and journalism sectors calling for significant wage increase and the resignation of powerful board directors and members.

Yugoslavia -- January 28, 1990 (OSA)

Yugoslav opposition member Milovan Gyilaszi tells Washington post that there is no longer communist hegemony in Yugoslavia, and the party is already more than broken.

Yugoslavia -- January 28, 1990 (OSA)

The Deputy Minister of Yugoslavia tells Serbian politicians at a meeting that he is in support of an association of Croatian and Serbian Hungarians.

Yugoslavia -- January 29, 1990 (OSA)

Slovenian representatives said at a rally that national rights must be unconditionally guaranteed, and the people of Yugoslavia should form their alliances as they see fit, this in turn leads to the strengthening of the Hungarian democratic alliance in Vojvodina.

Yugoslavia -- January 29, 1990 (OSA)

Croatian communists say they will not meet at today's meeting of the Yugoslav presidency, and have asked the government and the army to set a date for postponement.

Yugoslavia -- January 29, 1990 (OSA)

40 companies striking in Kosovo that are largely ethnic Albanian.

Yugoslavia -- January 29, 1990 (OSA)

President of the Slovenian Social Democratic Party calls for republic status of Kosovo.

Romania -- January 29, 1990 (OSA)

The first land reform measure with practical consequences is passed. It provided for the enlargement of the size of individual plots belonging to peasants in cooperative units from 0,15 to 0,5 hectares.

Romania -- January 29, 1990 (OSA)

Group of students gather at the Ion Minca Institute of Architecture to display photos of Ion Iliescu in the company of Ceausescu, along with articles Iliescu wrote as an Orthodox Communist loyal to the old regime.

Romania – January 29, 1990 (ADC)

In Bucharest, National Salvation Front sympathizers organize a demonstration in which 5,000 miners from the Jiu Valley participate. The Romanian Democratic Agrarian Party (*Partidul Democrat Agrar din Romania*) is established.

East Germany - January 29, 1990 (KCA)

Erich Honecker, the former Head of State, and Erich Mielke, the former head of the secret police, are charged with treason. Honecker had undergone surgery for a malignant kidney tumor on January 10 and is briefly arrested upon leaving the hospital.

GDR – January 29, 1990 (OSA)

Speaking to the East German parliament on January 29, Modrow paints a picture of an East Germany on the brink of chaos if not complete collapse. The underlying message of Modrow’s speech is that it was uncertain whether East Germany would reach the elections intact.

Hungary – January 29, 1990 (PTH)

30,000 people demonstrate at the initiation of the trade unions in front of the House of Parliament because of the worsening living conditions and the threatening unemployment.

Yugoslavia - January 29-31, 1990 (KCA)

Another 13 people, including one police officer, die in clashes in various locations (see January 24-28). The worst rioting is in Podujevo, where several thousand demonstrators, many of them schoolchildren and students, fight running battles with police who resort to rubber bullets and tear gas dropped from helicopters. The federal Collective State Presidency announces that it has ordered "special measures" to try to end the violence. According to unofficial reports, a majority of the Presidency members had voted two days earlier against sending federal troops to Kosovo to put down the unrest.

East Germany - January 30, 1990 (KCA)

The former Head of State Erich Honecker, convicted for treason, is released again after being arrested the day before because he still needs medical attention.

GDR / Soviet Union – January 30, 1990 (OSA)

During a visit by Modrow to Moscow, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev remarked that it was “not unexpected” that the issue of German unity was back on the agenda and that, “in principle, no one puts it in doubt.” He warned that any move toward reunification had to be gradual and preserve stability: “It is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important matter on the streets.”

Soviet Union / U.S. - January 30, 1990 (KCA)

A rumor based on a Gorbachev proposal of replacing the general secretary post by that of party chairman, is broadcasted by the United States television network CNN, producing a brief panic in world financial markets, that Gorbachev is about to resign.

Bulgaria - January 30, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The Bulgarian Communist Party is opening its 14th extraordinary congress. The aim is to reform the party and make it ready for the upcoming multi-party elections.

Soviet Union / Germany - January 30, 1990 (LBC)

Gorbachev talks on German unification, which according to him “was not unexpected. Nobody casts any doubt upon it.”

Romania / U. S. – January 30, 1990 (OSA)

U.S. State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler states that the United States are ‘deeply troubled’ by the campaign of intimidation occurring against legitimate opposition groups seeking an independent role in the new Romanian political order. She adds that the Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights Richard Schifter, on a visit to Bucharest, is ‘forcefully stating’ American concerns in meetings with both the authorities and the opposition. Another anonymous senior State Department official is quoted as saying that it was ‘no longer likely’ that Secretary of State James Baker would visit Bucharest on his way back from talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow.

Yugoslavia -- January 30, 1990 (OSA)

2 dead and 20 demonstrators and police injured as Kosovo essentially collapses into a state of civil war... Albanian extremists attacking police with automatic weapons and smoke grenades... 8 have died in total.

Yugoslavia -- January 31, 1990 (OSA)

Protestors in Belgrade consisting of Serbians calling Albanian nationalism and terrorism a threat, calling to squash riots in Kosovo.

Romania – January 31, 1990 (OSA)

The National Salvation Front issues a decree on parliamentary elections that would ensure equitable representation of the minorities based on their proportion of the total population.

GDR / Soviet Union - January 31, 1990 (OSA)

East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow arrives in Moscow for talks with Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov. Soviet television broadcast an interview with Modrow in which he complains about West German interference in East German internal affairs. Modrow also says there were alarming signals of neofascist activity in East Germany.

U.S. / Soviet Union - January 31, 1990 (LBC)

In his State of the Union Address, Bush recommends that the U.S. and the Soviet Union reduce the number of its troops to 195,000 each and to maximize the number of soldiers stationed in Europe at 225,000 each. Thus the USSR would need to carry out a reduction of 370,000, and the US of 60,000.

Czechoslovakia - January 31, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Frantisek Pitra retires, stating in his letter of resignation that criticism leveled against those like himself who had worked in political life in the past few years, could be seen as justified.

Romania - January 31, 1990 (KCA)

Decree laws provide for the assignment of cooperative land for farmers, for their own long-term use

up to 0.5 hectares, for farmers' houses to become their own property, and for an incentive system whereby the incomes of co-operative and state farms will relate to their sales.

February

Romania – February 1, 1990 (HOR)

Negotiations take place between the National Salvation Front and representatives of other political parties.

Romania - February 1, 1990 (KCA)

Following three days of round table talks, representatives of 29 opposition parties agree to proposals from the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) to share power in a new 180-seat provisional Council of National Unity (CNU). The CNU is intended to serve as a transitional "mini-parliament" to govern the country until the holding of a general election on May 20.

Bulgaria - February 1, 1990 (KCA)

The Bulgarian Communist Party-dominated government of Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov resigns.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - February 1, 1990 (KCA)

A new travel law comes into effect. The law gives every citizen the right to travel abroad and to return to the German Democratic Republic at any time. Hard currency needed for travel will be obtained from a fund financed by both East and West Germany.

On his return from a 24-hour visit to Moscow, Prime Minister Hans Modrow announces proposals for "overcoming the division of the German nation" by creating a united, neutral Germany.

GDR – February 1, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister, Hans Modrow, gives in to the public pressure and, at a press conference, proposes his own plan for German reunification, using as a title the slogan that had dominated demonstrations around the country, “Germany, United Fatherland.”

Yugoslavia – February 1-2, 1990 (YC, HR)

During the demonstrations in Kosovo, 27 demonstrators and 1 policeman are killed. In order to prevent spreading of demonstrations the Yugoslav Army is positioned in the streets in several towns in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia -- February 1, 1990 (OSA)

Belgrade denounces comments from the Romanian ministry pertaining to the treatment and education of minorities in Yugoslavia. Belgrade did not agree with a statement turning to a lack of mention of Croats and Serbs, expressing that this is the cause of the ethnic tear. The Yugoslav government stands by their federation, expressing that the rights of minorities cannot be determined by the power of their organizations- rather by democratic election in a democratic state.

Yugoslavia -- February 1, 1990 (OSA)

Meeting of Yugoslav state presidency for the second time in 2 days, calling for a crackdown on the Kosovar Albanians and heavy reform both in Yugoslavia and Kosovo.

Yugoslavia -- February 1, 1990 (OSA)

19 dead, 54 demonstrators and 44 police injured is the official count of casualties in Kosovo entering the month of February.

Yugoslavia -- February 1, 1990 (OSA)

The convertibility rate in Eastern Europe, specifically in Yugoslavia and Poland, have reached their lowest rates on record... says the Swiss.

Yugoslavia -- February 2, 1990 (OSA)

Crisis teams and the military was dispatched after 10 days of civil unrest in Kosovo, protests of which took the lives of 20 people.

Yugoslavia -- February 2, 1990 (OSA)

President of Yugoslavia visits Kosovo to talk about ending the strife and hostility in Kosovo.

Bulgaria - February 2, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party ends with the endorsement of a reformist manifesto, while still affirming that the party will remain Marxist rather than taking the social-democratic way of other former ruling East European parties. The new manifesto confirms the party's commitment to multiparty democracy and to the separation of the BCP and the state. It announces that the BCP is being "de-Stalinized" and transformed into "a new type of modern Marxist party" committed to "human and democratic socialism." The congress also approves a new party leadership structure which features the replacement of the 195-member central committee with a 131-member supreme council.

The Prosecutor General's Office starts an investigation into the conduct of Bulgarian officials in the aftermath of the Chernobyl incident. This investigation is sparked by public protests over reports that at that time Bulgarian party and government officials were provided with fresh supplies imported from the West while the population was told that radiation level would not affect food quality and public health.

Soviet Union / Moldova / Estonia - February 2, 1990 (KCA)

It is reported that an emergency session of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet Presidium has declared a six-month suspension on "all political events which are likely to cause interethnic strife." This means a ban on all unauthorized rallies, marches, and ballots and greater legal supervision of registered public organizations such as the nationalist Moldavian Popular Front and rival groups representing the Russian and other minority populations in the republic.

Also on this day, a mass rally is held in Tallinn (the Estonian capital) to mark the 70th anniversary of the Tartu peace treaty, whereby Soviet Russia had recognized Estonia's independence. The rally is attended by over 3,000 deputies to Soviets at all levels (from rural Soviets to the USSR Supreme Soviet), and these meet subsequently to adopt overwhelmingly a declaration calling on the USSR Supreme Soviet to enter into negotiations "on the restoration of Estonian state independence."

GDR / Soviet Union - February 2, 1990 (OSA)
East German Communist Party Chairman Gregor Gysi arrives in Moscow, talks with Gorbachev and gives an interview with *Sovetskaya Rossiya*.

Romania – February 2, 1990 (OSA)
Two special papal envoys, Archbishop Guido del Mestri and Father Jhon Bukovsky, pay a twelve-day visit to Bucharest with the urgent mission of reorganizing Romania’s Greek-Catholic hierarchies, respectively.

Romania – February 2, 1990 (OSA)
The Council of the National Salvation Front becomes the Provisional Council of National Unity, and other parties are able to participate for the first time in Romania’s interim government. It is planned that the Provisional Council will be made up of 180 members, 90 of whom will be representatives of all political parties (including the Front) and 90 of whom will be selected by (predominantly Front-controlled) county committees.

Romania - February 2, 1990 (KCA)
The first of what promises to be a long series of show trials of former senior officials of the ousted Ceausescu regime ends when a military tribunal in Bucharest finds Emil Bobu, Manea Manescu, Ion Dinca and Tudor Postelnicu guilty of "co-authorship of genocide" in connection with the killing of demonstrators in Timisoara, Bucharest, and elsewhere at the start of the December 1989 revolution. The five-member tribunal sentences each of them to life imprisonment with hard labour, and also strips them of all property, civil rights, and military rank.

Romania - February 3, 1990 (KCA)
Silviu Brucan, a leading National Salvation Front member, is stating that it is impossible to share executive power among so many parties. However, he confirms that the NSF executive bureau will dissolve itself; some of its members were redeployed to direct a separate political wing of the NSF to contest the May elections, while the rest will join NSF president Ion Iliescu in the Council of National Unity.

Bulgaria - February 3, 1990 (KCA / OSA)
The National Assembly elects Andrei Lukanov as the new Prime Minister.
The local newspaper *Naroden Glas* details the functioning of the Zlatni Pyasatsi concentration camp, on the Black Sea. In 1959, the camp became the country's largest institution of the detention of political prisoners and criminals serving long sentences. Between 1959 and 1962 (the year when the camp was shut down), the camp totaled 1,200 prisoners.

East Germany / West Germany / France - February 3, 1990 (KCA)
Le Monde describes the “sudden conversion” of Modrow, who had previously stressed that reunification was not on the agenda, as a response to rising popular pressure for reunification and to the continuing exodus of East Germans to West Germany.

Yugoslavia -- February 3, 1990 (OSA)

Following a vigil for those who lost their lives in the civil unrest, relative peace has been seen Kosovo... However, those living in villages under essential martial law have seen it upon themselves to take up arms on their own. The number of dead has reached 25.

Yugoslavia -- February 3, 1990 (OSA)

The Serbian Democratic Party is founded.

Yugoslavia -- February 4, 1990 (OSA)

Albanian writers and intellectuals call for an end to the Yugoslavian terror in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia -- February 4, 1990 (OSA)

Following the Slovenian walkout at the 14th Communist Congress, the Slovenian Communist Party officially left the Yugoslavian Communist Party and have changed their name to the New Democratic Party of Slovenia. The leader (Ribicic) of the new Social-Democratic Party emphasized it is not the nations goal to leave Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia -- February 4, 1990 (OSA)

Serbian say 2,000 new police were to be deployed in Kosovo.

Romania -- February 4, 1990 (OSA)

Silviu Brucan, a member of the NSF, resigns suddenly and denounces that “personal ambitious, careerism and political opportunism in the reform movement.

East Germany - February 4, 1990 (KCA)

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism announces that in the future it will be known as the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS).

Soviet Union - February 4, 1990 (KCA)

Up to 150,000 people join a march in the city centre of Moscow, making it the largest unofficial demonstration in the city since the immediate post-revolution period. Members of unofficial groups of almost every political persuasion joins in, from anarchists and separatists to right- wing Russian nationalists and monarchists. There is unprecedented Soviet media coverage; Moscow Radio had announced the march in advance and urges "all democratically minded Muscovites to take part," while Soviet television news show close-up shots, not just of banners with slogans attacking the communist monopoly and party conservatives, but even of isolated placards which call for Gorbachev's resignation.

Romania - February 4, 1990 (KCA)

Silviu Brucan, a leading National Salvation Front member, resigns from the NSF Executive Bureau, claiming that the revolution is being reduced to power struggles between political opportunists in an atmosphere of public apathy.

Yugoslavia - February 4, 1990 (KCA)

The Slovene League of Communists (LC), which at the end of January plunged the federal League

of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) into crisis by abandoning the 14th extraordinary LCY congress (see January 22), holds a party conference at which it renounces its links with the LCY.

Yugoslavia - February 5, 1990 (KCA)

The tension again rises in Kosovo, as Slobodan Milosevic, the hard-line Serbian nationalist and leader of the Serbian LC, calls for a "mobilization for Kosovo," entailing a mass Serbian "settlement" there (some 400,000 Serbs and Montenegrins left the province since 1967).

Romania - February 5, 1990 (KCA)

Official statistics reveal that out of a group of 1,025 sick children aged under three years, 367 were HIV positive, with 60% showing symptoms of full-blown AIDS. This situation was caused by multiple needle use and by giving underweight newborn babies micro transfusions of unscreened blood. A World Health Organization team visits Romania at the request of the government to give advice on a situation described by Dr. Jacques Lebas, a leading AIDS expert, as more serious than any in the world, including Africa.

Romania / Hungary – February 5, 1990 (OSA)

A Hungarian-Romanian cultural agreement is signed between the Hungarian Minister for Education and the Romanian Minister of Culture. This called for the establishment of a Hungarian cultural centre in Bucharest by the end of 1990 and a Romanian counterpart in Budapest, as well as the renewal of Hungarian-Romanian friendship societies.

Czechoslovakia - February 5, 1990 (KCA)

Richard Sacher invites television cameras into the headquarters of the Statni Bezpecnost to prove to the public that the organization has been closed down.

East Germany / West Germany - February 5, 1990 (KCA)

Eight opposition leaders join Modrow's government as Ministers without Portfolio. As a result, for the first time in the history of East Germany, the Communists are in a minority in the Council of Ministers.

Both the round table and the *Volkskammer* vote to ban activities of the West German neo-Nazi Republicans, whose leader had already repeatedly been denied entrance to the country in recent months.

Furthermore, the East German Christian Democratic Union, Democratic Awakening, and the German Social Union agrees in West Berlin to conduct a joint campaign under the name “Alliance for Germany.” Kohl, who is present, promises his party's full support.

Soviet Union - February 5-7, 1990 (KCA)

President Mikhail Gorbachev, in his capacity as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), wins backing at a meeting of the party central committee for a new draft party platform. If endorsed by the forthcoming 28th party congress (brought forward from October to June or July 1990), the new platform will renounce the party's constitutionally guaranteed monopoly of power. This will clear the way for the creation of a multiparty system in the Soviet Union.

Poland / IMF - February 5, 1990 (KCA)

Poland's agreement with the International Monetary Fund –to draw standby credits equivalent to

\$723,000,000 over 13 months– Is formally approved. Based on the letter of intent signed by the Polish government on December 23, 1989, it is backdated to allow drawings as from January 1, 1990. It is Poland's first IMF credit agreement since joining the Fund in June 1986.

Yugoslavia -- February 5, 1990 (OSA)

8 opposition parties now exist in Croatia.

Yugoslavia -- February 6, 1990 (OSA)

A Yugoslav consulate to open in Pecs, and a Hungarian one in Zagreb in an effort to strengthen diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Poland / World Bank - February 6, 1990 (KCA)

The World Bank for the first time gives major loans to Poland for structural adjustment purposes, totaling \$360,000,000, while indicating that loans in the pipeline can total five times that amount in 1990. World Bank President Barber Conable calls for a "broad-based international effort" to help Poland.

East Germany / West Germany - February 6, 1990 (KCA)

Chancellor Kohl announces his readiness "to open immediate negotiations on economic and monetary union" in advance of the elections in East Germany on March 18. On the same day, he sets up a Cabinet committee to investigate such a union, and Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister, presents a three-stage plan to introduce economic and monetary union by the end of 1992.

Czechoslovakia - February 6, 1990 (KCA)

Petr Pithart, previously the Spokesman of the Civic Forum coordinating centre, is appointed Prime Minister of the Czech Republic replacing Frantisek Pitra.

The resignation of Miroslav Toman, the Czech First Deputy Prime Minister, is also accepted on this day. Two new first Deputy Prime Ministers, Frantisek Vlasal and Antonin Hrazdira, are appointed.

Romania – February 6, 1990 (OSA)

The National Salvation Front formally transforms into a political party in order to contest the upcoming elections.

Romania - February 6, 1990 (KCA)

The Minister of Tourism, Major Mihai Lupoi, is dismissed for allegedly protesting at the transfer of buildings used by his ministry to other bodies. He accuses the National Salvation Front leadership of using "dictatorial methods."

Also on this day, the National Salvation Front issues decrees allowing for the establishment of small business enterprises free from much of the highly centralized system of state controls. The NSF's position on the creation of a market economy remains cautious, however, and it favors a “diverse property state” including state, co- operative, participative, and private property ownership.

Bulgaria - February 6, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The opposition again spurns an invitation to participate in a coalition government, and the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union, the junior coalition partner in every government since the 1947

imposition of communist rule, states that it will only join a new government of “national consensus.”

FISU (Federation of Independent Students' Unions), the largest alternative youth group to the Komsomol (Communist Youth Union), demands a reduction of the conscription period from 24 to 18 months.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia / Bulgaria / Romania - February 6-11, 1990 (LBC)

Baker makes a “tour” of Eastern Europe. In Prague he negotiates with President Havel and outlines the U.S. aid program meant for Czechoslovakia. Trade restrictions on Czechoslovak goods will be lifted. Prague will be eligible for American commercial loans. Bilateral education and diplomatic relations will be made more intensive. At the Charles University of Prague, the U.S. Secretary of State announces a four-point program for Eastern Europe: they will assist free elections, provide reconstruction aid, offer political-economic cooperation, and rethink military policy. In Sofia, the U.S. Secretary of State informs his hosts that Bulgaria’s communist system can gain international recognition if clean elections are held and if it respects the results. In Bucharest, the Secretary of State announces a 93.5 million dollar food aid.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Latvia - February 7, 1990 (KCA)

The Lithuanian and Latvian Supreme Soviets adopts declarations condemning the votes taken in July 1940 by their predecessors, the parliaments of independent Lithuania and Latvia, to join the Soviet Union. Both declarations also call for negotiations on the restoration of their republics' independence, although the Latvian Supreme Soviet foresees "a free and independent State of Latvia" being part of a reformed Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia / U.S. - February 7, 1990 (KCA)

James Baker, the U.S. Secretary of State, visits Czechoslovakia and holds talks with President Havel and Jiri Dienstbier, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister.

East Germany / West Germany - February 7, 1990 (KCA)

Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the West German *Bundesbank*, agrees to join the re-unification committee.

In East Berlin, the three left-wing citizens' movements (New Forum, Democracy Now and Initiative for Peace and Human Rights) agrees to campaign together as the Electoral Alliance '90 (*Wahlbündnis '90*). Their joint candidates and program, with the slogan "Alliance '90: citizens for citizens", favor a gradual reunification leading to a demilitarized Germany and the transformation of NATO and the Warsaw Pact into political blocs.

Soviet Union - February 7, 1990 (LBC)

The communist party of the Soviet Union renounces its political monopoly at the vote taken at the Central Committee.

U.S. - February 7, 1990 (LBC)

The U.S. congress approves a 10 million dollar aid package to Eastern Europe.

Hungary – February 7, 1990 (PTH)

An agreement is reached at the National Roundtable that the Parliament will deal only with the most important laws in the rest of its term.

Bulgaria - February 7, 1990 (OSA)

Zhelyu Zhelev, chairman of the UDF, calls for the disbanding of the state security department and the depoliticization of the ministry of internal affairs. In a speech, General Atanas Semerdjev (head of the ministry of internal affairs) rejects this call, but assures that past transgression of civil liberties would be punished and that participants to the roundtable negotiations would not be subject to electronic surveillance.

Romania – February 7, 1990 (OSA)

The Minister of Tourism, becomes the fourth member of the ruling council to resign, accusing the NSF of “dictatorial methods” reminiscent of the outset communist regime.

Romania – February 8, 1990 (OSA)

Tension over the reintroduction of Hungarian language instruction in some high schools in Transylvania reaches its peak; and, according to Radio Bucharest reports, some 5,000 Romanians attend an anti-Hungarian demonstration in the local sports hall in Tirgu Mures.

Bulgaria - February 8, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

Prime Minister Lukanov's proposals for the composition of his government are approved by the National Assembly, and Bulgaria acquires an all-communist government for the first time in the country's history.

Minister of Construction Petrov is replaced by Ivan Kamenov Krastev. Petrov had been at the center of a row with the Ruse Committee, a group of campaigners demanding government action regarding pollution levels in the city of Ruse, northern Bulgaria, affected by the gas emissions from the chemical plant in Giurgiu, Romania.

Romania - February 8, 1990 (KCA)

Around 1,000 television workers protests in Victory Square against the alleged National Salvation Front’s control of the media.

Romania – February 9, 1990 (OSA)

The Provisional Council of National Unity holds its first plenary session in Bucharest. It is announced that the Council will be made up of 241 members, rather than the 180 previously agreed on – more than the 145 members of the Council of the National Salvation Front. Of these 241, 105 would be representatives of the 35 registered parties (three from each), 106 would represent the Front, and 27 would represent the nine national minority organizations (three each also). The final three members would represent the Association of Former Political Detainees. According to the official communique, the plenary session includes a number of disagreements on financing for parties’ electoral campaigns. The draft electoral law proposed by the Front would ban all foreign funding and force parties to rely on the state for money, a law suggested by some to be a plan to funnel cash back to the Front through ‘ghost parties’. There are also objections from the Front’s opponents about the inclusion of such parties in the Council itself. These disagreements mean that many issues on the initial agenda (a governmental report on the situation of the Romanian economy, amongst other things) remain undiscussed.

Romania - February 9, 1990 (KCA)

Aurel Dragos Munteanu, appointed director of Romanian Television and Radio during the first days of the December revolution, resigns after widespread public criticism that he has manipulated

broadcasting to benefit the National Salvation Front.
Also on this day, during a reportedly stormy first plenary session of the Council of National Unity, the National Salvation Front agrees to opposition demands that more seats should be created for new parties and groups established since the February 1st agreement.

Romania – February 9, 1990 (HOR / ADC)
The Provisional Council of National Unity (*Consiliu Provizoriu de Uniune Nationala* or C.P.U.N.) is established as a transitional government. This body is in charge of leading the country until elections scheduled for May 20, 1990 take place.

Hungary – February 9, 1990 (PTH)
The diplomatic relations broken off in 1945 between Hungary and the Vatican are restored.

Poland - February 9, 1990 (KCA)
Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki appeals to Western creditor governments for a rapid agreement on debt rescheduling, and for consideration of measures to reduce Poland's overall foreign debt (some \$41 billion, including \$27 billion to Western countries belonging to the so-called “Paris Club”) by partial write-off.
Also on this day, a candidate of the environmentalist Green Party, Jerzy Rosciszewski, is elected mayor of Krakow by the city council, heavily defeating the Solidarity candidate. The city of Krakow and the surrounding area suffers severe atmospheric pollution from local heavy industry such as the giant Nova Huta steelworks.

East Germany / West Germany / U.K. - February 10, 1990 (KCA)
Warnings of an imminent collapse of the East German economy is described by the *Guardian* as “designed to justify Chancellor Kohl's abrupt reversal of policy.”

Hungary – February 10, 1990 (PTH)
15,000 people demonstrate in front of the House of Parliament demanding the freezing of selling and buying land property.

Romania – February 10, 1990 (OSA)
A group of around 40,000 ethnic Hungarians, predominantly young men, march through Târgu Mureş to demand the immediate introduction of separate Hungarian-language schools for their community. Elsewhere, the number of members of the Provisional Council increases from 241 to 253 after two more parties are registered at the last minute (three members each) and 6 Front representatives are added.

Romania – February 11, 1990 (OSA)
In Lunga, district of Covasna, Transylvania, three houses are destroyed; three are set on fire, while four persons die during an incident opposing Romanies and Hungarians inhabitants of the village.

Romania / U.S. - February 11, 1990 (OSA)
Following the creation of a provisional council, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proceeds with the allegedly suspended visit to Romania. He announces that the United States have offered Romania \$80 million in aid in the form of food. However, he makes it clear that Washington is continuously monitoring political developments and that further improvements in bilateral relations

are contingent on ‘fully free and fair elections, and on respect for human rights and the rights of national minorities’. Baker also declines to comment further on the restoration of Romania’s most favoured nation trade status.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - February 11, 1990 (KCA)

During a visit to Moscow by Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union declares, "the unity of the German nation must be decided by the Germans themselves." Hailing this “historic result,” Kohl declares: “The road to reunification is open.”

Soviet Union / Tajikistan / Armenia / Azerbaijan - February 11, 1990 (KCA)

Nationalist rioting erupts in Dushanbe, the capital of the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan, which up to now has been largely untouched by the nationalist or inter-ethnic unrest afflicting much of the southern Soviet Union. The immediate cause of the rioting in Dushanbe is a rumor that Armenian refugees from the violence in Azerbaijan are to be resettled there, taking priority over local people in the allocation of already scarce homes and jobs.

Bulgaria - February 11, 1990 (KCA)

The Alternative Socialist Organization, the most radical of several pro-reform factions which emerged in the party in January, is carrying out a threat to split from the BCP and form a new social democratic party. At a conference attended by some 3,000 people, a group of 30 intellectuals renounce their BCP membership and announce the formation of the Alternative Socialist Party.

East Germany / West Germany - February 11-13, 1990 (LBC)

An East-West foreign ministers’ meeting is held in Ottawa. They agree on the German unification talks.

U.S. / Soviet Union - February 11-13, 1990 (LBC)

A breakthrough occurs in European troop reduction; the USSR is favorably disposed to the idea that the U.S. has 225,000 troops in Europe. 195,000 would be stationed in Central Europe, the same amount as the USSR. After implementation, the U.S. would have 30,000 more troops in Europe than the Soviets.

Soviet Union / Tajikistan - February 12, 1990 (KCA)

The Tajik Communist Party (CP) headquarters is besieged by rioters who succeed in setting part of the building on fire (see February 11) The Tajik Supreme Soviet Presidium declares a state of emergency and a night-time curfew in Dushanbe; and, fearing a pogrom, Armenians are reported to be fleeing the city.

East Germany / West Germany - February 12, 1990 (KCA)

A new liberal grouping, League of Free Democrats (*Bund freier Demokraten*), is set up in West Berlin. Count Otto Lambsdorff, the West German Free Democratic Party chair, who is present, declares that its formation will avoid a split in the liberal centre vote.

Romania - February 12, 1990 (KCA)

Aurel Munteanu’s successor as director of Romanian Television and Radio (see February 9, 1990), Razvan Teodorescu, is appointed by National Salvation Front decree.

Furthermore, in the first military challenge to the National Salvation Front since the December revolution, protesting junior officers appear on television and 49 others (Air Force officers from Timisoara) begin a three-day occupation of NSF headquarters in the capital, Bucharest. They call for the resignation of Defense Minister General Nicolae Militaru and Interior Minister General Mihai Ghitac, both considered tainted by association with the Ceaurescu regime, and for the replacement by civilians.

Romania – February 12, 1990 (ADC)

The Romanian military undergoes reforms. General Nicolae Militaru, Minister of Defense, is replaced by a civilian.

Romania – February 12, 1990 (OSA)

Following growing unease about the recall to active duty of a number of Soviet-trained military officers by Defence Minister Nicolae Militaru, dissident elements found a pro-reform group known as the Committee of Action to Democratise the Army.

Yugoslavia -- February 12, 1990 (OSA)

The Yugoslav ambassador to Hungary met with two Hungarian officials to discuss the role of nationalities within the scope of rising interest in Democratic-Socialism

Azerbaijan/Armenia/ Dushanbe riots - February 12-14, 1990 (FGN)

Massive riots broke out on the basis of ethnic conflicts between the Tajik and Armenians. Due to the events unfolding in Azerbaijan, a number of Armenian refugees travelled to the Tajik capital, Dushanbe. Although the real number of Armenians was low, and most of the refugees had family members with whom they stayed, the native Tajik population was outraged by the rumors that Armenian refugees were being resettled in Dushanbe, when there was already a difficult economic and housing situation in the city. Thus, a violent riot occurred, and many Armenian refugees got killed. The Soviet army regular troops had to move in to stop the riots.

Yugoslavia -- February 13, 1990 (OSA)

Whilst the Slovenian head of state calls for peace-talks and cooperation- not weapons and clashes- in Kosovo, the Serbian Vice President releases press statement denouncing Albanian terroism and separatism in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia -- February 13, 1990 (OSA)

The Albanian Ministry of Foreign affairs publicly refute this claim, says that Kosovo politics have nothing to do with the events in Kosovo, and the claim of Albanian terrorists was made just to justify the brutal politics happening in Kosovo.

Romania – February 13, 1990 (ADC)

The Executive Bureau of the C.P.U.N. is elected. It consists of President Ion Iliescu, Vice Presidents Ion Caramitru, Cazimir Ionescu, Király Károly, Radu Câmpeanu, and Ioan Mânzatu, and 15 other members.

Romania - February 13, 1990 (KCA)

The second meeting of the Council of National Unity elects a 21-member Executive Bureau, confirming by consensus its president, Iliescu, and five vice-presidents, Cazimir Ionescu and Ion Caramitru (both members of the National Salvation Front Council), Radu Campeanu (General Secretary of the National Liberal Party), Ion Minzatu (a representative of the Republican Party), and Karol Kiraly (an ethnic Hungarian, representing the national minorities). Sixteen standing commissions are also created to advise on domestic and foreign affairs.

Romania – February 13, 1990 (OSA)

The Provisional Council of National Unity holds its second plenary session in order to decide on the procedural rules governing its future operations, and to elect the Council’s leading bodies. It is decided that the Council will meet every other Friday, or whenever deemed necessary by the Executive Bureau. A quorum of at least two-thirds of the Council’s members will be required for a law to be considered, but then only a simple majority in order for it to be passed. Voting is either by secret ballot or a show of hands (as decided by the will of the majority). Legislation can be initiated by either the government, the Council’s Executive Bureau, or joint endorsement from three Council members. It is decided to establish 16 permanent commissions and elect 21 members to the Executive Bureau, as well as choosing a President and five Vice-Presidents. Ion Iliescu is elected ‘by consensus’ (meaning ‘presumably without a vote’ according to RFE). Of the five Vice-President, three are affiliated with the Front – Cazimir Ionescu, Ion Caramitru and Karoly Király. The other two are Radu Campeanu, Secretary-General of the National Liberal Party, and Ion Manzatu, the leader of the Republican Party and science-fiction writer. Elsewhere, a court in Sibiu sentences seven former secret police officers to prison terms between 15 and 20 years for ‘conspiracy to commit genocide’ during the Revolution – while representatives of 11 ethnic minority groups issue a joint declaration urging the Council to take quick steps to support the individual and collective rights of their members.

Romania / U.S. – February 13-17, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Foreign Minister Sergiu Celac, on a private visit to the United States, meets with government officials and congressmen. He complains that U.S. policy towards Romania is ‘unfair’, but alleges that this is due to Washington’s uncertainty about the results of the upcoming elections.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / U.S. / U.K. / France - February 13, 1990 (KCA)

Chancellor Kohl states that arrivals of East Germans in West Germany have reached 85,000 in 1990 alone, and that they increasingly strain resources.

Also on this day, the four major victorious allied powers of the Second World War—France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States—and the two German states agree on a formula for dealing with the security implications of the impending unification of Germany. This is called the Two Plus Four Agreement.

Soviet Union / Tajikistan - February 13, 1990 (KCA)

Up to 50,000 demonstrators outside the CP headquarters call for the deportation of Armenian refugees from Dushanbe, (the authorities insist that fewer than 40 Armenians have arrived in the city, not thousands as rumored, and that all have been housed with relatives), for the dismissal of the republic's leadership, and for better job prospects, housing and environmental protection. Moscow radio reports that by the evening, the violence has spread from the city centre to numerous locations in the suburbs, and that automatic gunfire could be heard.

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union - February 14, 1990 (KCA)

It is reported that Rudolf Slansky, a former member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and subsequently of the dissident movement between 1969 and 1989, has been named Czechoslovak Ambassador to the Soviet Union.

East Germany / West Germany / Soviet Union - February 14, 1990 (KCA)

Modrow visits Bonn, the West German capital. He is accompanied by 17 ministers representing all 13 parties in his government.

Furthermore, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, declares that although his government would prefer a united Germany to be neutral and demilitarized, he is not sure how “realistic” this is. He also reiterates his proposal made in early February that an international referendum on German unity should be held.

Yugoslavia – February 14, 1990 (YC)

The Assembly of the FR Croatia adopts amendments to the Constitution, thereby legalizing the multiparty system.

Bulgaria - February 14, 1990 (OSA)

The daily newspaper of the Komsomol contains an editorial criticizing the Council of Ministers for objecting to an interview on Bulgarian television with the former Tsar Simeon II. It also criticized the Mausoleum of Georgi Dimitrov in central Sofia as “a symbol of the victory of Stalinism.”

Romania - February 14, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Petre Roman pledges to investigate the backgrounds of Militaru and Ghitac (see February 13).

Romania – February 14, 1990 (OSA)

50 workers in the Romanian motion picture industry begin a hunger strike in Bucharest, demanding independence for film makers and the abolition of censorship.

Romania – February 15, 1990 (OSA)

Hundreds of civilians who fought alongside the army in December’s revolution throng to Victory Square in support of the officers who are demanding a purge of their military comrades who backed Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romania - February 15, 1990 (KCA)

The officers' occupation (see February 13-14) is called off, with an agreement that the appointment of a civilian Defense Minister should be postponed until after the May general election.

Soviet Union / Tajikistan / Latvia - February 15, 1990 (KCA)

Bloodshed is stopped in Dushanbe (see February 11-13), the capital of the Republic of Tajikistan, by the 5,000 Interior Ministry troops in the city assisted by "citizens' self-defense groups." Official casualty figures speak of 22 people killed and 565 people injured.

Also on this day, the Latvian Supreme Soviet finally passes a law awaited since October 1988 on restoring the official use of the flag, state emblems, and national anthem of independent Latvia in place of those of Soviet Latvia.

Hungary – February 16, 1990 (PTH)

The Council of Ministers makes an overdue apology to the Hungarian nation for the violations of law between 1945 and 1963. The codification of this apology will be submitted to the Parliament.

Yugoslavia - February 16, 1990 (KCA)

The Serbian League of Communists demands that what it terms “illegal immigrants” from Albania should be repatriated, and that those who have been granted Yugoslavian citizenship should be stripped of their rights if they have acted against the constitutional order.

Yugoslavia -- February 16, 1990 (OSA)

Following the Croatian elections, the chief of the UDBA expresses a concern that a pogrom of Serbs will be carried out by the HDZ.

GDR / Poland – February 16, 1990 (OSA)

East German Prime Minister, Hans Modrow, undergoes a one-day visit to Poland. During the visit, he expresses support for the Polish campaign advocating for Poland to be involved in the German reunification talks. His comments contrast considerably with West Germany, which argues that Polish involvement, would not be meaningful.

The Warsaw pact disagrees over German unity. Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer meets with his six Warsaw counterparts in Prague to discuss the unification of Germany and its impact on the two military alliances in Europe. All seven agree on Germany’s right to unify; but while Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze once again objects to the membership of united Germany in NATO, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia maintain that this would be in the interest of stability in Europe.

Poland / Paris Club - February 16, 1990 (KCA)

A major rescheduling package for Poland is concluded after a three-day Paris Club meeting, covering a total of \$9 billion including some \$3.4 billion in arrears outstanding from 1989, but not including debt reduction.

Bulgaria - February 16, 1990 (OSA)

Investigative journalism in the *Narodna Mladez* newspaper feeds public anger over the BCP's responsibility for Bulgaria's dire levels of pollution. It is reported that in the fall of 1987 a secret special report was circulated among party officials detailing the negative effects of pollution on about two-thirds of the Bulgarian population.

Romania – February 16, 1990 (OSA)

Following a weeklong demonstration by junior and middle-level military officers against Defence Minister Nicolae Militaru, President Ion Iliescu announces that he has been replaced by General Victor Atanase Stanculescu. Responding to the protesters’ other demands, Iliescu also announces that the commission set up to examine the army’s role in the Revolution will also examine all military appointments made by Militaru since December 22.

Romania – February 17, 1990 (OSA)

Romania’s provisional government decides to allow private television and radio stations to broadcast in Romania.

Romania / France – February 17-20, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister Petre Roman goes on an official visit to France. His schedule includes meetings with President François Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michel Rocard, and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Sources close to Mitterrand state that Roman expressed interest in strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries, and eventually signing a treaty of association with the European Community.

GDR / FRG – February 17, 1990 (OSA)

West German officials begin plans for a 16-state union and a single defence strategy for a united Germany. West German Defence Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, calls for a united Germany to be a member of NATO. However, the Soviet Union insists that a united Germany be neutral.

Czechoslovakia / Iceland / Canada / U.S. - February 17, 1990 (KCA)

A session of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee decides to expel 22 former members of the party and state leadership for erroneous political decisions while in office. The group includes Gustav Husak, General Secretary of the Communist Party from 1969 to 1987 and President of the Republic from 1975 to 1989, and Lubomir Strougal. Furthermore, Vaclav Havel, the Czechoslovak President, departs for official visits to Iceland, Canada, and the United States, accompanied by Marian Calfa, the federal Prime Minister.

Yugoslavia -- February 18, 1990 (OSA)

A Slovenian newspaper warns the people of Yugoslavia that the army will not shy away from force in this turbulent time, expressing concern that the army will support the side of “large-state Serbian ideals.”

Yugoslavia -- February 18, 1990 (OSA)

The US government has expressed interest in assisting the nation of Eastern Europe with their struggles to combat hyper-inflation... a US company called Eagleburger announces it will open chains in Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Poland - February 18, 1990 (KCA)

A Solidarity candidate defeats a representative of Poland's ethnic German minority in a Senate by-election in the Silesian province of Opole.

Romania – February 18, 1990 (ADC)

A large anti-government demonstration takes place in Bucharest’s Victory Square.

Romania - February 18, 1990 (KCA)

An estimated 3,000 demonstrators, mainly young civilians but with military officers and soldiers also in evidence, gather in Victory Square to demand President Iliescu's resignation, chanting the slogan "the final solution is another revolution." About 250 of them, later branded by the government as paid extremists, breaks through a cordon of soldiers to ram rough the National Salvation Front headquarters, cornering Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voican-Voiculescu in his

office for four hours before soldiers managed to restore order. Twenty soldiers are reportedly injured, and 102 people are arrested.

Romania – February 18, 1990 (OSA)

Thousands of anti-government demonstrators hold a rally outside the government headquarters at Victoria Palace, calling for the resignation of Ion Iliescu and a purge of all former communist officials still active in government and the secret police. Hundreds of demonstrators break into the building but are eventually dispersed by police. Thousands of miners arrive from the Jiu Valley once again in the evening, just as the dispersal is finishing. They issue a stern warning to the opposition not to threaten the Front again.

East Germany / West Germany - February 18, 1990 (KCA)

The West German President, Richard von Weizsäcker, warns that making access to the Deutschmark, the benchmark of German unity, would lead to East Germany being "swallowed."

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia - February 19, 1990 (KCA)

The conflict in Azerbaijan and Armenia is discussed by a closed joint sitting of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, but deputies reportedly fail to agree on a policy to resolve the conflict there. Azerbaijani deputies stage a walkout during a speech by Defense Minister General Dmitry Yazov, and shortly afterwards Armenian deputies follow suit when President Mikhail Gorbachev stresses the inviolability of Azerbaijan's borders.

Romania - February 19, 1990 (KCA)

An estimated 5,000–8,000 miners from the Jiul Valley area arrive in Bucharest to show their support for the National Salvation Front and promise President Iliescu that they will get rid of the "hooligans." The Council of National Unity Executive Bureau also issues a decree banning spontaneous demonstrations, designed to protect state offices and those of opposition political parties.

Romania – February 19, 1990 (OSA)

Instead of returning to work, the Jiu Valley miners who had come to Budapest to quell dissent, choose to organize a march across Bucharest in support of Iliescu and his government.

GDR - February 19, 1990 (OSA)

Deconstruction of the Berlin Wall continues. East German army units begin dismantling a major section of the Berlin Wall near the Brandenburg Gate. Thousands of onlookers on both sides cheer. This initial operation involves removing about one-and-a-half miles of wall stretching from the Reichstag and Checkpoint Charlie and is expected to be completed by the end of March. The wall is to be replaced by a barbed-wire fence, except between the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate.

Yugoslavia - February 19, 1990 (KCA)

The Serbian minority in Kosovo appeals for army protection against what they claim is a threatened massacre by ethnic Albanians. The Yugoslavian Collective State Presidency approves the "specific engagement" of army units in Kosovo, meaning that they are given orders to quash any unrest they find, using force if necessary. Meanwhile, a curfew is imposed in Pristina, the provincial capital.

Yugoslavia - February 20, 1990 (KCA)

The Yugoslavian authorities announce that Army units stationed in the province of Kosovo for the first time have been given specific orders to quell a renewed wave of unrest among ethnic Albanians in the province. Up to now, only police have been used against the demonstrators who are demanding free elections, the resignation of the provincial leadership of the League of Communists (LC), the release of political prisoners, and the lifting of "special measures" which had been imposed amid the earlier riots of February 1989.

Hungary – February 20, 1990 (PTH)

Foreign Minister Gyula Horn states that he thinks it is feasible that Hungary may become a member of NATO in a few years.

Czechoslovakia / U.S - February 20, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel is welcomed at the White House by President Bush, whom he invites to visit Czechoslovakia. On the same day, U.S. and Czechoslovak officials begin talks on a bilateral trade agreement which aims at giving Czechoslovakia most-favored nation status.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan - February 20, 1990 (KCA)

It is reported that Uzbeks are demonstrating in Tashkent, the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to demand the immediate eviction of Meskhetians (a subgroup of Georgians), prompting the authorities to evacuate Meskhetian residents from the city for their own protection.

East Germany / West Germany / Ireland / EC - February 20, 1990 (KCA)

At a meeting of European Community Foreign Ministers in Dublin, Ireland, West Germany's Foreign Minister seeks to reassure the governments who had not been consulted about the Two Plus Four Agreement. "Nothing," he says, "will happen behind the backs of our European partners."

Also on this day, Kohl makes the first of six planned visits to address a rally of the Alliance for Germany attended by 100,000 in Erfurt.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - February 20-21, 1990 (LBC)

Vaclav Havel makes a visit to the U.S. He is accompanied by Czechoslovakia's prime minister and foreign minister. Havel delivers a speech in Congress in which he proposes an international conference in order to eliminate Europe's post-war division and to create a pan-European union. The Czechoslovak president urges the U.S. administration for palpable support of Soviet economic liberalization. He declares that a reformed Soviet Union would reduce the military burden on the American people: "To put it metaphorically, the millions you give to the East today will return to you in the form of billions of savings."

Bulgaria - February 20, 1990 (OSA)

The government files applications to join the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Ban.

GDR - February 20, 1990 (OSA)

New electoral laws are passed. The Volkskammer approve legislation for East Germany's first free elections by secret ballot, to be held on March 18th. The law provides for a 400-seat parliament with a four-year term of office (previously there were 500 deputies serving for five years). A system of proportional representation will be applied, and there will be no minimum percentage of the vote required to qualify for representation. A party will have to collect 1,000 signatures in each electoral

district in which it plans to run.

One of the four nuclear reactors at Greifswald is shut down because of a defect in a cable. The Greifswald plant produced 10% of East Germany’s electricity. It is the second shutdown in a week.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl visits East Germany. Speaking at an election rally in East Germany, Kohl promises that West Germany would cushion East Germans against financial ruin during unification. He says that West Germany would subsidize pensions and savings and help those who lost their jobs. Over 90,000 people turn out in Erfurt’s main square to hear Kohl, whose schedule includes speeches at five other campaign rallies.

Yugoslavia -- February 20, 1990 (OSA)

Yugoslavia presidency appeals to a request for protection of Serbs in Kosovo following the distribution of leaflets that were handed out during protests calling for bloodshed and bombings against the Serbians.

Yugoslavia -- February 20, 1990 (OSA)

Ethnic Serbs and Montenegrins have begun to create their own civil defense militias to combat rising tensions in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia -- February 20, 1990 (OSA)

Army has been deployed to quell unrest, leading to military force to be used in Kosovo. Albanians have been calling for the end of state of emergency and martial law in Kosovo, as well as a military redaction in the area.

Yugoslavia -- February 21, 1990 (OSA)

A rally in Skopje in solidarity with the ethnic Bulgarian-Macedonians condemning the policy in Sofia deeming it “anti-yugoslav and anti-macedonian”. The demonstrators also turned to Greek and Albanian treatment of ethnic Macedonians.

Yugoslavia -- February 21, 1990 (OSA)

Massive crowds have been seen at the Yugoslav border as border guards keep Romanian and soviet travelers from crossing without the proper custom duties.

Yugoslavia -- February 21, 1990 (OSA)

The Slovenian writers officially announce their departure from the Yugoslavian writers union.

Yugoslavia -- February 21, 1990 (OSA)

Curfew still in effect in many kosovar cities, 9pm-4am.

Poland - February 21, 1990 (LBC)

Polish premier Mazowiecki declares that, until the solution of the German question, the Soviet troops will remain in Poland. With the prospect of German unification, Polish fears are revived of

potential German territorial claims. (Poland received 104 thousand square kilometers of German territory after World War II as compensation for the territories of the east that were attached to the Soviet Union. Bonn did not formally recognize the new border.) Mazowiecki declares that his country would like it if only its own troops remained in Poland – but adds that because of the presence of Soviet troops, Poland’s membership in the Warsaw Pact is “significant” from the perspective of the “security” of the country’s boundaries. The premier demands that from the German part the unequivocal recognition of the Polish-German boundary should take place before the unification.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - February 21, 1990 (KCA)

In an interview in *Pravda*, General-Secretary Gorbachev reiterates that "the Germans should themselves decide on the ways, forms, and time-frame of their unification." He also stresses, however, that "the unification of Germany concerns not only the Germans."

In addition, the Polish Prime Minister Mazowiecki calls for a Polish-German treaty guaranteeing the post 1945 Oder-Neisse border to be negotiated between Poland and both German states.

Czechoslovakia / U.S. - February 21, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel addresses a joint session of the U.S. Congress. He denies rumors claiming that he sought a swift dissolution of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, but says that future developments in Europe might allow U.S. troops to withdraw from the continent. He calls for a peace conference to create a new pan-European structure with its own security system. He also states that the best way for the USA to help Eastern Europe will be to aid the Soviet Union on its path to democracy.

Yugoslavia - February 22, 1990 (KCA)

In retaliation for the economic blockade of Slovenia imposed by Serbia at the beginning of December 1989, the Slovene government decides to withhold payment of 15% of the republic's contribution to the federal budget, representing the amount designated for subsidies to the Serbian economy. Contributions to federal funds for the development of Kosovo and for disaster relief in Serbia proper and Vojvodina are also to be withheld.

Soviet Union / Kyrgyzstan / Tajikistan - February 22, 1990 (KCA)

Apparently mindful of events in Dushanbe (see February 11-15), the Kirghiz Supreme Soviet Presidium issues a decree prescribing legal penalties for making written or verbal statements containing "a threat to public order or calls for pogroms."

The Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium, also responding to civil unrest (see February 20), issues a ban on all unauthorized rallies and demonstrations "pending the stabilization of the socio- political situation in Uzbekistan."

Romania – February 22, 1990 (OSA)

The Democratic Union of Serbians, an organisation fighting for the rights of the Serb minority, is established. It begins operation in the counties of Timiș, Arad, Caras-Severin and Mehedinti.

Romania – February 23, 1990 (OSA)

Following extensive protests, the government passes a law on the maintenance of order outside public buildings, the provisions of which enabled police and the army to collaborate, and if necessary to keep the peace.

East Germany - February 23, 1990 (KCA)

At the national electoral congress of the Social Democratic Party of Germany near Leipzig, Ibrahim Böhme is elected party chair.

GDR – February 23 – 26, 1990 (OSA)

At the East German SPD Congress, Chairman Ibrahim Boehme, aiming his comments at the East German electorate, speaks out in favor of establishing German unity as soon as possible.

Bulgaria - February 23, 1990 (KCA)

The Bulgarian Communist Party's supreme council meeting decides to arrange a ballot of all party members in May on a proposal that the party should be renamed the Bulgarian Socialist Party.

Hungary – February 23, 1990 (PTH) The Chairman of the Hungarian National Bank says there is some uncertainty in foreign financial markets in the evaluation of Hungary; moreover, it is also said that the new government intends to declare insolvency.

Soviet Union / Estonia - February 23, 1990 (KCA)

The declaration calling for talks on Estonia's independence is endorsed by the Estonian Supreme Soviet, which elects its Presidium President Arnold Rüütel to head a commission to conduct these talks. The Estonian Supreme Soviet, emulating Lithuania and Latvia, also decides to abolish the clauses in Article 6 of the Estonian Constitution guaranteeing the "leading role" of the Communist Party.

Yugoslavia – February 24-25, 1990 (YC, HR)

The first general meeting of the Croatian Democratic Union takes place in Zagreb. Franjo Tudman becomes the president of the CDU. In his speech he points out that “The Independent State of Croatia was not a mere quisling creation and fascist crime but also an expression of historical aspirations of the Croatian people.” His speech raises concerns amongst Serbs in Croatia.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - February 24, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

Elections are arranged in Lithuania. In the first round of balloting, *Sajudis* (the “Popular Front for *Perestroika*”) -affiliated candidates win enough seats (72 out of 90 seats decided) to ensure an outright majority in the 141-seat Supreme Soviet.

East Germany / West Germany / U.S. / Soviet Union / NATO - February 24-25, 1990 (KCA)

On a visit to the USA, Chancellor Kohl meets President Bush on Feb. 24–25 at Camp David for informal talks. Bush announces afterwards that they "share a common belief" that a unified Germany should remain a full NATO member, but declares: "The former territory of East Germany should have a specific military status that would take into account the legitimate security interests of all interested countries, including the Soviet Union."

Soviet Union / Tajikistan - February 25, 1990 (KCA)

Although the state of emergency after the violence (see February 11-15) remains in force, elections to the Tajik Supreme Soviet goes ahead as scheduled. Ahead of the March 4 elections, massive demonstrations in support of radical democratic reforms are staged, in defiance of official warnings and condemnation, in cities across the Russian Federation.

Bulgaria - February 25, 1990 (KCA)

The Bulgarian Communist Party-affiliated Dimitrov Young Communist League dissolves itself at an extraordinary congress, and an independent Bulgarian Democratic Youth Social Organization is constituted in its place.
On this day, the Union of Democratic Forces stages its largest show of strength to date when it rallies as many as 200,000 supporters in central Sofia to protest against what it labels as Bulgarian Communist Party efforts to "torpedo" the work of the round table. The UDF claims that the BCP refuses to give the round table a valid role in political decision-making.

Yugoslavia -- February 26, 1990 (OSA)

At the founding congress of Croatia, Franjo Tudman demands Croatian withdrawal from the Yugoslav alliance and for amendments to the constitution. Tudman stated that he would fight for the self-determination and the sovereignty of the Croatian state.

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union - February 26-27, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel visits Moscow and is holding talks with President Gorbachev on bilateral relations and developments in Europe, including the unification of the two German states.
Gorbachev, according to Soviet reports, expresses regret over the "unfounded invasion of Czechoslovakia" in 1968. The two leaders sign a declaration on bilateral relations, which Havel says placed relations on a footing of equality and sovereignty of both states. During the visit, Dienstbier and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, sign an agreement on the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia by July 1, 1991.

Soviet Union / Latvia - February 27, 1990 (KCA)

The old flag of Latvia is raised over the Supreme Soviet building in Riga for the first time since 1940 after a resolution of the matter was passed on February 15.

Bulgaria - February 27, 1990 (KCA)

The State Council led by President Petur Mladenov issues a decree reinstating March 3, the date of Bulgaria's liberation in 1878 from Ottoman Turkish rule, as Bulgaria's National Day in place of September 9, the anniversary of the 1944 communist seizure of power.

GDR / FRG - February 27, 1990

Western communists have paramilitary training. The East German Defence Ministry confirms press reports that in the mid-1970s members of the West German communist Party (DKP) started receiving paramilitary training in East Germany.

GDR – February 28, 1990 (OSA)

The AND news agency announces that 38 political parties and organizations have registered with the East German electoral commission to take part in the elections. Three of these parties are immediately rejected for undisclosed reasons, but presumably because they practice “racial or political discrimination” which East Germany’s new law on parties explicitly bans.

East Germany / Poland / West Germany - February 28, 1990 (KCA)

Bowing to pressure from within his coalition and from abroad, Chancellor Kohl advocates that the *Bundestag* and the *Volkskammer* (East German unicameral parliament) will make a joint statement

after the East German elections confirming their respect for the Oder-Neisse border with Poland.

March

East Germany - March 1990 (KCA)

A number of mass graves are found near former concentration camps or prisoner-of-war camps. It is alleged that these are the graves of victims of the occupying Soviet forces after the Second World War rather than Nazi victims. Reports indicate that at the Buchenwald concentration camp near Weimar, in addition to the 56,000 people who died there under Hitler, as many as 13,000 more died when the camp was used by Soviet forces to imprison political opponents in 1945–50.

Czechoslovakia - March 1, 1990 (KCA)

A session of the federal government approves a bill on private enterprises which removes all limits on the number of people whom such enterprises could employ and on the level of profits which could accrue. It is also decided that joint stock companies will be permitted, and that foreign-owned ventures can be allowed to operate on the same terms as domestically owned firms. In addition, the Slovak National Council decides to change the title of the Slovak Socialist Republic to the Slovak Republic.

Romania - March 1, 1990 (KCA)

Major-General Gica Popa, the judge who condemned Ceausescu and his wife Elena Ceausescu to death on December 25, 1989, is reported to have committed suicide. Popa, who had headed the Bucharest Military Court since 1987, is known to have suffered a nervous breakdown.

Romania – March 1, 1990 (OSA)

Pastor László Tőkés speaks out against the National Salvation Front, claiming that they ‘had inherited Ceaușescu’s way of thinking’ and that the Revolution was not yet over.

Hungary – March 1, 1990 (PTH)

The Parliament decides that the president of the country should be elected by the people, and not by the newly elected Parliament.

Yugoslavia -- March 1, 1990 (OSA)

Following a Council meeting between the nations of Western Europe on the status of Germany, Yugoslavia expresses that if Germany were to reunite fully, they should pay for further reparations after WWII.

Yugoslavia -- March 1, 1990 (OSA)

Yugoslavia announces that nationals of those nations that have close diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia can travel visa and passport free into the nation.

Yugoslavia -- March 1, 1990 (OSA)

Italian foreign affairs minister makes trip to Belgrade to discuss the goals of an Italian-Hungarian-Yugoslavian-Austrian cooperation.

Soviet Union / Ukraine - March 2, 1990 (KCA)

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet announces that it will phase out operation of the Chernobyl nuclear reactor over the next five years before closing it down completely. In a resolution published by the republic's official press, it is also announced that Ukraine will stop building nuclear power plants altogether.

East Germany / West Germany / Poland - March 2, 1990 (KCA)

The reassurance implied by Kohl's proposal on February 28, that the West and East German parliaments should give a joint commitment guaranteeing the border after March 18, is undermined by a statement made by the Chancellor's Office in Bonn, indicating that such a commitment "will have to make it clear that the Polish government's declaration of Aug. 23, 1953, waiving any claims to reparations from Germany, remains valid, and that the rights of the Germans as agreed by Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki in the joint declaration of November 14, 1989, will be regulated by a treaty." The statement unleashes vociferous criticism from the Polish government, Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, European Community Foreign Ministers, and also from Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister.

Romania – March 2, 1990 (OSA)

Around 2,000 people demonstrate in the Transylvanian city of Braşov to mark the first anniversary of the self-immolation of Liviu Cornel Babeş, who set himself afire in protesting against the Ceauşescu dictatorship. The demonstrators hold a mass and urge the implementation of all the demands of the 1989 Revolution.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan - March 3, 1990 (KCA)

The resurgence since late February of violence in Uzbekistan against the Meskhetian minority (see February 20) produces its first reported fatalities when at least three people are killed in clashes between Uzbek demonstrators and security forces in Parkent, near the Uzbek capital of Tashkent.

Bulgaria - March 3, 1990 (KCA)

The new national day leads to official ceremonies in Sofia, as well as a rally by over 150,000 supporters of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces, which represents the culmination of a week of organized protests against the slow pace of democratic reform.

Soviet Union / Russia / Ukraine / Belarus - March 4, 1990 (KCA)

The biggest single voting exercise of the entire local and republican election process occurs when more than 100 million people (an average turnout of roughly 70 per cent) go to the polls in the three predominantly Slav republics of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. In the Russian Federation, there are on average six candidates for each of the 1,068 seats in the republican Supreme Soviet. The most striking results are in Moscow, where candidates belonging to an umbrella organization of reformist groups and political clubs calling itself Democratic Russia, wins 55 of the capital's 65 Supreme Soviet seats. The elections in the Ukraine see the nationalist organization Rukh ("The People's Movement") take control of the city *Soviet* in the capital, Kiev. In Belarus, which is widely regarded as retaining one of the most conservative republican leaderships, it was decided to allocate a quota of reserved Supreme Soviet seats for official candidates endorsed by the republic's nationalist Popular Front- style organization. Adradzhenne does better than expected, despite alleged official harassment during the campaign, but compared with the other two Slav republics, there are no

spectacular upsets.

Yugoslavia – March 4, 1990 (YC)

A mass meeting takes place in Petrova gora in Kordun. The demonstrators call for the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and against “neofascism and Franjo Tudman”.

Romania – March 4, 1990 (OSA)

Five hundred protesters gather in Bucharest’s Victory Square to take part in anti-government demonstrations. They demand the removal of certain ministers – such as Gelu Voican Voiculescu, Deputy Prime Minister, or Dan Iosif, a representative of the National Salvation Front on the Provisional Council of National Unity. They also call for the dismantling of the Securitate.

Romania – March 4, 1990 (OSA)

In Târgu Mureş, hundreds demonstrate against vandalism of the statue of Romanian national hero Avram Iancu. Anti-Romanian slogans in Hungarian had reportedly been painted on the statue in the city centre.

Romania – March 5, 1990 (TCR)

Workers in Bucharest remove a 25-ft., seven-ton statue of V. I. Lenin.

Soviet Union - March 5, 1990 (KCA)

A closed sitting of the USSR Supreme Soviet adopts a resolution which concludes that efforts by the central authorities to normalize the situation in Transcaucasia by political means has achieved "no positive results." It orders the state authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan to "enter into talks immediately to conclude an inter-republican treaty on restoring trust and accord between peoples, proceeding from the principles of equality, of rights, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both republics".

Bulgaria - March 5, 1990 (KCA)

The National Assembly unanimously adopts a bill which entitles all Bulgarian citizens to freely choose their own names, and thus allowing ethnic Turks and Pomaks to resume the use of their original names in place of the Slavic names which they had been compelled to adopt during official campaigns of forced assimilation of the Pomaks in the early 1970s and the Turks in 1984–85.

GDR / Soviet Union - March 5-6, 1990 (OSA)

Hans Modrow visited Moscow. The East German Prime Minister’s talks with the Soviet leader focused on establishing a common position for the forthcoming “two-plus-four” talks on German unification.

East Germany / West Germany - March 6, 1990 (KCA)

A social charter is approved by the round table and the *Volkskammer*, and it provides for a range of rights much more comprehensive than those guaranteed in West Germany, including the right to work, the right to strike and the banning of lockouts by management.

Czechoslovakia - March 6, 1990 (KCA)

The Czech Socialist Republic is renamed the Czech Republic by the Czech National Council.

Soviet Union - March 6, 1990 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet adopts a 34-Article law on ownership. Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin, presenting the draft law, states that it will create conditions necessary for the transfer to a planned market economy. The law allows Soviet citizens the right to own and inherit property, mineral resources, equipment, money, shares and water. The law, which is planned to come into effect on July 1, is adopted with 350 votes in favour, 3 against and 11 abstentions.

Bulgaria - March 6, 1990 (KCA)

Strikes are legalized for the first time in Bulgaria's history when the National Assembly passes a bill on settling collective industrial disputes. Strikes are only permitted, however, as the last resort in the event of failure of a lengthy arbitration process.

The National Assembly also passes a new property law which removes limitations on real estate ownership. Previously, Bulgarian citizens had been allowed to own at most one apartment, a country home and a garage, and they had been allowed to sell their property only at fixed prices through the local state authorities.

Romania – March 6, 1990 (OSA)

Alajos Chrudinak, Hungarian TV's foreign political editor-in-chief, receives a death threat from *Vatra Romaneasca*, a Romanian nationalist group. The incident is thought to relate to Mr. Chrudinak's reporting on Romania.

Soviet Union - March 7, 1990 (KCA)

The Soviet central government newspaper *Izvestiya* publishes the "fundamentals" regarding land regulation, as discussed by the Supreme Soviet on Feb. 20 and 28. The document states that land is the property of the people living on it, and that every citizen has a right to a plot.

Romania - March 7, 1990 (KCA)

Small businesses with up to 20 employees can, from this date, operate within a largely free-enterprise regime; precise rules for are to be formulated by a new National Committee for Small Enterprises. They can engage in foreign trade and retain 50% of export earnings in foreign currency, but will require Ministry of Foreign Trade approval if they seek foreign capital investment.

East Germany / West Germany - March 8, 1990 (KCA)

Lengthy discussions between the coalition partners eventually result in an agreement that both German parliaments and governments will issue a declaration of intent after March 18 to the effect that "Germans will neither now or in the future call the Polish people's right to live within secure borders into question by raising territorial claims"; there will be no linking with the reparations issue or with the protection of a German minority in Poland.

Visiting NATO headquarters in Brussels, immediately after the *Bundestag* debate, Kohl stresses that he wants the unification process "to calm down and not to be so hectic." He attributes the pressure for quick unification to events outside his control, especially the continuing exodus of East Germans to West Germany and the increasing economic instability in East Germany.

Yugoslavia - March 8, 1990 (KCA)

Slovenia's Republican Assembly (parliament) adopts amendments to the republic's constitution which drops the adjective "socialist" from the republic's formal name and from the names of all

republican institutions.

Yugoslavia -- March 8, 1990 (OSA)

The foundation of the “Mura-Videki Hungarian Association”, where 10,000 ethnic Hungarian-Slovenians live.

Yugoslavia -- March 8, 1990 (OSA)

In Vojvodina, the Hungarian population have begun formal requests to introduce 8 different classes taught in Hungarian in Vojvodina public schools.

Yugoslavia -- March 9, 1990 (OSA)

Slovenian government rejects Yugoslav request to make a 1km border zone on the Yugoslav-Hungarian border. Italians, Hungarians, and Austrians all refuted this decision coming from Belgrade; changes in the border size comes amidst heavy traffic piling up going into Yugoslavia due to increased duty taxes.

East Germany / Poland / West Germany / France - March 9, 1990 (KCA)

During a visit by Prime Minister Mazowiecki and President Jaruzelski of Poland to France, the Polish position is supported by President Mitterrand, who states that the declaration of German intentions with regards to the Polish border should be "more specific."

Bulgaria - March 9, 1990 (KCA)

At least 50,000 UDF supporters stage a demonstration in Sofia to protest against the continuing near-monopoly of the Bulgarian Communist Party over the press.

Czechoslovakia - March 10, 1990 (KCA)

The Slovak Premier Milan Cic declares his intention of leaving the Communist Party, stating that this step should not be linked with any "careerist interests or motives." He later remarks that if the government is to fulfill its role, it should not be affiliated to any party, and it therefore follows that the Premier should not belong to any party either.

Hungary / Soviet Union - March 10, 1990

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, and Gyula Horn, Hungarian Foreign Minister, sign the interstate agreement on the full withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed in Hungary.

Yugoslavia -- March 10, 1990 (OSA)

Further problems on the Yugoslavian border regarding Romanians, Czechoslovakias and Soviets trying to cross with tonnes of goods into Yugoslavia with intent to sell without proper duty taxes. 6500 Polish, Romanian, Czech, and Soviet tourists were sent back after failure to pay proper custom duties at the Yugoslav border.

Romania – March 10, 1990 (OSA)

Twelve national minority groups in Romania publicly express to the government their discontent for not responding to an interpellation made on February 23. They demand the establishment of a national mother-tongue educational system for the next school year by April 15, while avoiding the

incomplete or partial solutions previously suggested.

Romania – March 11, 1990 (OSA)

Partially in response to the first Mineriad, Timișoara’s participants in the 1989 Revolution publish the Proclamation of Timișoara. This is a thirteen-point written document expressing liberal-democratic goals, explicitly condemning communism and endorsing free multi-party elections. It argues for privatization, a market economy and the end of manipulation against opposition parties. Most notably, its 8th point calls for former Communist Party *nomenklatura* and Securitate cadres to be banned from holding public office for either ten years or the length of three consecutive legislatures. The Proclamation declares that ‘the people of Timișoara did not die for the perpetration of social and nationalist antagonism.’

Thousands participate in demonstrations in Bucharest, Timișoara and Iași against the prevalence of former communists in the interim administration and the continuation of the Securitate.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - March 11, 1990 (LBC)

The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet, which as a result of elections on February 24 is firmly into the control of deputies affiliated to the nationalist *Sąjūdis* movement, plunges the Soviet Union into a constitutional crisis when it unilaterally declares Lithuania independent. It is decided to adopt the formal name Lithuanian **Republic**, dropping the adjectives Soviet and Socialist, and to restore the official use of the emblem of independent Lithuania, featuring a knight on a white horse, in place of the Soviet Lithuanian emblem based on the hammer and sickle.

The vote on independence is greeted with jubilation inside the Supreme Council chamber and by people on the streets of the capital, Vilnius.

Lithuania’s independence is proclaimed. Gorbachev calls the Lithuanian decision “illegitimate and invalid.” The State Department assures it supports Lithuanian autonomy, but does not recognize its independence. “U.S. practice has been to establish formal relations with a lawful government of a state once that government is in effective control of its territory and is capable of entering into and fulfilling international obligations. When we are satisfied that the Lithuanian government can meet these requirements, we will establish formal diplomatic relations," the State Department spokeswoman said. Great Britain and other states welcome Lithuania’s strive for independence.

Romania – March 11, 1990 (ADC)

A massive demonstrative takes places in Timișoara. The demonstrators adopt a resolution which asserts that ex-members of the Romanian Communist Party and Ceaușescu’s security forces cannot stand as candidates in the upcoming elections.

Romania - March 11, 1990 (KCA)

Opposition groups led by George Serban draw up the Timisoara Declaration, a document calling for the banning of ex-communists from public office, a purge of the bureaucracy, and democratic reforms.

Bulgaria - March 12, 1990 (OSA)

The roundtable participants sign three significant agreements: (1) Declaration on the Role and Status of the National Roundtable, (2) National Agreement on Guaranteeing the Peaceful Development of the Transition Toward a Democratic Political System, and (3) Agreement on the Political System. These agreements sanction, respectively, the (1) legislative supremacy of the

roundtable, (2) the peaceful coexistence of BCP and UDF and (3) a framework for a new Constitution.

Czechoslovakia - March 12, 1990 (KCA)

It is announced that Vladimir Lexa, the Slovak First Deputy Premier, has informed The Slovak Premier Cic of his decision to leave the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Soviet Union / Estonia - March 12, 1990 (KCA)

The 499-member Congress holds its constituent session. It declares itself the constitutional representative of the Estonian people and passes resolutions calling for restoration of Estonia's independent statehood and the withdrawal of Soviet troops stationed in the republic.

East Germany - March 12, 1990 (KCA)

The round table holds its 16th and final session when a draft constitution is discussed. Participants agree that the draft should be discussed by the newly elected *Volkskammer* and then put to the East German electorate in a referendum on June 17, 1990.

Yugoslavia – March 13, 1990 (YC)

Government of the Republic of Croatia sends a letter to the Yugoslav Federal Government and to the governments of all other Yugoslav republics, thereby condemning both the events which occurred at the meeting of the CDU in Zagreb and the meeting in Petrova gora. The Croatian government calls for cooperation and joint action against any further disturbance of good inter-ethnic relations.

East Germany / West Germany - March 13, 1990 (KCA)

In his sixth and final campaign speech in the town of Cottbus, Chancellor Kohl declares: "We want savers to know that when the change in currency comes it will be at one-to-one for them. This will be valid for small savers but not for the whole currency. It is crucial that those who deserve our support and solidarity should not be disadvantaged." East Germans have substantial savings, estimated at nearly 180 billion East German marks, and many fear that these might be drastically devalued when a currency union is introduced.

Soviet Union - March 13, 1990 (KCA)

The Congress of People's Deputies approves the creation of the post of President of the USSR, with extensive executive powers. Gorbachev on this day also reacts to the recent declaration of independence by Lithuania (see March 11), and he condemns it as "illegitimate and invalid" and rejects opening formal negotiations. This position is being reiterated in a resolution passed overwhelmingly by the Congress. No government gives immediate diplomatic recognition to Lithuania as an independent sovereign state.

Soviet Union - March 13-15, 1990 (LBC)

According to the decision of the Soviet parliament, the communist party must give up its political monopoly. The road is clear for a multi-party democracy in the USSR.

East Germany / Soviet Union / Poland / West Germany / France / U.K. / U.S - March 14, 1990 (KCA)

In Bonn, the first meeting takes place under the "Two-Plus-Four" formula agreed on in February, involving East and West German officials and representatives of the Soviet Union, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The meeting agrees, "that Poland will be invited as soon as questions are discussed... that especially affect its borders."

Hungary / IMF - March 14, 1990 (KCA)

In support of its economic and financial reform program, the International Monetary Fund announces its approval of a standby credit arrangement for Hungary allowing drawings up to 159,210,000 forint over 12 months. The IMF agreement is expected to open the way for further lending by the World Bank and by Western countries and Japan in the framework of the Group of 24.

Soviet Union - March 14, 1990 (KCA)

Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers (Prime Minister), threatens his own and his government's resignation after his name is cited during exchanges in the Congress of People's Deputies in connection with a recently discovered scandal centering on a plot to illegally export Soviet battle tanks to the West.

Czechoslovakia - March 14, 1990 (KCA)

First Lieutenant Jaroslav Oudran is sentenced to 4 1/2 years' imprisonment and stripped of his rank by a military court, having been convicted of using force in an "inadmissible" way during the violent police dispersal of a demonstration by students on November 17, 1989, which had set in motion the events which led to the removal of the communist regime. Oudran is the first police officer to be convicted for his conduct during the demonstration.

Romania – March 14, 1990 (OSA)

The electoral law is adopted by the Provisional Council of National Unity which acted as the country's legislature since February 9, 1990.

Romania – March 15, 1990 (OSA)

Groups of Hungarians from Hungary join members of the Hungarian minority in celebrating the anniversary of the 1848 Revolution and displaying Hungarian flags.

Bulgaria - March 15, 1990 (OSA)

The Bulgarian government says that the Soviet Airline Aeroflot is refusing to transport Bulgarians who do not have Irish visas on its Moscow to Havana flights. Bulgaria's BTA News Agency says that as of five days ago more than 950 Bulgarians had left Aeroflot planes during refueling stopovers in Shannon, Ireland, and Gander, Canada, this year and asked for asylum.

Soviet Union - March 15, 1990 (KCA)

With regards to the creation of a President post in the USSR (see March 13), the Congress of People's Deputies elects Mikhail Gorbachev to the post. This marks a watershed in the transfer of political decision-making in the Soviet Union from the Communist Party (CPSU) to the state leadership.

Romania / Hungary – March 15, 1990 (KCA)

Violent confrontations take place in the city Satu Mare when Hungarians attempt to celebrate the Hungarian National Day.

Czechoslovakia / West Germany - March 15, 1990 (KCA)

President von Weizsäcker of West Germany pays a one-day official visit to Prague on March 15, the 51st anniversary of the Nazi occupation of the city, at the invitation of Havel, who saw the occasion as a symbolic mark of reconciliation between the Czech and German nations. Weizsäcker, the first head of state to be received in Czechoslovakia since Havel's election as President, is accompanied by Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister.

Romania – March 15, 1990 (ADC)

The National Unity Party of Romanians in Transylvania (*Partidul de Uniune Nationala al Romanilor din Transilvania*) is established.

Romania – March 15-20, 1990 (ADC)

In Târgu Mureș, Hungarians living in Romania celebrate the 142th anniversary of the Hungary’s 1848 anti-Habsburg revolutions. Clashes subsequently break out between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians.

Yugoslavia – March 16, 1990 (HR)

Yugoslavia receives another 460 million \$ worth IMF stand-by arrangement.

Romania – March 16, 1990 (OSA)

Three Hungarian TV crew members – Laszlo Cselenyi, Karoly Carszegi and Mihaly Varga – are reportedly assaulted by unidentified assailants in Tirgu Mures, where they were trying to cover a demonstration.

Romania – March 16, 1990 (OSA)

The Union of Poles in Romania, an organisation created to fight for the rights of the Polish community in Romania, is officially established as a political party.

East Germany / Soviet Union / Warsaw Pact - March 17, 1990 (KCA)

At a meeting of Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers held at the invitation of the Czechoslovak government in Prague, participants disagree over whether a united Germany should belong to NATO or be neutral. They all agrees that the unification of Germany and the creation of new European security systems should be "synchronized," as advocated by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, but the Soviet Union is isolated in opposing a united Germany's membership of NATO.

Romania - March 17, 1990 (KCA)

The Council of National Unity finally adopts a new electoral law which clears the way for the holding of a general election on May 20. Its 99 articles have been subject to public scrutiny since January and the final endorsement of each one provoked lengthy and often heated exchanges among CNU representatives.

Yugoslavia -- March 17, 1990 (OSA)

Attempted assassination of Tudman by Serbian national Dusko Cubrilovic.

Romania / Hungary – March 18, 1990 (KCA)

A joint Hungarian-Romanian demonstration in the nearby city of Cluj is demanding an end to inter-ethnic hostility and calls for the resignation of President Iliescu and for the dismissal of all members of Ceausescu's Securitate secret police.

East Germany - March 18, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

East Germany's first free and secret general election is arranged. The Alliance for Germany, formed by Christian Democrats in February earlier this year, performs unexpectedly well, winning 48.12 % of the vote and a total of 192 seats, just short of an absolute majority in the 400-seat unicameral *Volkskammer*. A total of 11,604,418 people went to the polls, representing a turnout of 93.4 % of the electorate of 12,426,443, and 11,541,155 valid votes is cast.

GDR – March 18, 1990 (OSA)

First free elections are held. Social Democratic party finishes in second place with 21.9% of the vote, having only been re-founded sixth months earlier. The newly rebranded Party of Democratic socialism finishes in third place with 16.4% of the vote share. This was the first free election this party had ever participated in.

Bulgaria - March 18, 1990 (KCA)

The independent trade union federation *Podkrepa*, which emerged from underground in October 1989 and is one of the movements represented in the opposition, holds its founding congress on March 18. The delegates, numbering about 900 and representing more than 100,000 members, elects the union's founder, Konstantin Trenchev, as president.

Soviet Union / Tajikistan - March 19, 1990 (KCA)

Buri Karimov and Nur Tabaro are dismissed by the Tajik Supreme Soviet as Deputy Chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers and Tajik Minister of Culture respectively, for having "compromised themselves" during nationalist unrest in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, in mid- February.

Yugoslavia / IMF- March 19, 1990 (KCA)

The Yugoslav government announces the conclusion of an 18-month standby credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund allowing drawings, in seven tranches, up to the equivalent of \$600 million. It is expected that this will open the way for further World Bank and European Community lending.

East Germany / West Germany / U.K. - March 19, 1990 (KCA)

Lothar de Maizière, leader of the Christian Democratic Union, describes the outcome of the elections as "an amazing result for us." The *Independent* views it as "a resounding vote of confidence in the West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl." The CDU is the dominant force in the Alliance for Germany, which also comprises the German Social Union and Democratic Awakening.

GDR / Soviet Union - March 19, 1990 (OSA)

Soviet foreign ministry spokesperson Gennadii Gerasimov announces that the Soviet Union respected the voter’s choice in elections in East Germany on March 18th, but he warns that Moscow also expected East Germany to respect its obligations to the Soviet Union and to the maintenance of stability in Europe. Other Soviet commentators are less pleased with the outcome of the election.

According to AFP, Nikolai Portugalov, the Central Committee specialist on Germany, states that the Soviets had imagined that the East German Social Democrats would have performed better. He also criticizes what he described as ‘West German interference’ in the election and predicted that, while East Germans ‘voted with their bellies’ on this occasion, the left-wing parties would perform better in future elections. According to UPI, the *Novosti* news agency also deplore ‘the massive interference’ of West German political parties in the East German elections. Gerasimov also warns against accelerating the German unification process and reiterates Soviet opposition to the inclusion of a united Germany in NATO.

East German SPD says no to a “grand coalition”. Seeking to form a governing coalition large enough to constitute a two-thirds majority in parliament, the Alliance for Germany made a coalition offer to both the liberals and the SPD. The Liberals, a three-party coalition supported by West Germany’s Free Democratic Party, agree to negotiations, but the SPD Chairman Ibrahim Boehme says that the SPD would stick by its campaign promise and refuse to enter into a coalition with the German Social Union, which, he argued, is overrun with former communists. The SPD’s stance leaves the conservative alliance in a difficult situation: a coalition with only the Liberals would assure the new government of an absolute majority in parliament and since it would be a mirror image of the governing coalition in Bonn, it would make for a very close relationship with that government, but it would leave the government short of the two-thirds majority needed to make constitutional changes.

Bulgaria / USSR - March 19, 1990 (OSA)

Lukanov pays a one-day working visit to Moscow. The two countries agree to introduce trade in hard currency starting from 1991. This strategy is also part of the Bulgarian leadership's plan to reduce the influence of the USSR on the Bulgarian economy.

Czechoslovakia / France - March 19-21, 1990 (KCA)

President Vaclav Havel pays a state visit to France, holding talks with President Mitterrand.

Romania / Hungary – March 19, 1990 (KCA)

Anti-Hungarian demonstrations are intensified in the city of Tirgu Mures when nationalists, many of whom are reported to have been brought in from neighboring villages, storm the headquarters of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania while police and soldiers refuse to intervene. Twenty-four people are reported to have been injured.

Romania – March 19, 1990 (OSA)

Following the celebration of a Hungarian national holiday on March 15 in Târgu Mureș, the headquarters of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) are attacked by a large group of ethnic Romanians. The police and army take several hours to respond to requests for help, and a number of people inside the headquarters sustained serious injuries.

Romania – March 19, 1990 (OSA)

The date of the first multi-party elections in Romania since the 1940s is announced to be May 20.

Romania – March 19-20, 1990 (OSA)

Thirty-one people are reportedly investigated in connection with the events of 19th and 20th March of whom two were ethnic Romanians, five ethnic Hungarians, and 24 of Gypsy origin.

Romania – March 20, 1990 (OSA)

In Târgu Mureș, 15,000 Hungarians gather to protest the previous day’s events. They are soon faced by 3,000 Romanians hostile to their demands, who are eventually joined by many others from the surrounding countryside despite assurances from local police that all entrances to the city would be blocked off. Around 5PM, ethnic Romanians surge past the police lines and attack the Hungarian protesters, triggering clashes. The number of casualties of the two days’ violence was 283 in total – 5 dead, and 278 injured.

Romania / Hungary – March 20, 1990 (KCA)

A state of emergency is declared in the Transylvanian city of Tirgu Mures, 300 km north-west of the capital Bucharest, after an estimated 2,000 Romanian nationalists, armed with scythes, axes, and clubs, attacked a peaceful demonstration of 5,000 ethnic Hungarians. Three people are reported killed and 300 wounded. Soldiers and armed police, supported by tanks, are drafted into the centre of the city to keep the two sides apart.

East Germany / West Germany - March 20, 1990 (KCA)

The West German government, which faces growing strain on its economy and social services and increasing pressure from local and regional governments, decides to close the emergency reception centers for East German immigrants from July 1.

GDR / Soviet Union - March 20, 1990 (OSA)

Soviet military historian Vyacheslav Dashichev tells *Die Welt* that a united Germany should be a member of NATO and warns that the four powers (the World War II victors) should not tread on German national feelings, as was done in the treaty of Versailles, because this might lead to revanchism.

Potential economic union by July. The West German government announces plans to have the economic and monetary union with East Germany agreed upon in principle by the end of April and put into effect on July 1st. It also announces that on July 1st, West Germany would close reception camps for resettlers from East Germany and end cash handouts and some other benefits.

Soviet Union / Georgia - March 20, 1990 (KCA)

In Georgia, the Supreme Soviet, reportedly bowing to pressure from opposition groups, decides to postpone the elections to that body due on March 25 until October or November so that other political parties will have time enough to organize themselves to take part. At the same time, it amends the Republic's constitution to abolish the guaranteed Communist Party monopoly of power.

U.S. / Poland - March 20-21, 1990 (LBC)

Mazowiecki makes a visit to the U.S. Bush states that Poland has a “fundamental right” to its present boundaries. In the course of the visit, agreements on investment are signed. U.S. investors get equal rights with the most favored Polish and foreign investors. Poland must lift restrictions on the repatriation of profit. In the transition phase, U.S. companies may transfer their profit.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - March 21, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev, making the first use of his new powers of presidential decree, orders Lithuanian citizens to surrender all firearms in their possession within seven days and bans the sale of hunting weapons.

Some observers link the order with the formation of a Lithuanian volunteer defense force since March 16 under the auspices of the nationalist *Sąjūdis* movement.

Romania – March 21, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian government formally puts forward an application to become a member state of the Council of Europe.

Czechoslovakia / U.K. - March 21-23, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel pays a state visit to the United Kingdom, the first by a Czechoslovak President since 1923. He is welcomed by Queen Elizabeth and holds talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Thatcher makes it clear in a speech at a dinner in Havel's honor that she sees a continued need for NATO and the presence of US troops in Europe; however, Havel states in a press conference during his visit that it is "unfortunate to keep on insisting on NATO," as the European situation changes rapidly. He makes clear his preferences for a common security system subsuming both NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

Bulgaria - March 21, 1990 (OSA)

The Council of Ministers plans the relocation of residents in the village of Yana, a northern outskirt of Sofia. Yana was the part of the city most affected by appalling level of pollution. The Council also promised a comprehensive study of the Kremikovtsi region's environment and make the results of this study public.

GDR - March 21, 1990 (OSA)

Potential former Stasi informers in the new parliament. Members of the committee in charge of disbanding the former state security police (Stasi) say they have evidence “so serious that it cannot be ignored” - a number of the newly elected parliamentarians might have collaborated with the Stasi. Werner Fischer, head of the committee and former human rights activist, estimates that around 40 of the 400 deputies previously served the Stasi in one way or another. The committee proposes that all 400 parliamentarians be investigated before the new parliament convenes.

GDR - March 22, 1990 (OSA)

Chairman of the CDU accused of Stasi past. The *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* reports that the now dissolved national round table received anonymous tips in January that Lothar de Maiziere, a candidate for the post of Prime Minister, previously cooperated with the Stasi. De Maiziere denies the rumours, saying that as a defence lawyer he could not avoid coming into contact with the Stasi, but that he never collaborated with them.

Yugoslavia - March 22, 1990 (KCA)

The troubled relations between the Serbian and the majority ethnic Albanian populations in the autonomous province of Kosovo suffers a further setback after an incident in which some 400 students and schoolchildren are rushed to the hospital with symptoms thought to be consistent with poisoning. Although Serbian officials dismiss the incident as an outbreak of mass hysteria, Albanians describe it as a mass poisoning perpetrated by Serbian nationalists, and anti-Serbian and anti-Montenegrin demonstrations quickly break out across the province.

Yugoslavia -- March 22, 1990 (OSA)

Opening of diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and South Korea, following a declaration signed by both foreign ministers; as well as the Czech, Hungarian, and Polish representatives in Prague.

Soviet Union / U.S. - March 22, 1990 (KCA)

A new five-year agreement for Soviet grain purchases from the United States is concluded in Vienna, replacing the 1983 agreement due to expire at the end of 1990.

Czechoslovakia - March 23, 1990 (KCA)

Finance Minister Klaus announces that a government office for privatization of state-owned enterprises will be set up; it is reported, however, that there are differences within the Cabinet over the extent to which such enterprises should be privatized.

Bulgaria - March 23, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria and South Korea establish diplomatic relations.

East Germany / EC - March 23, 1990 (KCA)

Chancellor Kohl holds talks with the 17-member Commission of the European Communities in Brussels, stating that German unification will "accelerate, not constrain" the "unstoppable current," which he says is sweeping the EC towards both economic and political union.

GDR - March 23, 1990 (OSA)

Immediate Stasi investigation rejected. A proposal to have all 400 newly elected politicians investigated for any connections with the state security police (Stasi) before the new parliament convenes is shelved. The Prosecutor General, backed by the chairman of the Christian Democratic Union Lothar de Maiziere and the caretaker communist government, says that such an investigation would be unconstitutional. The new parliament would first have to meet to approve an investigation.

GDR / Soviet Union - March 24, 1990 (OSA)

Mass graves are discovered in East Germany. The *Berliner Zeitung* reports the discovery of mass graves containing thousands of victims of a former Soviet internment camp from the immediate post-war period. Among those killed at the camp were German POWs and former Nazi party officials. The paper says the victims also included innocent people, among them members of the Social Democratic Party who had resisted a merger with the Communists. The camp was apparently one of eleven set up by the NKVD and were closed in 1950. The report quotes West German estimates that 65,000 people died in these camps.

East Germany - March 24, 1990 (KCA)

Alliance '90 and the Green Party agree to form a joint floor group or faction in the *Volkskammer*.

Yugoslavia - March 24, 1990 (KCA)

Troops are brought in to quell the unrest in Kosovo (see March 22), and a wave of arrests begin among Albanian activists.

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan / Armenia - March 24, 1990 (KCA)

A fresh outbreak of violence in Azerbaijan begins. It is the worst outbreak since January, when armed Armenian militants attack villages near the town of Kazakh (close to the Armenian border), killing nine people, including a family of five who were burned alive in their home. In the course of the next week, fighting bursts out at several points along the Armenia-Azerbaijan borders.

Romania / Hungary – March 24, 1990 (KCA)

The joint Hungarian Democratic Union in Romania and URV talks end and call for respect of rights of nationalists and minorities, for the right to education in a mother tongue, and for an unbiased bilingual media to assess accurately recent disturbances.

Romania / Hungary – March 25, 1990 (KCA)

An arson attack guts the Bucharest offices of the Hungarian state airline (Malev) as crowds outside protest against the Hungarian population’s plan to secede from Romania. The attack is denounced by the Hungarian government, which calls on the Romanian authorities to stop such "terrorist acts."

Romania – March 25, 1990 (OSA)

A number of civil society organizations (including the World Union of Free Romanians, the Group for Social Dialogue, the 15 November Association of Braşov, the People’s Alliance Organization, the Independent Group for Democracy, and the Free Trade Unions) hold a public meeting in Bucharest’s Union Square. They express their solidarity with the ideals contained in the Proclamation of Timișoara, condemn the government’s ineffective response to ethnic tensions in Târgu Mureş and blame mass media for exacerbating such issues.

Romania – March 25, 1990 (OSA)

A mass meeting of 10,000 people takes place in Timișoara to commemorate the 100th day since the outbreak of the Revolution. Radu Campeanu, Vice-President of the Provisional National Unity Council, makes a speech emphasizing Timișoara’s importance to the success of the Revolution, and stresses that the Proclamation of Timișoara should be implemented in order to consolidate the Revolution’s victory and national unity. A silent march takes place, beginning at the graveyard for the poor and ending in front of the Timișoara Metropolitan Cathedral.

Hungary – March 25, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

A free election is held in Hungary. The centre-right populist Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) emerges as the strongest single party in the first round of voting of elections to the Országgyűlés (National Assembly). The HDF is closely followed by the more liberal Alliance of Free Democrats (SzDSz), while the agrarian Independent Smallholders' Party comes third. There is a turnout of 63.15% of the total electorate.

After the second round, MDF keeps its leading position and forms a coalition with the smallholders and the Christian democrats. The new prime minister is József Antall.

Soviet Union / Estonia - March 25, 1990 (KCA)

Delegates at the close of a three-day extraordinary congress of the Estonian Communist Party vote overwhelmingly to endorse a declaration in principle of the party's independence. Unlike its counterpart in Lithuania, however, which had split decisively from the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Estonian CP decides on a six-month transitional period before taking a final vote on the issue of the party's future relations with the CPSU.

Yugoslavia -- March 25, 1990 (OSA)

100 more wounded in Kosovo following renewed demonstrations linked to the march 22nd student poisoning, where Albanians blamed Serb nationalists of deliberately poisoning 100s of Albanian school children in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia -- March 26, 1990 (OSA)

Signing of a Hungarian-Yugoslavian cooperation agreement that lays out an economic plan between the two nations until 2000.

Yugoslavia -- March 26, 1990 (OSA)

Serbian leadership meet and begin to recognize that war in Croatia and Bosnia is inevitable.

Romania / Hungary – March 26, 1990 (KCA)

Schools and colleges reopen in Tirgu Mures after the recent events (see March 20), including the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy whose ethnic Hungarian students have been on strike for three weeks, and tension in the city and surrounding region is reported to have eased.

Romania – March 26, 1990 (OSA)

A new intelligence agency is created, henceforth in charge of domestic security issues. This is known as the Serviciul Român de Informații (Romanian Intelligence Service) and its first director is Virgil Măgureanu.

Romania – March 26, 1990 (OSA)

A group of SRI officers bury a truckload of top-secret documents (both from the Securitate era and concerning the newly-formed SRI) in a forest in Berevoești (Argeș County) – which would later be found by locals and published in national newspapers.

East Germany - March 26, 1990 (KCA)

The leader of the Socialist Party of Germany, Ibrahim Böhme, stands down temporarily from the leadership until the allegations of his Stasi-past can be cleared up.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - March 26, 1990 (KCA)

Soviet troops occupy the Lithuanian Communist Party (CPL) Central Committee headquarters in the centre of Vilnius, having already seized the premises of two party training schools two days earlier. Officials in Moscow claim that communist party buildings in Lithuania are rightfully the property of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) since the CPL's declaration of independence in December 1989.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - March 27, 1990

The threatened clampdown (see March 21) begins, when Soviet troops seize at least 23 Lithuanian deserters who had taken refuge in two hospitals in Vilnius and another in Kaunas. However, the Soviet Defence Ministry offers an amnesty to other deserters, saying that they would not be punished if they rejoined their units immediately.

Czechoslovakia - March 27, 1990 (KCA)

Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus presents the revised state budget for 1990 to the Federal Assembly. In his introduction, he states that this budget has to signal a radical departure from practice in recent years, especially in stressing an anti-inflationary orientation and in moving away from state paternalism towards private enterprises. Klaus informs that the measures included in the budget are a part of an overall economic reform procedure. The restrictive financial policy will be aimed at ensuring an elementary degree of monetary stability and creating the basis for further steps in liberalizing prices, the exchange rate, and foreign trade.

Yugoslavia -- March 27, 1990 (OSA)

Within the ranks of the Serbian police force, a purge has been undertaken to replace many top-ranking Albanian police officials with Serbian ones. This follows a suspected poisoning of 100s of Albanian school children, as well as the anniversary of the Serbian crackdown of Albanian wishes for political sovereignty within Serbia.

Bulgaria - March 28, 1990 (OSA)

As part of a more liberal attitude towards the Church, the Grand National Assembly declares Christmas and Easter as national holidays and abolishes some communist-inspired national holidays.

Soviet Union - March 28, 1990 (KCA)

The first session of the newly appointed Presidential Council takes place amid saturation Soviet media coverage. The *Financial Times* describes the diverse membership of the Council as "a clear attempt to balance politics, regional interests, and subject specialists," while other commentators note the span of members' political persuasions from social democracy to Marxist conservatism to right-wing Russian nationalism.

Soviet Union / Estonia - March 29, 1990 (KCA)

At the opening session of the newly elected Estonian Supreme Soviet, Arnold Rüütel, previously the Chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, is elected to the restyled post of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet.

East Germany - March 29, 1990 (KCA)

Several thousand protesters demonstrate in East Berlin, Leipzig, and Erfurt demanding the vetting of all MPs.

Czechoslovakia - March 29, 1990 (KCA)

Following a long debate, the Federal Assembly votes to resolve the issue of renaming the state, known officially as the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic since 1960, by a compromise, whereby the state will be referred to as the Czechoslovak Federative Republic in the Czech lands and the Czecho-Slovak Federative Republic in Slovakia.

There had been many insistences among Slovaks that the country's name had to be hyphenated in order to make explicit the separate and equal identity of the two nations, whereas many Czechs felt that the issue was divisive and that the state's title should be merely shortened by removing the word "Socialist". It was pointed out in Slovakia that the first documents issued in the name of the state at its inception in 1918 had used the hyphenated form, and thousands of Slovaks demonstrate

in Bratislava against the omission of the hyphen.

Bulgaria - March 29-30, 1990 (KCA)

Round table talks continue between the Bulgarian Communist Party and the democratic opposition Union of Democratic Forces, the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union, and other political and public organizations. During these talks, an agreement is reached on an election law, a constitutional amendment law, and a political party law.

In addition, it is decided that Petur Mladenov, the State Council President and former Foreign Affairs Minister, will be elected President of Bulgaria, but would be replaced when a newly elected legislature approved a new constitution. The State Council, a largely ceremonial body, is also dissolved when the round table participants decide that it is an "unnecessary institution."

East Germany / West Germany / U.K - March 29-30, 1990 (KCA)

Chancellor Kohl visits the United Kingdom for discussions with UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Apparently modifying her stance of late 1989, when she had warned against any over-hasty German reunification, Thatcher now takes a less negative line and appears to concede for the first time that changes in Eastern Europe meant that "some reductions" could be made to the British Army of the Rhine in West Germany. Divisions remain, however, over the pace of integration within the EC.

Hungary / EC - March 30, 1990 (KCA)

The European Community approves payment of the first tranche, 350,000,000 European currency units, of a five-year loan of ECU 870,000,000 (\$1 billion) requested by Hungary in November 1989 and approved in principle by EC heads of government at their Strasbourg summit meeting in December. The EC Commission describes the loan as “a mark of our confidence in the will of Hungary's political and economic leaders to achieve political reform and economic recovery.”

Yugoslavia - March 30, 1990 (KCA)

The League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) appears to be moving closer to collapse when its central committee fails to muster a quorum for a plenary session. The session has been intended to set a date for reconvening the 14th party congress, which had broken up in disarray on January 23.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Armenia / Azerbaijan - March 30, 1990 (KCA)

The newly elected Estonian Supreme Soviet approves a declaration which set in motion a gradual process of secession from the Soviet Union by rejecting central Soviet authority and announcing the goal of restoring Estonian independence.

Also on this day, responding to a resolution by the Soviet Supreme Council (see March 5), the Prime Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan meet for preliminary talks in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

Furthermore, it is announced on this day that the USSR Supreme Soviet has set up a USSR Union Republican State Committee for the Nationalities Question "to improve state administration in the sphere of national development and inter-ethnic relations." There is no announcement of who will chair the new State Committee.

Czechoslovakia - March 31, 1990 (KCA)

The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia is formed. Although there had always been an autonomous Communist Party of Slovakia within the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia –no such

organization had existed in the Czech lands of Bohemia and Moravia except briefly during the Prague spring of 1968 when such a party was introduced.

Romania – March 31, 1990 (OSA)

Romanians across the country mark 100 days since the downfall of Ceausescu. At Heroes’ Cemetery in Bucharest alone 2,000 people gather to lay wreaths and light candles in honour of the fallen. Interim President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman attend a church service and lay flowers at makeshift shrines in a central Bucharest square.

East Germany / West Germany - March 31, 1990 (KCA)

A leaked Bundesbank report recommends that a conversion rate of two East German marks for one West German deutschmark be used when German monetary union is introduced, although the report advocates a 1:1 conversion rate for East German savings up to 2,000 Marks.

April

GDR / Soviet Union - April 1990 (OSA)

The Soviet foreign Ministry begins a search through its archives for information about the mass graves that were recently discovered in East Germany, TASS said. The mass burial sites, apparently containing the bodies of victims who died in camps run by Stalin’s secret police after World War II, have attracted much anti-Soviet comment in the East German media. A Soviet foreign Ministry spokesman says, however, that the Soviet Union is not the only country to intern Germans after the war and that deaths from hunger, exhaustion and disease were common in East Germany at that time.

East Germany - April 1, 1990 (KCA)

The leader of the Socialist Party of Germany, Ibrahim Böhme, formally resigns after allegations of being involved with the Stasi. Markus Meckel, his deputy, takes over as party chair.

Yugoslavia -- April 1, 1990 (OSA)

Austrian chancellor suggests an economic union between Slovenia and Austria, however Vranitzky reports in a Yugoslav newspaper the impossibility of such a union as it could threaten the stability of Europe.

Romania – April 1, 1990 (OSA)

Thousands of Romanians march through downtown Bucharest, demanding the resignation of Ion Iliescu. Before heading to government headquarters, they kneel and pray collectively at University Square, a site of heavy fighting during the Revolution. They accuse Iliescu of being a ‘closet communist’ in league with Gorbachev.

GDR - April 2, 1990 (OSA)

Ibrahim Boehme resigns. Spokesman of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) announces that the Party’s chairman resigned. The announcement comes amid allegations that Boehme cooperated with the former *Stasi* state security police. On April 1, Boehme, who denies the charges, wrote to the party saying that his resignation was because a ‘speedy clarification’ of the allegations was not

possible and he did not want to “burden the young democracy and the work of the party.” His resignation is also accompanied by rumours that Boehme had fallen ill. He had not appeared in public since March 30 and a party spokesman said that he was suffering from exhaustion.

GDR - April 3, 1990 (OSA)

SPD agrees to a grand coalition. The SPD gives its approval to formal negotiations with the Christian Democratic Union about a grand coalition government. The SPD held exploratory talks with the CDU but remained undecided about formal talks until April 2nd. The SPD’s executive had disagreed over whether to join a government that included the CDU’s partner, the German Social Democratic Union, which it accused, among other things, of having waged a particularly unfair election campaign. Party spokesmen say that the SPD now decided to reconsider a coalition government on the condition that the SPD’s aims are reflected in the coalition’s policies. After five hours of negotiations with the CDU in the afternoon, the two sides announce that coalition proposals could well be presented to parliament before Easter. Agreement is reached to form five working groups to formulate a government program. The coalition is also to include the much smaller Liberal Alliance of Free Democrats.

Erich Honecker in Soviet Care. The country’s ailing former leader left the home of the Protestant pastor who had been nursing him and was taken to a Soviet military hospital south of Berlin. His health had reportedly taken a turn for the worse.

Soviet Union - April 3, 1990 (KCA)

The Soviet of the Union, one of the two USSR Supreme Soviet chambers, elects Ivan Laptev as its chairman (Speaker), replacing Yevgeny Primakov. Laptev was editor-in-chief of the government newspaper *Izvestiya*.

Also on this day, the new Supreme Soviet in Estonia elects Edgar Savisaar, an Estonian Popular Front leader, as Prime Minister.

Finally, the new law "on procedures for resolving matters connected with a union republic's secession from the USSR" is passed by the USSR Supreme Soviet and signed by President Gorbachev.

Yugoslavia - April 3, 1990 (KCA)

The official news agency Tanjug reports that Yusuf Zehjnlahu, the Chairman of the Kosovo provincial assembly (i.e. the provincial Premier), has resigned his post in protest at what he describes as the excessively brutal tactics employed by the Serbian authorities towards the ethnic Albanians in the province.

Bulgaria - April 3, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The Bulgarian Communist Party renames itself the Bulgarian Socialist Party, calling the decision a clean break with “the dictatorship of the time before November 10, 1989, which was a dictatorship not only over the people, but over the party as well.”

The opposition Bulgarian Socialist Party denounces the name change and vows to fight for the right to continue to use its name. Its party chairman, Ivan Velkov, declares that it has existed as a “political circle” since the end of 1988 and as a party since Dec. 30, 1989, and that it currently has 10,000 members and adherents.

An electoral law was passed establishing a mixed electoral system by which half of the 400 members of the Grand National Assembly were to be elected by a majority vote and the other half

by proportional representation from party lists.

Bulgaria - April 4, 1990 (OSA)

The UDF claims that the government is disrespecting the agreements reached at the round table talks. In particular, the UDF indicated that the parliament had been wrong in granting to the head of state the power to declare martial law, declare a state of emergency and annul acts approved by the government.

Romania - April 4, 1990 (KCA)

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church is reported to have voted unanimously for the reinstatement of its former head, Patriarch Teoctist Arapas, whose known complicity with the former regime of Nicolae Ceausescu had led to his “withdrawal” on January 18 to the monastery of Sinaia, 120 km north of Bucharest.

East Germany - April 5, 1990 (KCA)

The newly elected Volkskammer holds its inaugural session. About a dozen deputies were members of the outgoing parliament; the average age of the new members is 45. As well as formally requesting that de Maizière negotiates the formation of a new government, deputies elect Sabine Bergmann-Pohl as President of the Volkskammer after two rounds of voting.

Yugoslavia -- April 5, 1990 (OSA)

Austrian chancellor meets in Belgrade to discuss bilateral trade agreements and the future of Central and Eastern Europe. He voiced support of the Yugoslavian reforms on the table, including those for democracy and free elections.

Yugoslavia -- April 5, 1990 (OSA)

The Ujvideki Hungarian association in Vojvodina publicly expresses grief in the rising nationalism in Yugoslavia, says they do not want to leave the ground where their ancestors were raised, taught, and abided by their traditions.

Yugoslavia -- April 5, 1990 (OSA)

Formation of a national social-democratic party has begun to pick-up steam in Yugoslavia, with representatives from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia expressing interest with the movement.

Romania – April 6, 1990 (OSA)

The Foreign Ministry announces the establishment of the Bucharest Press Centre, a state organ whose role is to ‘implement the government policy of consistently and truthfully informing the public at home and abroad about events in Romania’. Meanwhile, a poll of 6,000 Romanians indicates that 57% would vote for the Front if an election were to happen tomorrow. 55% of those questioned, however, suggested that they would not be interested in joining any political party. 87% of those polled said that they intended to vote, and only 5% had decided not to participate in the upcoming elections.

GDR - April 6, 1990 (OSA)

New Parliament holds first session. The first session of the newly elected *Volkskammer* is attended by 390 of the 400 deputies elected on March 18. They voted unanimously to delete the constitutional preamble defining East Germany as a “Socialist state of workers and peasants”. The deputies elect Sabine Bergmann Pohl, one of the thirteen deputies who belonged to the previous *Volkskammer*, as parliamentary president. Bergmann Pohl, a physician, joined the CDU in 1981 and has worked to build up a parliamentary lobby for the handicapped. Parliament also voted to replace the Council of State with a single President to act as a ceremonial head of state. Bergmann Pohl will act as President until the office is filled. The deputies voted 297 to 62 with 31 abstentions to ask CDU chairman Lothar de Maiziere to form a government.

Exchange rate protest. Hundreds of thousands demonstrate throughout the country, demanding that their East German Marks be exchanged for West German Marks at a one-to-one rate. The protests come after the West German federal bank’s plan for a monetary -union was made public. The plans envisage a rate of two-to-one. The demonstrations were organised by the Federation of Trade Unions, which has close ties to the communist party’s successor, the Party of Democratic Socialism. In East Berlin, a union spokeswoman called for wages, salaries and pensions to be converted at a one-to-one rate.

GDR - April 6, 1990 (OSA)

Hans Modrow denies Moscow spy takeover. Outgoing Prime Minister Hans Modrow denies in Western press reports that the KGB is taking over the remnants of East Germany’s espionage service, including its agents in the West and the vast archives. The West German paper *Die Welt* claimed that Modrow himself had offered to hand over the spying apparatus, and it cited top level sources to the effect that former espionage chief Markus Wolf was in Moscow to conclude the transfer. The paper also argued that the communist party’s successor, the Party of Democratic Socialism, had begun to set up its own security agency with members of the disbanded security police.

Bulgaria / Chile - April 6, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria and Chile re-establish diplomatic relations.

Czechoslovakia - April 6, 1990 (KCA)

A series of changes in the federal government, involving demotions, dismissals, and appointments, is announced. Valtr Komarek and Jan Carnogursky are demoted from First Deputy Premier to Deputy Premier. Frantisek Reichel is dismissed as Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Commission for Scientific, Technical, and Investment Development and is replaced in both posts by Armin Delong. Oldrich Bursky is also relieved of his post as Deputy Premier, but remains Minister of Agriculture and Food. Jiri Dienstbier and Vaclav Vales are both appointed Deputy.

Soviet Union / Latvia - April 6-7, 1990 (KCA)

An extraordinary Latvian Communist Party congress result, as predicted, in a split into independent and pro- Moscow parties. In contrast to the recent splits at CP congresses in Lithuania and Estonia, where majorities favored party independence, a majority of the 792 Latvian CP congress delegates rejects a draft party program hailed by the pro-independence lobby as the basis for achieving a consensus on the party's future, and instead votes to remain an integral part of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Romania – April 6-7, 1991 (OSA)

In the southern Romania, the houses belonging to a group of Roma are burned down or demolished.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - April 7, 1990 (KCA)

A pro-independence rally organized by *Sąjūdis* draws a crowd of up to 300,000 people.

Romania – April 7-8, 1990 (ADC / OSA)

The first National Conference of the National Salvation Front takes place. Ion Iliescu is elected as the National Salvation Front's president and is nominated to stand as the party's candidate for president in the upcoming election. The only other serious contender is thought to be Petre Roman, rejected as a presidential candidate by Iliescu because he had 'enough to do running the government'. Karoly Király, once a high-ranking party official, is jeered by the conference attendees for 'his bias in favour of the Hungarian minority'.

Soviet Union / Georgia - April 8, 1990 (KCA)

An all-night vigil, followed by a demonstration by at least 60,000 people in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, marks the first anniversary of the violent suppression by Soviet troops of a peaceful nationalist demonstration in which 20 demonstrators were killed.

GDR - April 8, 1990 (OSA)

Coalition agreement close. The seven parties negotiating the terms of a grand coalition reach agreement on all basic points, including the distribution of cabinet seats. All that remains is for a few details to be worked out and the agreement to be endorsed by the parties' parliamentary faction.

Yugoslavia - April 8, 1990 (KCA)

The six-party centre-right DEMOS opposition coalition win the direct elections to the Slovene Assembly's main Socio-Political Chamber. This marks Yugoslavia's first contested multiparty elections for 51 years, and the victory of an opposition party over a communist party threatens to deepen Yugoslavia's ethnic and political crisis.

Yugoslavia -- April 8, 1990 (OSA)

The foreign minister of Romania has discussed with a Yugoslavian paper on the situation involving southern Slavic people in Romania- expressing that the minority issue has always been a problem in the scope of Yugoslav-Romanian relations.

Romania – April 8, 1990 (OSA)

Two concurrent demonstrations take place in Bucharest. One is an anti-communist protest calling for the dismissal of pre-Revolution officials from the government, as well as privatization of state assets. The other is a rally against the reinstatement of Patriarch Teoctist as head of the Romanian Orthodox Church due to his collaboration with Ceaușescu and the Securitate. 'Romania Libera' also carries an open letter signed by 140 leading Romanian intellectuals against Teoctist's reinstatement.

Romania – April 9, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian League for Children's Rights asserts in a public statement that no political group or presidential candidate has the right to mobilize children under 16 for electoral purposes, whether this be at meetings or for other events. Candidates should 'not exploit the children's candor but rely on the force of the ideas in their programmes'. Meanwhile, Deputy Culture Minister Dan Petrescu is

admonished by the government for making statements against the far-right organization Vatra Romaneasca (‘Romanian Cradle’) on Hungarian radio.

Romania / Soviet Union – April 9-10, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Defence Minister Victor Stanculescu pays an official visit to the Soviet Union. He meets with his Soviet counterpart, Army General Dimitrii Yazov, as well as the Commander-in-Chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, Army General Petr Lushev.

Soviet Union - April 9, 1990 (KCA)

General principles of local self-government and local economy is approved and due to enter into force progressively from July 1. It grants local *soviets* (councils) "broad powers to decide matters relating to social and economic development and environmental protection," including full control of their own budgets. The law also lays down "new principles for forming the power structure" of local authorities, specifying that only those functions which cannot be performed by the lower tiers of government shall be delegated to higher bodies.

East Germany - April 9, 1990 (KCA)

A constitutional amendment is approved abolishing the State Council and providing for the election of a State President; on an interim basis, Bergmann-Pohl assumes the post of acting Head of State.

GDR / FRG - April 9, 1990 (OSA)

Details of East-West prisoner trades released. Speaking to *Der Spiegel* magazine, the East Germany lawyer Wolfgang Vogel discloses that between 1964 and 1989 the West German Government had ‘bought free’ more than 33,000 East German political prisoners. Vogel was the chief mediator between the two governments. He says the trade was not conducted in hard currency but rather in credit with which the East Germans could acquire consumer goods, he said that from 1977 onwards the price per prisoner was DM 95,847.

GDR – April 9, 1990 (OSA)

De Maizière announces that he reached an agreement for a grand coalition consisting of the Alliance parties (the CDU, DSU and DA), the SPD, the liberal Association of Free Democrats (BFD), and one non-attached member. Between them, the three main partners in the coalition command a two-thirds supermajority in the Volkskammer, enough to pass amendments to the constitution.

Yugoslavia -- April 10, 1990 (OSA)

Meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers at the Bratislava summit- where representatives of Austria, Italy, and Yugoslavia were present as observers. The most important decision reached was that between Czechoslovakia and Hungary and their agreeance of the importance of minority rights within their nations

Romania – April 10, 1990 (OSA)

Ion Iliescu, President of Romania’s Provisional Council of National Unity, invites the Assembly to send an observer delegation to the Romanian election scheduled for 20 May 1990.

Romania – April 10, 1990 (OSA)

At a national meeting, a number of journalists protest against the government and the Provisional

Council regarding restrictions on press freedom. They demand that the Ministry of Culture end its preferential practices with respect to the distribution of print news, warning that if these demands are not met by April 18 they will resort to other means of protest. Meanwhile, Petre Roman announces at a press conference in Bucharest that 130 million lei (excluding funds allotted to parties for their own campaigns) will be spent to ensure that the upcoming May elections are held in ‘proper conditions’, with an additional \$400,000 spent on modern equipment for result recording and transmission. He also states that industrial production in the first quarter of 1990 was 82% of its level in Q1 of 1989. Production in March was up 10% on that of the previous month – but Roman warns that the country is also facing increasing inflationary pressure.

Romania / U. S. – April 11, 1990 (OSA)

Senator Dennis de Concini arrives in Romania as the head of a United States Congress delegation to discuss observance of the Helsinki Final Act. Of particular relevance to this visit is the evolution of the democratisation process in Romania and preparations for the upcoming elections.

Soviet Union / Estonia - April 11, 1990 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet passes a law replacing compulsory military service for Estonian residents in the Soviet armed forces with community service and abolishes legal penalties for draft dodgers.

Romania / Switzerland - April 11, 1990 (KCA)

The ruling National Salvation Front decides to bar former King Michael, 68, who lived in exile, from entering the country. It revokes the decision taken two weeks earlier to grant him a visa, on the grounds that he refuse to postpone his planned departure from Switzerland, with his wife Queen Anne and eldest daughters Princess Margerita and Princess Anne, until after the May 20 elections.

GDR - April 11, 1990 (OSA)

Green light for East German coalition. The Alliance for Germany, the Social Democrats and the Federation of Free Democrats reach a formal agreement on forming a coalition government. The remaining hurdle is overcome late in the evening when the SPD parliamentary faction endorsed the results of the negotiations. Among the coalition’s twenty-four cabinet members, eleven are members of the Christian Democratic Union, seven from the Social Democrats and three from the Free Democrats along with two members of the German Social Union and one member from Democratic Awakening. The new Prime Minister is CDU chairman Lothar de Maiziere; his deputy is Peter-Michael Diestel, General Secretary of the Social Union. SPD chairman Markus Meckel is made Foreign Minister.

GDR - April 12, 1990 (OSA)

The coalition is sealed. The chairmen of the seven parties represented in the new government meet in East Berlin to sign the agreement spelling out the terms of the coalition. That same day, the new coalition government is sworn into office during a Volkskammer session.

Romania - April 12, 1990 (KCA)

Approximately 150 monarchists gather in the centre of Bucharest and an estimated 300 more at the capital's Otopeni airport shouting slogans denouncing the government and supporting King Michael, who had been forced to abdicate in 1947.

Romania – April 12, 1990 (OSA)

The government withdraws the entry visa it had previously granted to former King Michael, in exile in Switzerland since 1948. As a rationale for this decision, it states that a visit from the ex-King ‘might exacerbate conflicts and endanger his personal safety’.

East Germany - April 12, 1990 (KCA)

A new five-party government is sworn in, consisting of the Christian Democratic Union, the German Social Union, the Democratic Awakening, the Socialist Party of Germany and the League of Free Democrats. Lothar De Maizière is officially the new Prime Minister. Under the coalition agreement, the new government aims "to achieve the unity of Germany swiftly and responsibly for the whole of the German Democratic Republic at one time after negotiations with the Federal Republic of Germany on the basis of Article 23 of the Basic Law." Conditions of unification include a 1:1 exchange rate for the East and West German Mark for savings, wages, and pensions (rather than the less favorable proposals put forward by the West German Bundesbank), and the safeguarding of rights to employment, housing, and education.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - April 12, 1990 (LBC)

A U.S.-Czechoslovak commercial treaty is signed. Duty on Czechoslovak products on goods is lowered, business relations are strengthened, and tourism is promoted.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - April 13, 1990 (KCA)

Following Lithuania's March 11 unilateral declaration of independence from the Soviet Union, the Soviet authorities begin to apply political, military, and economic pressure on Lithuania to revoke it. After the expiry of a 48-hour Soviet ultimatum, implementation of an economic blockade begins.

Romania / France - April 13, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Petre Roman insists, during an official visit to France, that exiled King Michael's intention to attend a demonstration in the Transylvanian city of Timisoara, which he claims "would have been covered by about 80 journalists flown in by chartered plane," invalidated the claim that his visit will only be a "private" one.

Yugoslavia -- April 13, 1990 (OSA)

A Croatian parliamentary delegation visits Temesoar in Romania to discuss the situation of 7,000 ethnic Croats living in the region.

Yugoslavia -- April 13, 1990 (OSA)

Official Yugoslavian policy enacted creating a system wherein all foreign tourists to Yugoslavia must exchange 200 dollars upon entering into Yugoslavia. This is in hopes that such mandate will curb black market smuggling of goods in and out of Yugoslavia, as well as slow down the inflation of Yugoslavian currency.

Soviet Union / Latvia - April 14, 1990 (KCA)

The constituent congress of the Independent Communist Party of Latvia elects Ivan Kezbers as party chairman, and announces a program featuring a call for the restoration of Latvia's independence from the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union - April 15, 1990 (KCA)

Having lost control of the Moscow city *soviet*, the Moscow CPSU committee terminates the arrangement, by which it published jointly with the city *soviet* and the newspapers *Moskovskaya Pravda* and *Vechernaya Moskva*. By taking sole control of the capital's most popular daily papers, the party committee deprives the city *soviet* of its principal media voice.

Soviet Union - April 16, 1990 (KCA)

At a session of the Komsomol's 21st congress, the CPSU Central Committee Ideology Secretary Vadim Medvedev reads out a central committee resolution which calls for the expulsion from the CPSU of Democratic Platform leaders, though not those rank-and-file communists whom they have "led astray."

Romania - April 16, 1990 (KCA)

An estimated 150 anti-monarchists demonstrate in Bucharest in support of the National Salvation Front's decision of not letting exiled King Michael visit the country for Easter (see April 11) and become involved in brawls with hundreds of passers-by.

Romania – April 16, 1990 (OSA)

Pro-NSF demonstrators begin a small march of approximately 100 people throughout Bucharest, starting at Union Square. They shout support for Ion Iliescu and denounce former King Michael, and an opposing crowd gradually forms. When the anti-NSF group blockades the streets ahead and forces the pro-NSF marchers to change their path, a scuffle breaks out which is eventually broken up by armed police columns.

Bulgaria - April 16, 1990 (OSA)

Inmates of Sofia Central Prison go on strike to protest against human rights violations and unfair sentences.

Yugoslavia – April 16, 1990 (HR)

The Presidency of the SFRY lifts the curfew in Kosovo and grants amnesty to Azem Vllasi and 18 other prisoners.

U.S. / Soviet Union / Lithuania - April 17, 1990 (LBC)

Bush envisions reprisals against the USSR because of the Lithuanian crisis since Moscow halted Lithuania's gas and oil supply and envisioned economic sanctions against Vilnius.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Norway - April 17, 1990 (KCA)

Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis claims that Scandinavian countries have offered material support in the event of an economic blockade. However, Prunskiene returns empty-handed from a tour of Scandinavia, where she discussed the possibility of buying Norwegian oil and other raw materials from private companies. It appears that sympathetic foreign governments regard exports to Lithuania to alleviate the Soviet blockade as diplomatically contentious.

GDR / FRG - April 17, 1990 (OSA)

Migration from East to West decreases. The West German Internal Affairs Ministry announces that 3,432 East Germans migrated to the West during the week ending April 16th. The previous week's figure was 4,546. Before the March 18th elections the daily average was some 2,500 migrants.

Increased aid for Jewish Communities. The new East German government announces that it would give its country’s Jewish communities more financial aid and return property that was seized by the Nazis. It says that East Berlin’s community, which numbers around 150, would be given help in opening kosher shops and a cultural centre.

Romania – April 17, 1990 (OSA)

Amnesty International writes, to the Romanian authorities expressing its concerns in connection with the attack on Democratic Alliances of Hungarians in Romania headquarters on March 19th, and welcoming the setting up of a commission of inquiry into the events which took place.

Romania – April 18, 1990 (OSA)

Hundreds of Roma attend a conference in Bucharest to pick parliamentary candidates for the upcoming elections. 8 Roma parties, such as the Social Democratic Party of the Roma, are running in the elections. The inaugural issue of Satra Libera (‘Free Camp’), the first Roma-authored publication in Romania, is published.

GDR / FRG / Soviet Union - April 18, 1990 (OSA)

Soviet Union not keen on early unity. A West German television network reports that the Soviet embassy in East Berlin handed over an ‘informal note’ to Prime Minister De Maiziere and foreign Minister Markus Meckel that criticises the West German government’s plans for unification and explains Soviet reservations. The note says that Bonn envisaged that East Germany would merely accede to West Germany, adopting all of its economic and social laws as soon as possible. This is said to be unacceptable since it implies a disruptive shift in the European political and military balance.

German Interior Ministers meet. New East German Interior Minister Peter- Michael Distel meets with his West German counterpart, Wolfgang Schauebbe, in Bonn. The ministers agree to eliminate border controls as soon as possible and allow travel without passport checks. They say that a common visa policy should be worked out and that the two states should work together to tighten security at the external borders and airports. Joint working groups are set up to discuss countering drug trafficking, crime and terrorism. East Germany’s new Minister of labour, Regine Hudebrandt, is also in Bonn for talks with her counterpart, Norbert Blum.

Emigration takes its toll on East Germany. According to official statistics, nearly 160,000 workers in industry and construction left their jobs and 340,000 people emigrated to the West in 1989.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - April 18, 1990 (KCA)

The Lithuanian Supreme Council, returning from its Easter recess, passes a resolution reaffirming the March 11 independence declaration and again calling for negotiations, but offers to refrain from passing any new laws until after May 1 to allow for preliminary consultations.

The resolution also calls on Lithuanian citizens to be ready for "strict economies" if an economic blockade went ahead.

The blockade begins on the same day, when crude oil supplies to the major refinery at Mazeikiai are cut off.

Yugoslavia - April 18, 1990 (KCA)

It is announced that the Federal Collective Presidency has agreed to lift the "special measures" in the autonomous province of Kosovo, a part of the Serbian republic, where disturbances involving the ethnic Albanian majority have been continuing for more than a year.

Bulgaria - April 19, 1990 (OSA)

The Club of Those Repressed After 1945 estimates that between 1945 and 1964 around 180,000 Bulgarians spent time in one or more of approximately 30 Bulgarian prisons and concentration camps.

Soviet Union - April 20, 1990 (KCA)

Gavriil Popov, a radical economist, is elected chair of the Moscow city *soviet*.

Czechoslovakia - April 20, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly votes by a large majority to accept a proposal to rename the state the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic (CSFR), thereby ending weeks of controversy over the issue. Additionally, Viliam Ciklamini and Jaroslav Prochazka, Federal Deputy Interior Ministers, are dismissed from their positions after being accused by Richard Sacher, the Federal Interior Minister, of acting without his knowledge to have parliamentary deputies screened for connections with the former Statni Bezpecnost (secret police).

Romania – April 20, 1990 (OSA)

Six NPP candidates including Ion Puiu, the vice chairman of the NPP, and Nicolae Lupa, a Bessarabian militant who lived in exile in France and now is running for the Senate, are attacked in the little town of Risca, near Suceava. Two candidates are injured in the attack.

GDR / FRG - April 21, 1990 (OSA)

One-to-one rate demanded by Maiziere. Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere says a new wave of frustrated East Germans would head to the West unless a monetary union values their wages and pensions at West German levels. De Maiziere says he would not drop his demand that wages, pensions and savings are to be converted into Deutschmarks at a one-to-one rate.

German trade. In an interview with *Neue Zeit*, Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl says that the new East German government has no formal plans to leave the CMEA. Pohl says East Germany is, in fact, considering stepping up its trade with the Soviet Union “to help stabilize Moscow’s reform.”

Old Guard Leader dies. Former Volkskammer President and SED politburo member Horst Sindermann dies of a heart attack. Sindermann, who had been arrested pending an investigation of abuse of power, was released from detention in February because of poor health.

Romania – April 21, 1990 (OSA)

Supporters of the rival National Liberal Party and National Peasant Part clash in the towns of Sibiu and Buzau. Supporters of acting President and National Salvation Front candidate Ion Iliescu prevent Campeanu and Ratiu from speaking.

Romania – April 21, 1990 (OSA)

Austria and Turkey have recently tightened their border controls to stem the continuing flow of Romanians leaving the country.

Romania – April 22, 1990 (OSA)

Finland decides to reintroduce entry visas for Romanian citizens “in view of the large number of Romanians coming to Finland in order to obtain the right of sanctuary and settle there.”
Ion Ratiu announces his candidacy.

Romania – April 22, 1990 (OSA)

The Peasant Party organises a demonstration in Bucharest to oppose a recently-passed law subordinating Romania’s sole television station to the government and offers its support a proposal to ban former Communist Party or Securitate officials from running for public office.

Romania – April 22-25, 1990 (OSA)

Several thousand people claiming to be unaffiliated with any political party gather in Bucharest’s University Square demanding that acting President Ion Iliescu and his “Communist-dominated government” resign.

Soviet Union - April 22, 1990 (KCA)

At a meeting of the Democratic Platform's co-ordinating council, they are divided over the question of whether to begin creating a new party immediately, with those in favor of an immediate split from the CPSU forming a steering committee chaired by Nikolai Travkin.

Yugoslavia - April 22 / May 6-7, 1990 (KCA)

The first multiparty parliamentary elections take place in Croatia. The elections of the three chambers of the Croatian assembly, all conducted on a multiparty basis, are won overwhelmingly by the right-wing nationalist Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), led by Franjo Tudjman. The previously ruling Croatian League of Communists–Party of Democratic Change comes second in a field of more than 30 political parties.

Romania - April 22, 1990 (KCA)

The University Square in central Bucharest is occupied by anti- communist demonstrators.

GDR - April 22, 1990 (OSA)

New Chairman for Democratic Awakening. The new chairman is Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann. He was elected at a party congress and had been acting chairman since Stasi informant Wolfgang Schnur resigned shortly before the March 18 elections. The Democratic Awakening also votes to delete all references to the GDR from the party’s program and declares its intention to expand the party’s activities throughout all of Germany.

GDR / FRG - April 23, 1990 (OSA)

New exchange rate proposal. The West German government proposes that East German salaries, pensions and personal savings up to 4,000 East German Marks be exchanged for Deuschemarks at a rate of one to one. Pensions would be converted only after being adjusted to meet West German standards. All other conversions would be made at a two-to-one rate, including corporate debts owed by the state. The East German government welcomes the proposal as an ‘interesting negotiating offer.’

Markus Meckel visits Warsaw. During his one-day visit, the East German Foreign Minister says the

two Germanies have a moral obligation to compensate Poles who served as slave labour for the Nazis or were held in concentration camps during WWII. He suggests that the two states should create a joint foundation to provide funds in order to compensate victims. Meckel also supports Poland's demand to be included in the 'two-plus-four' talks during discussion of Poland's western border. It was Meckel's first trip abroad since he came into the role on April 12th.

The East German government agrees to pay DM 6,200,000 into a fund administered by an Israeli foundation. The payments would help ease the psychological and physical torment suffered by survivors of the Nazi Holocaust. The foundation will receive an additional DM 100,000 to set up a branch in East Germany.

Karl-Marx-Stadt reverts to its old name. The citizens of this southern industrial city overwhelmingly back a referendum to change the city's name back to Chemnitz. In 1953, without consulting the city's inhabitants, the communist leadership decided to honour the 'working class traditions' of Chemnitz by bestowing upon it the name Karl Marx.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - April 23, 1990 (KCA)

Lithuanian officials are claiming that a near-total economic blockade is in operation (see April 18), with almost all supplies of fuel, foodstuffs, raw materials, and manufactured goods being suspended. Enterprises begin to close for lack of fuel or materials, and officials warn that 35,000 people could be laid off work by the end of the month. In retaliation, Lithuania halts the supply of some manufactured goods to the rest of the Soviet Union (Lithuania has a near-monopoly in the Soviet Union on the manufacture of certain electrical equipment, electronic components, and textiles).

East Germany / West Germany - April 23, 1990 (KCA)

The West German coalition decides to offer the East German government a 1:1 conversion rate for savings up to 4,000 Marks and for wages and pensions.

Bulgaria - April 23, 1990 (OSA)

After a series of mass graves are uncovered, the editor in chief of *Demokratsiya*, Yordan Vasilev, reveals that around 18,000 people were killed without trial by the Soviet invasion force soon after the invasion of 1944. The BSP-led Ministry of Internal Affairs subsequently announces that digging up graves is illegal.

The US weekly *Newsweek* describes the 'flood' of Bulgarians seeking asylum in Newfoundland, Canada. The defectors simply board a charter flight for Cuba and get off the plane during refueling stop at Gander International Airport. The Newfoundland social minister says that in three weeks, 2,200 Bulgarian refugees had arrived in the region.

Romania – April 23, 1990 (OSA)

The Soviet daily criticizes the multiplicity of political parties campaigning for Romania's May 20th elections, saying that too many parties were using anticommunist and "cold war" propaganda to promote capitalist goals.

Romania – April 23, 1990 (OSA)

Thousands of demonstrators in Bucharest block city traffic in a protest against the NSF, charging that it is run by holdovers from the Ceaușescu regime. Elsewhere, eight anti-communist activists

arrive at the end of a 600-kilometre trek from Timișoara, along which they claim to have collected two million signatures in favour of a referendum on dismantling the foundations of power of the Communist Party and the Securitate – a demand rejected by the government.

Romania – April 24, 1990 (OSA)

Police disperse around 2,000 anti-communist protesters blocking up University Square in Bucharest. The demonstrators, mainly non-politically-affiliated youth, are beaten with clubs and rifle butts by 400 members of paramilitary police. Ion Iliescu makes a call for discipline to all national party leaders, criticising the protesters and stating that “with such violent groups of thugs we cannot find the road to democracy.”

Bulgaria - April 24, 1990 (OSA)

A rally is held in Sofia to protest against government inaction regarding the transition of the Georgi Dimitrov lead and zinc complex (in the city of Kardzhali) to a cleaner mode of production.

East Germany / West Germany - April 24, 1990 (KCA)

In a three-hour meeting in Bonn between Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister de Maizière, the two leaders agree to aim for economic and monetary union on July 2.

Czechoslovakia / Vietnam - April 24, 1990 (KCA)

It is reported that Czechoslovakia will not renew the agreements under which 46,000 foreign workers, including 37,000 Vietnamese, are employed on contract in the country.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - April 25, 1990 (KCA)

The Lithuanian Supreme Council sets up an "anti-blockade commission" (see April 18) headed by Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene, and declares a "state of economic siege" including rationing of food, petrol, and other essential goods.

Bulgaria - April 25, 1990 (OSA)

In protest against the BCP rebranding as a 'social democratic' party, a new communist party is formed: The Party of the Working People, which would rebrand as the Bulgarian Communist Party on June 21.

Romania – April 25, 1990 (OSA)

Virgil Magureanu, director of the newly established Romanian Intelligence Service, says that the service will gather information on anti-Romanian spies, terrorist organizations and extremist elements planning subversive and destabilizing actions.

After the previous day’s repression, protesters return to University Square in force, with sympathetic media coverage ensuring a higher number of participants than previously – estimates suggest between 30,000 and 50,000 demonstrators.

Romania – April 26, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian miners put pressure on the government to take action against demonstrators who have been entrenched in a central Bucharest square for five days.

Soviet Union - April 26, 1990 (KCA)

Fundamentals of economic relations between the USSR and the Union and Autonomous Republics

is approved and due to enter into force on January 1, 1991. This empowers unions and autonomous republics among other things to own and utilize their land and natural resources, to set their own budgets, to levy taxes, and to conduct their own foreign economic relations. They are specifically barred from introducing their own import and export restrictions without the consent of other republics, however, and from impeding the transit of goods and financial resources across their territory to or from another republic. Furthermore, on this day, apparently acting in protest at the economic blockade (see April 18), a 52-year-old Lithuanian factory worker, Stanislovas Zhamaitis, commits suicide by setting fire to himself outside the Bolshoi Theatre in the centre of Moscow.

East Germany / France / Israel / NATO - April 26, 1990 (KCA)

Foreign Minister Meckel maintains during a debate in the Volkskammer that membership of NATO is not the government's aim and will be conditional upon a change in the structures of the Western Alliance. At the same session, Eppelmann, responsible for Disarmament and Defense, announces a 49% cut in the defense budget compared with the previous year and advocates the retention of conscription. Furthermore, *Le Monde* reports that the government has decided to reverse previous government policy and for the first time to pay 6,200,000 marks to an Israeli foundation for holocaust survivors.

Yugoslavia -- April 26, 1990 (OSA)

Meeting between Borisav Jovic and head of defense Vejko Kadijevic, who reports that the Yugoslav national army is ready to engage in Slovenia and Croatia.

East Germany / West Germany - April 27, 1990 (KCA)

After a meeting near Cologne between East German Defense Minister Eppelmann and Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defense Minister, a joint statement declares: "Our goal is a united Germany as a member of the Atlantic Alliance without NATO's military structures or equipment being extended on to the territory of East Germany. The details of how this happens must take account of the security interests of our neighbors and especially those of the Soviet Union."

Romania – April 27, 1990 (OSA)

More than 10,000 people turn out to support the interim President of Romania, Ion Iliescu. People line roofs and wave Romanian flags and roses at the rally in front of the Military Academy in Bucharest.

GDR / FRG - April 27, 1990 (OSA)

West Germany announces that there will be no tax increases in order to fund unification. Leading West German government officials reiterate their promise not to finance German economic reunification by raising taxes. Chancellery Minister Rudolf Seiters argues that the West German economy can deal with the cost of unification through economic growth and limited borrowing. However, he warns the East Germans that their social spending and continued industrial subsidies could increase the costs of reunification.

GDR / FRG - April 28, 1990 (OSA)

The European Community endorses German reunification. The leaders of the twelve states welcome the unification of Germany and conclude that it would be a positive factor for both Europe

and the EC. At a special one-day conference in Dublin, they approve an outline plan to incorporate East Germany into the EC's structure. The plan gives East Germany access to funds from the EC's investment bank and other agencies even before political unification is completed.

Yugoslavia - April 28, 1990 (KCA)

The State Presidency in Macedonia elects Vladimir Mitkov as its President from among its members. His mandate is to last until Macedonia's first multiparty general election which is due no later than April 1991.

East Germany / Soviet Union - April 28-29, 1990 (KCA)

During a working visit to the Soviet Union, de Maizière announces after talks with Soviet President Gorbachev that the latter continues to insist that "East Germany should not become a member of NATO, whereas our position is that this is possible if NATO develops a new strategy and structures."

Romania – April 29, 1990 (OSA)

Thousands of protesters stage anti-government rallies at least four Romanian cities to demand the removal of interim President, Ion Iliescu.

U.S. - April 29, 1990 (LBC)

Bush backs down about the sanctions: "I am concerned that we not inadvertently do something that compels the Soviet Union to take action that would set back the whole cause of freedom around the world...I am old enough to remember [the invasion of] Hungary in 1956, when we exhorted people to go to the barricades and a lot of people were left out there all alone" against the Soviet tanks. The spokesman of the White House discloses that the Western allies do not support the idea of sanctions.

GDR / Soviet Union - April 29, 1990 (OSA)

East German Prime Minister visits Moscow. Talks between Lothar de Maiziere and USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev produce little agreement on a united Germany's membership in NATO. De Maizière tells a press conference that he explained to Gorbachev that NATO was changing. Under new economic conditions, East Germany believes that it could be a NATO member. However, Gorbachev reiterates that NATO membership was 'unacceptable' and calls for 'another solution.' De Maiziere also assures Gorbachev that East Germany would meet its trade obligations to Moscow. Foreign Minister Markus Meckel, Economics Minister Gerhard Puhl and Defence and Disarmament Minister Rainer Eppelmann accompanied the Prime Minister.

USSR to halve the number of Soviet troops in East Germany. Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann makes the announcement upon his return from Moscow. No tentative withdrawal date is set. He also says that the Soviets offered to remove and destroy the twenty-four SS-23 missiles East Germany received in 1985. *Der Spiegel* claims that the Soviet troops are no longer allowing East German officers to see secret Soviet military documents and have begun removing sensitive military equipment from the country.

GDR / FRG / Soviet Union - April 30, 1990 (OSA)

Preliminary two-plus-four meeting takes place. Top government officials from the two Germanies and the four wartime allies meet in East Berlin to set an agenda for the ministerial talks of German

unification scheduled to start on May 5th. No details are given, but reportedly the Soviet side demanded a formal peace treaty to mark the end of WWII. The other five delegations opposed the proposal, but Soviet Foreign Minister, Shevardnadze, is expected to raise the issue again at the meeting on May 5th.

May

Soviet Union - May 1, 1990 (KCA)

There are unprecedented scenes in Moscow's Red Square when the traditional May Day parade is followed by a parade of up to 40,000 representatives of opposition political groups, some carrying banners and shouting slogans openly denouncing communist rule and President Mikhail Gorbachev personally. Clearly irritated, Gorbachev and other senior officials watching the parade faced barracking by groups of protesters for more than 30 minutes before leaving the balcony of the Lenin Mausoleum. The opposition rally continues in Red Square for a further hour before dispersing.

Czechoslovakia / Romania / Vietnam - May 2, 1990 (KCA)

At a press conference, President Vaclav Havel states that he thinks racist attacks by groups of skinheads on Romanians, Vietnamese guest workers, and other members of racial minorities are being provoked by supporters or agents of the former communist regime who are also engaging in disinformation about the situation in the country. Furthermore, the Federal Assembly votes in favor of abolishing the death penalty and replaces it with life imprisonment. The decision is part of a series of changes to 40 articles of the country's criminal code.

Romania – May 2, 1990 (OSA)

Ratiu’s English born wife is attacked during a humanitarian visit to the Gheorghe Marinescu Psychiatric Hospital in Bucharest.

GDR / FRG - May 2, 1990 (OSA)

East and West Germany come to an exchange rate agreement. East German wages, pensions and rents are to be converted into Deutschemarks (DM) at a one-to-one rate when monetary union comes into effect on July 2nd. East Germans between the ages of fifteen and fifty-nine will be able to exchange 4,000 Eastmarks (OM) in personal savings at a one-to-one rate. Those under fifteen can convert OM 2,000 marks each at that rate; those 60 and over, OMO 6,000. The new agreement supersedes a West German proposal that would have applied the OM 4,000 limit to all East Germans. Other aspects of the East-West economic union are still being negotiated.

Hungary – May 2-3, 1990 (KCA)

Hungary's *Országgyűlés* (National Assembly), elected in March and April, meets for the first time. Arpad Göncz is elected by 339 votes to 31 as its Speaker, and thus as interim President of the Hungarian Republic, pending a decision by the Assembly on how presidential elections should be held later in the year.

East Germany / Poland / West Germany - May 2-6, 1990 (KCA)

President Richard von Weizsäcker of West Germany pays an official visit to Poland during which he seeks to dispel Polish anxieties about German unification. Speaking to the Polish people he says:

"Poland's current western frontier will remain inviolable. Neither today nor in the future do we make any claims whatsoever on territory in Poland or in any other neighboring country."

Bulgaria / Israel - May 3, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria and Israel restore ties after a 23-year rift.

Soviet Union / NATO - May 3, 1990 (KCA)

Sources at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels claim that on February 25, the day of major opposition demonstrations in Moscow and across the country, a division of up to 6,000 heavily armed troops had been mobilized on the outskirts of Moscow. This mobilization, it is claimed, serves to warn Gorbachev of disaffection in the top ranks of the Red Army over his reforms, and to make him take greater account of military opinion in formulating policy.

Furthermore, on this day, at the opening session of Latvian Supreme Council, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, previously the Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, is elected to the restyled post of Chairman of the Supreme Soviet (de facto President).

Yugoslavia - May 4, 1990 (KCA)

The 10th anniversary of the death of Josip Broz Tito, the founder of communist Yugoslavia, is marked by a minute of silence throughout the country, but also by a demonstration by around 2,000 Serbs in Belgrade calling for an end to the personality cult surrounding Tito and for his remains to be moved from Belgrade to his native Croatia.

Soviet Union / Latvia - May 4, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

The allegation that there had been a military show of strength (May 3) is flatly denied by Yakovlev.

Also on this day, the new Supreme Soviet in Latvia, elected in March-April and with a majority of deputies loyal to the nationalist Popular Front, passes a resolution proclaiming Latvia's independence from the Soviet Union, but nevertheless taking a more cautious line than its Baltic neighbors.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / U.K. / U.S. / France - May 5, 1990 (KCA) The Foreign Ministers of East and West Germany and of the four major victorious allied powers of the Second World War—France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States—meet in Bonn for the first meeting at this level in the so-called "Two-Plus-Four" discussions on the security implications of German unification. At the meeting, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, proposes the "decoupling" of the internal and external aspects of unification so that the former can be completed swiftly while allowing a unified Germany's security status to be resolved over a number of years.

FRG / GDR / Soviet Union - May 5, 1990 (OSA)

Two-plus-four meets in Bonn. Failure to reach an agreement over a unified Germany's membership in NATO. More meetings are scheduled for June in East Berlin and for July in Paris. Poland will be invited to the meeting in Paris to take part in discussions concerning Germany's eastern border. It is revealed after the meeting that Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze was open to seeing the two Germanies unite before all international aspects are resolved.

Yugoslavia -- May 5, 1990 (OSA)

A high-ranking Yugoslavian official has released a statement that they will update the newly imposed 200 dollar exchange system at the customs border for Czechoslovakian and Hungarian citizens. This comes after much pressure from the respective governments, as well as the Austrians and Italians, for hurting the ongoing cooperation between Central and Eastern Europe.

Romania - May 5, 1990 (KCA)

Violence characterizes the conduct of the election campaign with the main opposition leaders being repeatedly threatened. The two challenging presidential candidates Campeanu and Ratiu are prevented from addressing rallies, and Campeanu is violently attacked in the eastern town of Braila.

Romania – May 5, 1990 (OSA)

Ion Iliescu back down from his intransigent stand and announces that he would meet a delegation of Bucharest antigovernment demonstrations on May 8. He also expresses regret at having called the demonstrators “hooligans.”

Romania – May 6, 1990 (OSA)

Radu Campeanu suffers “an attack on his life” while campaigning in the town of Braila. Eight border points are opened by the Soviet authorities for the first time in fifty years.

Romania / Soviet Union – May 6, 1990 (OSA)

A massive demonstration takes place along the 700km border on the Prut River between the Moldavian SSR and Romania. Formerly united, the two sides had been separated by a ‘watery Berlin Wall’ since World War II, with many families split by the border. A number of organisations from both the Moldavian SSR and Romania (such as the Bucharest-Chişinău Cultural Society or the Popular Front of Moldova) come together to form a human chain and enable document-free border crossings. This becomes known as the ‘Bridge of Flowers’ (Podul de Fiori/Мост цветов) after the flowers thrown into the river by demonstrators; estimates are made of 1,2 million participants, with quarter of a million people crossing at Ungheni alone.

East Germany - May 6, 1990 (KCA)

Local elections confirm the leading role of the Christian Democrat Union led by Prime Minister Lothar de Maizière, although the party loses some ground compared with its March general election success. The electoral campaign was overshadowed by the discussion on the terms for German economic and monetary union.

GDR - May 6, 1990 (OSA)

Local election results. The parties representing the interests of the famers and other agricultural workers gain support in the nationwide local elections, taking away the votes from the conservative parties. The Democratic Farmers’ Party increases its percentage of the vote to 3.7%, up from 2.2% in March’s general election and the new Farmers’ association wins 2% of the vote. The Christian Democratic Union (CDU) wins only 34.6% of the vote in the local elections, down 6.4% since March. Both the Social Democrats (the SED’s successor) and the Party of Democratic Socialism also gain smaller percentages of the vote.

Romania/ Moldavia/ Bridge of Flowers - May 6, 1990 (SM)

A massive demonstration, where citizens of Romania were allowed to cross the Moldovan-Romanian border without having to show any passport and visa. The event took place partially due to the fall of the Berlin wall. By some estimates, some 1,2 million people crossed the border from

Romania into Moldova.

Yugoslavia -- May 7, 1990 (OSA)

The Yugoslavian Head of State heads to Strasbourg to meet with other European leaders to discuss the current situation of Western-Central-Eastern European relations.

Yugoslavia -- May 7, 1990 (OSA)

The Paris stock exchange introduces the Dinar as convertible, following a meeting with Yugoslavian economy experts.

Romania -- May 7, 1990 (OSA)

The New York Times and *The Washington Post* report that two of Nicole Ceausescu's brothers had been involved in secret arms deals that allowed the USA to buy some of the Soviet Union's most sophisticated weapons for more than \$40,000,000.

Romania / Soviet Union -- May 7, 1990 (OSA)

Minister of Education Mihai Sora meets in Moscow with his Soviet counterpart Gennady A. Yagodin after a four day visit to the USSR. Several agreements are signed on cultural and academic exchanges.

Romania / U.S. -- May 7, 1990 (OSA)

The US State department issues a statement condemning the violence in the Romanian election campaign.

GDR / Soviet Union - May 8, 1990 (OSA)

Mikhail Gorbachev advocates Peace Treaty. The president of the USSR argues that both German states need to sign a new treaty with the four wartime allies, defining a united Germany's military status and place in the European security process. "Only peace can emanate from German soil." He doesn't mention the USSR's objection to a united Germany's membership in NATO. His speech takes place on the anniversary of the Soviet's victory over Germany in WWII. Defence Minister Dimitrii Yazov later reiterates the USSR's opposition to a united Germany's NATO membership in his speech to a group of war veterans.

East Germany sceptical of Soviet's plan for a united Germany. The USSR's proposal to separate the internal and external aspects of German unity draws a sceptical response from government officials. This plan would deprive Germany of full sovereignty, and create a potential of constructing a new 'Versailles complex', one ministry official argues. He also adds that it would hamper Germany's efforts to hone the 'community of peoples', making the German problem a European problem and maybe even negatively affect the 'pan-European process.'

East Germany signs treaty with the European Community. An interim cooperation treaty with the EC will be in effect until East Germany becomes a full EC member after German reunification. The agreement urges liberalised trade, alongside economic cooperation in agriculture, mining, housing, energy and other areas.

Soviet Union / Estonia - May 8, 1990 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet brought the republic into line with Latvia (see May 4) by restoring five key articles of independent Estonia's 1938 Constitution, and reinstates the formal name Republic of Estonia. It also abolished the use of the state emblem, flag, and anthem of Soviet Estonia.

Albania - May 8, 1990 (KCA)

The People's Assembly approves wide-ranging judicial reforms, including liberalization of the penal code and an end to the ban on religious propaganda. It is also announced that a law is being drafted to give all Albanians the right to obtain a passport for foreign travel.

On the same day, Enver Halile is appointed Minister of Justice. He is replaced as General Secretary of the Council of Ministers by Niko Gjyzari, who in turn is replaced as Chair of the State Planning Commission by Bujar Kolaneci.

Bulgaria - May 8, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria and the European Community (EC) sign an agreement on trade and economic cooperation. The 10-year agreement stipulates that all trade barriers between Bulgaria and EC countries will be lifted by 1995 at the latest.

Prime Minister Lukanov signals that Bulgaria is ready to work towards full membership of the EC.

Romania – May 8, 1990 (OSA)

One day after the US State Department’s statement, the three historical parties issue a joint communiqué criticizing the “climate of violence” in the country and warning that all three parties were considering boycotting the election.

Romania – May 9, 1990 (OSA)

As the Bucharest demonstrations entered its 17th day, the hunger strikers are joined by Doina Cornea, a noted dissident, and the musician Gheorghe Zamfir.

Romania – May 9, 1990 (OSA)

The leaders of the three main opposition parties declare that the climate of violence marking the election campaign had led them to consider boycotting elections.

Romania – May 9, 1990 (OSA)

Ion Iliescu responds to accusation that his political organization is fomenting a climate of violence and intimidation.

Romania – May 9, 1990 (OSA)

Talks between President Ion Iliescu and a delegation from anti-government demonstrations break down in the parliament building. The delegation brings several demands into the talks with Mr. Iliescu.

Bulgaria - May 9, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria and Israel restore their diplomatic relations after they were interrupted as a consequence of the Six Day War of 1967.

Soviet Union - May 9, 1990 (KCA)

On the eve of the World War victory day celebration parade, Gorbachev tells a gathering of senior

army personnel in Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre that immediate reforms are needed in the armed forces and that it cannot be "beyond the pale of criticism."

Czechoslovakia - May 9, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly passes a legal amendment making it possible to speed up the purging of the security services, including the Statni Bezpecnost. The amendment provides for the dismissal of policemen on grounds of insufficient moral qualities and codifies the existence of civic commissions, supervising the purging of the security apparatus.

U.S. / Romania - May 10, 1990 (LBC)

The State Department announces that the U.S. ambassador in Bucharest will be temporarily called home because reports on the preparation for the election in Romania cast a doubt on whether it will be free and clean.

Romania – May 10, 1990 (OSA)

US Ambassador Allan Green is recalled to Washington for consultations, signalling American displeasure over irregularities in the Romanian electoral process.

Romania / U. K. – May 11, 1990 (OSA)

The British Foreign Office is reported in the Romanian Charged d’Affaires to express concern about violence and intimidation against opposition candidates.

Romania – May 11, 1990 (OSA)

The Internal Affairs Minister, General Mihai Chitac, makes public for the first time the number of attacks on “certain parties” during the election campaign.

Romania – May 11, 1990 (OSA)

Hundreds of demonstrators block the entrance to a hotel in Baile Felix, where Ion Ratiu is to speak.

U.K. / Romania - May 11, 1990 (LBC)

The British foreign office summons Romania’s chargé d’affaires to inform him of Great Britain’s anxiety about violence in the electoral campaign. In connection with this, the Romanian President declares that nobody has the right to interfere in Romania’s affairs. This is Romania’s business and not Her Majesty’s.

Czechoslovakia - May 11, 1990 (KCA)

Marian Calfa, the Federal Prime Minister, announces the resignation for health reasons of Vladimir Prikazsky, which since February has been federal Minister without Portfolio and in charge of state relations with the media. He is replaced by Karel Havlik.

Yugoslavia – May 11, 1990 (OSA)

Milosevic firmly rejected suggestions from other European nations following a summit in Bratislava that Yugoslavia should follow the rest of Europe in its reaction to changing views and movements. He said that Yugoslavia was the only nation to stand up to Stalin out of the lot, and he will not listen to Stalin’s old allies now.

Czechoslovakia - May 12, 1990 (KCA)

Oldrich Bursky, federal Minister of Agriculture and Food, resigns and is replaced by Rudolf Katner.

Soviet Union - May 12, 1990 (KCA)

The Presidents of the three Baltic republics hold a meeting in Tallinn. They sign a declaration re-establishing the Baltic Council, created by a "treaty of concord and co-operation" signed by the republics in 1934 but defunct since 1940. The main purpose of reviving the Council is to co-ordinate the republics' independence strategies.

Romania – May 12, 1990 (OSA)

President Iliescu and Defence Minister General Chitac say that the anti-government demonstrations started on April 22 in Bucharest’s University Square should be “cleared out” by May 18, if necessary, by force.

Romania – May 12, 1990 (OSA)

Deputy Culture Minister Dan Petrescu resigns in protest at the government’s handling of the election campaign and the official protection offered to the “former privileged class.”

Yugoslavia -- May 13, 1990 (OSA)

A riot breaks out at Maksimir Stadium in Zagreb at a match between Dinamo Zagreb and Red Star Belgrade.

Yugoslavia -- May 13, 1990 (OSA)

Experts from Italy, Austria, Yugoslavia and Hungary meet in Budapest to discuss transport, environmental protection, communications, economic and scientific relations.

Soviet Union - May 14, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev issues decrees outlawing the independence declarations of the Latvian and Estonian Supreme Soviets, assessing that they violate the USSR Constitution and the USSR law of April 3, 1990, which defined the procedure for a republic's secession from the Soviet Union. However, no ultimatums are issued concerning the withdrawal of the declarations, nor are sanctions threatened similar to those being applied to Lithuania (see April18).

Czechoslovakia - May 14, 1990 (KCA)

Large-scale rallies are held in several cities to demand the return to the state of assets leased or rented by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia before November 1989.

Bulgaria - May 14, 1990 (OSA)

The Roundtable produces a detailed Code of Ethics for the Election Campaign.

Romania / West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany) – May 14, 1990 (OSA)

West Germany announces that new consulates are to be open soon in Timisoara, Brasov, and Sibiu to cope with the flood of visa applications from Romanians.

Romania – May 14, 1990 (OSA)

Following the recent law decreeing that stolen ancestral gold could be reclaimed from the National Bank of Romania, Roma leader and representative to the United Nations Ion Cloarba demands

compensation from the Romanian government for the families of dozens of Gypsies beaten to death or shot by police during the Ceaușescu dictatorship as part of his campaign to appropriate their gold. Cloarba also claims hundreds of Gypsies were tortured and had their houses burned down during this period of systematic persecution. He further states that prejudice against the Roma in Romania is the worst in Europe.

Romania / Vatican – May 15, 1990 (OSA)

Romania and the Vatican restore diplomatic relations after a 40-year break.

Soviet Union / Estonia - May 15, 1990 (KCA)

In Tallinn, Estonia's capital, around 2,000 members of Estonia's Russian minority, opposed to Estonian independence, stage a noisy demonstration during which part of the crowd rush the gates of the Supreme Soviet building and occupy the courtyard, and briefly succeed in replacing the Estonian tricolor flying above the building with the red flag of Soviet Estonia. They retreat after a radio appeal by Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar brought around 15,000 Estonians to the building.

Yugoslavia - May 15, 1990 (KA)

Borisav Jovic of Serbia takes over as President of the Federal Collective State Presidency in accordance with the system of annual rotation of that office. Stipe Suvar (Croatia) succeeds him as Vice-President.

Yugoslavia - May 16, 1990 (KCA)

The Collective State Presidency issues a warning clearly directed at Slovenia and Croatia that a "serious breakdown of the system established by the Constitution" and "disregard for existing federal laws" means that Yugoslavia has entered a critical period of instability.

Also, on this day, Lojze Peterle, Chairman of the Slovene Christian Democratic Party, is elected President of the Slovene Executive Council (Prime Minister) by the new Slovene Assembly. The composition of his government is approved on the same day.

Soviet Union / Estonia - May 16, 1990 (KCA)

The Supreme Estonian Soviet passes a law establishing a provisional system of government for the republic during the period of transition to independence.

Germany / West Germany - May 16, 1990 (KCA)

In order to help fund the costs of unification, the West German federal government and the Länder (states) agree to set up a German Unity Fund to raise DM 95 billion. A further DM 20 billion will be channeled into the fund from the federal budget.

Hungary – May 16, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Antall announces the membership of his coalition Cabinet which is dominated by Hungarian Democratic Forum members, but includes four members of the Independent Smallholders' Party, one from the Christian Democratic People's Party, non-party academic experts to the Finance and International Economic Relations portfolios, and a non-party legal expert, Ferenc Madl, as Minister without portfolio in charge of preparing Hungarian integration into European organizations.

Romania – May 16, 1990 (OSA)

Responding to reports that Romania is seeking an additional \$300,000,000 in credit and technical support to complete its five-reactor Candu nuclear project.

Romania – May 16, 1990 (OSA)

NPP Chairman Corneliu Coposu tells Romanian television that two party members had been killed, 113 others injured, and 162 party bases attacked during the election campaign.

Romania – May 17, 1990 (OSA)

A total of over 100,000 people take part in two separate demonstrations in Bucharest, one in support of acting President Ion Iliescu, the other against.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / U.S. - May 17, 1990 (KCA)

President Bush, during a brief visit by Chancellor Kohl to the United States, reportedly gives his unqualified support to a unified Germany enjoying full sovereignty. It should, he says, decide on its own security links without external constraints and "have full control over all its territory."

On the same day, the Soviet Foreign Ministry announces the suspension of unilateral Soviet troop withdrawals from East Germany

Soviet Union / Estonia - May 17, 1990 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet bans political strikes in an attempt to head off a strike threatened by the United Council of Work Collectives to start on May 21.

Also on this day, Lithuania's President Prunskiene visits Moscow for a meeting with Gorbachev and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov. She puts forward a compromise proposal approved by the Lithuania Supreme Council on the previous day which is broadly in line with a Franco-German initiative. Gorbachev reportedly insists that the independence declaration should be at least suspended before negotiations could begin, but this represents a departure from his previous position that the declaration should be completely rescinded.

Czechoslovakia - May 17, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel addresses a Civic Forum rally in Prague to mark the half-anniversary of the student demonstration which began the revolution in November 1989. At this occasion, he says that he will vote for named Civic Forum candidates who are government ministers. The Central Electoral Commission criticizes the television coverage of this and other Civic Forum rallies, and orders that all other parties should be given 10 minutes of extra air time to compensate.

Yugoslavia -- May 17, 1990 (OSA)

The new Slovenian prime minister urges the Yugoslavian presidency to switch the federal government into a confederation following large wins by the opposition in Croatia and Slovenia. This comes after a warning was issued by the Yugoslavian state to Slovenia and Croatia that the breakdown of the system has led Yugoslavia to an extremely vulnerable and unstable state.

Bulgaria - May 17, 1990 (OSA)

Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis promises to promote Bulgarian interests in the EC in virtue of the two countries' "special relationship."

Czechoslovakia - May 18, 1990 (KCA)

A group of four parties—the People's Party, the Socialist Party, Social Democracy, and the Democratic Party of Slovakia—issues a statement calling on the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia to withdraw voluntarily from the general election in June as an admission of the party's responsibility for the country's condition after 41 years of communist rule and of the party's continued totalitarian tendencies. If it does not withdraw, the statement says, the Communist Party should be banned. The call is rejected by the federal government and by leaders of Civic Forum, the dominant element within it.

On this day, the government also freezes all transfers of assets in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia's direct possession, valued at 4.5 billion crowns (approximately \$278 million), although the party will be allowed to eventually retain that portion of the assets which could be proven to have been acquired legally through membership dues.

East Germany / West Germany - May 18, 1990 (KCA)

Theo Waigel and Walter Romberg, respectively the West and East German Finance Ministers, sign a state treaty on "the creation of a monetary, economic, and social union" between the two countries. Assuming ratification by both parliaments, the treaty will provide for the introduction, from July 1, 1990, of a currency union with a unified currency area and the Deutschmark as the common currency.

FRG / GDR / Soviet Union - May 18, 1990 (OSA)

The two German states sign a treaty agreeing on monetary, economic and social union. It commits East Germany to dropping its central planning system and adopting the economic and social laws that constitute West Germany's "social market economy." The head of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, Valentin Falin, criticizes the new German economic accord saying it did not treat the two Germanies as equal partners. In an interview with East German radio, Falin says the treaty "is hardly an example of how two sovereign states can represent their interests and positions with equal rights."

Soviet Union / Azerbaijan - May 18, 1990 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet in Azerbaijan elects Ayaz Niyaz ogly Mutalibov, the Azerbaijan Communist Party first secretary, to the post of President of the Republic and Elmira Kafarova to the separate post of Chair of the Supreme Soviet (previously she had been Chair of the Supreme Soviet Presidium).

Soviet Union / Belarus - May 19, 1990 (KCA)

The new Supreme Soviet in Belarus narrowly elects Nikolai Dementei as its Chairman (i.e. President of Byelorussia), from a field of three candidates. Previously, Dementei had been Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Czechoslovakia - May 19, 1990 (KCA)

It is officially announced that the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia will be subjected to legal proceedings for defrauding the state between 1971 and 1989 by borrowing or leasing property under agreements of uncertain legality.

Bulgaria - May 19, 1990 (KCA)

Petar Beron, the Union of Democratic Forces Secretary, claims during a tour of Western countries that the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Douglas Hurd is preparing a European

Community declaration which will rule out assistance for communist governments. The existence of such a draft statement is immediately denied.

Yugoslavia -- May 19, 1990 (OSA)

A group of Macedonians have blocked the Greek-Yugoslav border in protest of the Greek government failing to recognize an ethnic Macedonian minority within Greece.

Romania -- May 20, 1990 (HOR / ADC)

The first free elections in Romania are held in the wake of the December '89 revolution. On May 26, 1990, the Central Election Bureau announces the official results: Ion Iliescu was elected President of Romania -- receiving 85.07 percent of the votes cast. The National Salvation Front received 66 percent of the votes in the parliamentary elections (66.31 percent in the Representative Assembly elections and 67.02 percent in the Senate elections).

Romania - May 20, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

In Romania's first free elections since 1937, the ruling National Salvation Front, led by President Ion Iliescu, wins a decisive victory. Iliescu wins the presidency with almost 86% of the popular vote, and the NSF secures more than two-thirds of the parliamentary seats. Despite allegations of fraud and intimidation, more than 86% of the electorate votes in the elections, which a U.S.-sponsored team of international observers pronounces as valid. Defeated presidential candidates Ion Ratiu (Christian Democratic National Peasants' Party--CDNPP) and Radu Campeanu (National Liberal Party--NLP) list irregularities in the process and complain that the campaign was waged in an atmosphere of violence; both, however, state their intention to participate in the new parliament.

Romania -- May 20, 1990 (OSA)

Romanians go to the polls, elect the country's President and a bicameral parliament. The election marks Romania's transition to a multiple democracy. Since 1946, when communists took power after rigged elections, Romania has had a one-party, totalitarian system. There are three candidates for the Presidency; Ion Iliescu, the candidate of National Salvation front; Radu Campenau, the leader of the National Liberty Party; and Ion Ratiu, the candidate of the National Peasant Party / Christian Democracy. Over 70 parties compete. The national Liberal Party, the National Peasant Party / Christian Democracy, and the Social Democratic Party form and electoral alliance.

Czechoslovakia - May 21, 1990 (KCA)

The government demands the return of all stolen property remaining in the Communist Party's hands by September 30.

Soviet Union / Estonia - May 21, 1990 (KCA)

Although some strikes go ahead (see May 17), the estimated 30,000 Russian workers in 18 enterprises who stop working are fewer than had participated in strikes for Russian minority rights in August 1989. The strikes are eventually called off after an appeal from Gorbachev.

Soviet Union / Russia - May 22, 1990 (KCA)

In a Congress debate on a draft law to establish Russian sovereignty, Boris Yeltsin put forward his own far more radical 14-point plan. He argues that Russia has been exploited and impoverished more than any other republic by the "imperial policy of the Centre," noting for example that although ranking third of the 15 union republics in labour productivity, it is last in social

expenditure.

Also on this day, Gorbachev holds a meeting with Latvia's President Gorbunovs and Estonia's President Arnold Rüütel and is described by Rüütel as "difficult and unpleasant for all sides," at which Gorbachev repeats the demand that they cancel their independence declarations before any negotiations on the republics' status can begin.

NATO - May 22, 1990 (LBC)

NATO's defense ministers review the alliance's military strategy, since the threat from the Warsaw Pact significantly diminished.

Hungary – May 22, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Antall presents his outline of the "program of national renewal," to the National Assembly.

Romania – May 22, 1990 (OSA)

Partial and official Romanian election results confirm an overwhelming victory for Mr. Iliescu, Reuters reports from Bucharest.

FRG / GDR / Soviet Union - May 22, 1990 (OSA)

The USSR asks West Germany to create a concrete pledge concerning the fulfilment of East Germany's delivery commitments. The Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Ivan Silaev has handed over to West German Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann an urgent list of goods and projects that he claims the USSR could not forego when East and West Germany merge their economic, monetary and social systems on July 1st. He handed over the list at the eighteenth session of the German-Soviet Economic Commission, which concluded on this day in Moscow. In accordance with the list, the Soviet Union wants East German-Soviet operated mining projects in the Soviet Union and the joint uranium project in Wismut (East Germany) to continue. The Soviet Union also insists that the deliveries of spare parts from East Germany for its plant and machine construction continues.

Soviet Union - May 23, 1990 (KCA)

The leading radical Anatoly Sobchak is elected by the Leningrad city *soviet* (council) as its chair (de facto mayor).

Furthermore, on his day, in response to the meeting with Gorbachev (see May 17), the Lithuanian Supreme Council votes to offer to suspend all laws passed since the independence declaration, but not the declaration itself.

Yugoslavia - May 23, 1990 (KCA)

The provincial Assembly in Kosovo refuses the resignation of Jusuf Zejnulahu, the President of the Kosovo Executive Council, and of nine other ethnic Albanian members of his government.

The ethnic Albanian ministers have been tendering their resignations one by one since late March, and in passing a vote of confidence in the Kosovo government, the provincial ssembly is apparently acting to prevent the government being left in the hands solely of its ethnic Serb members.

Hungary – May 23, 1990 (KCA)

The National Assembly approves the "program of national renewal" simultaneously by 218 to 126

with eight abstentions, and the government is then duly sworn in.

Soviet Union / Moldova - May 24, 1990 (KCA)

Pyotr Paskar resigns as Chair of the Council of Ministers in Moldavia in response to criticism of his government voiced in the new Moldavian Supreme Soviet (elected in February). He has held the post only since January.

U.S. / Soviet Union - May 24, 1990 (LBC)

Bush announces that he is opposed to normalizing commercial relations with the Soviet Union. A draft agreement is to be signed at the next summit. The reason for this is the Lithuanian question and the fact that the Soviet leadership did not present the issue of emigration at the parliament.

East Germany / Soviet Union / France / West Germany / NATO - May 25, 1990 (KCA) During a visit to Moscow by President Mitterrand of France, President Gorbachev declares his preference for a unified German membership of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Gorbachev, nevertheless, apparently concedes that "one of the options" is German membership solely of NATO, but not of its military command.

GDR / FRG / Soviet Union - May 25, 1990 (OSA)

Soviet troop withdrawal from East Germany is halted. The USSR announces that massive housing problems in the Soviet Union is indefinitely blocking the withdrawal of nearly one-tenth of its troops from East Germany.

Soviets may follow the “French Model” in relation to Germany’s potential NATO membership. At a press conference in Moscow with visiting French President Francois Mitterrand, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev says Western insistence on a united Germany’s membership in NATO could lead Moscow to reconsider its attitude toward the entire European security process. Gorbachev adds that he raised the possibility of a united Germany being “like France”: a member of NATO’s political organisation but not of its military structure.

Bulgaria - May 25, 1990 (OSA)

A Bulgarian delegation is received by Pope John Paul II. The delegation presents the Pope with President Mladenov's official invitation to visit Bulgaria. Given the Pope's influence as an international actor and Bulgaria's suspected involvement in the 1981 assassination attempt against him, this is an important step in Bulgaria's attempt to shift its foreign policy to the West.

Club Mediterranean reaches an agreement with Bulgaria to transform a Black Sea resort once reserved for upper-echelon communist party officials into one of its trademark vacation "villages."

Yugoslavia - May 25, 1990 (KCA)

Ante Markovic, the President of the Federal Executive Council (federal Prime Minister) and one of Yugoslavia's most popular politicians, announces that he is planning to set up a new political party based around his government team and with a program of Western-style economic and political reforms to contest multiparty elections to the Federal Assembly expected before the end of 1990. The announcement is greeted with consternation by LCY leaders, who accuse Markovic, an LCY member, of betrayal.

Yugoslavia -- May 25, 1990 (OSA)

For the first time a Yugoslavian communist leader has spoken out about the illegality of multiparty elections within the republic, and stated that if it is not curbed now we can expect more elections to come. Like in Slovenia and Croatia, this could lead to further government elects of the center-right parties.

Yugoslavia – May 26, 1990 (HR)

The Party of Democratic Action, an Islamic religious and nationalist party, is founded in Sarajevo. Its president becomes Alija Izetbegović the future Bosnian Muslim leader.

Yugoslavia - May 26, 1990 (KCA)

The 14th congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY), suspended in January (see January 22), finally resumes for its closing session, despite a continuing boycott of federal party meetings by the Croatian and Macedonian LCs and the breakaway Slovene party. The congress session adopts a resolution introduced by Miomir Grbovic that the LCY should be re- launched at its 15th congress, called for September 1990.

GDR / FRG / Soviet Union - May 26, 1990 (OSA)

Unification and the Alliance problem. Soviet Marshall Viktor Kulikov says in an interview that all atomic weapons should leave German soil and that a unified Germany should temporarily belong to both NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze supports this statement in an interview, explaining that Soviet History and public opinion shaped the Soviet position. West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genacher tells Georgetown University graduates that a unified Germany should stay in NATO, but he calls for a ‘new transatlantic partnership’ linking NATO to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. US President George Bush says that a united Germany in NATO would be a stabilizing force for Europe. In an interview in *Time*, Mikhail Gorbachev says he expected US-Soviet differences over a unified Germany’s NATO membership to be narrowed as a result of his summit talks with President Bush.

More troop cuts. Defence Minister Rainer Eppermann says that East Germany’s troop strength has been cut by more than a fifth in one month.

Soviet Union / Armenia - May 27, 1990 (KCA)

Armenian militants clash with Interior Ministry troops at the railway station in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. Official reports state that a 15-strong Armenian gang attempted to ambush the 11 soldiers, who were waiting to escort a train from Yerevan to Kafan (in southern Armenia) through the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan. In an exchange of fire, six Armenian militants are shot dead, and 10 servicemen and a passer-by are injured.

Poland - May 27, 1990 (KCA)

Local elections are held, and they are Poland's first completely free multiparty elections since before the Second World War. Voter turnout is only around 42%, however. Commentators blame the low turnout on disaffection with the Solidarity-led government's draconian economic austerity measures, and on confusion about the programs of the more than 80 competing political parties and dozens of associations. The elections are also partly overshadowed by a burgeoning rail strike, the first major workers' challenge to the government's economic policy.

East Germany / West Germany / NATO - May 28, 1990 (KCA)

The West German Defense Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, declares: "It is remarkable that the Soviet President is now beginning to concern himself in public with the prerequisites for NATO membership." Stoltenberg's comments are made after talks in Strausberg near Berlin with his East German counterpart, Rainer Eppelmann.

GDR / FRG - May 28, 1990 (OSA)

Armies get together. West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg and Rainer Eppermann agree to establish official relations between the East and West German armies. Stoltenberg rejects Gorbachev's suggestion that a unified Germany could belong to NATO's political structure and remain outside of its military command.

SPD candidate rocks the boat. The West German Social Democratic Party's (SPD) candidate for chancellor, Oskar Lafontaine, demands that his party oppose the present monetary union agreement with East Germany. "What is economically wrong cannot be politically right", he told *Der Spiegel*. Other SPD politicians criticise his stance, while an executive of the East German SDP appealed to him to reconsider his position.

Yugoslavia - May 28, 1990 (KCA)

A 13-point plan of "urgent measures to protect the territorial and political integrity of the country and the unhindered functioning of the law-governed state on the whole territory of Yugoslavia" is presented by Jovic on behalf of the Presidency to the Federal Assembly (parliament). This advocates accelerating the introduction of a new, more centralized federal constitution and the provision of federal powers to overturn laws and constitutional changes adopted unilaterally by the republics, but also calls for consultations between federal and republican leaders "jointly to seek out and harmonize possible proposals and solutions for future mutual relations in Yugoslavia."

Yugoslavia - May 29, 1990 (KCA)

The Assembly session ends without adopting the Presidency's plan (see May 28). It decides that further discussion is needed on what measures are within the Assembly's competence under the federal Constitution.

Soviet Union / Russia / Canada - May 29, 1990 (KCA)

Boris Yeltsin, the leading radical populist and one of President Mikhail Gorbachev's fiercest critics, is elected as Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, making him de facto President of the Russian Federation, the Soviet Union's largest and most powerful republic. This raises the prospect that Yeltsin might use the Russian presidency as an ultra-reformist power base from which to challenge Gorbachev's authority, making Russia a new element of instability in the already crisis-ridden Soviet Union. Yeltsin's political program combines calls for radical economic reform with a strong appeal for Russia's sovereign rights. Gorbachev, arriving in Ottawa (Canada) on the same day for an official visit, is quoted as saying that he is "somewhat worried" by Yeltsin's victory. For his part, Yeltsin says that he hopes to build a partnership with Gorbachev "not on confrontation but on a businesslike basis, on dialogue and talks."

France / Poland - May 29, 1990 (LBC)

France reschedules Poland's 1.5 billion dollar debt.

Yugoslavia - May 30, 1990 (KCA)

The new Croatian Assembly, elected in April and May, elects Franjo Tudjman, leader of the HDZ, as President of the Croatian Presidency and Stjepan Mesic of the HDZ as President of the Croatian Executive Council.

Yugoslavia – May 30, 1990 (YC)

The 14th Congress of the LCY which took place in January is officially over. The delegations from Croatia, Slovenia, and Macedonia restrain from participating.

Yugoslavia -- May 30, 1990 (OSA)

Croatian parliament elects Franco Tudman as president, and the Serb Democratic Party breaks all relations between the two parliaments.

Romania – May 31, 1990 (OSA)

Both Romanian and Hungarian media announce that Hungarian-language leaflets signed by the National Christian Union are discovered near Arad, in Romania.

East Germany - May 31, 1990 (KCA)

The government introduces a legislation to determine the value of political parties' assets and for the expropriation of the assets of those parties existing on October 7, 1989. Gregor Gysi, the Party of Democratic Socialism chair, angrily tells the parliament that the government wants "to eliminate the opposition, nothing less."

GDR - May 31, 1990 (OSA)

Washington Post article claims that East Berlin is the new mecca for refugees. In the past year, more than three million people have fled East Germany in search of a better life. In the past month, more than 50,000 Eastern Europeans have arrived in East Germany with the same aim. “We no longer know how to control this enormous influx” said Foreign Ministry spokesman Gerhard Kielmann. The new East German Government wants to distinguish itself from its Stalinist predecessor in every possible way, so its leaders are loath to treat the immigrants cavalierly. However, the East German economy is not yet equipped to absorb such a huge number of refugees.

Soviet Union / U.S. May 31 - June 3, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

The Presidents of the Soviet Union and the United States, Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush, hold their second summit meeting in Washington. Following on from the informal Malta summit in December 1989, the meetings are hailed as a new beginning in U.S.-Soviet relations, despite continuing differences on a number of key bilateral and international issues. Comprehensive agreements on reductions in strategic nuclear arms (START) and conventional forces in Europe (CFE), which at the time of the Malta summit had been thought imminent, are not achieved but are expected to be concluded by the end of 1990. The issue which provides the main focus of disagreement, and which also thwarts progress on the CFE and START negotiations, is the future political and military status of a united Germany.

June

Poland - June 1990 (KCA)

A major political dispute arises between Lech Walesa, the chairman of the trade union Solidarity, and the government of Solidarity sympathizers, led by Tadeusz Mazowiecki, over the future structure of the union.

Czechoslovakia - June 2, 1990 (KCA)

A crude home-made bomb explodes in the Old Town Square in Prague, injuring 18 people. This is the first major incident of its kind since the beginning of the November revolution. Richard Sacher, the federal Interior Minister, states that the explosion is politically motivated. No group claims responsibility, but Jan Urban, a leading figure in Civic Forum, describes it as an attempt to disrupt the elections, and blames former members of the *Statni Bezpecnost*.

Romania – June 2, 1990 (OSA)

In an open letter in *Romania Libera*, Doina Cornea accuses President Ion Iliescu of cynicism for his refusal to talk to hunger strikers in Bucharest’s University Square.

Romania – June 3, 1990 (OSA)

The Group for Social Dialogue, which was formed shortly after the December revolution, publishes an open letter in its weekly 22 calling Ion Iliescu to exclude former Communists from the new government.

Romania – June 4, 1990 (OSA)

Hungary’s new Minister of Culture and Education Bertalan Andrasfalvy holds talks with Romanian Deputy Minister of Culture Andor Horvath, announcing that his government was ready to strengthen bilateral cultural and educational cooperation with Romania by establishing direct institutional contacts.

Bulgaria - June 4, 1990 (OSA)

An opinion poll shows that fear and distrust are still deeply rooted in Bulgarian society, despite the attempts to reverse the totalitarian system. Only 54% of those polled said they felt safe from fear and distrust in their family, 43% among close friends, 17% in organizations to which they belong. The opinion poll also shows deep pessimism and distrust of the institutions among the citizens.

Soviet Union / Ukraine - June 4, 1990 (KCA)

The new Ukrainian Supreme Soviet elects Volodymyr Ivashko as its Chair (de facto President of the Ukraine). Ivashko defeats three other candidates, polling 278 votes for and 61 against.

Also on this day, violence breaks out in the city of Osh in Kyrgyzstan, which has a majority Uzbek population, sparked off by a dispute over the use of farmland for housing. A rally is held in a field on an Uzbek-run collective farm on the outskirts of Osh to discuss rival claims for its use because a group of around 1,500 Kirghiz have illegally occupied the field and demand the right to divide it into housing plots, and around 10,000 Uzbeks have arrived to oppose them. In total, the events in Osh left 11 people dead and 210 injured.

Kyrgyzstan / Osh riots - June 4, 1990 (FGN)

Ethnic war between the Kyrgyz and Uzbek people in the city of Osh, Kyrgyzstan took place. The city had a large Uzbek population who became increasingly active in developing the Uzbek culture,

language and tradition in the city. The clashes were related to the ownership of land, which was wanted by the people to build housing. On June 4, around 1,500 Kyrgyz and more than 10,000 Uzbek people were provoking each other outside of the city, separated by a military police line armed with machine guns. Some policemen were injured, and they opened fire on the Uzbek crowd, which led to infuriation of the constantly growing massive Uzbek riot, which led to them moving in frenzy into the city and continuing rampaging city, killing people and destroying Kyrgyz property. The riots were put down a few days later by the Soviet regular army troops moving into the city. Kyrgyz population was evacuated. According to official sources, around 1,200 people died.

Yugoslavia -- June 4, 1990 (OSA)

The Slovenian government ends a plan for taxes to go to underdeveloped areas elsewhere in Yugoslavia. They also reject a special tax requested by the Belgrade government to help fund the national army.

U.S. / Soviet Union - June 5, 1990 (LBC)

At the meeting of the CSCE states, Shevardnadze announces that the USSR is reducing its tactical nuclear arsenal by 1500 warheads, 250 theater artillery pieces, and 1400 delivery vehicles. The announcement was unexpected by the State Department.

Bulgaria - June 5, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The UDF issues a document detailing the violations of the Electoral Law and of Round-Table Agreements by the BSP.

One Bulgarian woman is quoted in the *Financial Times* saying: "The two main parties have turned the media and the campaign into a slanging match."

Romania – June 5, 1990 (OSA)

Hungarian and Romanian Writers’ Union sign a one-year cooperation agreement in Budapest, the first after 1985, providing for exchange visits and cooperation in various areas.

Romania – June 6, 1990 (OSA)

A statement reportedly issued by the Bucharest and regional organizations of the National Peasant and Christian Democrat Party states that “having witnessed a continuing deterioration in party activity (and) tendencies by leading party members to subvert the party for personal interest” they have decided to “change immediately” the party’s leadership and replace it with a provisional management until a party congress could be convened.

Romania – June 6, 1990 (OSA)

Prosecutor General Gheorge Robu announces that legal proceedings would be opened against 24 former members of the Romanian Communist Party’s Political Executive Committee.

Bulgaria - June 6, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgarian singers and musicians issue an open letter to their western colleagues about playing in a charity concert in Sofia. The Bulgarian artists denounce the opportunistic use of the concert from the BSP, which put its own logo on the billboards advertising the concert.

East Germany - June 6, 1990 (KCA)

Susanne Albrecht, who is wanted for the 1977 murder of the banker Jürgen Ponto, and Inge Viett, wanted for the 1974 murder of the judge Günter von Drenkmann, are arrested in East Berlin.

Czechoslovakia - June 6, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Deputy Interior Minister Jan Ruml issues a statement accusing Josef Bartoncik, chairman of the People's Party and Deputy Chairman of the Federal Assembly, of being "an unprincipled man who is trying to hide his past," and who is therefore unfit to be a deputy in the future Federal Assembly. The People's Party reacts by rejecting the allegations and accuses Ruml of violating the election law ban on campaigning within the 48 hours before polling begins.

Yugoslavia -- June 6, 1990 (OSA)

Parliament in Knin proposes a Serbian alliance of the municipalities of Northern Dalmatia and Lika, the Serbian majority areas within Croatia.

NATO / Warsaw Pact - June 7, 1990 (LBC)

A message by the foreign ministers of NATO says NATO is “offering cooperation to the Soviet Union and all European states.” The leaders of the Warsaw Pact announce that they no longer regard the West as an “ideological enemy.”

U.K. / Soviet Union - June 7-10, 1990 (LBC)

Thatcher visits Moscow. The Prime Minister meets Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders. The talks focus on German unification, Soviet economic reform, and the changing structure of Europe.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan / Kyrgyzstan - June 8, 1990 (KCA)

Uzbekistan's President, Islam Karimov, decrees a state of emergency in districts in Uzbekistan's Andizhan bordering Osh, and warns that the Osh violence (see June 4) could escalate into a full-scale inter-republican armed conflict.

Czechoslovakia - June 8, 1990 (KCA)

Czechoslovakia's first free and secret general election since 1946 is arranged. The twin citizens' movements, Civic Forum in the Czech Lands and Public Against Violence in Slovakia, emerge as the clear winners with about half of the total votes cast. There is a turnout of 96.7% of the electorate of 11,247,000.

Simultaneously, elections are also held for the Czech and Slovak National Councils, which have 200 and 150 seats respectively. Parties have to exceed the 5% limit to win seats in the Czech National Council, while the threshold in Slovakia only is 3%.The campaign is dominated by the theme of completing the dismantling of communism in the country and the transition to full democracy. Linked with this is the revival of the economy through a change to a market system, the restoration of the environment, improvement and protection of social conditions, linking the country to pan-European structures, and relations between Czechs and Slovaks. Party campaigns tend to stress differences in style and personalities as much as policies. In the Czech Lands, Civic Forum wins about half the total votes, and in Slovakia, Public Against Violence emerges as the clear winner, although the latter was expected until shortly before the election to come second to the Christian Democratic Movement.

The success of the two movements is attributed to their association with the highly popular

President Havel and to the fact that their candidates include some of the most prominent ministers in the government of national understanding. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia does better than expected and becomes the second largest force in the Federal Assembly and the Czech National Council. Despite having lost half its membership since November 1989, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia still has some 900,000 members, more than any other single party. The Christian Democratic Union/Christian Democratic Movement coalition becomes fourth in the Federal Assembly; the CDU comes in third in the Czech National Council, while the CDM emerges as the second strongest group in the Slovak National Council. The CDU's showing is thought to have been affected by the allegations against Bartoncik on the eve of the elections.

Yugoslavia -- June 8, 1990 (OSA)

New army brigades created in the regions of Zagreb, Knin, Lika, Banja Luka and Herzegovina.

Romania – June 8, 1990 (OSA)

The extremely nationalist organization Vatra Romaenesca demonstrates in Bucharest and four Transylvanian cities against alleged discrimination in favour of Hungarians in Transylvania.

Czechoslovakia - June 8-9, 1990 (LBC)

Parliamentary and local elections are held in Czechoslovakia. The election is won by the Civic Forum and the Slovakian Public Against Violence. The communist party comes in second. The winning coalition got 46.3%, and the communists received 13.6% of the vote.

Romania – June 9, 1990 (HOR)

The first session of Romania’s new parliament following the May 20th elections is held.

East Germany - June 9, 1990 (KCA)

An extraordinary conference in Halle elects Wolfgang Thierse as the East German SPD chairman. Thierse replaces Markus Meckel, the Foreign Minister, who has been standing in since the March resignation of Ibrahim Böhme.

Czechoslovakia - June 9, 1990 (KCA)

At a press conference after the close of polls, it is revealed that Josef Bartoncik had attended a meeting with President Havel and his advisers on June 5, when he was shown documentation indicating his involvement as a paid informer for the *Statni Bezpecnost* for 17 years. He was invited either to refute the allegations publicly or to withdraw from the elections, and reportedly chose to take the second option.

Also on this day, immediately after the close of polls, Jan Budaj, Deputy Chairman of the Slovak National Council, announces that he is withdrawing his candidacy, stating that he was registered as a collaborator with the *Statni Bezpecnost* in the 1970s.

Soviet Union / Russia - June 9, 1990 (KCA)

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies elects a new bicameral Russian Supreme Soviet. This in turn elects Ivan Silayev as Chair of the Russian Council of Ministers.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan / Kyrgyzstan - June 10, 1990 (KCA)

The security services manage to prevent the holding of a nationalist rally in Frunze by a group calling itself the Kirghiz Democratic Movement (see June 4 & 8).

Bulgaria - June 10, 1990 (KCA)

The first round of the democratic election is arranged and returns power to the former ruling party, the former Bulgarian Communist Party, which has been renamed the Bulgarian Socialist Party. Bulgaria is the only country among the Eastern European states in the post-Soviet sphere where the former ruling party gets the majority.

Poland / Soviet Union - June 11, 1990 (KCA)

It is disclosed that mass graves containing remains of about 15,000 Polish Army officers massacred by their Soviet captors in 1940 has been located near Kharkov in east Ukraine and at Mednoye near Kalinin in western Russia.

Bulgaria - June 11, 1990 (KCA)

After the first round of elections, as many as 100,000 students and opposition supporters in Sofia call for fresh elections to be held. Similar protests and sit-ins take place across the country in at least 12 other cities and towns.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan / Kyrgyzstan - June 11, 1990 (KCA)

Following the deaths and violence resulting from the unrest, (see June 4 & 8) it is declared a day of mourning by Kirghizia's leaders. The security situation both in Frunze and in Osh is reported to be stabilizing.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - June 11, 1990 (KCA)

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze meets the West German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in the Soviet town of Brest for closed talks on the unification issue. It is subsequently reported that West Germany has agreed to a request by Shevardnadze for a DM 5 billion government-guaranteed loan to the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank, with which to finance the Soviet balance of payments deficit.

Romania – June 11-15, 1990 (OSA)

After 4 weeks of anti-government protests on University Square, hunger strikers are convinced to end their strike in exchange for the establishment of a private television channel. A group of dissidents refuse these demands, however, and continue their own protest. The following day, on June 12, Prime Minister Roman orders police forces to remove protesters from the square, while President Iliescu puts out an appeal on television for ‘conscious and responsible’ citizens to come and help government forces preserve democracy. Dispersal begins on the morning of June 13, and fighting between police and protesters escalates all day, culminating with the invasion of the national television building and the subsequent blackout of all emissions. Police forces eventually succeed in repelling attackers. In the early morning of June 14, however, a contingent of over 10,000 pro-government miners arrives from the Jiu Valley town of Petrosani. Despite the fact that the square has already been freed of protesters, they break into university buildings and brutalise their occupants. Guided by government officials and intelligence agents in disguise, they attack the headquarters of opposition parties, independent publishing houses, and independent newspapers. In total over 1,000 citizens are injured due to this violence, with 7 fatalities. The miners return to the Jiu Valley on June 15 and are congratulated by President Ion Iliescu for their ‘promptness and

commitment to democracy’.

Bulgaria - June 12, 1990 (OSA)

Sugar, detergent and other items start to be rationed in various Bulgarian cities. This contradicts Prime Minister Lukanov's previous assurances that Bulgarian productivity had started to return to normal.

Soviet Union / Russia - June 12, 1990 (KCA)

The Russian Federation, the Soviet Union's largest and most powerful republic, is declared a sovereign state by its Congress of People's Deputies. The declaration appears to have enormous implications for the future state structure and division of powers within the Soviet Union, but is significantly watered down in its submission in draft form in order to satisfy the broadest range of deputies from conservative hardliners to radical reformers (there are no fewer than 27 factions within the Congress).

Furthermore, on this day, the USSR Supreme Soviet passes a long-awaited law on the press and mass media, featuring detailed guarantees of freedom of the press, the rules for journalistic practice, and the abolition of censorship. The law is due to come into force on Aug. 1.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - June 13, 1990 (KCA)

Lithuania's Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene meets Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov to discuss the lifting of the Soviet economic blockade in return for suspension of the independence declaration. Ryzhkov tells Prunskiene that the Soviet authorities are to allow unconditionally the partial resumption of natural gas and raw material supplies to selected Lithuanian enterprises.

Also on this day, the USSR Supreme Soviet orders major revisions to a program drawn up by the government to introduce a market economy. Since its submission for debate at the end of May, the plan, and especially the swinging price rises it entailed, arouses fierce opposition among politicians and the public. However, in calling for revisions, the Supreme Soviet backs acceleration of the introduction of market reforms. The outcome of the voting is portrayed by observers as a victory for supporters of radical economic reform.

Yugoslavia – June 13, 1990 (HR)

The first meeting of Serbian opposition takes place in Belgrade, due to the failed negotiations with the government. Around 50.000 people come together. Unrest breaks out, and over 100 people are injured in clashes with the police.

Romania - June 13, 1990 (KCA)

The University Square in central Bucharest, which has been occupied by anti- communist demonstrators since April 22, is cleared by police in a dawn raid, provoking three days of the most violent clashes seen in Romania since the December 1989 revolution. Twice, the planned inauguration of President-elect Ion Iliescu has to be postponed, and the announcement of the new government correspondingly delayed.

Romania – June 13, 1990 (OSA)

The police headquarters in Miercurea Ciuc, a town with a predominantly Hungarian population, is attacked, wrecked and set on fire as in Bucharest.

Romania – June 13-14, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian police brutally beat and arrest demonstrators who were staying in University Square in Bucharest as part of a marathon anti-communist demonstration. On June 13, government forces break up a three month-long protest on University Square by those opposed to the National Salvation Front. Fighting occurs between demonstrators and police; shortly thereafter, violence engulfs the better part of Bucharest. In a televised address the next day, President Ion Iliescu calls on the miners of the Jiu Walley to come to Bucharest and re-establish order. When they come, they unleash a two-day reign of terror. Wish lists of names and addresses in hand, they go looking for oppositionists and student activists, beating up whomever they found. Before they return home, President Iliescu thanks them at a special ceremony for saving the revolution.

Romania – June 13-15, 1990 (HOR / ADC)

Police begin to forcibly evacuate Bucharest’s University Square, where demonstrations had been taking place since April. Conflicts between police and demonstrators break out. The following day, miners from the Jiu Valley arrive in Bucharest to support the government; they commit acts of violence and vandalism in the capital.

Romania - June 14, 1990 (KCA)

Miners are brought into Bucharest by truck, train, and bus. They start attacking anyone suspected of being an anti-government protestor, using clubs and iron bars. According to Health Ministry figures, four people were killed and 93 injured up to the time of the miners' arrival on the scene. The government claims that the miners came to Bucharest "spontaneously," but admits that they are fed and lodged in government-owned sports halls. Western governments swiftly condemn the brutality and threaten to block economic assistance to Romania.

Romania – June 14, 1990 (OSA)

Vigilante mobs made up of miners and workers arrive in Bucharest to “make order.” Miners from the Jiu Valley descend on Bucharest for the third time, rampaging throughout the capital; ransacking the offices of the opposition, independent organizations, and the independent press; and savagely beating up anyone suspected of being an intellectual or an adversary of the NSF. Thousand of demonstration stormed the Romanian television center and set fire to Bucharest’s police headquarters. One person was killed and 33 injured.

Czechoslovakia - June 14, 1990 (KCA)

The People's Party Central Committee decides to suspend the controversial Josef Bartoncik's chairmanship of the party until his case is settled after further investigation. Furthermore, many parties asked the Interior Ministry to screen their candidates for possible collaboration with the *Statni Bezpecnost* in the past, and 166 candidates are reported to have withdrawn by the eve of the elections.

Soviet Union - June 14, 1990 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet overwhelmingly rejects the government's proposal to triple the price of bread from July 1. Prime Minister Ryzhkov had argued on May 25 that the price rises were needed immediately because the Soviet Union could not otherwise afford to import grain, but the Supreme Soviet decides to postpone further discussion until its next session, beginning in September. The Supreme Soviet also passes the country's first corporate taxation law, setting in

place a crucial element of market economic reform.

Bulgaria - June 14, 1990 (KCA)

The Union of Democratic Forces television station screens a videotape of a demonstration held outside the National Assembly building on December 14 1989, in which President Petar Mladenov could be heard saying: "The best thing to do is to bring the tanks in." Mladenov dismisses the videotape as a fraudulent "montage," but students demand a full public investigation.

Yugoslavia -- June 14, 1990 (OSA)

Largest anti-communist protest in Belgrade yet, 30,000 demonstrators called for the end of political monopoly in Serbia.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - June 15, 1990 (KCA)

On behalf of her government, Prime Minister Prunskiene proposes to the Supreme Council that it declares a moratorium on the independence declaration while negotiations with the Soviet authorities are held. Debate on the issue does not begin, however, until June 26.

East Germany / West Germany - June 15, 1990 (KCA)

Agreement is reached concerning the ownership of East German land and other property seized from what are now West German citizens since the 1949 inauguration of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). East German tenure of such property will be secured even if its ownership reverts to the original owners. Expropriations carried out between 1945 and 1949 will not be reversed.

Romania - June 15, 1990 (KCA)

The miners who participated in the unrest (see June 13-14) are congratulated on their action by President Iliescu. He tells them: "I thank you once again for what you have demonstrated: that you are people who can be counted on, especially in difficult moments." However, the Prime Minister, Petre Roman, admits that the miners at times were out of control and had committed violence against innocent people, although he supports their mobilization to aid the government.

Romania – June 15, 1990 (OSA)

Thousands of coal miners respond to a call for help in putting down anti-government protest by streaming into Bucharest, clubbing people and ransacking opposition party offices. The miners flock to the capital in response to an appeal from President Ion Iliescu for support in crushing anti-government violence.

Romania / U.S. / EC - June 16, 1990

The United States declares that all non-humanitarian U.S. economic support will be withheld "until the democratic process is restored"; nor will action be taken on Romania's bid to regain "most favored nation" trade status, which allows low tariffs for exports to the USA. The European Communities (EC) suspend a trade and co-operation agreement which had only been initialed on June 8, and withdraws an invitation to Romania to attend a meeting of the industrialized countries in Paris in July.

Romania – June 17, 1990 (OSA)

The government declares its commitment to “total freedom of operation for the democratic institutions of the press, radio, and television,” and a few days later the silenced newspaper reappears.

Bulgaria - June 17, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

The second round of the democratic election - returning power to the Bulgarian Socialist Party - is held. Support for the BSP is strongest in the countryside, where communists in local parties or mayoral offices still dominate politics. The Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov describes the result as "a vote of confidence." By contrast, Sofia, the capital, is the stronghold of the Union of Democratic Forces, which is comprised of some 16 different parties or movements ranging from the environmental group Eco-Glasnost to *Podkrepa*, the rapidly growing free trade union movement. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the UDF, describes the results as "positive for us, considering that the BSP is forced to establish a definitely weak government, while we shall be a very strong opposition, without which no one can adopt any decisions."

East Germany - June 17, 1990 (KCA)

The East German government estimates that the country's total industrial funding requirement will be between DM 5 billion and DM 6 billion per month after unification, and that up to one- third of all East German companies will be totally dependent on foreign credits.

GDR – June 17, 1990 (OSA)

The Volkskammer, unexpectedly decides to debate a motion calling for parliament to adopt immediately the West German Basic Law. The motion was eventually shunted to various committees for “further study”, but the considerations that had prompted two members of the left-wing Alliance ’90 to propose the motion undoubtedly left their mark.

Romania - June 18, 1990 (KCA)

With the withdrawal of the miners, protestors again return to University Square, but the new Interior Minister embarks on a series of talks with student leaders to defuse the situation.

Romania – June 18, 1990 (OSA)

The country’s parliament approves the use of security forces to disperse the escalating protests against the NSF government, while reports emerge of large-scale brutality by miners draft into the capital to “defend” the NSF.

Romania – June 19, 1990 (OSA)

Illegal street protests resume in Bucharest, and the new parliament authorizes security forces to stop them, raising the stakes again in the struggle between Romanian’s elected government and anti-Communist activist.

Bulgaria - June 19, 1990 (OSA)

The BSP daily, Duma, reports that the Ilinden United Macedonian Organisation, a secessionist group, is an organization directed "against the unity of the [Bulgarian] nation." This pro-Macedonian group is just one of the many of such type that were founded after the fall of Zhivkov.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - June 19, 1990 (KCA)

The council of the nationalist *Sajudis* movement, of which Premier Landsbergis is chair and which

claims a majority of Supreme Council deputies as members or sympathizers, passes a resolution urging the Supreme Council to reject the moratorium proposal (see June 15). On the same day, several hundred *Sajudis* demonstrators protest outside the Supreme Council building, some of them calling on Prunskiene to resign. Also on this day, communists in the Russian Federation, the Soviet Union's largest republic, convene in Moscow for a conference which becomes the founding congress of a Russian Federation Communist Party (CP), subordinate to the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Poland / Soviet Union - June 19, 1990 (KCA)

The Polish government reveals that Soviet officials have reported the discovery at Mednoye of what appears to be the remains of Polish officers interned at the Ostashkov NKVD camp.

Romania – June 20, 1990 (ADC)

Ion Iliescu takes the presidential oath in front of the Parliament. Petre Roman becomes Romania’s Prime Minister.

Romania – June 20, 1990 (OSA)

The police enter the Bucharest emergence Hospital and arrest Marian Munteanu “for incitement violence.” Munteanu is at the time being treated for serious injuries suffered at the hands of miners.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan - June 20, 1990 (KCA)

The Uzbek Supreme Soviet after "sharp debate" adopts a declaration on Uzbekistan’s sovereignty within a "renewed Soviet federation." In wording similar to Russia's sovereignty declaration, it proclaims the supremacy of Uzbekistan's laws on its territory and provides for Uzbek jurisdiction over domestic and foreign policy issues.

Romania / U.S. - June 20, 1990 (KCA)

Ion Iliescu is sworn in as President. The ceremony is boycotted by the U.S. ambassador despite the fact that the government on June 16 announced the opening of an inquiry into the events surrounding the violence (see June 13-14). In his inaugural address, Iliescu refers to the "excesses" committed by the miners, but remains unapologetic about his decision to call them in. Iliescu also announces the nomination of Petre Roman as Prime Minister, calling on him to form a new government.

Romania - June 21, 1990 (KCA)

Lt.-General Nicolae Andruta Ceausescu, the younger brother of executed former President Nicolae Ceausescu, is sentenced by a military tribunal of the Supreme Court to 15 years' imprisonment. As commander of the training school for secret police officers at Baneasa near Bucharest, he is accused of "instigation of genocide, aggravated murder, and violation of firearms regulations" in connection with the massacre of demonstrators outside the Intercontinental Hotel in Bucharest on December 21, 1989.

Romania – June 21, 1990 (OSA)

The first memorial service for Antonescu is held at Saint Eleutherios’s Church in Bucharest.

East Germany / West Germany - June 21, 1990 (KCA)

The state treaty on Economic and Monetary Union, signed on May 18, is approved by the West

German Bundestag and the East German Volkskammer.
Also on this day, both the Bundestag and the Volkskammer approve a resolution recognizing the inviolability of Poland's borders as established after the Second World War and guarantee the Oder-Neisse border with Poland as the eastern border of a future united Germany.
Finally, the West German police announce that they have started investigations into allegations that Erich Honecker, the former East German Head of State, and Erich Mielke, the former ead of the Intelligence Service, had actively colluded in offering RAF activists a safe refuge in East Germany.

Bulgaria - June 21, 1990 (OSA)

In his first press conference after the elections, Lukanov claims that there is now reason for a "certain optimism" about Bulgaria's economic performance, and that industrial productivity will start to steadily rise again. He also prioritizes the need to regain the trust of international creditors before the people's "vital needs are to be met."

GDR – June 21, 1990 (OSA)

A parliamentary resolution recognized Poland’s Western borders as inviolable.

GDR – June 22, 1990 (OSA)

Meckel, in his speech to the “two-plus-four” meeting, supports a proposal for a transitional period during which Germany would remain a member of both the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

GDR / Romania – June 22, 1990 (OSA)

The State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Helmut Domke, expresses to Romanian Charge d’Affaires Ioan Lupu the “serious concern at the application of violence in the domestic political clashes last week in Romania and at the arrest of those critical of the government.”

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / U.K. / U.S. / France - June 22, 1990 (KCA)

The second ministerial-level round of the so-called "Two-Plus-Four” talks on the unification of Germany takes place in Berlin, when the Foreign Ministers of France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States meet with delegations from East and West Germany to discuss the security implications of unification. On the same day, the Checkpoint Charlie crossing point in Berlin is also removed.

Soviet Union / Moldavia - June 23, 1990 (KCA)

Moldavia's Supreme Soviet adopts a sovereignty declaration, but in the absence of deputies representing the Russian and other minority communities, who walk out following a stormy debate on the issue. According to the Soviet news agency *Tass*, the Moldavian declaration proclaims that "land, mineral, and other resources on the republic's territory, as well as the entire economic, scientific, technical and financial potential and national valuables" are the exclusive property of Moldavia. In addition, the Moldavian Supreme Soviet endorses a report by a special parliamentary commission declaring the 1940 Soviet annexation from Romania of Bessarabia (most of which now formed Soviet Moldavia) and other territories illegal.

Yugoslavia -- June 23, 1990 (OSA)

Progress made in the Yugoslav-Greek system of traveling, where the two governments announce that nationals of each nation can acquire a visa at the other countries consulate, lowering waiting times for entry greatly.

Poland - June 24, 1990 (KCA)

Adam Michnik, the editor of the Solidarity newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* who had written on June 7 that Walesa was behaving "like a Caesar," resigns in protest from the union's national civic committee together with Zbigniew Bujak and Henryk Wujec (both founding members of the union committee), after Walesa dismissed Wujec from his post as Secretary of the Committee.

Soviet Union / Moldavia / Romania - June 24, 1990 (KCA)

Thousands of Moldavians and Romanians converge at a bridge on the Prut River, on the frontier between Soviet Moldavia and Romania – for a ceremonial linking of hands to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bessarabia's seizure by the Soviet Union.

GDR – June 25, 1990 (OSA)

The President of the Volkskammer, Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, travels to Israel with West German Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth, thereby becoming the first East German politician to visit that country.

Romania – June 25, 1990 (OSA)

Ion Iliescu says the police and some sections of the army are “psychologically” incapable of stopping the recent antigovernment protests in Bucharest.

Romania – June 26, 1990 (OSA)

Addressing heads of diplomatic mission to Romania, Iliescu denies reports suggesting that the authorities had been behind recent “acts of provocation and violence” from June 13 to 15 in Bucharest.

Hungary / Warsaw Pact - June 26, 1990 (LBC)

The Hungarian parliament unanimously empowers the government to initiate talks on withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact.

Soviet Union / Estonia - June 27, 1990 (KCA)

The Estonian Supreme Soviet passes a law which restricts immigration into Estonia from the rest of the Soviet Union, as well as from abroad, by establishing quotas for immigrants and introducing permanent and temporary residence permits.

Czechoslovakia - June 27, 1990 (KCA)

The federal Cabinet is announced and sworn in and contains only 16 members, of whom nine served in the outgoing government. Civic Forum is represented by four ministers, Public Against Violence by three, and the Christian Democratic Movement by one, while the Cabinet also contains eight unaffiliated "experts" by agreement between the coalition partners.

Additionally, Vladimir Meciar, Interior Minister in the outgoing Slovak government, is appointed Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, and Jan Carnogursky is appointed First Deputy Premier. The Slovak government names a total of 13 ministers from Public Against Violence, seven from the Christian Democratic Movement, and three from the Democratic Party.

The first joint session of both chambers in the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly is also held, and Alexander Dubcek is re-elected Chairman of the Federal Assembly.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - June 27, 1990 (KCA)

The East German Premier Lothar de Maizière rejects an alternative Soviet proposal that East Germany should have joint membership of both NATO and the Warsaw Pact after unification is “not feasible.”

Furthermore, the East German government announces that it favors December 16, 1990 as the date for formal reunification. Kohl was known to favor the formal unification of East and West Germany on December 9 or December 16, 1990, immediately following simultaneous parliamentary elections in the two countries. It was already announced that the East

German Socialist Party of Germany would merge with its West German counterpart in September, and that the two Christian Democratic Unions would merge in October.

Romania – June 27, 1990 (OSA)

More than 1,000 students in Timisoara protest against the government’s role in recent political violence, demands the release of arrested students.

Yugoslavia -- June 27, 1990 (OSA)

Creation of the association of municipalities between Northern Dalmatia and Lika.

Yugoslavia -- June 28, 1990 (OSA)

Milosevic tells the Yugoslavian president that a breakup of Croatia has to be done with Dalmatia and Lika on the Serbian side.

Romania – June 28, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister Roman introduces his new government and plans to parliament; he shows himself to be in favor of a transition to a free market, stating that the next two years ‘would be a decisive stage’ in this process. Romania could never claim to be European unless it followed European trends, which, according to Roman, are ‘entrepreneurship, competition, free initiative and privatization’. He offers a six-month moratorium to the trade unions, suggesting they refrain from agitation in this period and in return be compensated if their members were likely to see reduced incomes (compensation which would come from enterprise rather than central government coffers, funded by the predicted improvements in productivity that would be enabled through no strikes).

Roman also suggests that while some sectors should remain within the hands of the government (namely natural resources, farmland, power facilities, basic transportation systems, water resources, military industries and forests) most others will be fully privatized by the end of the 18-24-month transitional period. Another goal is to encourage foreign banks to set up shop in Romania, and ultimately achieve external convertibility for the Romanian leu. In the political arena, Roman pledges that the government will double down on ensuring the independence of the judiciary through a structural reorganisation, as well as making sure its own activities are characterised by exemplary transparency.

National Liberal Party leader Radu Campeanu comments that Roman had presented ‘an almost liberal programme’. Regarding the composition of Roman’s government, its average age is 48, comparing favourably to the interim administration where many senior figures had been over the age of 60. Of the government’s 23 members there are 10 engineers, five lawyers, four economists, one physician, one cosmetologist and one architect. No fewer than 14 of these new ministers have

doctorates, while only two (Victor Stanculescu and Romulus Neagu) were present in the previous government.

East Germany / West Germany - June 28, 1990 (KCA)

The *Volkskammer* rejects a government plan announced in late May to impose an 11% duty on imports from West Germany in an effort to stabilize the country's trade deficit. The duty, which was to have been phased out over a nine-month period to March 1991, is dismissed as ineffective because shoppers will be able to circumvent it by buying in the West after July 1.

Romania – June 28, 1990 (ADC)

Prime Minister Petre Roman announces his government’s priorities, which include implementing democracy, market economy, and a host of other reforms.

Romania - June 28, 1990 (KCA)

The new government of Prime Minister Petre Roman is presented to Parliament. In introducing the 23 ministers, only two of whom, apart from the Prime Minister himself, had served in the previous interim administration, Roman stresses their youth and their "clean" past. They "did not belong to the higher party and state hierarchy of the former regime," he declares.

Czechoslovakia - June 28, 1990 (KCA)

The new Cabinet holds its first session and agrees on proposals to restructure the government, in particular, by merging a number of specialized ministries into a Ministry of Economy. A minor controversy arises briefly because the resignation of the outgoing Cabinet and the appointment of the new Cabinet had taken place before the closing of the first session of the new Federal Assembly on June 27, contravening the Constitution.

Newly appointed Prime Minister Meciar holds a press conference to outline changes in government structure similar to those approved by the federal Cabinet. He also says that Jan Carnogursky will be responsible for coordinating the work of the Ministries of Education, Culture, Health, and Labour and Social Affairs, and for dealing with issues connected with the national minorities.

Soviet Union / Ukraine - June 28, 1990 (KCA)

After four attempts to elect a Chair of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers, the outgoing holder of the post, Vitaly Masol, is re-elected, despite having been blamed by some deputies during the election debate for Ukraine's current economic problems.

Yugoslavia – June 29-30, 1990 (YC and OSA)

At the session of the Croatian Parliament president Franjo Tudjman elaborates the proposed amendments to the Constitution. According to them, Croatia would cease to be a “socialist republic” and the red star on the flag would be replaced with a chessboard. ‘Socialist’ dropped from the official name of the Republic of Croatia, a new flag and coat of arms is adopted.

Romania – June 29, 1990 (OSA)

Romania’s Assembly of Deputies, one of the two chambers of the restructured Romanian parliament, passes a law on the organization and functions of the Romanian presidency

Romania / Austria – June 29, 1990 (OSA)

At a closed session of the Council of Europe in Innsbrück, human rights activist Doina Cornea says that the Council should not grant special guest status to Romania until the government has proven its commitment to democracy. At the same meeting, Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase announces that Romania wants to ‘return to Europe’ by adopting the Council’s values of freedom and democracy.

Romania / Switzerland – June 30, 1990 (OSA)

At a press conference at Crans-Montana in Switzerland, Prime Minister Roman announces that of those arrested in the June clashes, only one (Marian Munteanu) was a student. He states that 176 people, in total, are still under arrest for their involvement in these events.

GDR – June 30, 1990 (OSA)

Shooting off fireworks and flinging the old currency into the air, East Germans celebrate the introduction of the Deutsche Mark as economic union with West Germany goes into effect at midnight on June 30.

July

Poland - June 29 - July 1, 1990 (KCA)

The dispute within Solidarity reaches its height during the meeting of the Solidarity citizens' committees in Warsaw, at which some observers fear a complete break-up of the union, and at which Michnik publicly appeals to Walesa to step back from a potentially ruinous confrontation with the government. The delegates, however, vote by a large majority against creating any new national structures of the type favored by the government.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - June 29, 1990 (KCA)

Lithuania's Supreme Council (parliament) votes to suspend its March 11 declaration of independence for 100 days in order for negotiations to be held with the Soviet authorities on Lithuania's future status. In return, the Soviet economic blockade, in force since mid-April, is lifted.

Czechoslovakia - June 29, 1990 (KCA)

To resolve the controversy from the day before, the new Cabinet resigns and is immediately reappointed in its entirety.

Furthermore, Petr Pithart, Prime Minister of the outgoing Czech government is reappointed. The new Czech government appointed includes a total of nine ministers from Civic Forum, two from the People's Party, one from the MSD/SMS, and nine without party affiliation.

East Germany / West Germany - June 29, 1990 (KCA)

Detlev Rohwedder, chairman of the West German engineering group Hoesch, is appointed chair of the Treuhandanstalt, the body created in March to oversee the privatization of the 8,000 state-owned industries in East Germany.

On the same day, the official East German news agency ADN reports that Erich Honecker is formally charged with murder in connection with the shoot-to-kill policy consistently adopted toward escape attempts to the West during his period of office.

Yugoslavia - June 30, 1990 (KCA)

The Yugoslav government presents a second package of economic measures designed to restrain the boom in both public and private spending, which had pushed inflation rates to levels approaching 1,000% at the end of 1989. The new measures supplement and renew the first interim austerity package introduced in December 1989, where provisions are due to expire on July 1.

Hungary – June 30, 1990 (KCA)

The president of the National Bank, Ferenc Bartha, resigns and is replaced by György Suranyi.

Romania - July 1990 (KCA)

Protest meetings are held throughout Romania over the authorities' refusal to release Marian Munteanu, the president of the League of Students, who had been badly beaten and arrested on June 14 during the crackdown against anti-communist demonstrators. Condemnation from international human rights groups forces the Prosecutor-General's department to reveal that Munteanu is accused of leading demonstrators in attacks on the police headquarters, and that 185 people are still in detention.

Hungary / Soviet Union / Eastern Bloc - July 1990 (KCA)

The oil crisis in all East European member states of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is provoked by the unilateral Soviet decision to cut deliveries in the third quarter of 1990.

Albania - July 1, 1990 (KCA)

An Anti-government street demonstration in Tirana is brutally broken up by the security forces.

East Germany / West Germany / EC - July 1, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

The Economic and Monetary Union between the two Germanies is implemented. The Deutschmark becomes the currency in East Germany, border controls are removed, price controls are abolished, the West German systems of welfare, wage bargaining, banking and labour laws becomes applicable in East Germany, West German rates of value added tax and certain other West German taxes becomes payable, and rights to own and transfer landed property are introduced. East Germany is also brought within EC customs union arrangements.

GDR – July 1, 1990 (OSA)

The Deutsche Mark is introduced. The economic and monetary union between West and East Germany is officially inaugurated. In return for the East German decision to unify in accordance with Article 23 of the German Basic Law, Bonn agrees to adopt an exchange rate of one Deutsche Mark to one Ost Mark as part of the package of terms for monetary union.

Romania – July 1, 1990 (OSA)

Finance Minister Teodor Stolojan announces that \$1bn a year will be needed to repair the damage to the economy caused by the Ceașescu regime. He states that up to 2 million new unemployed people, as well as a number of bankruptcies, could be expected in the future.

Yugoslavia -- July 2, 1990 (OSA)

The Parliament of Kosovo declares Kosovo a republic with rights and powers identical to the other 6 republics. In response the declaration, the Parliament of Serbia abolishes the Parliament of Kosovo.

Yugoslavia – July 2, 1990 (YC)

The Assembly of Slovenia adopts the Declaration on the sovereignty of the state of Slovenia.

Yugoslavia - July 2, 1990 (KCA)

In a referendum conducted throughout Serbia, the majority of Serbs vote in favour of proposals for a new constitution for the republic. Ostensibly, this is necessary before free multiparty elections can be held. However, the ethnic Albanian majority in the Kosovo province protests that the proposed constitution will effectively strip Kosovo of the special autonomous status (within the Serbian Republic) granted in the 1974 Yugoslavian Constitution.

Rejecting the new constitutional proposals, a group of 114 ethnic Albanian delegates issues statement to the Kosovo Assembly in which they declare that Kosovo is now independent of Serbia, and that it is instead a full constituent republic within the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). The Kosovo section of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) denounces declaration as a secessionist attempt to subsume the province within a “Greater Albania.”

East Germany - July 2, 1990 (KCA)

Peter-Michael Diestel, the Interior Minister, resigns from the German Social Union party, and later joins the CDU after failing to be elected as DSU chairman by the party congress in Leipzig on June 30.

Soviet Union - July 2, 1990 (KCA)

The 28th congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), anticipated to be a watershed in party history and in the political transformation of the country, is opened and is scheduled to last until July 13.

Albania / West Germany / France / Italy - July 2, 1990 (KCA)

In connection with the violent response to the demonstrations the day before, four Albanians seek refugee in the West German embassy. This is followed by an additional 3,200 Albanians, while 800 citizens flee to the Italian embassy, and more than 500 to the French embassy.

Hungary – July 2, 1990 (KCA)

A strike breaks out at the Markushegy unit of the Oroszlany coal mines, when miners demand a wage rise of up to 50%, the dismissal of incompetent managers, and a halt to privatization of the mines.

Romania – July 2, 1990 (OSA)

Senior European Community officials meet with President Iliescu, Prime Minister Roman, Assembly President Dan Martian as well as leaders of the parliamentary and extraparlimentary opposition. Amid suggestions that they are negotiating a trade and cooperation pact, an Italian Embassy spokesperson clarifies that the purpose of the visit is to collect information on the events of mid-June. Elsewhere, the government declares it cannot accept the latest demand from the Jiu Valley Miners’ Trade Union regarding an additional high-risk payment of 800-1600 lei as a supplement to their normal wages. An offer is made of 300-600 lei, with the government communique noting that production thus far this year had been 20-30% lower than envisaged in

January. Meanwhile, the Group for Social Dialogue is given an eviction notice for its Bucharest premises, personally signed by Prime Minister Roman.

Romania / Soviet Union – July 3, 1990 (OSA)

In a radio interview, Foreign Minister Romulus Neagu announces that recent discussions with the Foreign Minister of the Moldavian SSR and the Soviet Ambassador to Romania have reflected the ‘new orientation’ of Romanian foreign policy, involving a ‘firm promotion of the national interest’. He also states that he has discuss the possibility of diplomatic and consular ties between Romania and the Moldavian SSR.

Hungary – July 3, 1990 (KCA)

The strike in the Oroszlany coal mines, which began the day before, is settled when the government agrees to most of the strikers' demands.

Czechoslovakia - July 3, 1990 (KCA)

Marian Calfa, the Federal Premier, presents the policy statement of the new government to the Federal Assembly. New constitutions will be drafted for the federation and for the Czech and Slovak Republics, separating local self-administration from state administration and ending excessive centralism. Control of most branches of the economy, except for fuel, energy, metallurgy, and communications, will be devolved to the republics. Czechoslovakia continues to form a single market, but in the approach of European bodies, the government will try to ensure that the Czechs and Slovaks are able to act as "independent and equal subjects".

Soviet Union - July 3, 1990 (KCA)

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in his report to the congress (see July 2), gives a strong defense of *Perestroika* in foreign policy, which took up many of the themes featured in Gorbachev's address. He stresses the financial cost of past policies, noting that aside from the human toll, the war in Afghanistan had cost 60 billion rubles. "Cold War" ideological confrontation with the West had cost 700 billion rubles in the past two decades.

Slovenia / Yugoslavia - July 3, 1990 (LBC)

The Slovenian parliament accepts a declaration of sovereignty announcing that its own constitution and laws are above the laws and constitution of the Yugoslav federal government.

Bulgaria - July 4, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

Experts rule the TV-clip where President Mladenov calls for the tanks as authentic, whereupon Mladenov, in a nationwide broadcast, declares that his remark is taken out of context, and that he should be judged by deeds not words.

Meanwhile, a campaign of student-led protests, including calls for a general strike on July 7 unless Mladenov resigns, is gathering support.

Reports indicate that crime is on the rise in Bulgaria. In Sofia alone, 4,600 crimes were reported in the first half of 1990, an increase of 500 over the previous year.

Yugoslavia -- July 4, 1990 (OSA)

Following referendum and a Serbian abolishment of the parliament of Kosovo, a French news agency reports that the Albanian government is ready to issue 15,000 passports to those wishing to emigrate.

Romania / Belgium – July 4, 1990 (OSA)

A meeting of 24 Western Foreign Ministers in Brussels concludes that Romania will not be on the list of former communist countries eligible for economic assistance.

Romania / Bulgaria – July 4, 1990 (OSA)

During a one-day meeting in Bucharest, Prime Minister Roman and Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov agree to set up a commission to ‘reduce and stop’ pollution on the frontier between the two nations.

Romania – July 4, 1990 (OSA)

The congress of the Students’ League ends in Bucharest with an appeal to the Jiu Valley miners, calling for reconciliation and dialogue. They also call for the release and open trial of the detained student Marian Munteanu, who is elected an Honorary President of the congress *in absentia*.

Romania – July 5, 1990 (OSA)

A government statement says that in the future, workers’ pay should reflect output. Banks will only release money from special wage funds according to the fulfilment of production programmes determined by each enterprise. If suppliers do not honour delivery contracts, they will be liable to pay damages that will be used to compensate employees.

Romania / France – July 5, 1990 (OSA)

Araidna Combes, the daughter of human rights activist Doina Cornea, sues Romanian weekly ‘Fapta’ in a Paris court for its April reproduction of a fabricated interview, allegedly given to RFE/RL’s Romanian service, in which she is quoted as saying that that her mother is ‘unbalanced, immoral, unhinged, and, above all, manipulated’.

Romania / U.S. – July 5, 1990 (OSA)

The U.S. extends its trade agreement with Romania for another three years, but states that Romania will not be granted most favored nation status again until the government has proven its commitment to ‘the protection of liberty and the democratic process’.

Yugoslavia – July 5, 1990 (YC, HR, KCA)

The Assembly of Serbia decides to dissolve the Assembly of Kosovo and to terminate the contracts of all Kosovo parliamentary officials, transferring the Kosovo body's responsibilities permanently to the Serbian parliament. The head of Kosovo's radio and television services, and the director-general of the influential Kosovo newspaper *Rilindja*, are replaced as police surrounded their respective offices, and *Rilindja* is temporarily banned. This is done because of the illegal act of proclaiming the Kosovo Republic. This measure is supported by the Presidency of the SFRY.

Bulgaria - July 5, 1990 (KCA)

Surrendering to the student protesters, television director-general Pavel Pisarev resigns.

Czechoslovakia - July 5, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly re-elects Vaclav Havel as President of Czechoslovakia for a further period of two years. Havel, who had been elected in December 1989 to serve in an interim capacity, was the sole candidate. A number of other individuals had been disqualified, not having been nominated by

parliamentary deputies, while Stefan Kvietik, nominated by the Slovak National Party, had withdrawn.

East Germany / West Germany / OECD - July 5, 1990 (KCA)

A report on the economic outlook for Germany, published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, is optimistic about the prospects for the unified German economy. It forecasts growth rates of 4% for 1990 and 3 1/2% for 1991, with the additional costs of unification estimated at about 1% of gross national product, a level which the report regards as manageable without significant tax increases, though the report warns that wage increases in East Germany can eliminate jobs.

East Germany / West Germany / NATO - July 5-6, 1990 (KCA)

At a NATO meeting in London, the member countries redefine the organization's strategies and goals, and NATO commits itself to a limitation of the size of Germany's armed forces.

Yugoslavia - July 6, 1990 (KCA)

Although *Tanjug* reports that the situation in Kosovo is quiet, repeated protests are reported in the following days, notably in the Kosovo capital, Pristina. Thousands of workers respond to calls by ethnic Albanian leaders for a one-hour daily strike, despite public threats of dismissal by the Serbian authorities.

Bulgaria - July 6, 1990 (KCA)

Petur Mladenov resigns as Bulgaria's President after only three months in office. He is forced out by the controversy surrounding a video recording, made public by the opposition, which showed Mladenov suggesting that tanks should be used to crush an anti-government demonstration on December 14, 1989.

Poland - July 6, 1990

In what is interpreted as an attempt to rebut Walesa's criticisms, Prime Minister Mazowiecki dismisses three former Communists from his cabinet. He also announces cautious proposals to revive the economy, promising a relaxation in current wage controls and increased subsidies for housing, for health services, and especially for the agricultural sector. Mazowiecki also concedes that the first fully free elections shall take place later in the year.

NATO / Warsaw Pact - July 6, 1990 (LBC)

The London declaration of the NATO leaders states that in light of changes in Eastern Europe the organization transformed its military doctrine. It is giving up the doctrine of “forward defense,” modifies the principle of “flexible response,” and renounces the first use of the nuclear weapon, which would be used only a last resort. NATO offers to the Warsaw Pact a joint communiqué to declare that they are no longer enemies and to reaffirm that they will not use force or threaten with force the territorial integrity or independence of any state. An invitation is issued to Gorbachev and the leaders of East European states. At the same time the U.S. and Great Britain are against a direct economic aid to the USSR.

Poland - July 7, 1990 (KCA)

Lech Walesa and Prime Minister Mazowiecki declare a temporary truce following a meeting in Warsaw under the mediation of the Roman Catholic Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski. They

reportedly promise to work together in order to speed up the "deep reconstruction of the state" while "preserving social peace."

Albania/ U.N - July 8, 1990 (KCA)

The special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, Steffan di Mistura, is flying to Albania to assist in the negotiations on the matter of the refugees between the embassies and governments involved on the one hand and the Albanian authorities on the other.

Czechoslovakia - July 9, 1990 (KCA)

Food prices rise by an average of 25% following the withdrawal of state subsidies. Using funds previously devoted to subsidies, 27 billion crowns per year will instead be allocated as a monthly allowance of 140 crowns per person to help offset price rises.

Albania / Czechoslovakia - July 9, 1990 (KCA)

The first major breakthrough in the negotiations concerning the Albanians seeking refuge in different embassies in Albania is reached, with the departure of 51 refugees from the Czechoslovak embassy by air to Prague.

Soviet Union - July 9, 1990 (KCA)

After a protracted behind-the-scenes debate in the statutes commission (see July 2), the congress is presented with proposals to restructure the upper echelons of the party leadership, albeit less radically than had originally been proposed in the first draft of the new party rules published in March.

Romania – July 9, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Nationalists stage a protest in central Bucharest and warn of further ethnic trouble in Transylvania.

Bulgaria - July 10, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The newly elected National Assembly meets in a ceremonial opening session in Veliko Turnovo, the northern town where modern Bulgaria's first parliament had convened in 1879.

Protests and sit-ins strikes at universities and institutes throughout Bulgaria enter their fourth week. They are an expression of disappointment at the June parliamentary elections results felt by many young people and professionals.

Soviet Union - July 10, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev is re-elected as GeneralSsecretary by secret ballot. There were eight nominations for the post, but six withdrew before the voting, leaving a contest between Gorbachev and Temuraz Avaliani, municipal party First Secretary in the Kuzbass mining town of Kiselevsk. Gorbachev polls 3,411 votes in favour and 1,116 against compared with 501 for Avaliani and 4,026 against. Observers agree that Gorbachev's re-election had never seriously been in doubt.

Czechoslovakia - July 11, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly approves the government policy statement by 111 votes (out of 120 deputies present) in the Chamber of the People and 110 out of 121 in the Chamber of Nations. The vote simultaneously represents a vote of confidence in the new government.

Poland - July 11, 1990 (KCA)

Acknowledging the strength of recent protests by peasant farmers who had succeeded in blocking roads throughout the country, the government makes several conciliatory gestures. These include lowering interest rates on farm loans and emergency funds to enable dairies to pay off debts to farmers for unpaid milk.

East Germany - July 11, 1990 (KCA)

Chemical workers accept a 35% pay increase and the promise of payment for a "13th month" in the year. The amount of strikes in East Germany had increased significantly after the monetary union was introduced.

Soviet Union - July 11, 1990 (KCA)

Tens of thousands of coal miners go ahead with political strikes and rallies on July 11. They demand fulfillment of promises of improved living and working conditions, which the government had made in settlement of strikes in July 1989, the resignation of the USSR Council of Ministers because of its handling of the economy, and the de-politicization of the Army, police, judiciary and education system.

Yugoslavia – July 12, 1990 (HR)

The Serbian Democratic Party is founded in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would be the main political party of the Bosnian Serbs.

Yugoslavia - July 12, 1990 (KCA)

The Yugoslavian Constitutional Court announces its intention to examine the legitimacy of Slovenia's July declaration of sovereignty.

Albania - July 12, 1990 (KCA)

Adil Carcani, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, signs a decree which rules that some free enterprise is to be permitted in the services and handicrafts sector. Artisans and small traders are to be allowed to perform individual services from their homes, from shops, or by street vending, provided they have a trading license and a medical card.

Soviet Union - July 12, 1990 (KCA)

Boris Yeltsin, the CPSU's most prominent radical, stuns the congress with the announcement that he is resigning his party membership. In a brief speech, he explains that as President of the Russian Federation he should be above party politics; he then strides dramatically from the congress hall.

Soviet Union - July 13, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev, in his closing speech to the congress (see July 2), states that: "Those who hoped this congress would be the funeral of the Communist Party have been proved wrong. The CPSU lives and will continue to live."

Poland - July 13, 1990 (KCA)

The Parliament passes the necessary legislation to privatize 7,600 state enterprises which comprised 80% of the economy. The bill, the centerpiece of the government's strategy to restructure the state-led economy along free-market lines, is passed by 328 votes to 2, with 38 abstentions.

Albania / Italy / West Germany / UN - July 13, 1990 (KCA)

The final solution of the embassy-crisis is reached when the remaining refugees are given passports to leave the country. In an operation co-ordinated by the UN, four ferry boats will bring the refugees to Brindisi in Italy, where special trains transport the majority further on to West Germany. Also on this day, a mass rally of 100,000 people in Tirana, attended by leading members of the government, endorses President Alia's speech at the Central Committee plenum and the policy of "democratizing the entire country's life."

Yugoslavia -- July 15, 1990 (OSA)

3,200 Albanians are in the west German camp at the USSR embassy in Tirana, while 76 have been personally transported to Ankara via private flight from the Turkish government. Six Albanian refugees have sought asylum at the Yugoslavian embassy in Tirana, where they immediately were put under the supervision of the UNHCR- they're expected to be transported to a third-country shortly.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / NATO - July 15-16, 1990 (KCA) After talks in Stavropol, Helmut Kohl, the West German Federal Chancellor, and President Gorbachev of the Soviet Union reach a historic agreement on the future role of a united Germany in the international system of alliances. Gorbachev declares at a joint press conference that "the united Germany, sovereign in every way, will say to which bloc it wants to belong," thus effectively conceding that Germany can be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Yugoslavia – July 16-17, 1990 (YC, HR)

The League of Communists of Serbia and the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Serbia merge into the Socialist Party of Serbia. Slobodan Milošević is elected as its president with 1228 out of 1294 votes.

Soviet Union / Ukraine - July 16, 1990 (KCA)

The Ukraine joins the growing list of Soviet republics to declare sovereignty. Deputies of the Supreme Soviet in the Ukraine adopt, overwhelmingly, a declaration proclaiming "supremacy, independence and indivisibility of the republic's power on its territory, and independence and equality in external relations." The declaration makes no mention of the Ukraine's right to secede from the Soviet Union, however, most speakers in the debate reject full independence as a goal.

Soviet Union / Germany - July 16, 1990 (LBC)

Gorbachev consents to the reunified Germany's membership in NATO. Thus, the last obstacle to German unification is eliminated.

Germany / Poland - July 17, 1990 (LBC)

An international agreement is made between the two Germanys, Poland – and the four former allies on the guarantee of the Polish-German boundary.

Yugoslavia - July 17, 1990 (KCA)

The ruling Serbian Communist Party, a republican section of the LCY, votes at the end of a two-day convention in Belgrade to combine with the pro- communist Socialist Alliance umbrella group in forming a new political party, which will be known as the Serbian Socialist Party. The name change does not indicate any substantive change in the party's previous hardline communist policy,

but rather a formal acknowledgement of the continuing trend in Eastern Europe away from the old-style communist parties. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian President and a former leader of the Serbian communists, is elected president of the new party.

Bulgaria - July 17, 1990 (KCA)

The National Assembly reconvenes in Sofia. They formally accept Mladenov's resignation and elect Nikolai Todorov from the Bulgarian Socialist Party as speaker and acting President.

East Germany / Soviet Union / Poland / West Germany / U.S. / U.K. / France - July 17, 1990 (KCA)

At a press conference in Bonn, Kohl emphasizes Germany's continuing commitment to the process of European unification, which has to develop alongside the process of German unification.

Also on this day, the third ministerial-level round of "Two-Plus-Four" talks on German unification is held in Paris and reaches an agreement on the question of the German- Polish border.

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union - July 17, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus announces that petrol prices are to rise by 50% due to an unexpected cut in Soviet oil deliveries.

Soviet Union- July 17, 1990 (KCA)

It is reported that the Democratic Platform Coordinating Council has decided to recommend that its supporters begin to leave the Communist party. Two days earlier, the Democratic Platform had been one of the groups responsible for organizing a demonstration of around 50,000 people in Moscow's Manezh Square in protest of the CPSU.

Hungary – July 17, 1990 (KCA)

Hungary receives a bridging loan of \$80,000,000 from the Bank for International Settlements.

Hungary – July 18, 1990 (KCA)

The government takes direct control of the State Property Agency (SPA), whose officials are members of the former communist government.

Bulgaria - July 18, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The embalmed corpse of Georgi Dimitrov, Bulgaria's Communist leader from 1946 until his death in 1949, is removed from the mausoleum in central Sofia where it was on public display, and is cremated in a private ceremony.

In a statement read to deputies on July 18, former dictator Todor Zhivkov indicates his willingness to appear before the assembly.

Romania / France - July 18, 1990 (KCA)

The dilemma of the imprisonment of Marian Munteanu (see July, 1990) is raised at a meeting between Prime Minister Petre Roman and President Mitterrand of France in Paris.

Soviet Union / Ukraine - July 18, 1990 (KCA)

As a result of his election as CPSU Deputy General Secretary, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet accepts the resignation of Volodymyr Ivashko as its Chairman (de facto Ukrainian President), after only six weeks in office. The Supreme Soviet elects Leonid Kravchuk, the second secretary of the

Ukrainian Communist Party, as his replacement from a field of five candidates.

Yugoslavia -- July 18, 1990 (OSA)

In Vojvodina, several heads of Hungarian led media were dismissed following a decision by Vojvodina parliament to have press in the region supervised for three months. This comes after a meeting of a Serbian nationalist group in Vojvodina denounced the Hungarian Democratic Association of the region as fascist.

U.S. - July 19, 1990 (LBC)

Secretary of Defense Cheney presents a draft to Congress on the reduction of the U.S. armed forces by 25% in five years.

Soviet Union - July 19, 1990 (KCA)

Five people are killed by an explosion on a train north of Rostov-na-Donu in the Russian Federation. According to a report on Soviet television, a powerful home-made bomb had been placed in a carriage of the train which was travelling from Georgia to Moscow.

Bulgaria - July 19, 1990 (OSA)

The Grand National Assembly votes by an overwhelming majority to let former totalitarian leader Zhivkov speak to the assembly.

Yugoslavia -- July 20, 1990 (YC)

The Assembly of Serbia passes the law which introduces the multiparty system.

Bulgaria - July 21, 1990 (OSA)

The Council of Ministers announced that the price of gasoline and oil would go up by 100% on July 23, as an energy crisis is looming. The factors behind this are increased consumption, environmental concerns and the unreliability of the USSR as a supplier of crude oil at below world market prices.

East Germany - July 22, 1990 (KCA)

The Volkskammer approves a budget for the second half of 1990. This provides for the expenditure of DM 64.15 billion and revenue of DM 29.4 billion. Of the resulting deficit of DM 34.7 billion, DM 24.7 billion will come from the West German government and DM 10 billion from loans raised on the capital markets.

Yugoslavia - July 23, 1990 (KCA)

While meeting with Milan Kucan, the Slovenian President, Serbian President Jovic issues a severe warning against precipitate action; he adds, however, that any republic will be entitled to request the right of secession from the SFRY provided its people have voted to that effect, and that the final decision will rest with the SFRY Assembly, which will consult the views of all other republics.

Bulgaria - July 23, 1990 (KCA)

Over 200,000 people take part in a memorial march for Georgi Dimitrov through Sofia.

Romania -- July 23, 1990 (OSA)

Rompres announces that a private foundation had been authorized to set up an “independent” television station in the small town of Lugoj, not far from Timisoara.

Bulgaria - July 24-26, 1990 (KCA)

In four rounds of voting, none of the candidates nominated by the different parties receive the necessary backing of two-thirds of the 400 deputies. The Bulgarian Socialist Party initially nominated Chavdar Kyuranov for the presidency, the Union of Democratic Forces nominated Petur Dertliev, and the Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union nominated its leader Viktor Vulkov.

Soviet Union - July 25, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev issues a decree ordering all illegal "armed formations" to disband and surrender their weapons within 15 days or face a crackdown by Interior Ministry or even regular army units. The decree is clearly calculated to curb the activities of nationalist guerrilla groups operating in the Transcaucasian and Central Asian republics (particularly Armenia).

Yugoslavia - July 25, 1990 (KCA)

The Croatian parliament approves 12 constitutional changes which in turn provokes a serious Serbian backlash. The amendments provide in particular that the word "Socialist" shall be removed from the Croatian Republic's name, leaving it as the Republic of Croatia, that a new flag and coat of arms shall be devised, that the Cyrillic alphabet, still the main medium for the 600,000 Serbs in Croatia, shall be derecognized for most purposes, except in those areas where a majority still use it, and that the presidency of the republic shall be replaced by a new system involving a president and six vice-presidents.

Leaders of the Serbian minority in Croatia issue a statement on the same day, publicly proclaiming the sovereignty and autonomy of all Croatian Serbs, as well as their right "to determine with whom and under what regime their people will live, and how they will integrate with the other nations in Yugoslavia." A rally is held in Srb to celebrate this statement and is attended by around 100,000 Serbs.

Romania - July 25, 1990 (KCA)

A bill on reorganizing state economic enterprises into autonomous units and commercial companies is passed in both parliamentary chambers. It requires 80% of state companies (including farms, but excluding railways, mines, utilities and defense industries) to transfer 30% of their assessed value to a National Privatization Agency.

Romania – July 25, 1990 (OSA)

The Ministry of Education rejects the demand from RMDSZ for a Hungarian-language university in Cluj.

Romania – July 26, 1990 (OSA)

Romania opposes a bilateral charter on minority rights proposed by Hungary. Instead it says minority rights should be protected in a charter signed by all European states.

Czechoslovakia / Austria / West Germany - July 26, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel pays a one-day private visit to Salzburg, Austria, together with the West German President, Richard von Weizsäcker. He opens the Salzburg music festival, but encounters a protest demonstration when he holds a controversial meeting with Kurt Waldheim, the

Austrian President. Most of the world's leaders boycott meetings with Waldheim following allegations that he concealed his wartime activities in the German Army.

Soviet Union - July 26, 1990 (KCA)

Prokofyev, the Moscow City Party First Secretary, announces that around 10,000 people have left the CPSU in the capital in July alone.

Yugoslavia -- July 26, 1990 (OSA)

The establishment of the Croatian News Agency.

Soviet Union / Belarus - July 27, 1990 (KCA)

Belarus follows the initiative of Ukraine and other Soviet Republics and declares independence. The declaration by the Supreme Soviet closely resembles the Ukrainian declaration, but alludes to secession by ascribing to the republic the right to "voluntary unions with other states, and free withdrawal from such unions."

Bulgaria - July 27, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

Georgi Semerdzhiev resigns as Interior Minister.

It is reported that drug addicts in Bulgaria have reached the number of 800,000. Only in the capital drug addicts are 600. The products they use are mainly poppy tea, amnions, morphine and lysol. The data seem to confirm that Bulgaria is no longer a mere transit route for drug trafficking.

Romania – July 27, 1990 (ADC)

The Romanian Parliament decides that the 1st of December will be a national holiday.

Poland - July 27, 1990 (KCA)

Deputies and senators from the Solidarity Centre Alliance petition President Jaruzelski to stand down so that Walesa can be named President in his place. Jaruzelski, who still had five years of his term to run, states in a letter read to parliament that he will make his intentions known once there has been a debate on the timing of presidential and parliamentary elections.

Poland - July 28, 1990 (KCA)

An estimated 1,000 delegates from across the country attend the founding congress of the Citizens' Movement for Democratic Action Party (ROAD).

Soviet Union / Armenia - July 28, 1990 (KCA)

The new Armenian Supreme Soviet openly defies Gorbachev by voting to suspend application of his decree on Armenian territory. Armenian nationalist leaders warn that any attempt by troops to disarm the militias operating there might produce a bloodbath.

Yugoslavia - July 29, 1990 (KCA)

Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic launches his promised new political party, called the Alliance of Reform Forces, at a rally attended by around 100,000 people at Kozara in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Markovic reiterates that the Alliance's program will be based around the successful program of his federal government, and will aim at preserving Yugoslavia's unity as a pluralist community of equal nations and nationalities.

Yugoslavia -- July 29, 1990 (OSA)

The Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs refused to comment after a writer and member of Bulgarian opposition is denied entry to Yugoslavia, despite having a diplomatic passport.

East Germany - July 29, 1990 (KCA)

Officials admit that the budget deficit is likely to be greater than originally estimated because of lower-than-anticipated tax revenues and increased expenditure, especially on unemployment benefits and health and social service payments.

Romania – July 29, 1990 (OSA)

Following President Ion Iliescu’s meeting with representatives of the German Democratic Forum of Romania, the League of Ethnic Minorities of Romania, is created.

Romania – July 29, 1990 (OSA)

In Jassy, over 1,000 demonstrators, mainly students and intellectuals, protest Marian Munteanu and Nica Leon’s detention.

Romania – July 30, 1990 (OSA)

The Cluj branch of the World Union of Free Romanians organizes a demonstration protesting the detention of Munteanu and Leon. The demonstrators send a protest to the Romanian prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu, who promises to examine Munteanu’s case and respond within three days.

Albania / Soviet Union - July 30, 1990 (KCA)

It is officially announced that Albania and the Soviet Union agree to normalize their relations and to reopen their respective embassies. The Soviet Union had broken diplomatic relations with Albania in 1961 in the wake of the Sino-Soviet dispute.

Bulgaria - July 30, 1990 (KCA)

The Bulgarian Socialist Party withdraws Kyuranov's candidacy, and in the following vote, support from the BSP brings Vulkov within three votes of the required majority, but he also withdraws.

Yugoslavia – July 31, 1990 (YC)

The Assembly of Bosnia–Herzegovina adopts constitutional amendments according to which BH is a state of equal citizens – Muslims, Serbs, Croats and others.

Yugoslavia - July 31, 1990 (KCA)

In line with their proclamation of sovereignty and autonomy for the 600,000-strong Serb minority community in Croatia (see July 25), community leaders organized in a so called Serbian National Council issue a statement rejecting amendments to the Croatian Constitution. Calling a referendum on demands for immediate cultural autonomy, they also demand political and territorial autonomy for Serbs in Croatia if the latter is to gain greater sovereignty in a redefined Yugoslav confederation.

Romania – July 31, 1990 (OSA)

Scores of antigovernment demonstrators gather again in University Square, where a violent attack by police and miners ends a seven-week-long protest in June.

Bulgaria / Yugoslavia - July 31, 1990 (OSA)

The nationalist All-Bulgarian Union issued a declaration stating that it was ready to lead the "struggle against pan-Serbian chauvinism and Macedonianism until the ultimate triumph of truth." The Union claimed that Yugoslavia had 'falsified' Bulgarian history, as the Bulgarians maintained that the Macedonian liberation struggle was Bulgarian in nature. The declaration was subsequently delivered to the Yugoslav ambassador in Sofia.

Albania - July 31, 1990 (KCA)

A meeting of the Presidium of the People's Assembly approves a decree, allowing meetings and demonstrations by citizens in public places, and proposes the creation of a special commission to consider changes to the Constitution, as well as a new electoral law. It also approves a decree protecting foreign investment in Albania against expropriation.

August

Soviet Union - August 1, 1990 (KCA)

USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin agree to jointly sponsor a commission of experts, which within one month will "draft a concept for the transition to a market economy." The work of the commission, comprising senior USSR and Russian Federation government members, will be based on a radical draft program announced by Yeltsin on July 20, which predicts a 500-day dash to a full market economy in the Russian Federation.

Bulgaria - August 1, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

Petur Dertliev, a Union of Democratic Forces candidate, withdraws in favour of Zhelyu Zhelev, which stands unopposed in the vote where he gets 284 of the 389 votes cast. Bulgarian Socialist Party Prime Minister-designate Andrei Lukanov tells the Assembly that his party does not want a monopoly of power, and will support and co-operate with Zhelev in the interests of national consent. Dertliev's withdrawal in Zhelev's favour indicates that the BSP and Union of Democratic Forces have come to an agreement.

East Germany / EC - August 1, 1990 (KCA)

East German agriculture becomes subject to EC regulations.

Yugoslavia -- August 1, 1990 (OSA)

The meeting of the Duna-Adriatic summit in Velence between Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Italy.

Yugoslavia -- August 1, 1990 (OSA)

Earthquake near the shores of Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia -- August 1, 1990 (OSA)

Croatian president Franjo Tudman asks for a meeting with Serbian president Slobodan Milošević.

Romania – August 1, 1990 (OSA)

The French daily *Le Monde* and *Romania Libera* publishes an appeal for Munteanu’s release. The appeal claims that Romania continued to be ruled by “Communists who have abandoned the ideology, but not the methods.”

East Germany / West Germany - August 2, 1990 (KCA)

Agreement is reached by representatives of the governments of East and West Germany on the electoral system to be used for the all-German election. Despite the concerns of the smaller parties in East Germany, the agreement adopts the existing West German system almost without change, including the provision that a party will normally need 5% of the vote to qualify for seats.

Romania - August 2, 1990 (KCA)

Marian Munteanu, the president of the League of Students, who had been badly beaten and arrested on June 14 during the crackdown against anti-communist demonstrators in Bucharest's University Square, is released from detention. In a statement, Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu says there is no longer any reason to believe that Munteanu's release from “preventive detention” will endanger public order, although Munteanu remains under investigation pending possible charges.

East Germany / West Germany - August 3, 1990 (KCA)

The worsening economic situation and political and legal uncertainties leads Prime Minister de Maizière to propose that the date for unification and for the all-German elections be brought forward to October 14. Chancellor Kohl concurs.

Yugoslavia - August 3, 1990 (KCA)

The Croatian Justice Ministry bans the holding of a referendum on sovereignty of Serbs in Croatia (see July 31).

Hungary – August 3, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

Following several months of political uncertainty, the National Assembly votes by 295 votes to 13 in favor of the election of Arpad Göncz as national President. Göncz, who is a member of the Alliance of Free Democrats and the only candidate, has held the post on an interim basis since the beginning of May.

Soviet Union / Armenia - August 4, 1990 (KCA)

The Armenian Supreme Soviet elects Levon Ter-Petrosyan as its Chair (de facto Armenian President). He defeats the Armenian Communist Party First Secretary Vladimir Movsisyan by 140 votes to 80.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania / Moldova / Belarus / Russia - August 5, 1990 (KCA)

The Prime Ministers of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, together with representatives of the governments of the Russian Federation, Byelorussia, and Moldavia, and of the Moscow and Leningrad city and regional councils, meet in Tallinn to discuss the creation of direct inter-republican and inter-regional economic links, bypassing central USSR control.

Yugoslavia -- August 5, 1990 (OSA)

The Serbian Democratic Party is created in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bulgaria - August 7, 1990 (OSA)

Lukanov presents a report on his six months of government. He admits his failure to reform the economy and make Bulgaria ready to open its market to the rest of the world. The Bulgarian government declares that it has shipped no weapons or other military equipment to Iraq in 1990. The government makes known that it is considering sanctions against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

Bulgaria / Iraq - August 8, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria backs the sanctions imposed by the UN against Iraq following the latter's occupation of Kuwait.

Romania – August 8, 1990 (ADC)

The Romanian Parliament passes an act regarding the reorganization of economic units. This is the first normative act of reform post-Ceaușescu.

Romania - August 8, 1990 (KCA)

A legislation is passed to curb widespread black marketeering. Licensed private traders will be allowed to make a profit of no more than 10% on unprocessed goods bought from state or co-operative enterprises, or 20% if their merchandise has been repackaged or stored.

Yugoslavia - August 8, 1990 (KCA)

Constitutional amendments to formally set in place a multiparty system are passed unanimously by the Federal Chamber, and hope to secure the necessary ratification by the assemblies of the republics and provinces by September 20.

Soviet Union - August 9, 1990 (KCA)

The USSR Council of Ministers passes a resolution which, with immediate effect, allows private individuals to establish, buy, or sell businesses and to hire labour. In effect, this represents the first retreat from Marxism's prohibition on private ownership of the means of production since the abandonment in 1928 of Lenin's New Economic Policy (NEP).

East Germany / West Germany - August 9, 1990 (KCA)

Kohl abandons plans for early elections and reconfirms December 2 as the election date.

Romania – August 9, 1990 (OSA)

An umbrella organisation of the institutionalised opposition, called the Democratic Antitotalitarian Forum, is set up in the Transylvanian town of Cluj. The local branches of the National Peasant Party, the National Liberal Party and the Social-Democratic Party are joined by the Hungarian Democratic Union and the Democratic Party in an appeal for unification. Also participating are the World Union of Free Romanians, the Independent Romanian Form, the Cluj branch of the Association for Human Rights, the *Agora* journal as well as a number of independent figures. They release the ‘Proclamation of Cluj’, which states that communism had been ‘not only utopian but also profoundly antihuman and anti-Christian’, and imposed by Soviet tanks ‘with the aid of a couple hundred traitors’.

The Proclamation denounces the NSF for failing to grant sufficient independence to the different branches of government, and called for respect for human rights, greater minority rights, integration into Europe, and the end of state interference in various public institutions, encouragement of foreign investment, freedom of association and a ‘genuine democratisation’ of the country. The Proclamation ends by calling for the establishment of local DAF branches; while famous anti-Ceaușescu dissident Doina Cornea, writer and Peasant Party politician Adrian Marno and Hungarian dissident poet Sándor Kányádi are appointed Honorary Presidents of the Cluj chapter.

Romania – August 9-13, 1990 (OSA)

A delegation of National Groups of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (including members from Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Italy, Norway and Switzerland) officially visits Romania to learn more about the miners’ repression of protests in June. They meet with figures such as Prime Minister Petre Roman, Minister of the Interior Doru Viorel, Deputy Minister of Justice Nicolae Bracaciu, and Prosecutor-General Gheorghe Robu, and the chief of the Romanian Intelligence Service Virgil Măgureanu amongst others. A report is published stating that ‘only little progress has until now been achieved in the police and prosecutor’s offices investigating the context of the miners’ action in the capital city’. Bjorn Elmquist, the Danish chairman of the delegation, criticises the fact that not a single miner had been called to testify in front of the parliamentary committee, despite its examination of 270 witnesses.

Romania - August 10, 1990 (KCA)

It is reported that over 47,000 commercial licenses have been issued since the re-legalization of small-scale private enterprise in February.

Soviet Union- August 10, 1990 (KCA)

Karelia becomes the first of the Soviet Union's 20 Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republics (ASSRs) to issue a sovereignty declaration. It states that Karelia's constitution and laws take precedence over those of the Russian Federation and the Soviet Union, but that some of Karelia's state powers are voluntarily delegated to Russia, of which it remains part.

East Germany / West Germany - August 11, 1990 (KCA)

The Liberals become the first to merge their West and East German organizations, forming a joint party known as “Free Democratic Party-the Liberals” at a party congress in Hannover.

Soviet Union - August 13, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev issues a decree which calls on the Union and republican governments to draft legislation by October 1 to restore civil and socio-economic rights to peasants who had suffered imprisonment, exile, and expropriation during collectivization, and to all citizens persecuted for "political, social, ethnic, religious, or other reasons" between the 1920s and the 1950s. He declares that the rehabilitation of the victims of Stalinist repression is essential for society's “moral regeneration.”

Romania – August 13, 1990 (OSA)

A 10-member team representing the Vienna-based International Helsinki Federation condemns Romania’s record on human rights. They say that the authorities had made little progress in investigating the crackdown by police and miners on anti-government protesters in June.

Romania – August 13, 1990 (OSA)

During a meeting in Alexandria with representatives from the Teleorman County branch of the Romanian Red Cross, the Red Cross International, the Red Cross International Committee and the French Red Cross, present the new government program and details about the steps taken so far to revive the country's economy. Elsewhere, Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase participates in an interview with the Romanian daily *Dimineata* in which he points to the electoral success of the Hungarian Democratic Union as indicative of progress on minority rights. He adds, however, that 'the problems related to the minorities' rights could not be solved by granting them privileges.'

Romania – August 14, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister Petre Roman receives Iraqi Ambassador Ibrahim Shujaa Sultan, who says that Romanian citizens in Iraq could leave without restrictions, and that the security of those who choose to stay would be guaranteed.

Romania / Iraq – August 14, 1990 (OSA)

Petre Roman receives Iraqi Ambassador Ibrahim Shujaa Sultan, who says that Romanian citizens in Iraq are free to leave the country at any point, with no restrictions. He also adds that Romania's pledge to observe the UN Security Council on the boycott of Iraq would delay the implementation of several mutually beneficial bilateral projects.

Yugoslavia - August 14, 1990 (KCA)

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, with regards to the wish of a Serb referendum on sovereignty in Croatia, declares that "we will not allow the creation of a state within a state" (see July 31). He claims that the referendum is a key element in a conspiracy by Serbs, both inside and outside Croatia, to destabilize the republic and overthrow his administration in order to create a centralized, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, or else a "Greater Serbia."

Soviet Union / Lithuania - August 15, 1990 (KCA)

The governments of the Russian Federation and Lithuania sign an agreement on bilateral trade and economic co-operation for 1991, and Azerbaijan signs a trade and economic agreement for 1991 based on mutually advantageous exchanges of Azerbaijani oil, fruits, and vegetables for Byelorussian technologies and manufactures.

East Germany - August 15, 1990 (KCA)

Protests throughout East Germany involve 250,000 farmers, who are among the hardest hit by the Economic and Monetary Union, which take part in demonstrations and erect blockades on the streets.

Romania – August 15, 1990 (OSA)

Minister of Culture Andrei Plesu says in an interview that Ion Iliescu is a very weak man but not “a crypto-dictator” and that he did “not have the intuition for choosing best advisers.”

Romania – August 15, 1990 (OSA)

Interior Minister Doru Viorel expresses concern about the increasing crime rate in Romania. Since July 15, police have registered 367 murders, 182 murder attempts, 93 unpremeditated killings, 259 serious assaults, 390 rapes and 706 other crimes.

Romania – August 16, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister Roman invites NATO Secretary-General Manfred Wörner to pay an official visit to Romania as soon as possible. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson indicates that Romania is interested in accrediting an Ambassador to NATO, and had instructed its Ambassador in Belgium to maintain permanent links with the alliance.

Albania / Soviet Union / U.S / U.K - August 16, 1990 (KCA)

Albania announces that it will be the 141st signatory country to the 1968 Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty. A decree of the People's Assembly Presidium states that the instruments of Albania's adherence will be deposited soon with the governments of the United States, United Kingdom, and Soviet Union.

Yugoslavia – August 16, 1990 (YC, HR)

The Serbian National Council decides to hold a referendum on the status of Serbs in Croatia. The same day Croatian special police forces attack the police station in Benkovac where local Serbs were stationed.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - August 17, 1990 (KCA)

Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Eduard Shevardnadze, the Foreign Ministers of West Germany and the Soviet Union respectively, meet in Moscow. In addition to the Gulf crisis, they address questions concerning the modalities of Soviet troop withdrawals from East Germany and plans for a German-Soviet treaty.

Also on this day, the first major investment agreement in an East German company is announced. Because of uncertainties concerning ownership of land and buildings and the state of the balance sheets of East German companies and labour costs, Western companies had long been discouraged from investing in East German companies.

Yugoslavia - August 17, 1990 (KCA)

Tensions ahead of the referendum boil over (see July 31). After reports that police reservists in the predominantly Serb town of Benkovac had been disarmed, by order of their Croat superiors, Serbs take to the streets there and in nearby towns. In Knin, residents set up barricades on all approaching roads to prevent Croat police arriving to stop the referendum, and local reservists carrying firearms (some stolen from the town's police station) patrol the streets.

The Croatian government declares that these events represent an "armed uprising against the Croatian state".

Bulgaria / Poland - August 18 - 19, 1990 (OSA)

The editor of the Polish daily *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Adam Michnik publishes his interview with the Bulgarian President, Zhelyu Zhelev. The Bulgarian president says that he had to compromise with the former communists, but he has to avoid becoming their "prisoner." Zhelev admits that he was amazed by the way in which Communism crumbled down in a few months. However, he also points out that "the success of Bulgaria's peaceful transition from totalitarianism to democracy is not completely assured", especially given the economic hardships it is going through."

Yugoslavia – August 18, 1990 (HR)

The Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina is founded.

East Germany - August 19, 1990 (KCA)

Acting on the unanimous recommendation of the party's presidium and the executive committee of the parliamentary group, a plenary meeting of the SPD parliamentary group votes by 60 to five to leave the coalition, although the chairman of the group, Richard Schröder, speaks and votes against doing so.

Yugoslavia - August 19, 1990 (KCA)

The referendum (see July 31) begins on schedule in the 11 districts of Croatia with majority Serb populations. Voting is reported to be brisk, with a 100% turnout in the Knin district, although there is criticism that many voters remained unclear about what kind of autonomy they are being asked to vote for.

East Germany / West Germany - August 20, 1990 (KCA)

Reiner Gohlke, Executive President of the *Treuhandanstalt* (trustee agency) who has responsibility for overseeing the restructuring of the state-owned businesses in East Germany, resigns because of policy disagreements with other members of the governing board. His position is filled by the former chair of the board, Detlev Rohwedder.

Furthermore, the remaining Socialist Party of Germany ministers resign from the East German government.

Yugoslavia – August 20, 1990 (YC)

The Federal Government of Yugoslavia requires that the Croatian authorities do not prevent the plebiscite of Serbs in Kninska Krajina and that the Serbs remove the barricades.

Soviet Union / Pakistan- August 20, 1990 (KCA)

A two-day hijacking of a Soviet airliner ended in Karachi, Pakistan, with the peaceful surrender of the hijackers.

Also on this day, the Georgian Supreme Soviet adopts a legislation providing for multiparty elections in the republic on October 28.

East Germany / West Germany / EC - August 21, 1990 (KCA)

The EU Commission agrees at a special meeting in Brussels to adopt a package of proposals covering legal and financial aspects of the inclusion of East Germany in the EC. Many of these measures will require the approval of the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, although it is likely that, if such approval is not obtained before unification, the Commission will apply the measures on an emergency basis.

Yugoslavia - August 21, 1990 (KCA)

Some normalization of the security situation in Knin is retained. However, this is only after a demonstration by several thousand residents secured an undertaking from the local police chief that no disciplinary action will be taken against policemen who sided with the insurgents.

Romania - August 22, 1990 (KCA)

Demonstrations resume in University Square when protesters stage a six-hour occupation, chanting anti-government slogans and complaints about food shortages. They erect barricades to block traffic, but these are removed following peaceful negotiations with police. Party leaders disavow responsibility for the demonstration, as does the League of Students in a telephone statement by Munteanu to Bucharest Radio.

Bulgaria - August 22, 1990 (OSA)

The government headed by Lukanov finally resigns, as required after an election. Despite the fact that Lukanov himself had admitted his own failure and recognized the deterioration of the economy under his government, he is asked once again by the President to form a government. Futile efforts to form a coalition will prolong until September 21.

GDR / Soviet Union - August 22, 1990 (OSA)

Citing ‘Western press agencies’, Soviet television reports that local authorities in East Germany were investigating the murder of a nineteen-year-old Soviet soldier. The report quoted *Reuters* as saying that this was the third murder of this kind since the start of August.

Romania – August 22, 1990 (OSA)

An anti-National Salvation Front demonstration by people who chanted anti-communist slogans takes place in Bucharest’s University Square.

Romania - August 23, 1990 (KCA)

The Bucharest Prosecutor's Office announces that 28 people, including a prominent opposition figure Dumitru Dinca, are charged formally with public order offences relating to the events of June 13–15.

East Germany / West Germany - August 23, 1990

As a compromise between those desiring unification in September and those wanting a later date, the Volkskammer agrees to accept October 3 as the date on which unification will take effect. The vote is 294 to 62, with only the Party of Democratic Socialism voting against the proposal.

Soviet Union - August 23, 1990 (KCA)

Despite the Gorbachev-Yeltsin alliance on reform (see August 1), Gorbachev places himself in conflict with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, issuing a presidential decree overruling an August 9 decree by that body's presidium. The Russian decree, forbidding export of strategic commodities from Russia (particularly diamonds, metals, oil, gas and uranium) without the Russian authorities' approval, invalidates USSR export agreements with foreign partners, but leaders have since stated that existing contracts would be honored and only future deals vetted. Gorbachev states that the Russian decree is illegal, but stresses that delimiting the powers and property of the centre and republics will be part of a new union treaty.

East Germany - August 24, 1990 (KCA)

In protest against Prime Minister de Maizière's proposal of delaying reunification until after elections, the Free Democratic Party withdraws from the coalition.

Yugoslavia – August 24, 1990 (YC)

At its extraordinary session due to the unrest in Kninska Krajina the Croatian Assembly adopts the Resoluion on the protection of the constitutional order and of national rights in Croatia. Stjepan Mesić replaces Stipe Šuvar as a member of the Presidency of the SFRY.

Yugoslavia - August 24, 1990 (KCA)

Barricades and armed patrols reappear in Knin (see August 21) after an emergency session of the

Croatian Assembly passes a resolution outlawing "parallel" government bodies and voluntary armed formations. The handling of the whole referendum affair is widely regarded by commentators as a humiliation for Tudjman's administration.

Bulgaria - August 24, 1990 (KCA)

The National Assembly accepts a decree calling for the removal of all "non-Bulgarian" symbols from public places.

Romania - August 24-26, 1990 (KCA)

There are more violent scenes when police, wielding batons, eject a group of around 100 demonstrators who block traffic into University Square and stone cars. On no occasion did the number of protesters reach more than a few hundred.

Romania – August 25, 1990 (OSA)

Romania strongly criticizes Hungary for expressing concern over possible demonstrations in parts of Transylvania with large ethnic Hungarian populations.

Romania – August 26, 1990 (OSA)

Small groups of demonstrators block a Bucharest street for a fifth consecutive day despite government appeals for order, and firm police action to end anti-government protests.

Bulgaria - August 26, 1990 (KCA)

The Sofia headquarters of the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party are destroyed by a fire which was started by opposition demonstrators. Up to 10,000 people meet up outside the building to protest against the continuing presence of a communist red star on its roof. Several hundred of the demonstrators storm the building. A fire starts on the ground floor, and, as it takes hold, they ransack offices and pile furniture and documents on a bonfire in the square outside. Police do not restore order until commanded to do so in the small hours of August 27 by President Zhelyu Zhelev. 39 people are arrested.

Yugoslavia - August 26, 1990 (KCA)

The worst mine disaster in Yugoslav history occurs at the Kreka coal mine in Dobrnja (Bosnia-Herzegovina), when a huge explosion claims the lives of at least 170 miners. They are killed when methane or coal dust ignited in a fireball which ripped through shafts and tunnels nearly 3 km from the mine entrance. Only three miners are brought out alive.

Romania – August 27, 1990 (OSA)

Independent unions go on strike at Brasov tractor factory, where workers cannot meet quotas because of a shortage of parts. They want Prime Minister Roman to go to Brasov to discuss their pay and working conditions, but he refuses to do so, unless they return to work.

Romania – August 27-28, 1990 (OSA)

Mayor of Bucharest Stefan Clurel bans demonstrations in and around six central squares, following the sixth consecutive night of protest.

Romania – August 28, 1990 (OSA)

The Foreign Ministry says the embargo of Iraq had caused crude-oil processing at the Midia-Navodari to drop from 329,000 to 180,000 tons in August, and had stopped exports worth \$117,000,000.

Romania - August 28, 1990 (KCA)

The mayor of Bucharest declares an indefinite ban on all meetings and demonstrations in central Bucharest's main squares.

GDR / Soviet Union - August 28, 1990 (OSA)

Reuters reports that the East German army has begun the process of returning top-secret Soviet-made weapons back to Moscow. The East German Disarmament and Defence Industry says the weapons were largely made up of air defence and communication equipment. The return of Soviet equipment is part of an agreement between East Germany and the Soviet Union covering unification issues.

Romania – August 29, 1990 (OSA)

Parliament calls for understanding and tolerance on the 50th anniversary of Romania's temporary loss of northern Transylvania to Hungary.

Romania – August 29, 1990 (OSA)

Tractor factory workers in Brasov suspend their strike until September 5. After a seventh consecutive day of antigovernment and anti-communist demonstrations in Bucharest, Mayor Stefan Clurel receives a group of protesters. He says he wants to hear their demands, so he could present them to the relevant authorities.

Bulgaria - August 29, 1990 (OSA)

A large number of militiamen of all ranks and from all over the country demonstrate in front of the Grand National Assembly building "to demand that the police be depoliticized and to protest the way the authorities dealt with Sunday night's violence in Sofia [at the BSP Headquarters fire].

Soviet Union - August 29, 1990 (KCA)

At a meeting, Gorbachev and Yeltsin endorse a plan produced by the commission, which drew heavily on the Russian "500 days" program (see August 1). However, this fails to secure unequivocal backing when it is presented to a joint session of the Presidential and Federation Councils. This meeting orders a new working group to try to reconcile the plan with the more cautious program of Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov in time for the opening of a crucial debate in the USSR Supreme Soviet on Sept. 10.

East Germany / West Germany - August 30, 1990 (KCA)

Unemployment rises from 272,000 in July (3.1% of the workforce) to 350,000 at the end of August (4.17% of the workforce), with an additional 10% of the workforce employed only on a short-time basis. Economic experts predict that the unemployment rate will rise to over 1,000,000 by 1991.

Romania – August 30, 1990 (OSA)

The Health Ministry reports the first fatality in this summer's outbreak of cholera. The number of cholera cases rises to 183 since July.

Romania – August 30, 1990 (OSA)

In a radio address to the nation on the 50th anniversary of the Vienna Accord, President Iliescu calls for understanding, dialogue, and tolerance between Romanians and Hungarians.

East Germany / West Germany - August 31, 1990 (KCA)

The legal arrangements for unification are contained in a second state treaty. This treaty is signed by Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble for the West German government and by the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Prime Minister Günther Krause for the East German government at a ceremony in East Berlin. Unification will take place on October 3, 1990, by accession of East Germany under Article 23 of the West German Basic Law. Until a new parliament is elected, 144 delegated members of the Volkskammer will sit as interim observers in the Bundestag. October 3 is to be a national holiday. Berlin will be the capital of Germany, but the location of the seat of government will be decided by the new parliament.

September

Bulgaria / IMF- September 1990 (KCA)

Bulgaria joins the IMF.

Bulgaria - September 1990 (KCA)

More than three months after it had won a parliamentary majority in a multiparty general election, the Bulgarian Socialist Party finally abandons its efforts to build a grand coalition government including the main opposition Union of Democratic Forces.

GDR / Soviet Union - September 1990 (OSA)

In an effort to counter Western reports of demoralisation among the Soviet troops in East Germany, the Soviet army invites westerners to its Berlin Brigade Base for the first time, *Reuters* reports. Visitors saw well-kept dormitories, examined tanks and watched Soviet soldiers drill. Soviet officers conceded however, that the Berlin Brigade was composed of elite troops with the best living conditions to be found on bases in East Germany. A Western officer said, “I’m not sure this base reflects the wider reality of Soviet forces in East Germany.”

Yugoslavia -- September 1, 1990 (OSA)

German Foreign Minister emphasizes that German reunification will not come with any economic disadvantages for Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union - September 2, 1990 (KCA)

Oleg Kalugin, a former major-general in the KGB who had come to public prominence recently for alleging continuing KGB abuses of power, is elected to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies in a by-election in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar.

Yugoslavia - September 3, 1990 (KCA)

A general strike brings Kosovo virtually to a standstill, and schools are also boycotted on what should have been the first day of a new school year. Up to 200,000 people reportedly take part in the strike, which was called by the recently established Independent Trade Union Organization of Kosovo with the backing of Kosovo's opposition parties. They are protesting against the dismissal

of an estimated 15,000 Albanians, since the imposition of Serbian direct rule, for refusing to work under permanent police supervision or to sign compulsory pledges of loyalty to Serbia.

Yugoslavia / Romania -- September 3, 1990 (OSA)

Iliescu, Romanian president, visits Yugoslavia. Before his travel he makes a comment that both countries are plagued currently by the need for independence.

Yugoslavia -- September 3, 1990 (OSA)

Ivan Cicak and Morinko Bozic create the Croatian Patriotic Association in Herzegovina, get denounced by Serbian press comparing them with that of the Ustase (Croatian fascist forces in WWII).

Romania -- September 3, 1990 (OSA)

The *Societatea Romana pentru Infrintarea unei Companii Nationale de Televiziune Independente (SOTI)* is founded in Bucharest to work for the establishment of an independent national television company.

Yugoslavia / Finland - September 4, 1990 (KCA)

In retaliation to the strike (see September 3), the Serbian authorities in Kosovo prevent Albanians who heeded the strike call from returning to jobs in state-owned shops, and government inspectors having patrolled towns during the strike to padlock the doors of Albanian-run enterprises. Dismissal proceedings are started against other strikers.

Also on this day, four officials from the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights monitoring group are detained by police in the Kosovo town of Prizren, accused of distributing “hostile propaganda.” They are ordered to leave Yugoslavia within 48 hours.

Soviet Union - September 4, 1990 (KCA)

President Gorbachev issues a decree apparently ordering the relaxation of Communist Party (CPSU) control over the armed forces, the State Security Committee (KGB), and the police. It calls on the Defense and Interior Ministries and the KGB to present draft proposals within three months for reforming political cells in military and state security bodies so that they would “pursue state policy.”

East Germany - September 4, 1990 (KCA)

The Stasi headquarters in Berlin is re-occupied by New Forum supporters demanding that individuals be given access to their files.

Soviet Union - September 6, 1990 (KCA)

In an issued decree, described by commentators as a move to assuage discontent within the military and the public at large over the state of military discipline and the fate of conscripts, Gorbachev orders the Defense and Interior Ministries and the KGB to guarantee medical and life insurance for troops killed or injured in accidents and civil disturbances, and to establish legal procedures for appeals by servicemen against misconduct by their superiors.

Yugoslavia - September 7, 1990 (KCA)

The Kosovo Provincial Assembly, which had been dissolved by the Serbian authorities in June, is re-formed unilaterally by 111 of its ethnic Albanian, Turkish, and Muslem deputies at a secret session in the village of Kacanik. It is announced that the Assembly has proclaimed a “Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo.” Serbia immediately declares the proclamation illegal, and the Pristina public prosecutor's office announces that criminal charges will be brought against those Assembly deputies involved.

Romania – September 7, 1990 (OSA)

Government adviser Victor Ioanid says the government is drawing up plans to help those living in heavily polluted towns, specifically Copsa Mica in the coal mining region and Bala Mare, a copper mining center.

Romania – September 7, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian leadership plans to restore limited private ownership of farm land collectivized during 40 years of Communist rule.

Romania – September 7-8, 1990 (OSA)

A meeting in Braşov organized by the Group for Social Dialogue, the November 15 Association, the Cluj branch of the DAF, an independent local trade union and some other groups, is the first reconciliatory encounter between the miners of the Jiu Valley and their victims. The meeting ends with an embrace between Marian Munteanu, the Students’ League leader almost killed by the miners in June, and Miron Cozma, the leader of the Jiu Valley Miners’ Trade Union. Cozma concludes that the miners had in fact been the ‘first victims’ of the June manipulations, having ‘fallen into the trap’ of those interested in creating social divisions. In a speech, poet and activist Ana Blandiana claims that more than ever before in Romania ‘solidarity is now possible’, and that if Romanians failed to unite in the face of oppression ‘we shall all be guilty’.

Bulgaria - September 8, 1990 (OSA)

Delegates to a Bulgarian Communist Party conference remove Vladimir Spassov as Party Chairman. He was blamed for "gross violation of the party rules", nepotism, usurping party activities and holding bogus plenums. Deputy Chairman Ivan Semov is elected to replace Spassov.

Romania – September 9, 1990 (OSA)

In an interview Roman repeats the official view that last spring’s Bucharest University Square protested recalled “the fascist putsch of 1940.” But he adds that the government have made a great mistake in not keeping the miners under control and says that thanking the miners has been the only way to get them out of Bucharest.

Soviet Union - September 9, 1990 (KCA)

Archpriest Aleksandr Men, a prominent radical Russian Orthodox priest, is murdered near his home outside Moscow. He was 55.

Yugoslavia -- September 9, 1990 (OSA)

Yugoslavian presidency calls upon Bosnia and Herzegovina that nationalism is the biggest threat, and rising nationalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina will only end with Civil War.

Yugoslavia - September 9, 1990 (KCA)

Police use tear gas and armored vehicles to keep thousands of Muslims at bay who attempt to disrupt a rally of tens of thousands of supporters of the nationalist Serbian Renewal Movement in the town of Novi Pazar. The Muslims, supporters of the Democratic Action Party (based in Bosnia-Herzegovina), are protesting what they claim to be repression of the rights of Muslims in the Sanjak and Serbian efforts to drive them out.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - September 10, 1990 (KCA)

Ignaz Kiechle, the West German Agriculture Minister, also announces that the Soviet Union is to buy surplus East German agricultural produce worth DM 1 billion, which includes 255,000 tons of meat, 60,000 tons of butter, 60,000 tons of wheat flour and 1 billion cigarettes.

Bulgaria - September 10, 1990 (OSA)

Konstantin Trenchev, right-wing leader of the Podkrepa independent trade union is questioned by police about the arson attack on the former communist party headquarters.

Romania – September 10, 1990 (OSA)

Mugur Isarescu, the new Governor of the National Bank, says that Romania’s banking and financial system need shock therapy to “jolt it into a market economy after four decades of communist mismanagement.”

Romania – September 10, 1990 (OSA)

Some 3,000 Brasov workers and intellectuals chant slogans such as “Down with Communism” and “Freedom” while staging their first joint demonstration. They say they protest the government’s failure to solve mounting economic problems and supporting “Romanian-Hungarian reconciliation.”

Romania – September 11, 1990 (OSA)

Romania claims it has not bought oil from Iraq after the international trade embargo had been imposed on that country (in response to the Kuwait invasion).

Yugoslavia -- September 11, 1990 (OSA)

Prince Alexander visits Yugoslavia from England, showing interest for future business ventures in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia -- September 11, 1990 (OSA)

The governments of Slovenia and Croatia draft a new treaty changing the Yugoslav constitution to a more confederal one. Yugoslav foresees the country collapsing into multiple independent states, but Slovenia expresses the importance of drafting a new constitution.

Yugoslavia -- September 11, 1990 (OSA)

Algeria-India-Yugoslavia meeting in Belgrade to discuss the current Gulf crisis and its solutions, following UN embargoes on Iraq that have negatively affected all countries.

Yugoslavia -- September 12, 1990 (OSA)

Protests in Belgrade, Serbian opposition accused Milosevic of cheating in the elections and criticize the policies of the late Tito.

Yugoslavia -- September 12, 1990 (OSA)

4 year old little girl killed by Albanian border guards after opening fire on a fleeing group
September 13th, Massacre in Polat committed by Serbian forces.

Romania – September 12, 1990 (OSA)

The Ministry of Education announces that extracurricular moral and religious education will be offered one or two hours a week in primary and secondary schools.

Soviet Union - September 12, 1990 (KCA)

An explosion and a fire at a factory making nuclear fuels at Ulba in
East Kazakhstan contaminates a large area, including the city of Ust Kamenogorsk, with highly toxic compounds of beryllium metal.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / U.K. / U.S. / France - September 12, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

A Treaty on the Final Settlement on Germany is signed by the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the German Democratic Republic –“the two”–and those of France, the Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States–“the four”–in Moscow. The treaty, covering the external aspects of German unification, complements the one signed by the two German states on August 31 and removes the last major obstacle to unification on October 3, 1990.

Correspondingly, Germany is given full sovereignty in its domestic and foreign affairs.

East Germany / West Germany / EC - September 12-13, 1990 (KCA)

The European Community Council of Ministers and the European Parliament approves interim arrangements giving the EC Commission emergency powers until December 31, 1990, to integrate East Germany into the EC. Eighteen East German delegates are to sit in the European Parliament pending direct elections.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany - September 13, 1990 (KCA)

The Foreign Minister of West Germany and the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union initial a bilateral “Treaty on Good-neighborliness, Partnership and Co-operation.” This includes a commitment that “if one of the two states should become the target of aggression, then the other side will give the aggressor no military aid or other support.” It provides for regular ministerial consultations including bi-annual foreign ministers’ meetings.

Czechoslovakia / France - September 13, 1990 (KCA)

The French President Mitterrand visits Czechoslovakia –and in a speech to the Federal Assembly, following talks with President Vaclav Havel, Mitterrand admits that France abandoned Czechoslovakia in its hour of need in 1938 when accepting the Munich agreement with Hitler. He also praises the revolutions which toppled communist regimes across Eastern Europe in 1989 as the greatest popular uprising since the French Revolution of 1789.

Romania – September 13, 1990 (OSA)

Tens of thousands of workers go on strike indefinitely at 25 factories and engineering enterprises throughout the country.

Romania – September 13, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian Intelligence Service warns Romanian journalists against writing articles that might damage the service.

Bulgaria - September 14-17, 1990 (OSA)

Black marketers are reported to be engaged in selling a variety of commodities, and one of them was recently arrested for charging 120% more for gasoline than state-operated gasoline stations.

East Germany - September 15-16, 1990 (KCA)

A list of 68 names of Volkskammer and government members alleged to have worked for the Stasi is made public. Among them were Eppelmann, Axel Viehweger, the Free Democrat Minister of Construction, Town Planning, and the Housing Sector, and Klaus Reichenbach, the CDU Minister in the Prime Minister's Office. All three deny the allegations.

Poland - September 16, 1990 (LBC)

Wojciech Jaruzelski, who has been Poland’s President since 1989, as a result of a compromise announces his resignation.

Yugoslavia -- September 16, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgarian smuggler shot and killed at the Yugoslav border.

Czechoslovakia / U.K. - September 17, 1990 (KCA)

UK Prime Minister Thatcher announces on a state visit to Czechoslovakia that visa requirements for travel between Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom and Ireland will be abolished on October 1.

Soviet Union - September 17, 1990 (KCA)

Aleksandra Biryukova retires as a Deputy Chair of the USSR Council of Ministers (in which she was the only woman out of 69 members) and as Chair of the Bureau for Social Development.

East Germany / West Germany / France - September 17-18, 1990 (KCA)

The 56th biannual summit between the heads of state and government of France and West Germany is held in Munich. Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand of France jointly declare that “the accomplishment of German unity... gives... a new dimension and broader horizons to our co-operation.”

Czechoslovakia / U.K. - September 18, 1990 (KCA)

The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher addresses the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia on a state visit. She draws comparisons between the present crisis concerning Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait and the experience of 1938, declaring that “Czechoslovakia of all countries needs no reminding of the need for nations to stand up to bullies and do so at once.” She continues: “We failed you in 1938 when a disastrous policy of appeasement allowed Hitler to extinguish your independence. Churchill was quick to repudiate the Munich

agreement, but we still remember it with shame.”

Soviet Union - September 19, 1990 (KCA)

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet overwhelmingly passed a vote of no confidence in Ryzhkov's government.

Yugoslavia -- September 19, 1990 (OSA)

The parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina votes to stay in the SFRY.

Bulgaria - September 19, 1990 (KCA)

Andrei Lukanov is formally elected Prime Minister by 234 votes to 104, with 34 abstentions.

Bulgaria - September 20, 1990 (KCA)

A Council of Ministers, nearly all of whom were Bulgarian Socialist Party members, is formed. The new government takes charge of a country in a deep economic crisis.

East Germany / West Germany - September 20, 1990 (KCA)

The state treaty on unification is approved by both the Volkskammer and the Bundestag.

Soviet Union - September 20, 1990 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet of the autonomous *oblast* (region) of South Ossetia proclaims a full union republic independent from Georgia. This is ruled invalid by the Georgian Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the grounds that only ethnic Ossetian deputies had taken part in the session and that its conduct had been “unconstitutional.”

Romania – September 20, 1990 (OSA)

Petre Roman says in a televised interview that a government bill laying down guidelines for funding free television stations is ready to be presented to the Parliament.

Bulgaria - September 21, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria and Iran sign an agreement of economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Iran would mainly supply Bulgaria with badly needed petrochemical products, while Iran would receive technical expertise, industrial goods, electrical appliances and tobacco products.

Romania – September 21, 1990 (ADC)

Romania’s Military Territory Court sentences Nicu Ceaușescu to 20 years in prison.

Yugoslavia - September 21, 1990 (KCA)

The Pristina district court announces that six former Kosovar government ministers, including the last Prime Minister Jusuf Zejnulahu, together with former Pristina television and radio head Agim Malja, are under criminal investigation on charges of setting up a separatist group with the aim of proclaiming Kosovo a republic. However, five of the seven, including Zejnulahu and Malja, manage to evade arrest.

Yugoslavia -- September 21, 1990 (OSA)

Slovenian member of the Yugoslav state presidency resigns over the condemnation of Kosovo constitutional wishes.

Bulgaria - September 22-25, 1990 (KCA)

The Bulgarian Socialist Party holds its 39th congress. In his opening speech, Party Chairman Aleksandur Lilov declares that factional splits pose the greatest threat to the party's future. He also assesses that the BSP can no longer claim to be a party of the working class, but must look to the intelligentsia and young people as its main constituency.

Romania – September 23, 1990 (OSA)

The first conference of Romania’s Private Publishers’ and Printers’ Association, a professional body aimed at promoting private initiatives in the publishing industry, is held in Bucharest.

Soviet Union - September 24, 1990 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet prolongs the wait for the introduction of market economic reforms by voting for further efforts towards a compromise between rival reform programs, thereby putting off a decision until mid-October.

Also on this day, the USSR Supreme Soviet grants Gorbachev emergency presidential powers to “stabilize the country's socio-political life” for a period of 18 months. By a resolution passed by 305 votes to 36, with 41 abstentions, Gorbachev is effectively given a free hand to dictate the process of economic reform by decree, to manage the state budget, and also to supervise law and order.

East Germany / Warsaw Pact - September 24, 1990 (KCA)

A protocol on the immediate withdrawal of East Germany from the Warsaw Pact is signed in East Berlin by Rainer Eppelmann, the East German Defense and Disarmament Minister, and Gen. Pyotr Lushev, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact.

Yugoslavia -- September 25, 1990 (OSA)

A multi-day shutdown occurs at a major oil pipeline “Friendship pipeline”, due to 100,000 tons of oil being stuck at the Hungarian-Yugoslav connection. Soviets said as soon as oil resumes to flow to Yugoslavia, they will open the pipes again, which they did as soon as oil resumed flowing to the southern neighbor.

East Germany / West Germany - September 27-28, 1990 (KCA)

At an extraordinary congress, the East and West German Socialist Party of Germany merges. Hans-Jochen Vogel, chair of the West German SPD, is elected chair.

Yugoslavia – September 27-30, 1990 (HR)

Serbs are getting involved in clashes with the Croatian police in Banija. In Petrinja 360 Serbs are arrested and the rest have found shelter in the Yugoslav Army’s barracks.

East Germany - September 28, 1990 (KCA)

The Volkskammer elects Joachim Gauck (Alliance ‘90/ Greens) as the special commissioner for handling Stasi files. His appointment still has to be approved by the West German government.

Yugoslavia - September 28, 1990 (KCA, YC, HR)

The Serbian Assembly passes the new Constitution of Serbia, which recognizes the multiparty system and democracy in Serbia. Serbia's new constitution almost completely abolishes the

attributes of statehood which the 1978 Yugoslav federal Constitution granted to the provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina within the Serbian Republic. Nominally they retain their autonomous status, but their provincial assemblies effectively become mere rubber- stamp bodies, and the powers of their provincial governments and judiciary are drastically curtailed.

Soviet Union / Kazakhstan - September 28, 1990 (KCA)

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev urges the USSR government to declare East Kazakhstan an ecological disaster zone (see September 12), and calls for an international team of experts to investigate the consequences of the contamination. He also calls for urgent medical treatment and compensation for local residents, with official estimates on the following day stating that the health of up to 120,000 people have been endangered, principally by a beryllium oxide gas cloud which had settled over Ust Kamenogorsk for five hours after the accident.

East Germany / West Germany - September 29, 1990 (KCA)

The state treaty on unification comes into force after signature by West German President Richard von Weizsäcker. Thousands march from West to East Berlin in protest of the terms of unification.

Bulgaria - September 30, 1990 (KCA)

The first by-election since the June National Assembly elections is won by the Union of Democratic Forces candidate with nearly 59% of the vote, compared with 39% for the BSP candidate.

Hungary – September 30, 1990 (KCA)

The first round of local government elections is arranged, which produces a reversal in the fortunes of the Hungarian Democratic Forum and its two smaller coalition partners in the centre- right government formed in May.

Yugoslavia -- September 31, 1990 (OSA)

New political party the Vojvodina Forum has been found, stressing greater autonomy, not for just Vojvodina, but Kosovo as well. Those rights which were already reaped by the regions prior to the constitutional amendments made by Serbia a few days earlier.

October

Soviet Union - October 1, 1990 (KCA)

The improvement in church-state relations since 1988 culminates in the overwhelming approval by the USSR Supreme Soviet of a law on freedom of conscience and religious organizations, marking a formal end to over seven decades of state persecution of believers. The law denies the state the right to propagate atheism or otherwise to interfere in religious affairs.

Yugoslavia / U.S. -- October 1, 1990 (OSA)

George Bush meets with the Yugoslav presidency, gives full support to the federation.

East Germany / Soviet Union / West Germany / U.S. / U.K. / France - October 1, 1990 (KCA)

In order for unified Germany to enjoy full sovereignty from October 3, the four allies sign a

document in New York suspending their “rights and responsibilities with regard to Berlin and Germany as a whole with effect from the time of unification of Germany until the coming into force of the treaty.” The 1945 Potsdam and London Agreements and the 1971 Quadripartite Accord on Berlin are thus suspended.

Yugoslavia - October 1, 1990 (KCA)

Agitation by Serbs in Croatia comes to a head with the unilateral proclamation by the so- called Serbian National Council of an “autonomous region” comprising those districts where they are in the majority. The Council declares that this reflects the will of the Serbs, as expressed by an overwhelming vote in favour of autonomy in the unofficial referendum conducted in August. The government of Serbia, under the hardliner Slobodan Milosevic, calls on the federal authorities to intervene to “defend Serbs from repression in Croatia.”

Romania – October 1, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Television announces that the parliamentary opposition would be given 40-minute broadcasting slots twice a week in order “to help the birth of democracy.”

Romania – October 2, 1990 (OSA)

Rompres announces the opening of a private television station in Craiova. Owned by a small publishing house, Democratic Universe, its broadcasting range limited to 40 kilometres.

Romania – October 2, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian government withdraws the controversial draft law on the press, which has been published some two months previously in order to encourage public debate.

Bulgaria - October 2, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgarian foreign minister Lyuben Gotzev, says his country is prepared to freeze the size of its military to demonstrate support for a similar NATO move.

Yugoslavia - October 2, 1990 (KCA)

A leading member of Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party labels the Croatian authorities as fascists, while Croatia's President Franjo Tudjman accuses the Serbian leadership of inciting terrorism. Meanwhile, large rallies in support of the Serbs in Croatia are staged in Serbia and Montenegro. At a rally outside the Federal Assembly building in Belgrade, Vuk Draskovic, leader of the opposition Serbian National Renewal, demands “a declaration of war” against Croatia.

Ukraine / Revolution on Granite - October 2-17, 1990 (PN and UF)

This was a hunger strike by young Ukrainian citizens in Kiev, Ukraine. More than a hundred people set up tents in the central square of the capital and protested until their demands were met. This protest was a direct defiance of the Soviet rule, the strikers demanded independence of Ukraine from the Soviet Union. Some of their demands were met and the leader of the Ukrainian SSR resigned from his position. These protests were a significant part in Ukraine becoming independent from the USSR.

Yugoslavia – October 3, 1990 (YC, HR)

The Presidencies of Croatia and Slovenia propose to the Presidency of the SFRY the Confederal model of the Yugoslav state.

Yugoslavia - October 3, 1990 (KCA)

Determined to defuse the crisis (see October 1-2), the Croatian authorities comply with the Presidency's directive and begins a withdrawal. In the following two weeks, tensions ease somewhat, although rail traffic between Zagreb and the Adriatic coast remain seriously disrupted because Serbs on several occasions blow up railway lines.

Yugoslavia -- October 3, 1990 (OSA)

100,000 meet in Split for a rally in support of the Croatian government.

Hungary – October 3, 1990 (KCA)

The Constitutional Court rules the government's proposal of returning lands confiscated by the state in 1947 to their original owners unconstitutional. The Court finds that the government can legitimately return assets which are now in state ownership; however, it objects the proposals to accompany the return of confiscated lands with payment of only partial compensation to present private owners.

Germany - October 3, 1990 (LBC / KCA)

As a result of 45 years of division, Germany regains its national unity. The country's official name is the Federal Republic of Germany.

GDR / FRG - October 3, 1990 (OSA)

The day that marks the official unification of the former East and West Germany in 1990 is October 3. It has since then been the official German national holiday, the Day of German Unity. It replaced the previous national holiday held in West Germany on June 17 commemorating the Uprising of 1953 in East Germany and the national holiday on October 7 in the GDR, that commemorated the foundation of the East German state.

U.S. / Soviet Union – October 3, 1990 (LBC)

Shevardnadze and Baker announce that an agreement is made on the reduction of conventional forces. As a result, the alliances are each allowed to retain 20,000 tanks, 30,000 APCs, 20,000 artillery units, and 20,000 helicopters.

Yugoslavia -- October 4, 1990 (OSA)

A bar fight broke out in Szeged consisting of Hungarian, Jordanian, and Yugoslavian nationals leaving many injured and multiple dead.

Yugoslavia -- October 4, 1990 (OSA)

The newly found Slovenian parliament votes to abolish 27 Yugoslavian laws in the Slovenian territory.

Warsaw Pact - October 4, 1990 (LBC)

According to Marshal Akhromeiev, the Warsaw Pact will cease to exist in 1991.

Soviet Union - October 4, 1990 (KCA)

An emergency decree by Gorbachev orders a switch in 1991 from fixed to negotiated contract

wholesale prices. It is designed to “intensify enterprises’ interest in increasing output and boosting production efficiency,” and to broaden financial autonomy by effectively introducing competitive bargaining between enterprises.

Soviet Union / Poland - October 6, 1990 (KCA)

A congress of mostly ethnic Polish deputies to local soviets and to the USSR Supreme Soviet and Lithuanian Supreme Council declares a “Polish national- territorial autonomous area” in south-east Lithuania. This is immediately pronounced illegal by the Lithuanian Supreme Council Presidium.

Soviet Union - October 9, 1990 (KCA)

A law on public associations is passed by the USSR Supreme Soviet. This had been awaited since the Communist Party (CPSU) renounced its constitutionally guaranteed “leading role” in March, and the law formally sets in place a multiparty system.

Romania – October 9, 1990 (OSA)

No fewer than 32 houses belonging to Roma people are burned down or demolished in the village of Mihail Kogălniceanu, near the town of Constanța.

Romania – October 9, 1990 (OSA)

Ethnic Hungarian Parliamentarians walk out of the Senate after the passage of legislation they consider discriminatory.

Yugoslavia -- October 10, 1990 (OSA)

The Austrian bankers association temporarily suspends the trading of dinars as they point to economic downfall and political uncertainty revolving around the currency.

Yugoslavia -- October 11, 1990 (OSA)

Naftagas, a Vojvodina-based oil company takes control of Croatian oil company in SAO of Krajina.

Romania – October 12, 1990 (OSA)

At the Episcopal consecration in Rome of Jhon Bukovsky, the new Papal Nuncio to Romania, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Agostino Casaroli says that the problems confronting the Romanian Catholic Church were neither few nor small.

Soviet Union - October 12, 1990 (KCA)

In the first ruling of its kind in the Soviet Union, a Moscow court sentences Konstantin Smirnov-Ostashvili, a leader of the extreme Russian nationalist *Pamyat* organization, to two years in a labour camp for inciting racial hatred.

Yugoslavia - October 12, 1990 (KCA)

Rahman Morina, the leader of the Kosovo League of Communists (LC), dies of a heart attack at the age of 47. He collapses at the inaugural conference of the Serbian Socialist Party for Kosovo and Metohija, which replaces the Kosovo LC and is to be subordinate to the Serbian Socialist Party formed in July. He would have been one of the new party's few ethnic Albanian members.

Bulgaria - October 12, 1990 (KCA)

When presenting a draft on economic reform to the Grand National Assembly, Prime Minister Lukanov warns that initially the reforms would raise inflation and unemployment and further lower living standards.

Romania – October 13, 1990 (OSA)

Data released by the National Statistical Commission shows industrial output and labor productivity in September down by 75% compared to the same month in 1989.

Soviet Union - October 13, 1990 (KCA)

In a telling reflection of the public repudiation of the legacy of communist rule and of collapsing law and order, Gorbachev issues a decree ordering the security forces to take additional measures to protect monuments of Lenin and other symbols of Soviet power. This follows a series of incidents in which the ubiquitous Lenin statues have been toppled, blown up, or otherwise vandalized in towns across the Soviet Union.

Czechoslovakia - October 13, 1990 (KCA)

Civic Forum elects the Federal Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus as its first chair at a delegates' meeting in Prague. Klaus defeats Martin Palous, the candidate of the outgoing collective leadership, by 115 votes to 52, in what one government source describes as a revolt by rural delegates against Civic Forum's Prague organization. Klaus subsequently declares that he intends to steer Civic Forum, currently a broad-based coalition, to the right. This leads commentators to predict a widening of the rift between Klaus and Havel already evident in differences over the pace of market economic reforms.

Hungary – October 14, 1990 (KCA)

The second round of local government elections is arranged. The Hungarian Democratic Forum gets only 35.7% of seats on municipal councils, compared with 42.2% for the centre-left opposition coalition of the Alliance of Free Democrats and the League of Young Democrats. In elections of rural councils, independent candidates win two-thirds of the seats and 80% of mayorships. The elections establish a new local government structure with considerably enhanced powers in place of local councils still dominated by former communists.

Czechoslovakia - October 15, 1990 (KCA)

As a first step towards implementing market reforms, the federal government devalues the crown by 35%. This brings the exchange rate against the US dollar to \$1.00=KCS 24

Romania – October 15, 1990 (OSA)

Defense Minister Colonel General Victor Stanculescu says that he would shortly meet with Lajos Fur, his Hungarian counterpart. He adds that at the meeting he intends to present a program for cooperation between the two armies.

Romania – October 15, 1990 (OSA)

The Society of Journalist in Romania protest new government measures to halve the amount of available newsprint.

Romania – October 16, 1990 (OSA)

The Presidium of the General Council of the National Confederation of Free Labor Unions protest the draft law on unions. It says the law would limit the right of some workers to join unions.

Romania – October 16, 1990 (OSA)

The new head of the Intelligence Service, Virgil Magureanu, says a list of some 9,000 former Securitate officers will be published before the end of winter. Defence Minister Stanculescu, however, claims that publishing the names would be a form of nationwide revenge that could only do harm.

Yugoslavia -- October 16, 1990 (OSA)

A newspaper in Zagreb writes that the Yugoslav military leadership is planning a coup after concluding that the independence movements being seen in Slovenia and Croatia are being funded from states abroad.

Yugoslavia -- October 17, 1990 (OSA)

October 17th, Croatia plays the US in its first international football match as an independent nation. The match was held at Maksimir stadium in Zagreb.

Czechoslovakia - October 17, 1990 (KCA)

President Vaclav Havel dismissed General Miroslav Vacek as Federal Minister of National Defense. Havel praises Vacek for “never having allowed the Army to be misused against the people,” for his loyalty to the new regime, and for having “started the process of fundamental restructuring of the Czechoslovak Army.” Havel stresses that the dismissal was not a reflection of any disappointment with Vacek's work, but rather of a resolve that the post should go to a civilian.

Germany - October 17, 1990 (OSA)

Reuters reports that Germany faces a flood of over three million immigrants from the Soviet Union, Poland and Romania, unless Bonn changes its nationality laws, Oskar Lafontaine, opposition candidate for chancellor, says. Germany, struggling to deal with a rising influx of refugees from Eastern Europe and the third world, allows immigration for anyone who can prove that they or their ancestors were German citizens before 1938. “Two to three million people in the Soviet Union, 200,000 to 300,000 from Romania and several hundred thousand from Poland have the right to come here immediately” Lafontaine tells the *Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*. Lafontaine says Bonn should draw up new guidelines based on accepting immigrants according to their need rather than on nationality claims based on ties going back generations.

Romania – October 17, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister Petre Roman dismisses 16 officials and appoints 10 others in an attempt to speed up reform.

Romania – October 17, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanies’ Ethnic Federation, an umbrella organization, protests increasing acts of violence against members of their minority, including the burning down of their homes, beatings, and arbitrary arrests.

Romania – October 18, 1990 (OSA)

One of the measures approved by the government is the further devaluation of the leu by 66.7% on November 1.

Romania – October 18, 1990 (OSA)

Over 600 employees of Craiova’s Mercur enterprise go on strike to protest the prefect’s decision to replace managers at the enterprise.

Czechoslovakia - October 18, 1990 (KCA)

President Havel appoints Lubos Dobrovsky as the new Defense Minister. Deputy Foreign Minister, Dobrovsky, like Havel, is a former dissident and founder member of the Charter 77 human rights group. He was a Civic Forum spokesman during the revolution.

Yugoslavia - October 19, 1990 (KCA)

Stjepan Mesic is confirmed by the Federal Assembly to fill Croatia's seat on the eight-member federal Collective State Presidency. He also becomes Vice-President according to the fixed sequence where senior offices within the Presidency rotate annually among the republics and provinces.

Also on this day, tensions are again heightened between Serbia and Croatia, by reports of a general mobilization of Croatian police reservists. The republican Interior Ministry insists that this is just a routine annual drill and in no way linked to speculation in the Croatian press that the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), in connivance with the Serbian authorities and Serb minority leaders in Croatia, is preparing a coup against Tudjman's administration.

Yugoslavia / Israel -- October 19, 1990 (OSA)

As a member of Israeli delegation, the Israeli minister of housing visits Belgrade to speak about Yugoslavian companies interest in providing housing for soviet-Jewish refugees immigrating to the country.

Soviet Union - October 19, 1990 (KCA)

An outline program to create a market economic system is finally approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet. The magnitude of the decision to abandon more than 60 years of centralized state economic control is largely overshadowed, however, by the unresolved bitter arguments over how best to proceed. The mood of the Supreme Soviet was described by the *Guardian* as “somber and desperate.”

Czechoslovakia - October 22, 1990 (KCA)

Miroslav Stepan, former Communist Party Secretary in Prague, is sentenced to 30 months’ imprisonment following confirmation of his July conviction by an appeal court on charges of abuse of power connected with the suppression of a Prague demonstration on October 28, 1988.

Romania – October 22, 1990 (OSA)

A Delegation from the US Federal Communications Commission meet with members of the Romanian parliament’s Committee for Culture, the arts, and the Mass Media to discuss possibilities for liberalizing Romania’s media in general and television in particular.

Yugoslavia -- October 22, 1990 (OSA)

At a rally in Novi Sad, the president of the Serbian National Renewal Party assured that if voted into power, no Hungarian would need to flee vojvodina as they would reap all the benefits cultural minorities receive in any other modern western state.

Yugoslavia -- October 23, 1990 (OSA)

Serbian parliament votes to tax any good into the country coming from Slovenia or Croatia.

Romania – October 23, 1990 (OSA)

The Romanian Journalists’ Association condemns the government’s decision to stop subsidizing Romanian Television.

Czechoslovakia - October 24, 1990 (LBC)

Czechoslovakia is granted the most favored nation status. (In Eastern Europe, Poland and Hungary have this privilege). In Czechoslovakia’s case, Congress suspends the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which ties the most favored nation status to observation of human rights.

Soviet Union - October 24, 1990 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet rushes through emergency legislation reaffirming the supremacy of all-union laws over republican laws “within the centre's sphere of responsibility,” pending conclusion of a new union treaty. It is intended to end the so-called “war of laws” arising when republics issue sovereignty declarations which assert the primacy of their own legislation.

Bulgaria - October 24, 1990 (OSA)

The Grand National Assembly overwhelmingly approves an act prohibiting employees in specific government agencies from affiliating themselves with any political party of engaging in political agitation and similar activities.

Czechoslovakia - October 25, 1990 (KCA)

The Slovak National Council adopts a bill making Slovak the official language in the republic. The new law immediately sparks off a political crisis as hardline Slovak nationalists begin demonstrations and a hunger strike in protest against a clause allowing the official use of minority languages in towns or villages where the minority nationality forms at least 20 per cent of the population.

Bulgaria - October 25, 1990 (KCA)

A debate is opened in the Grand National Assembly where the main opposition, Union of Democratic Forces, categorically declines to back the proposed reform program.

Hungary – October 25, 1990 (KCA)

Forced to buy more oil at the world market, where the prices have sharply increased because of the Gulf crisis, the Hungarian government announces a 65% rise in the retail price of motor fuel. This immediately leads to a wave of strikes and blocked roads over the country.

Czechoslovakia - October 26, 1990 (KCA)

A demonstration of around 20,000 people in connection with the new language bill prompts the Slovak government to step up security in Bratislava.

Soviet Union - October 26, 1990 (KCA)

A decree by President Gorbachev intends to stimulate exports and rationalize imports, and as a step towards full ruble convertibility, sets a rate of \$1.00=1.80 rubles, effective from November 1, for all imports and exports. Another decree grants foreign investors (individual or corporate) the right to set up a 100 per cent foreign-owned enterprise on Soviet soil or to buy a shareholding in existing Soviet enterprises. Foreigners can also buy property, but can only purchase land leasehold.

Also on this day, Gorbachev visits Spain. His talks in Madrid with Prime Minister Felipe González end with a joint political declaration and agreement on a package of economic and cultural agreements including the granting of 150 billion pesetas (US\$1.5 billion) of Spanish credit to the Soviet Union to be used to pay for imports of Spanish consumer goods.

Yugoslavia -- October 26, 1990 (OSA)

Following a one and a half day conference between the leaders of the Balkan states in Tirana, while accentuating the hope for another future Balkan summit, expressed the great importance for the peninsula to ensure that national minorities have the freedom to express their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identities within the constitutional framework of all the countries. The foreign ministers of Albania, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Turkey finished the conference with unanimous agreement that a stable Balkans ensures peace and security throughout Europe and the Mediterranean.

Yugoslavia -- October 26, 1990 (OSA)

Milosevic requests military action against the Croatians, but only in regions with a large Serb minority.

Romania – October 26, 1990 (OSA)

The first national convention of the Democratic Antitotalitarian Forum takes places in Cluj. More than 1,000 delegates, representing 44 different local branches, are in attendance. They adopt a resolution proclaiming the unification of local chapters into a national organization and adopt the Proclamation of Cluj as an ‘action programme’ for the whole DAF. Resolutions were passed calling on the parliament to officially condemn communism, dismiss President Iliescu and other elected officials who had played important roles in the Ceaușescu regime. Support was offered for the continuing democratisation of the army by the Committee for Action to Democratise the Army (banned by the authorities by subsequently re-emerged), and also for the pro-unification Popular Front in Soviet Moldavia.

Romania – October 27-28, 1990 (OSA)

The first international human rights conference since the downfall of Ceaușescu takes place in Timișoara. In attendance are observers from Amnesty International and the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, amongst others. Gerald Nagler, Secretary-General of the IHF, and George Serban, President of the Timișoara Society, claim that the Securitate still exists and is busy infiltrating institutions and organisations just as before the Revolution.

Soviet Union - October 27, 1990 (KCA)

At its 19th congress, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU) reconstitutes itself

as the General Confederation of USSR Trade Unions. The congress assesses that the AUCCTU has “failed to protect working people socially or economically in the context of transition to the market.”

Soviet Union / Georgia - October 28, 1990 (KCA)

The first round of elections of the 250-seat Georgian Supreme Soviet is won convincingly by the Round Table-Free Georgia bloc of pro-independence parties. It takes 54.03 per cent of the vote, which, under a mixed system of direct elections and proportional representation, gives it 114 of the 181 seats decided.

Hungary – October 28, 1990 (KCA)

Faced with the crisis resulting from the increase in price of motor fuel, the government secures the lifting of the traffic blockade by offering to reduce the price rise to 35%.

Bulgaria - October 28, 1990 (OSA)

A new Bulgarian Communist Party is founded. The new party declares itself against the restoration of capitalism and renounces none of the past of the former communist party of Bulgaria.

Soviet Union / France - October 29, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev arrives in France. The main item of business is the signature by Gorbachev and President Mitterrand of a Franco-Soviet friendship and co-operation treaty. This featured support for Gorbachev's idea of a “common European home” and Mitterrand's vision of a European confederation, and commits France to assisting Soviet economic reform.

Czechoslovakia - October 29, 1990 (KCA)

Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar warns that “extremist forces” might be preparing to declare Slovakia's secession.

Romania – October 29-November 1, 1990 (OSA)

Bus and truck drivers across the country respond to an appeal from a number of unions and go on strike. 90,000 individuals participate, affecting Bucharest and 30 out of Romania’s 38 counties. Demands include an end to the political pressure being applied to union leaders, the sharing out of assets belonging to the disbanded General Trade Union, an improvement in the delivery system for automotive spare parts, and increased wages in line with inflation. On October 30, Prime Minister Roman authorises the Ministry of Defence to take over the transportation of food, raw materials and other essential commodities affected by the strike. On October 31, traffic in Bucharest is badly disrupted by hundreds of demonstrating strikers using cars, buses and trucks.

Romania – October 30, 1990 (OSA)

Petre Roman authorizes the Ministry of Defence to take over the transportation of food, raw materials, and other essential commodities in areas affected by strike, which involved two-thirds of country’s transportation workers.

Soviet Union - October 30, 1990 (KCA)

At a ceremony in Moscow attended by several thousand people, the Memorial organization unveils a monument of the victims of the Stalinist purges. The monument, in Dzerzhinsky Square opposite the Lubyanka, which is the headquarters of the State Security

Committee (KGB), consists simply of a granite boulder brought from the Solovetsky Islands in the White Sea. This was the site of one of the first camps for political prisoners established under Soviet rule.

Hungary – October 31, 1990 (KCA)

Gabor Demszky of FIDESz is elected as the mayor of Budapest.

Soviet Union - October 31, 1990 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet adopts a legislation cracking down on black-market trading in the period of transition into a market economy. It covers speculation (described as reselling for profit goods purchased at fixed state retail prices), abuse of position by retail trade workers such as by unauthorized sale of goods from depots and warehouses, and private price fixing by groups or individuals with access to scarce goods. The maximum sentence is 10 years in prison or a 15,000-rouble fine.

November

Romania - November 1990 (KCA)

As the National Salvation Front (NSF) government implements its radical economic program, sharply reducing subsidies and allowing some prices to find their market level, protest demonstrations take place in response to the consequent steep price rises.

Romania - November 1, 1990 (KCA)

The leu (Romanian currency) is devalued by a further 60 % and fixed at \$1.00=35 leu, a move designed to pave the way for a partial convertibility of the Romanian currency which the government plans to introduce in January 1991.

Romania – November 1, 1990 (OSA)

The government deregulate some prices as part of the transition to a market economy. The changes double the prices of clothes, public transportation, and furniture and triple those of footwear. The government also devalues the national currency by some 70%, from 21 to 35 lei to the dollar.

Bulgaria - November 1, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Lukanov threatens to resign unless there is an all-party support for the reforms, and subsequently describes the political mood in Bulgaria as “masochistic”; he appeals to the Union of Democratic Forces to rise above party politics.

Soviet Union / Uzbekistan - November 1, 1990 (KCA)

The Uzbekistan Supreme Soviet adopts a resolution abolishing the republican Council of Ministers. Government functions are to be carried out instead by a Cabinet attached to executive President Islam Karimov. The outgoing Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Shakurulla Mirsaidov, is given the newly created post of Vice-President.

Czechoslovakia - November 2, 1990 (KCA)

At its 18th congress the Communist Party Czechoslovakia chooses not to follow other east European former ruling parties in adopting a change of name. The congress approves a new

leadership structure, with Pavol Kanis being elected chair of a federal council.

Soviet Union - November 2, 1990 (KCA)

A presidential decree orders the compulsory sale by enterprises in 1991 of 40% of their hard currency earnings to the Bank for Foreign Economic Relations, to help repay the Soviet Union's foreign debt. Having thereafter retained a portion of their hard currency profits according to prescribed norms, enterprises will be required to sell 90% of what remained to a new Union and Republican Foreign Currency Fund, and the other 10 % to republican funds.

Bulgaria - November 2, 1990 (OSA)

It is reported that the Bulgarian Health Care system is rapidly deteriorating. Medicines and necessary equipment are in short supply. Most doctors do not have sufficient training in modern techniques.

Romania – November 4, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian government says that four days of protest over price increases are aimed at destabilizing the country and that security forces will act to maintain order.

Romania – November 4-7, 1990 (OSA)

For the fourth straight day, there are protests in Bucharest against the government’s deregulation of some prices.

Romania – November 5, 1990 (OSA)

About 400 teachers belonging to the schools and high schools’ teachers’ union demonstrate outside the Ministry of Education and science building against the ministry’s work and poor teaching conditions.

Petre Roman threatens to resign if strikes and other challenges to his government’s economic policies continue.

Bulgaria - November 5, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgarian Foreign minister Luben Gotsev admits to spying for his country's secret service while on a diplomatic mission to New York in the early 1960s.

Poland - November 5, 1990 (KCA)

Miners stage a two-hour strike to lend weight to their demands for pay increases and in protest against the effects of the economic reforms. The strike, called by Solidarity, affects all but four of the country's 74 mines.

Romania – November 6, 1990 (ADC)

The Civil Alliance – an NGO dedicated to facilitating financial reform, market economics, civil society development – is established.

Albania - November 6-7, 1990 (KCA)

During the 12th plenum of the Albanian Worker's Party central committee, President Alia calls for changes to the country's 1976 Constitution, including a redefinition of the leading role of the party and freedom for religious beliefs.

Soviet Union - November 7, 1990 (KCA)

During the parade through Moscow's Red Square to mark the 1917 October Revolution anniversary, a man fires two shots from a hunting rifle in what police claimed is an attempt to assassinate Gorbachev. Early reports play down the seriousness of the incident, in which no one was injured. A police statement later, however, claims that the shots had gone astray (one into the air, the other into the ground) only because a policeman had pounced on the gunman, Aleksandr Shmonov.

Romania – November 7, 1990 (OSA)

The Civic Alliance, an umbrella organisation of the non-institutionalised opposition, is officially established. It describes itself as ‘a structure for the cooperation of all social forces that support the values of faith, humanism and democracy’. It is endorsed by the Group for Social Dialogue and six other extra parliamentary movements – namely the Agora Society, the Timișoara Society, the Brașov-based November 15 Association, University Solidarity, the Independent Group for Democracy and the Pro-Democracy Association. The Civic Alliance publishes its declaration of principles in the independent daily ‘Romania Libera’, denouncing ‘the multiple forms of intolerance, mystification, hatred, corruption, egotism and ill-will’ present in the country. It calls for integration into the Western sphere of human rights, market economies and European values. The declaration is signed by a number of notable dissidents, such as the philosopher Gabriel Liceanu, the writers Octavian Paler and Stefan Augustin Doinas, or the journalists Anton Uncu and Petre Mihai Bacanu. Of the 206 signatories, 88 are members of the ‘creative intelligentsia’, 92 of the ‘technical intelligentsia’, 6 are students, 5 are workers and 1 is a member of the clergy (while 15 did not specify any occupation).

Romania – November 7, 1990 (OSA)

Major opposition groups form a coalition called the Civic Alliances.

Romania – November 8, 1990 (OSA)

At a rally organized by the Free Trade Union Alliance of Timisoara, 5,000 people demand that Prime Minister drops his deregulation of prices.

Romania – November 8, 1990 (OSA)

A list of demands by the Action Committee for Democratization of the Army, which is published in the press, includes a call for a governmental and parliamentary commission to investigate responsibility for the violence during the last December’s revolution.

Bulgaria - November 9, 1990 (KCA)

Prime Minister Lukanov is offering to suspend his membership of the Bulgarian Socialist Party in exchange for the Union of Democratic Forces joining a coalition government. The UDF continues to insist that the only solution to Bulgaria's present crisis is a UDF-led coalition, and argues that because of its communist past the BSP lacks the moral credibility to govern.

Poland - November 9, 1990 (KCA)

The Sejm (lower house of National Assembly) adopts a bill to implement the findings of its Justice and Legislative Affairs commissions concerning the assets of the former ruling Polish United Workers’ Party (PUWP). Most of these assets, the committees found, have been acquired illegally and should be transferred to the state.

Germany / Soviet Union - November 9, 1990 (OSA)

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev starts a two-day visit to Germany. He talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and signs a treaty with him covering German-Soviet relations in general. Two other treaties, on economic and social cooperation, are signed by German and Soviet officials. Kohl and Gorbachev hail the treaties as further evidence that the Cold War era had come to an end.

The same day in Bonn, Gorbachev says that he is deeply worried about Soviet army troops in former East Germany, and he urges Germans to show understanding for the 380,000 Soviet troops in their country, AP and *Reuters* reported the next day. Kohl says he will soon visit Soviet barracks in an effort to ease tensions there. *Der Spiegel*, meanwhile, says that more than 200 Soviet soldiers had deserted in the past week alone and that assault rifles and other weapons were being sold on the black market by Soviet soldiers.

Germany / Soviet Union - November 10, 1990 (OSA)

Gorbachev meets with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other German officials outside Bonn, before taking a tour of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's home state of Rheinland-Pfalz. Gorbachev and Genscher are reported to have agreed that it was important to create a Europe in which borders would no longer play a role. Genscher thanks Gorbachev for his contributions to Germany unity. Gorbachev also meets with the chairman of the Free Democratic Party, Otto Lamsdorff, with Kohl's Social Democratic challenger in the all-German December election, Oskar Lafontaine, and with German Finance Minister Theodor Waigel.

Soviet Union - November 11, 1990 (KCA)

Reorganizing the central administration is one of the ideas discussed at a meeting between Gorbachev and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin calls for a "coalition government of national unity" comprising ministers nominated from each of the republics.

Yugoslavia - November 11 & 25 / December 9, 1990 (KCA)

In the southern republic of Macedonia, voting for a newly reorganized 120-seat unicameral Assembly in three rounds produces a hung parliament. The nationalist Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity emerges as the largest party with 37 seats.

Romania - November 12, 1990 (KCA)

The parliament votes to grant the government special powers to implement the economic reform program over the next six months, including the authority to change prices and taxes and to negotiate foreign credits.

Germany / Soviet Union - November 12, 1990 (OSA)

City officials of Moscow and Berlin meet in the Soviet capital and said that they are committed to friendship and cooperation between their two cities. In a joint statement, West Berlin Mayor Walter Momper, East Berlin Mayor Tino Schwierzina and First Deputy Chairman of the Moscow City Soviet Sergei Stankevich said an agreement between the two cities would open the way for political, cultural, economic and technological cooperation. The aim of Momper's and Schwierzina's two-day visit was to extend an existing partnership between East Berlin and Moscow to all of Berlin.

Yugoslavia -- November 13, 1990 (OSA)

The federal head of state speaks on national television accusing the governments of Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia of conspiracy, after the news came that a significant amount of money relating to the federal republic quotas has never been seen or heard of by the Belgrade government.

Germany / Romania - November 14, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Prime Minister receives Bundestag delegation. Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman holds talks with the delegation of the Bundestag foreign relations commission, headed by Dr. Valkmar Kohler, deputy of the Christian Democratic Union. The Romanian Prime Minister presents at length the process of reconstruction of Romanian society, the direction of reform and the implementation of a market economy. He outlines the outlook on and sequence of the measures already under way and of the envisioned ones, for the next stages, expressing confidence that their implementation would help to overcome the current difficulties. Interest is shown in international organisations and western countries playing a significant role in economic cooperation upon mutually advantageous terms. The guests show that their own experience of reintegration of the lands in the eastern part of their country allowed them to appreciate the course taken by the Romanian government in transitioning to a market economy.

Germany / Poland - November 14, 1990 (OSA)

German-Polish Border Treaty Signed. The treaty finally settles the issue of the Polish-German border, which in terms of international law is pending since 1945. It is signed by the foreign ministers of Poland and Germany, Krzysztof Skubiszewski and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, on November 14, 1990, in Warsaw, ratified by the Polish Sejm on November 26, 1991, and the German Bundestag on December 16, 1991, and entered into force with the exchange of the instruments of ratification on January 16, 1992.

The full title of the treaty is "Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland on the confirmation of the frontier between them, 14 November 1990."

Under the terms of the treaty, the contracting parties: reaffirm the frontier according to the 1950 Treaty of Zgorzelec with its subsequent regulatory statutes and the 1970 Treaty of Warsaw; declare the frontier between them inviolable now and hereafter, and mutually pledge to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity; declare that they have no territorial claims against each other and shall not raise such claims in the future.

Soviet Union - November 14, 1990 (KCA)

The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet votes overwhelmingly to confirm Vitold Fokin as Chairman of the Ukrainian Council of Ministers. He has filled the post in an acting capacity since the resignation of Vitaly Masol in October. From the liberal wing of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Fokin is regarded as a compromise candidate and is elected unopposed in the third ballot. Fokin promises to restructure the government to expedite market economic reforms.

Albania - November 14, 1990 (KCA)

A new draft of electoral law is approved by the People's Assembly, in preparation for parliamentary elections to be held by February 1991. It is promised a secret ballot and the possibility of independent candidates standing against nominees of the Albanian Worker's Party, provided that they gained the signatures of 300 or more sponsors. A special constitutional commission is set up,

presided over by President Alia, to draw up the necessary amendments to be placed before the next session of parliament.

Bulgaria - November 15, 1990 (KCA)

The Grand National Assembly deputies vote overwhelmingly in favor of a Union of Democratic Forces motion to change the country's formal title from the People's Republic of Bulgaria (in use since abolition of the monarchy in 1946) to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Romania – November 15, 1990 (ADC)

The “Association of 15 November” organizes a demonstration that coincides with the third anniversary of the revolt in Braşov. It adopts a proclamation stating that November 15 is “the day for fighting against communism.”

Romania - November 15, 1990 (KCA)

New protests take place, the largest since the crushing of demonstrations in Bucharest by miners in June.

Romania – November 15, 1990 (OSA)

A series of demonstrations are organised by the Civil Alliance on the three-year anniversary of the Braşov workers’ revolt. Hundreds of thousands meet the Alliance’s call in Bucharest and come out on the streets against the government, while thousands more participate in Timisoara, Cluj, Iasi and Brasov. For the first time, anti-government demonstrations are held in the Moldavian town of Suceava and the Transylvanian town of Hunedoara, considered to be NSF strongholds. The Romanian Orthodox Bishop of Banat, Nicolae Corneanu, also announces his joining the Civic Alliance in an open letter sent to ‘Romania Libera’. Meanwhile, the Alliance issues a nine-point declaration to the government. It asks for various proposals and stakeholders to be consulted (especially unions) with respect to economy proposals, joint parliamentary-civic commissions to be set up to purge the system of communists, the democratisation of the military in line with the ideals embodied by the Committee for Action to Democratise the Army, immediate publication of investigation findings on the Târgu Mureş ethnic clashes and the June events, full freedom of information and the establishment of an independent television station, state subsidy for cultural activities, the promulgation of a new constitution (after a public referendum), the removal of extraordinary powers granted to the government, and ‘serious negotiation will all responsible forces’.

Yugoslavia - November 15, 1990 (KCA)

Federal Premier Ante Markovic, in a combative address to the Federal Assembly, accuses the political leaderships in Slovenia, Serbia and Croatia of deliberately obstructing and undermining his government's economic and political reforms, in efforts to preserve their own power. Painting a bleak picture of a country strained to the point of disintegration because of the flagrant disregard by these republics for federal legislation, and facing an alarming rise in separatism and inter-ethnic violence, Markovic vows that the federal government will use all democratic and legal means at its disposal to forge ahead with reforms, and appeals to all six Yugoslav republics to unite behind it.

Romania - November 16, 1990 (KCA)

Romania's Communist Party resurfaces under a new name, the Socialist Labour Party, with Constantin Pirvulescu as its honorary president and former Prime Minister Ilie Verdet as

its executive president. Announcing the new party, Nicolai Balasoiu states that it would re-examine communist values and uphold the positive ones, specifically “the discipline and serious work ethic which existed under Communist rule”. The announcement is met with widespread protests from other parties and organizations.

Czechoslovakia - November 16, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly adopts a legislation confiscating The Communist Party's assets. In proposing the bill, the federal government assesses that the assets were acquired illegally, and gave the CPCz an “undemocratic” advantage over other parties. Communist deputies walk out before the vote, which they condemn as “anti-constitutional”.

Soviet Union - November 16, 1990 (KCA)

Anxious about the collapse of central political authority and the threat of famine in the coming winter, the USSR Supreme Soviet abandons its legislative agenda and compels President Mikhail Gorbachev to address an emergency debate on the state of the nation. Gorbachev's 80-minute speech is widely assessed by commentators as one of his poorest performances.

Albania / Vatican City / Yugoslavia - November 16, 1990 (KCA)

Following Alia's call for greater religious toleration, Vatican and Yugoslav sources report that 5,000 people attend a Catholic mass in Shkoder, conducted by Archbishop Simun Yubani, who had been in prison from 1967 until 1989 for violating the ban imposed on all forms of religious manifestations. It is the first religious service to be held publicly in Albania since the 1967 declaration that the country had become the world's first atheist state.

Romania – November 16, 1990 (OSA)

A new party, the Socialist Labor Party, is created by merging the Democratic Labor Party and the Socialist Party. Its honorary president is Constantin Pirvulescu, one of the founders of the Romanian Communist Party.

Romania – November 17, 1990 (OSA)

The second National Congress of Romanian Students is held from November 14 to 17. The congress adopts a resolution asking the government to hand over to it the assets of the former communist students’ union.

Czechoslovakia / U.S. - November 17, 1990 (KCA)

United States President Bush pays a one day visit to Prague, coinciding with the first anniversary of the start of the “Velvet Revolution” which had overthrown communist rule. He joins President Vaclav Havel in addressing an anniversary rally in Wenceslas Square which is attended by at least 70,000 people. It is widely noted that Bush's euphoric statements proclaiming the transformation of Europe contrasts sharply with Havel's somber assessment of Czechoslovakia's progress in the past year. Bush holds talks with Havel, Federal Premier Marian Calfa, and leaders of the Czech and Slovak governments. He also addresses the Federal Assembly, promising that he will urge the US Congress to authorize a \$60,000,000 Czechoslovak-USA enterprise fund, and that the United States will support Czechoslovakia in negotiations with the IMF and World Bank.

Soviet Union - November 17, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev salvages his prestige (see November 16) with a short address in which he unexpectedly produces proposals for constitutional reforms to strengthen the central leadership and raise the level of the republics' involvement in it.

Soviet Union - November 17-18, 1990 (KCA)

Members of the Democratic Platform faction who left the Communist Party (CPSU) following its 28th congress in July, hold the constituent congress of the Republican Party of Russia (RPR) in Moscow. More than 230 delegates attend, including deputies to the USSR and Russian Federation Supreme Soviets and local councilors; the party claims support in virtually all parts of the Russian Federation. Prominent founder member Vladimir Lysenko describes the RPR as centre-left in orientation, with a program supporting a market economy, social protection and inter-ethnic accord. He declares that the RPR stands in opposition to the CPSU in the Russian Federation.

Yugoslavia - November 18 / December 2 & 9, 1990 (KCA)

In the central republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina elections are held in three rounds for a reorganized 240-seat bicameral Assembly. In a result reflecting both the republic's ethnic diversity and a resounding rejection of the ruling Bosnia-Herzegovina League of Communists, the vast majority of seats goes to the three main nationalist parties separately appealing to the Moslem, Serb, and Croat populations.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia - November 18, 1990 (LBC)

Bush makes a visit in Prague. He announces that he will ask Congress for a 60-million-dollar fund to aid private enterprise in Czechoslovakia.

CSCE - November 19-21, 1990 (LBC)

The Paris summit of the CSCE is held. The main topics are European security, Eastern Europe's economic problems and the Gulf crisis. The participants sign the CFE treaty on the reduction of conventional forces. The treaty refers the non-nuclear forces deployed by NATO and the Warsaw Pact between the Urals and the Atlantic Ocean. The unnecessary arms must be destroyed or converted for non-military use. NATO and the Warsaw Pact may keep the following armaments each: 20 thousand tanks, out of which 16,500 may be active, the rest must be kept out of it. Thirty thousand other armed vehicles, out of which 27,300 could be active, a maximum of 18 thousand out of the 30 thousand can be infantry fighting vehicles. There can be 20 thousand artillery pieces out of which 17 thousand could be active, 6800 warplanes and 2000 helicopters. No single member state is allowed more than 13,300 tanks, 20 thousand APCs, 13,700 artillery units, 5150 warplanes or 1500 helicopters. The agreement must be implemented in 40 months, starting 10 days after signature. In his speech given at the CSCE plenum József Antall states that the Warsaw Pact, at least as a military alliance will cease to exist by 1997.

Vaclav Havel called the eastern alliance "an outdated remnant of the past". At the same time Polish premier Mazowiecki warns that "our common future maybe darkened by the sinister clouds of the resurging conflicts of bygone days unless the split into a rich and poor Europe, an 'A' class and a 'B' class Europe is overcome". Antall warns: the ideological iron curtain could be replaced by the welfare iron curtain. – After the summit the Charter of Paris for a New Europe is signed, which declares: "The era of confrontation and division in Europe has ended. We declare that henceforth our relations will be founded on respect and cooperation".

Yugoslavia - November 19, 1990 (KCA)

The League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the former federal ruling party which had collapsed early in 1990, is resurrected in the form of a new League of Communists–Movement for Yugoslavia (LC-MY) founded in Belgrade. Many senior figures from the armed forces are on the organizing committee, although accusations that the LC- MY will be a tool of the military are denied. The party declares its main goal to be preventing the country's disintegration.

Bulgaria, November 19, 1990 (OSA)

Prime Minister Lukanov resigns.

Greece announces that it will not give asylum to thousands of Bulgarians who had gathered at the border protesting Bulgaria's decision to restore rights to ethnic Turks. A spokesman for the Greek government describes Bulgaria as a liberal regime.

Romania – November 19, 1990 (OSA)

The formation of the Romanian Socialist Labor Party prompts protests from opposition parties and the public.

Romania – November 20, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian’s ruling NSF holds its first rally since the May elections. The NSF is criticised for imposing unpopular economic reforms, including price increasing.

Romania – November 20, 1990 (OSA)

20 supporters and opponents of the government clash in Bucharest at a pro-government rally at which the Prime Minister defends his government’s economic reforms.

Romania - November 20, 1990 (KCA)

A rally of 20,000 National Salvation Front supporters gathers to hear Prime Minister Roman defend his government's record, but the NSF postpones its national conference from December to mid-January amid reports of a growing split.

Romania – November 21, 1990 (OSA)

Exactly eleven months after December’s revolution, the December 21 Association organizes a march through Bucharest; the participants shout slogans about communism, the government, and President Iliescu.

Romania – November 21, 1990 (OSA)

In a report to the parliament, security chief Virgil Magureanu defends his agency. He claims that his agency is particularly active in the fight against terrorism.

Romania – November 22, 1990 (OSA)

The Christian Democratic National Peasant Party describes the abolition of the monarchy in Romania in 1947 as illegal.

Bulgaria - November 22, 1990 (KCA)

The Union of Democratic Forces tables a no confidence motion during the Grand National Assembly's second reading of a bill on the 1991 budget, which will underpin the government's economic reform program. Scuffles break out between deputies, delaying what proves to be an angry budget debate.

Bulgaria - November 23, 1990 (KCA)

In the early hours of the day, the budget is passed by 186 votes to 10, with seven abstentions; all opposition deputies are declining to take part. Later, the no confidence motion is defeated by 201 votes to 159, with six abstentions. Immediately afterwards the Union of Democratic Forces deputies announce that they are withdrawing from the Grand National Assembly indefinitely.

Bulgaria - November 23, 1990 (OSA)

An editorial in the Washington Post concludes that the revolution in Bulgaria has "neither succeeded nor failed."

Soviet Union - November 23, 1990 (KCA)

Following Gorbachev's proposal for constitutional reforms (see November 17), a debate passes a resolution giving Gorbachev two weeks to produce detailed plans. It also instructs him to conclude interim agreements with each of the republics, within one month, to ensure “stabilization of the socio-economic situation”, and instructs Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatoly Lukyanov to draft temporary agreements with the republican legislatures on overcoming the “war of laws”, pending signature of the new Union Treaty.

Romania – November 23, 1990 (OSA)

The Committee of Action for Democratization of the Army states that the dismissal of several of its members was “an act of amazing ignorance of the most elementary human rights.”

Czechoslovakia - November 23-25, 1990 (KCA)

Local elections are held in the Czech Lands and in Slovakia. They replace district national committees (controlled by the central administration) with new district bureaus enjoying powers to levy local taxes, and maintain schools, health services, roads and utilities. In the Czech Lands the turnout is approximately 75%. Civic Forum remains the most popular organization, although its share of the vote falls to 36%, compared with 49.5% in the June Czech National Council election. The drop in support is attributed to Civic Forum's problems in creating an effective rural organization, and to public concerns about the government's handling of economic reform. In Slovakia is it also direct elections for mayorships, and the turnout is 63.75%. The Christian Democratic Movement gets 27% of the vote and overtakes Public Against Violence, Civic Forum's sister organization, which get 20%. The Communist Party comes third with 14% of the vote, but won the largest number of mayorships.

The Slovak National Party (SNS) sees its share of the vote collapse from nearly 14% in the June Slovak National Council election to barely 3%. This appears to represent a backlash against its recent campaign of nationalist protests, which included a rowdy pro-independence demonstration disrupting celebrations in Bratislava of the anniversary of the start of the 1989 revolution.

Poland - November 25, 1990 (KCA)

As widely expected, Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity trade union and the country's most prominent opposition figure in the 1980s, gains a majority of the vote in the first direct presidential elections arranged in Poland. Official results show that Walesa gains 39.96% of the vote with a relatively low turnout of just over 60%.

Bulgaria - November 26, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

A general strike is called for by the Union of Democratic Forces-affiliated *Podkrepa* trade union, and spreads quickly as a result of sympathetic media coverage.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development unveils a four-pronged strategy to speed Bulgari's reform programme, the *Financial Times* reports. Investment will be channeled into four objectives: privatization, upgrading the banking system, modernizing agriculture and developing the transport, telecommunication and energy infrastructure.

Poland - November 27, 1990 (KCA)

As the extent of his defeat in the President election becomes clear, Mazowiecki calls an extraordinary Cabinet meeting and announces the resignation of his government.

Bulgaria - November 28, 1990 (OSA)

Riot police beat students and strikers who blocked a main bridge in downtown Sofia calling for the resignation of Premier Andrei Lukanov's socialist government. Two students are arrested, and one policeman was injured.

Germany / Romania - November 28, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman is in Bonn for a two-day visit to Germany and talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other officials. Roman's talks are expected to deal primarily with economic aid and Romania's relations with the European community. Roman is meeting Kohl and giving a press conference, before meeting former Chancellor Willy Brandt. Later he addresses businessmen and attends a dinner given by a German electrical company. On November 29, he will meet Social Democratic Party Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel and the state Prime Ministers of North-Rhine Westphalia and Baden Wuerttemberg, Johannes Rau and Lothar Spaeth. He will also hold talks with President Richard Von Weizsaecker and leaders of organisations of Germans from Romania.

Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman says Germany has agreed to help Romania deal with its shortage of electricity this winter. Roman spoke with reporters after his meeting with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Roman says his talks with Kohl were 'very fruitful' and that he agreed to the idea of a treaty covering the German minority in Romania. A German spokesman says a delegation of German experts will go to Romania early next year to discuss long-term cooperation. They will examine economic reform in Romania and its trade relations with Germany as well as providing electricity to Romania. Roman also says Kohl agreed to act on Romania's behalf within the European community and 24 western countries considering aid for Eastern Europe.

Germany / Romania - November 29, 1990 (OSA)

Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman began the last day of his visit to Germany by meeting with Hans-Jochen Vogel, Chairman of the opposition Social Democratic Party.

Germany and Romania sign new cultural accord. The German Foreign Office says that the new accord replaces a 1973 agreement that is no longer an appropriate foundation for the activity of cultural institutes after the political change in Romania. A statement says the new accord will allow Germany's cultural institute to bear the title Goethe institute, grants the institute independence and free access for all citizens and allows both the creation of branches by mutual agreement as well as activities outside the city in which institutes are based. German officials say this is not always secured under the previous arrangements and its Goethe Institute will now be able to operate in

areas where there is a German minority or other parts of Romania outside Bucharest. The accord is signed by Hans Werner Lautenschlager, Foreign Office State Secretary, and Romanian Culture Minister, Andrei Plesu.

Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman holds talks in Bonn for nearly an hour with German President Richard Von Weizsaecker. A spokesman for Von Weizsaecker says Roman indicated that his visit to Germany encouraged him to press on with Romania's economic reforms, strengthen bilateral economic cooperation and improve the situation of Romania's German minority. Roman is on the last day of a two-day visit to Germany, during which he has met a number of political leaders.

Poland - November 29, 1990 (KCA)

The Parliament decides that it will not debate the resignation of Mazowiecki, thus formally keeping the government in power, effectively in a caretaker capacity until the election of the new President.

Bulgaria - November 29, 1990 (KCA)

The socialist government of Andrei Lukanov, in office for only two months, resigns in the face of a general strike, demonstrations, and an opposition boycott of parliament. These protests are against the government's program of market economic reforms and its associations with the former communist regime. Already in deep economic crisis, Bulgaria has become paralyzed politically and economically.

Romania – November 29, 1990 (OSA)

The Civic Alliance demands a ‘moral tribunal’ of former communist officials, asserting that nobody has yet been tried for the thousands of murders and imprisonment during the Ceaușescu era.

Soviet Union / Tajikistan - November 30, 1990 (KCA)

Kakhar Makhkamov is elected by the Tajik Supreme Soviet to the new post of executive President of Tajikistan. Hitherto de facto president in his capacity as Supreme Soviet Chair, he defeats one other candidate. There have been heated arguments in the Supreme Soviet about the method of electing a President, and for over a week members of the opposition Democratic Party of Tajikistan have been on hunger strike in support of popular elections.

Bulgaria - November 30, 1990 (KCA)

The government's resignation is accepted by the Grand National Assembly, after an agreement stating that an interim coalition government shall take over pending the holding of fresh elections in March 1991. The interim coalition is to be led by a Prime Minister drawn from outside the main parties, and Lukanov's government is to stay in office until the new government is formed. News of the resignation is greeted with jubilation by the protesters, many of whom hail it as the true start of Bulgaria's revolution against the communist rule. *Podkrepa* immediately calls off its strike, and the Sofia demonstrators remove the barricades.

December

Soviet Union - December 1, 1990 (KCA)

Rationing of staple foodstuffs is introduced in state shops in Leningrad. It has already been

introduced progressively in a number of regions of the Russian Federation and throughout the Ukraine and Armenia in recent weeks. For many months, virtually everywhere in the Soviet Union, stocks in state shops of even basic foodstuffs, such as bread, have been growing increasingly erratic, although some of the blame for this lays in the withholding of deliveries to the state supply network by farms and local authorities, in anticipation of prices rising.

Romania – December 1, 1990 (OSA)

More than 100,000 people gather in Alba Iulia to celebrate new national day for the first time.

Romania – December 2, 1990 (OSA)

The League of War Veterans send a protest to parliament, the government, and President Iliescu criticizing the way the National Day had been celebrated.

Soviet Union - December 2, 1990 (KCA)

A significant factor in the increasing food crisis is the spread of corruption and black- marketeering linked to the state food distribution and retail network. Gorbachev orders the establishment within 10 days of worker vigilante committees, elected in workplaces, to prevent the theft or black-market sale of food and other goods in short supply.

Bulgaria - December 3, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

Petur Beron announces his intention to resign as chair of the Union of Democratic Forces coordinating council. He had been exposed as a secret police informer under the ousted communist regime, although he insisted that his activities had been confined to reporting on foreign visitors to Sofia's Natural History Museum and on his visits abroad for scientific research; he categorically denied that he had ever informed on dissidents. Beron's resignation is accepted by the coordinating council, and Filip Dimitrov of the Green Party is elected as the new UDF chair.

The *Washington Post* reports on the widespread material scarcity affecting Bulgarians during the democratic transition: "in most areas of the country, electric power is cut 12 hours a day. Sanitary napkins are so scarce that women must prove to a doctor that they are menstruating before they can buy any. Basic foods and gasoline are rationed. Milk has all but disappeared."

Germany / Soviet Union - December 3, 1990

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitali Churkin says that the USSR hoped Germany would be guided by ‘the principles of humanism’ in dealing with former East German leader Erich Honecker. The Berlin Justice Office issues an arrest warrant for Honecker, charging him with manslaughter for ordering East German border guards to shoot to kill people fleeing to the West. Honecker is staying at a Soviet military facility.

Yugoslavia -- December 3, 1990 (OSA)

Serbian Orthodox Church chooses Pavle, a Bishop in Kosovo as its new patriarch after a struggle to choose a new leader in support or in opposition of Milosevic.

Romania – December 3, 1990 (OSA)

In parliament, 25 deputies speak out about incidents at the celebrations in Alba Iulia. They say that “dark forces” are trying to destabilize both the country and the opposition.

Romania – December 4, 1990 (OSA)

It is reported that the Justice Ministry plans to take over former Securitate files and make them public.

Soviet Union - December 4, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces to the USSR Supreme Soviet the emergency plans to import basic foodstuffs to the value of 2,100 million rubles (\$1,050 million at the new commercial exchange rate) to ensure that supplies in the first quarter of 1991 are at the levels of the same period in 1990.

Romania – December 5, 1990 (OSA)

Six Romanian opposition groups demand the removal of President Iliescu and Prime Minister Romani saying that two leaders had brought the country to the brink of disaster.

Romania – December 6, 1990 (OSA)

A member of the Television Free Labor Union interrupts the evening newscast demanding that a video he had of his union’s leader, Dumitru Iuga, be shown.

Bulgaria - December 6, 1990 (KCA)

The strike since November 29 by Members of the Confederation of Independent Bulgarian Trade Unions is called off.

Bulgaria - December 7, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

Bulgaria's former communist leader Todor Zhivkov and his second-in-command Milko Balev is indicted on charges of “especially gross embezzlement”. The charges against Zhivkov feature misappropriation of 26,500,000 Leva between 1962 and 1989.

The Grand National Assembly approves the nomination of the retired independent lawyer Dimitar Popov as the future Prime Minister. He is given a deadline to form the government and present it to the Assembly by December 14. The deadline is subsequently extended to December 19, which Popov just manages to meet.

Bulgaria - December 7-19, 1990 (OSA)

Intensive consultations are underway to form the government led by Popov. UDF affiliates gain the key posts of Minister of Industry, Trade and Services and Minister of finance. The BSP receives the National Defense, Justice and Foreign Economic Relations. BANU is given the Foreign Ministry. The main point of contention is the Ministry of Internal Affairs, given its fundamental role of repression under the totalitarianism regime. Eventually, the retired Sofia lawyer Hristo G. Danov was chosen, as he was not affiliated to any party and was credited with being 'devoted to democracy'.

Bulgaria - December 8, 1990 (OSA)

Bulgaria's new Prime Minister, Dimitar Popov, expresses in an interview published on this day Islamophobic sentiments, posing a threat to Bulgaria's attempts of reconciliation with Turkey and Western countries.

Bulgaria - December 8-9, 1990 (OSA)

The UDF holds a national conference.

Soviet Union / Lithuania - December 8-9, (1990) (KCA)

The Lithuanian Communist Party (LCP) reorganizes itself as the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party at an extraordinary congress. Outgoing LCP first secretary and Lithuanian Deputy Premier Algirdas Brazauskas is elected chair of the reorganized party, which proclaims itself a “moderate, left-of-centre parliamentary party of social-democratic inclination”.

Poland - December 9, 1990 (KCA)

Lech Walesa gains a landslide victory in the second round of presidential elections. He defeats the émigré businessman Stanislaw Tyminski, who surprisingly came second in the first round of the elections, by 10,622,696 votes (74.3%) to 3,693,098 (25.7%). As in the first round, the turnout is relatively low at 55%.

Albania - December 9, 1990 (KCA)

A mass protest led by students and workers in Tirana quickly spreads to all main cities of Albania. Pro-democracy demonstrators demand an end to one-party rule, holding of multiparty elections, and major changes in the country's economic structure.

Yugoslavia – December 9 and 16, 1990 (YC, HR, KCA)

The first ballot of multiparty election takes place in Serbia and in Montenegro. After the second ballot on December 23, the Socialist Party of Serbia led by Slobodan Milošević wins 48.06% of votes and 192 out of 250 seats in the Parliament. The League of Communists, which is later renamed into the Democratic Party of Socialists, wins the elections in Montenegro with 83 seats, followed by the Alliance of Reform Forces with 17, the Democratic Coalition of Moslems and Albanians with 13, and the National Party with 12.

Romania – December 9, 1990 (OSA)

A number of Roma houses are demolished or burned down in the village of Basarabi/Murfatlar, in Constanța County.

Soviet Union / U.S. - December 10, 1990 (KCA)

Talks in Houston, Texas, between United States Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze are dominated by events in the Middle East, but also cover disarmament issues and regional conflict in Afghanistan and Angola. A joint statement announces “good progress” on the completion of a strategic arms reduction treaty (START), and expresses hope that a treaty will be ready for signing during a Bush- Gorbachev summit meeting, scheduled for February 11–13, 1991.

Romania - December 10, 1990 (KCA)

The Drivers’ Union of Romania starts striking, demanding the resignation of President Ion Iliescu and Prime Minister Petre Roman. Between 2,000 and 10,000 demonstrators hold a rally at Aviators’ Square in Bucharest, despite a ban, and main roads into Bucharest and other cities are blocked.

Romania - December 11, 1990 (KCA)

After several meetings with trade union groups, the government agrees to postpone price liberalization until June 1, 1991. The strike (see December 10) is called off.

Soviet Union - December 11, 1990 (KCA)

Gen. Vladimir Kryuchkov, the KGB chairman, makes an unscheduled nationwide television

broadcast in which he pledges that KGB troops will do their utmost to prevent the Soviet Union's collapse by continuing to “act as a barrier against those forces which seek to push the country towards chaos”.

Bulgaria - December 11, 1990 (KCA / OSA)

The student strike, under way since early November, is called off.

The UDF national conference elects Filip Dimitrov as chairman to replace Petar Beron, who in early December was exposed as a long-time State Security informant.

Albania - December 11, 1990 (KCA)

The government responds to the demonstrations of the previous day by announcing that the formation of independent political parties would be allowed. President Alia also proclaims the removal of five well-known opponents of reform from the 11-member politburo of the ruling communist Party of Labour and instructs the Prime Minister, Adil Carcani, to prepare a government reshuffle.

At the same time the government reiterates that it will not tolerate “criminal acts”. Troops and tanks are sent in to restore order a week after the first demonstrations in Tirana. Some 157 demonstrators are subsequently convicted of a range of offences and sentenced to up to 20 years’ imprisonment.

Poland - December 12, 1990 (KCA)

Walesa announces his resignation as the leader of Solidarity at a meeting of its national executives. Delegates elect the two current deputy chairman, Lech Kaczynski and Stefan Jurczak, as temporary co-chairmen pending the election of a new leader at a special congress.

Czechoslovakia - December 12, 1990 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly overwhelmingly approves new constitutional arrangements on the division of powers between the federal government and the country's two constituent republics, the Czech Lands and Slovakia. Adopted by 237 votes to 24, the amendment to the Constitution, known as the power-sharing law, stipulates that the federal government will retain competence over foreign policy, defense and economic and fiscal strategy, while broad economic powers will be handed over to the two republics. The vote resolves a constitutional crisis which had been brewing for some months and which had centered on Slovak demands for far-reaching autonomy in most areas of policy. Since the collapse of communist rule in late 1989 pressure had mounted in Slovakia for an end to what was regarded as traditional domination from Prague and the Czech Republic.

Soviet Union / U.S. - December 12, 1990 (KCA / LBC)

Shevardnadze, continuing his visit in the United States (see December 10), travels from Houston to Washington, where he meets with President Bush. Bush states afterwards that the USA has agreed to a package of trade credits and food and medical assistance for the Soviet Union. He also announces a special waiver of the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment (which has restricted US-Soviet trade because of Soviet emigration limits) in order to allow the Soviet Union to import US food on easy credit terms and he also announces a 1-billion-dollar credit guarantee for the Soviet Union to buy American food.

Albania - December 12, 1990 (KCA)

Intellectuals and students in Tirana announce the formation of the country's first opposition party in

46 years, the Democratic Party.

Soviet Union - December 13, 1990 (KCA)

A clash between ethnic Georgian police officers and Ossete militants results in three of th Georgians and one Ossete being shot dead in the regional capital, Tskhinvali, whereupon the Georgian Supreme Soviet immediately introduces a state of emergency in Tskhinvali and South Ossetia's second town of Dzhava. USSR Interior Ministry troops are drafted in to enforce it.

Germany / Soviet Union - December 13, 1990

German and Soviet officials sign a protocol on the construction of homes in the USSR for Soviet troops withdrawing from former East Germany. The protocol regulates the obligations of the two countries and the joint organizational and financial procedures for the program. The construction plan is part of an earlier agreement between Bonn and Moscow covering the withdrawal of all 360,000 Soviet forces from East Germany by the end of 1994.

Romania – December 13, 1990 (OSA)

The country’s Senate approves a law providing for citizenship to be withdrawn from “any person that, while board, perpetrates acts of utmost gravity that bring prejudice to the Romanian state’s interests or impair Romania’s prestige.”

Bulgaria - December 14, 1990 (OSA)

A state prosecutor's office spokesman says that former Bulgarian President Mladenov did recommend that tanks be brought into Sofia to control an anti-communist demonstration in December 1989.

Poland - December 14, 1990 (KCA)

The parliament accepts the resignation of the Mazowiecki government, but asks the government to continue in office in a caretaker capacity.

Hungary – December 15-16, 1990 (KCA)

Jozsef Antall, Premier of the centre-right government, is re-elected unopposed as Hungarian Democratic Forum (HDF) president at an HDF congress. Cszaba Kiss resigns as HDF vice-president, and a 20- member presidium is elected. Antall, whose ill-health forced him in October to leave the government leadership in the hands of Balazs Horváth, then Interior Minister, proposes Horváth as acting party vice-president.

Romania - December 16, 1990 (KCA)

In Timisoara, on the first anniversary of the uprising in the city which led to Ceausescu's downfall, there is a demonstration by 5,000–8,000 people, including students and workers, at which Fr Laszlo Tokes, the ethnic Hungarian priest whose arrest had sparked off the events of 1989, calls for a “second revolution, not like last year but a peaceful, Christian one”.

Also on this day, the National Convention for the Restoration of Democracy is founded in Bucharest. The opposition grouping comprises six parliamentary parties: the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania – the Liberal Party, the Peasants’ Party, the Ecological Movement, the Ecological Party and the Socialist Democratic Party.

Soviet Union - December 17, 1990 (KCA)

The Congress of People's Deputies convenes. Its main agenda items are the new Union Treaty and amendments to the USSR Constitution, which will greatly enhance the role of the President and restructure and “federalize” the central administration. Gorbachev's keynote address to the Congress is somber in its assessments and uncharacteristically conservative in tone.

Soviet Union / Japan - December 18, 1990 (KCA)

Japan grants the Soviet Union \$100 million-worth of credits to buy food.

Soviet Union - December 19, 1990 (KCA)

The Congress begins debating the draft union treaty. The draft was published on November 24, and has already been approved by the USSR Supreme Soviet on December 3. Under the treaty, the USSR will be a “sovereign federative state formed as a result of voluntary unification of republics, and exercising the degree of political power given to it by the parties to the treaty”. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, Georgia and Armenia have already signaled that they will not sign the treaty.

Albania - December 19, 1990 (KCA)

The parliament formally adopts a decree permitting the establishment of political parties.

Hungary – December 20, 1990 (KCA)

Antall's Cabinet goes through a reshuffle. The changes are precipitated by economic policy disagreements and the resignations of Ferenc Rabar (Finance) and Gyorgy Matolcsy (head of the economic policy secretariat). Balazs Horváth, criticized over the handling of the October fuel crisis, becomes Minister without portfolio responsible for relations with parliament, and for Hungarians abroad. Peter Boross, hitherto Minister without portfolio, replaces him as Interior Minister. New appointees are: as Finance Minister, Mihaly Kupa; and as Minister without portfolio, Ernő Pungor.

Bulgaria - December 20, 1990 (KCA)

The composition of a transitional coalition government is approved by the Grand National Assembly. Led by Dimitur Popov, a Sofia municipal court judge without party affiliation, it includes members of the former ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party, the Union of Democratic Forces, and the Bulgarian Agrarian Peoples Union.

Soviet Union - December 20, 1990 (KCA)

Foreign Minister Shevardnadze stuns the Congress by announcing from the podium that he is resigning in protest at the ascendancy of reactionary forces, and what he called the “onset of dictatorship”. In an embittered speech, Shevardnadze complains that he has been hounded by reactionary political opponents.

Albania - December 20, 1990 (KCA)

The Democratic Party of Albania is officially registered. Its leaders call for a postponement of the multiparty elections scheduled for February 10, 1991, on the grounds that they would not have sufficient time to organize a campaign, but this demand is immediately rejected by the government. In addition, Nexhmije Hoxha, the widow of Enver Hoxha (the country's ruler from 1944 until his death in 1985) and an opponent of change, is removed as president of the Democratic Front, the communist-dominated political umbrella organization, and is replaced by Carcani.

Yugoslavia - December 21, 1990 (KCA)

The Croatian Assembly promulgates a new constitution for the republic. It proclaims Croatia's sovereignty (extending to control over its own armed forces, diplomatic relations and international agreements) and enshrines its right to secede from Yugoslavia. Other provisions include giving Croatia's President broad powers including the supreme command of the armed forces and the right to dissolve parliament and to appoint or dismiss the government. The Assembly session is boycotted by ethnic Serbian deputies.

Romania - December 21, 1990 (KCA)

Over 20,000 people protest in Bucharest demanding the resignation of President Iliescu and the government.

Soviet Union - December 21, 1990 (KCA)

During a debate, the treaty (see December 19) draws unexpected criticism from the traditionally conservative and compliant Central Asian Republics. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov both condemn the way in which the draft treaty has been thrust upon the republics by the centre, and takes the same line as the Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in arguing that it should be the republics' prerogative to dictate what powers the centre should retain.

Soviet Union - December 21, 1990 (LBC)

According to a joint report by the IMF, the World Bank, the OECD and the EBRD it is not worth giving the Soviet Union a direct financial assistance before it implements radical change in the direction of market economy. The study claims that in 1990 the performance of the Soviet economy dropped by 4% and is expected to go down by 5% in 1991. Unemployment reached 5%, but could go up to 4% in 1991, which would involve 6 million workers. Military spending is 20% of the Soviet budget, the Soviet debt is 52 billion dollars and the currency reserve is not more than five billion dollars. The four institutes recommend technical assistance, plus IMF and World Bank membership to the USSR.

Soviet Union / Moldavia - December 22, 1990 (KCA)

President Mikhail Gorbachev issues a decree ordering normalization of the situation in Moldavia. He threatens that if the Moldavian authorities do not notify him within 10 days of their implementation of measures to extricate Moldavia from its crisis of "inter-ethnic confrontation" he will take "necessary measures" in accordance with his newly enhanced presidential powers.

Yugoslavia – December 22, 1990 (YC, HR)

The Assembly of Croatia adopts the new Constitution – the so called "Christmas Constitution" – according to which the Republic of Croatia is defined as "the national state of Croats". From being a constituent nation, the Serbs living in Croatia are demoted to the status of national minority. The same day, the Statute of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina is passed in Knin, the police of Krajina is separated from the police of Croatia, and its inhabitants stopped paying taxes to the Republic of Croatia.

Poland - December 22, 1990 (KCA)

Walesa is sworn in as President for a five-year term. In his inaugural address, he states that "the evil era when the authorities of our country were appointed under pressure of foreigners or as the result

of forced compromises, is ending”. The new era of the “Third Polish Republic” is beginning. He promises that Poland will become “an element of the peaceful order in Europe”, will seek friendly relations with its neighbors, and will continue the dramatic market reforms launched in early 1990.

Romania – December 22, 1990 (OSA)

This is the historical social democratic party whose decline began before World War II and which has been unable to get off the ground again since December 22.

Albania - December 22, 1990 (KCA)

In a symbolic move, the government orders the removal of the statue of Stalin from Tirana's main square.

Albania - December 23, 1990 (KCA)

The Central Council of Albanian Trade Unions announces its intention to act independently in the future and to re-form itself as a “pluralist association”.

Also on this day, leading intellectuals set up the first independent human rights monitoring group, the Forum for the Defense of Human Rights.

Yugoslavia - December 23, 1990 (KCA)

Slovenia holds a referendum on secession from Yugoslavia. The turnout is 93.5% of the 1,500,000 eligible voters, of whom 94.6% vote in favour of mandating the republican government to declare "an independent and sovereign state" if no agreement on restructuring Yugoslavia is reached within six months by the republics.

Yugoslavia -- December 23, 1990 (OSA)

Socialist Party of Serbia receives 192 out of 250 seats in the Serbian parliament.

Soviet Union - December 24, 1990 (KCA)

The Congress adopts, by 1,605 votes to 54, with 86 abstentions, a resolution approving the “general concept” of the union treaty (see December 19) and procedures for its signature. It also approves Gorbachev's proposal to put the treaty and private land ownership to referendums.

The USSR Supreme Soviet is instructed to set the dates. Deputies reject one specific provision in the draft union treaty, however, which will have entailed formally renaming the country the Union of Sovereign Soviet Republics. Deputies’ votes that the name Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be retained.

Romania – December 25, 1990 (TCR)

King Michael I, Romania’s ousted monarch, conducts his first visit to the country since his forced abdication over four decades earlier. The new government deports him less than 12 hours after his arrival.

Soviet Union - December 25, 1990 (KCA)

Constitutional changes approved by the Congress of People's Deputies, gives President Mikhail Gorbachev executive powers more extensive than those of any previous Soviet leader. This follows as a result from the worsening economic crisis.

Romania - December 25-26, 1990 (KCA)

Former King Michael travels to Romania with his wife Anne and his daughter Sophia, but is expelled early on the next day.

Soviet Union - December 26, 1990 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces to the Congress that on the previous day Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov suffered a heart attack, and is seriously ill in hospital. First Deputy Premier Yury Maslyukov was named as acting Premier. This appears conclusively to rule out Ryzhkov as a candidate to head the new Cabinet, although his unpopularity had already made his candidature highly unlikely.

Albania - December 26, 1990 (KCA)

At a special conference convened to draft the party's election manifesto, President Alia gives a keynote speech in which he admits that the party needs “fresh thought” and “a new concept to realize its socialist goal”, but asserts that it would not “abandon its Marxist ideology”.

Yugoslavia -- December 26, 1990 (OSA)

December 26th, Serbia takes 1.8 billion USD in Dinars from the Yugoslav Central Bank, and after much international pressure as well as push from the World Bank- the vast majority is returned.

Albania - December 28, 1990 (KCA)

The Democratic Party is given permission to publish its own newspaper, *Rilindja Demokratika*.

Poland - December 29, 1990 (KCA)

President Lech Walesa nominates Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, a 39-year-old economist, for the Prime Minister post.

Germany - December 29, 1990

Hans Ludwig Zachert, president of the Investigation office of the German Federal Police, is quoted in the media as saying that Soviet troops in East Germany were committing up to thirty criminal offences a day and were posing a growing security threat to the recently united Germany. The police official says these offences, mainly theft and traffic violations, irritated Germans and aroused animosity towards the Soviet forces. Zachert also states that morale is worsening among Soviet troops in East Germany and that fifteen of them are deserting every week.

USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitalii Churkin disputes the claim of the German police that Soviet soldiers were committing up to thirty crimes a day in the former GDR. Churkin said the German figure is ten times more than the Soviet estimate, but he added that the Soviet and German officials could be using different data. He suggests that the German figures could include some soldiers on temporary leave from their garrisons.

Soviet Union - December 30, 1990 (KCA)

Moscow's so-called “Tent City”, a squatter camp in front of the Rossiya Hotel close to the Kremlin, is bulldozed by police, and 57 of its residents are arrested. For nearly six months it has housed up to 100 people protesting against injustices ranging from human rights abuse and emigration restrictions and mistreatment by bureaucrats, to unemployment, homelessness, and low pensions.

Romania – December 30, 1990 (OSA)

Culture Minister Andrei Plesu, one of Romania’s important post-revolutionary figures, says that he

submitted his resignation in protest of former king Michael’s expulsion last week.

Hungary – December 31, 1990 (KCA)

The 1991 budget, whose approval by end-1990 is the precondition for a crucial \$2,000 million IMF emergency lending package, is eventually passed by 214 votes to 128. The budget deficit is projected at nearly 79,000 million, even with expenditure held back to 931,690 million forint. There will be deep cuts in industrial subsidies, price liberalization and accelerated privatization. Avoiding Polish-style “shock therapy”, however, the budget covers the expansion of social services and higher welfare payments.

Germany / Soviet Union - December 31, 1990

German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, extends a heartfelt new year’s greeting to the Soviet Union from the newly united Germany. He said in his speech that 1990 had been a milestone in the histories of both countries. Kohl also reiterated his support for Gorbachev’s “difficult political and economic reforms.”

Yugoslavia -- December 31, 1990 (OSA)

Croatian constitutional court decrees that the region of SAO of Krajina does not exist legally.

1991

January

Soviet Union / Lithuania - January 1991 (MZ)

In the aftermath of the Act of re-establishment of the State of Lithuania in 1990, on January 11, 1991, Mikhail Gorbachev demanded restoration of the constitution of the USSR in the country, mentioning that a military intervention could be possible. As a result of Soviet military actions, between January 11 and 13, 14 civilians were killed and 702 injured. The events took place in Vilnius as well as in the cities of Alytus, Šiauliai, Varėna, and Kaunas.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland – January 1991 (KCA)

The Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia –Hungary – and Poland meet to discuss the Warsaw Pact’s dissolution.

Baltic States / Soviet Union – January 1991 (KCA)

Soviet forces intervene in Baltic republics, seizing buildings and killing those passively resisting Soviet tanks. International outcry abounds, but is tempered by the West’s need to maintain Soviet partnership in the Gulf War.

Germany – January 1991 (OSA)

Chancellor’s personal popularity rating at 71%; plummets to 34% in the coming three months. This decline is attributed to the government’s reluctance to contribute to UN Gulf War effort, and high rates of unemployment (almost 50%).

Germany – January 1, 1991 (OSA)

The Electricity Feed-in Act enters into force, obliging electricity grid companies to connect all renewable power plants, to grant them priority dispatch, and to pay them a guaranteed feed-in tariff over 20 years. This marks the first green electricity feed-in tariff scheme in the world, further contributing to Germany’s image as an environmentally-conscious country.

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance – January 1, 1991 (KCA)

Members of COMECON agree to settle all accounts in hard currencies. The “transferable ruble” is abolished. This move is expected to damage Eastern European economies.

Yugoslavia – January 1, 1991 (RWE)

Dinar was devalued by 22.2% against the deutschmark.

Bulgaria - January 1, 1991 (OSA)

The state-owned company Petrol announced a two-week moratorium on all gasoline deliveries. This decision practically meant a ban on all gasoline sales, given that the government was not given prior warning about the moratorium.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 1-2, 1991 (KCA)

In Vilnius, Lithuania’s capital, Soviet Interior Ministry troops seize the Historical Institute and the former Communist Party central committee building.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 2, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis announces that Lithuania will withdraw their offer to suspend their March 1990 independence declaration because of the lack of negotiations on Lithuania’s status for over six months.

Soviet Union / Latvia – January 2, 1991 (KCA)

Units of the “Black Berets,” a paramilitary police force formed by the USSR Interior Ministry, seizes Riga’s main press building.

Bulgaria - January 2, 1991 (OSA)

Reuters reports that nearly 90,000 Bulgarians, most of them young, had left the country in 1990 as a result of the worst economic crisis since World War Two.

Yugoslavia – January 4, 1991 (YC)

The President of Croatia Franjo Tudman establishes the Council of National Defence and Protection of the Constitutional Order of the Republic of Croatia

Albania – January 5, 1991 (KCA)

The Presidium of the People’s Assembly agrees to pardon 202 political prisoners sentenced for various crimes.

Council for Mutual Economic Assistance – January 5, 1991 (KCA)

The executive committee of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance announces that it has approved a series of “proposals for the radical overhaul” of COMECON, which essentially means the disbanding of the group and replacing it with a new body, which will be known as the Organization for International Economic Cooperation (OIEC).

Soviet Union / Armenia / Baltic States / Georgia / Moldavia / Ukraine – January 7, 1991 (KCA)

The USSR Defense Minister orders paratroopers into the three Baltic republics, Armenia, Georgia, Moldavia, and parts of Ukraine, to enforce the draft and find deserters.

Soviet Union / Georgia – January 7, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev issues a decree annulling South Ossetia’s declaration of secession from Georgia and pulling Georgian troops from the area.

Czechoslovakia - January 7, 1991 (LBC)

The International Monetary Fund announces a \$1. 8 billion loan to Czechoslovakia. It is the largest loan by the IMF to any Eastern European nation since the collapse of communism.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – January 7, 1991 (RWE)

Following the November-December 1990 elections to the Macedonian Assembly, leaders of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity,

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the Macedonian League of Communists, and the Alliance of Reform Forces agreed to form a coalition administration.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – January 8, 1991 (RWE)

In Macedonia Stoyan Andov from Alliance of Reform Forces was elected as Assembly President (Speaker).

Bulgaria – January 8, 1991 (OSA)

A tripartite agreement is signed between the government, employers/managers and the trade unions. A 200-day moratorium on strikes is agreed, while the government and employers committed to an economic transition that safeguards the interests of those most affected by the changes. Such changes included the lifting of price controls, and the minister president went on television to explain how free prices worked to avoid panic purchasing.

Lithuania / Soviet Union – January 8, 1991 (KCA)

The pro-Soviet *Yedinstvo* (“Unity”) group, stages a demonstration outside the Lithuanian Supreme Council building. A 5,000-strong crowd smashes windows before being forced away by parliamentary guards and police. President Vytautas Landsbergis appeals for Lithuanian people to come to the defense of parliament. Several thousand respond and form a cordon around the building.

Lithuania / Soviet Union – January 8, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene resigns due to opposition to price rises by the majority of the Supreme Council.

Yugoslavia – January 8, 1991 (KCA)

Information is revealed that, in late December, the Serbian national bank had secretly issued 18,300 million dinars of new money without approval by the federal National Bank of Yugoslavia, to make a loan to the Serbian government. Western diplomats in Belgrade describe the fraud as a “fatal assault” on Yugoslavia’s standing with Western creditors. The five other republics accuse Serbia of robbing the collective purse. The federal national bank implements attempts to block the issue and recover money already released.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 9, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuanians again surround Parliament to defend against pro-Soviet demonstrations, but violence is avoided.

Georgia / Soviet Union – January 9, 1991 (KCA)

Georgia rejects Gorbachev’s January 7 decree and announces their intent to bolster troop levels in South Ossetia.

Yugoslavia – January 9, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Presidency of the SFRY issues an Order of dismantling all irregular forces and delivering the weapons illegally brought in the country to the nearest authorized institutions or units of the Yugoslav People’s Army.

Soviet Union – January 10, 1991 (KCA)

Albertas Shimiras is chosen to replace Prunskiene as Prime Minister.

Romania – January 10, 1991 (ADC)

The Romanian government decides to liberalize exports and imports. A financial fund for private companies is established.

Soviet Union – January 10, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev expresses his full support for Secretary-General of the United Nations Pérez de Cuéllar’s policies in negotiating the Gulf War with Hussein.

Soviet Union / Georgia – January 10, 1991 (KCA)

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia accuses the Soviet government of stirring up the revolt in South Ossetia to excuse the imposition of presidential rule within Georgia.

Yugoslavia – January 10, 1991 (KCA)

The six republics of Yugoslavia meet to discuss the future constitutional structure of the federation.

Yugoslavia / Serbia– January 10, 1991 (OSA)

Serbian State President Slobodan Milosevic announced on a meeting that Serbia would try to unite all Serbs in a single state in case of Yugoslavia becoming a confederation of independent states.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 10, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev, in a statement to the Lithuanian Supreme Council, cites violations of the USSR Constitution and the Constitution of Soviet Lithuania as the reason for the deteriorating situation in the country. He further condemns the Supreme Council of allowing citizens’ rights to be violated and of using “slogans of democracy as a cover for a policy aimed at restoring a bourgeois system.”

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 11, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet paratroopers occupy the headquarters of the Lithuanian Defense Council and the central newspaper printing works. They kill one Lithuanian protestor in the meantime. Lithuanians flood into Vilnius and reinforce cordons around key buildings.

Soviet Union – January 11, 1991 (KCA)

Gosteleradio announces that the *Interfax* news agency will be shut down. Claims of political censorship ensue.

Bulgaria – January 11, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria's deputy Prime Minister Dimitir Ludzhev says he fears some former communists will try to sabotage the government's market reforms as austerity measures will start to cause some economic hardship.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 13, 1991 (KCA / LBC)

A few hours after Gorbachev reassures a Federation Council meeting in Moscow that he would not use force, troops from the local Red Army garrison storm the Vilnius television centre. At least 13 protestors are killed, most by being crushed by tanks. 230 are injured. U.S. President Bush states that there is "no justification for the use of force" in the republic.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Russia – January 13, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin flies to Estonia and calls for an emergency UN conference regarding the Baltic situation. While there, he calls upon Russian soldiers to disobey orders and refuse to use violence with civilians. Gorbachev vehemently condemns Yeltsin in rebuttal.

Albania / Greece – January 13-14, 1991 (KCA)

The Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis visits Tirana and urges Albania’s Greeks to stay put.

Soviet Union / Latvia/ Latvian barricades – January 13 – 27, 1991 (LSPB)

The barricades were a series of confrontations between Latvia and forces loyal to the Soviet Union in January 1991. The events are named for the popular effort of building and protecting barricades in Riga. Latvia, which had declared restoration of independence from the Soviet Union like Lithuania a year earlier, anticipated that Soviet Union might attempt to regain control over the country by force. After attacks by the Soviet OMON (special police units of the Ministry of internal affairs) on Riga in early January, the government called on people to build barricades for protection of possible targets. Six people were killed in further attacks, several were wounded in shootings, or beaten by OMON. Most victims were shot during the Soviet attack on the Latvian Ministry of the Interior on January 20.

Lithuania / Soviet Union – January 14, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev denies he had any prior knowledge about the Red Army’s storming the Vilnius television centre.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – January 14, 1991 (KCA)

The Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia annuls Slovenia’s July 1990 declaration of sovereignty. The Court also suspends the October 1990 Serbian legislation adding barriers to Serbian trade with Slovenia and Croatia.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 14, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuanians begin to erect concrete barricades around parliament and fill it with weapons and gas masks.

Soviet Union / Latvia – January 14, 1991 (KCA)

In Riga, OMON units occupy a police station and attempt to remove two of the barricades from main roads. One Latvian manning a barricade is killed.

Soviet Union – January 14, 1991 (KCA)

Valentin Pavlov becomes the new Prime Minister of the Soviet Union. Vitaly Doguzhiyev and Vladimir Velichko are approved as First Deputy Prime Ministers. Yury Maslyukov and Nikolai Laverov are appointed as Deputy Prime Ministers.

Yugoslavia – January 14-25, 1991 (OSA)

Bilateral talks were held between the Yugoslav republics. Majority of the participants expressed optimism that a new constitutional order would be established. However, the talks resulted further worsening of the situation with Slovenia’s and Croatia’s leaders who didn’t believe that the federal government can solve the long-standing crisis.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – January 15, 1991 (KCA)

Both Croatia and Slovenia refuse to comply with the January 9 order to surrender arms.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – January 15, 1991 (KCA)

The Serbian Assembly elects Dragutin Zelenovic, a former member of the federal Collective State Presidency for Serbia’s nominally autonomous Vojvodina province, as Prime Minister.

Soviet Union – January 15, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev suggests that the Soviet Union’s new liberal press law should be suspended due to criticism of the government’s handling of the Baltic situation by the press.

Soviet Union / Latvia – January 15, 1991 (KCA)

OMON attacks Latvia’s police academy.

Soviet Union – January 15, 1991 (KCA)

Aleksandr Bessmertnykh succeeds Eduard Shevardnadze as Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria - January 16, 1991 (OSA)

The federation of Glasnost and Democracy Clubs says that the culprits for the present state of the country are known and that, at the risk of losing prestige, the opposition forces should work to help Bulgaria out of the crisis.

Yugoslavia / Montenegro – January 16, 1991 (KCA)

Milo Djukanovic is named Prime Minister of Montenegro.

Albania – January 16, 1991 (KCA)

The government, conceding to the opposition, agrees to postpone Albania’s first free multiparty elections from February 10 to March 31.

Montenegro – January 16, 1991 (KCA)

Milo Djukanovic is named Prime Minister.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – January 17, 1991 (KCA)

It is reported that Croatia and Slovenia meet to coordinate resistance to a Yugoslavian federal military crackdown.

Yugoslavia – January 17, 1991 (YC)

The Assembly of the SFRY states that none of the Yugoslav republics can be recognized as independent before the right to self-determination and secession is cleared up.

Romania – January 18, 1991 (KCA)

Romania’s Foreign Ministry says that it favours the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.

Bulgaria - January 18, 1991 (OSA)

Due to fuel shortages, around 160,000 citizens in Plovdiv experience temperatures below zero degrees Celsius in their homes.

Yugoslavia – January 18, 1991 (HR)

The Societe Generale Yugoslav Bank is founded, being the first bank with majority foreign capital in the SFRY.

Albania – January 18, 1991 (KCA)

More than 10,000 observe several hundred Muslims participate in their first legal religious service since the ban in 1967 in Tirana’s Etem Bey Mosque. Before the 1967 ban, circa 70% of Albania’s population had been Muslim.

Germany – January 18, 1991 (OSA)

The Fourth Kohl Cabinet, led by Herman Kohl, is sworn into office.

Soviet Union – January 19, 1991 (KCA)

Nikolai Petrakov resigns as Gorbachev’s personal economic advisor, telling the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* that he had been powerless to change the disastrous economic policies of the government.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia – January 19, 1991 (RWE)

The deadline for Jan.9th order by 48 hours. Slovene and Croatian police and defence forces deployed around key installations in the republican capitals.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 20, 1991 (KCA)

Up to 100,000 people march through Moscow protesting the killings in Lithuania and calling for Gorbachev’s resignation.

Soviet Union / Latvia – January 20, 1991 (KCA)

OMON launches assault on the Latvian Interior Ministry. Two police officers and a Latvian TV cameraman are killed.

Crimea / Soviet Union – January 20, 1991 (KCA)

The Crimean Peninsula holds a referendum on the area’s autonomy. Over 81% of eligible voters participated, and 93.26% of these voted in favour of restoring Crimea’s independence.

Albania / Greece – January 20, 1991 (KCA)

In an attempt to stem the flood of Greek-Albanian immigrants, Greek authorities declare that no Albanian will be allowed to enter Greece without a passport and visa. Since December 30, 1990, over 11,000 refugees had entered Greece. In the following week, 5,000 are sent back to Albania of which 1,500 return voluntarily, according to reports.

Yugoslavia – January 20, 1991 (YC)

At the request of the Croatian Government, the Presidency of the SFRY approves to extend the deadline for disarming and dismantling the illegal armed forces. Vice President of the Presidency of the SFRY Stjepan Mesić declares at the Convention of the CDU that Croatia purchased weapons for its police through the trading networks for the purpose of self-defense, and that the reserve police forces have the same authority as regular police. According to him, the only paramilitary forces in Croatia are those in Kninska Krajina.

Yugoslavia – January 21-22, 1991 (HR)

Alija Izetbegović discusses the future of Yugoslavia first with Franjo Tudman, and then with Slobodan Milošević. The talks take place in Sarajevo.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland – January 21, 1991 (KCA)

At a meeting in Budapest, the Foreign Ministers of Czechoslovakia –Hungary – and Poland vote to withdraw all cooperation with the Warsaw Treaty organization beginning July 1, 1991.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary – January 21, 1991 (KCA)

The Hungarian and Czechoslovak Defence Ministers sign a five-year defence treaty, agreeing to exchange intelligence necessary to dismantling the Warsaw Treaty.

Soviet Union - January 21, 1991 (LBC)

The European Parliament suspends a \$1 billion emergency food aid to the Soviet Union.

Hungary / Poland / Czechoslovakia – January 21, 1991 (LBC)

The foreign ministers of Hungary – Poland and Czechoslovakia issue a joint communiqué expressing "deep concern" over the Baltic bloodshed.

Soviet Union – January 22, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev calls a press conference and attempts to repair his image. He claims he does not intend to impose presidential rule in the area, but blamed the Baltic republics’ parliaments.

Soviet Union – January 22, 1991 (KCA)

In attempt to devalue illegal cash holdings of black-marketers and to drain the bloated economy of money, it is announced that, effective the next day, 50 and 100 rubles notes (the largest banknotes) would no longer be legal tender. Chaos ensues and some republics extend the deadline.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia– January 22, 1991 (OSA)

Croatia and Slovenia agreed to coordinate security arrangements in case of an armed intervention by the JNA.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – January 23, 1991 (OSA)

Kiro Gligorov nominated as Macedonia’s State President.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia – January 23, 1991 (RWE)

Federal Defence Secretariat warns Croatia and Slovenia that it would put JNA units on combat readiness unless they comply with the disarmament order immediately.

Bulgaria - January 23, 1991 (OSA)

The new government led by Dimitar Popov presents its economic program, created in coordination with the International Monetary Fund. The program entails a “shock therapy” approach, with a sharp increase in interest rates and an even sharper increase in prices.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 23, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet forces seize a central newsprint depot in Vilnius.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 23, 1991 (LBC)

The U.S. House of Representatives passes a nonbinding resolution calling on President Gorbachev to cease the use of force in the Baltics. - The U.S. Senate passes a nonbinding resolution urging President Bush to consider economic pressure on the U.S.S.R. to end the crackdown.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – January 24, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet troops in armoured cars open fire on road traffic outside Vilnius, injuring one person.

Eastern Europe / Council of Europe / CSCE – January 24-25, 1991 (KCA)

A conference dealing with immigration policy is held in Vienna to deal with the growing number of immigrants and asylum-seekers coming into Western Europe from the East, Poland and Romania in particular.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – January 25, 1991 (KCA)

Armed conflict is avoided when the Collective State Presidency meets with Croatian leadership and the two sides agree to demobilize the JNA and Croatia’s *specijalci*.

Yugoslavia – January 25, 1991 (YC)

The Presidency of the SFRY issues a statement on the compulsory demobilization of the reserve police forces in Croatia.

Yugoslavia / Hungary – January 25, 1991 (YC, HR)

Several Yugoslav TV stations broadcast a documentary about the illegal arm transports from Hungary to Croatia.

Yugoslavia – January 25, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Assembly of Macedonia adopts the Declaration of independence as well as the Platform for negotiations about the future of Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union – January 26, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev issues a decree allowing the KGB and police to enter any business and search everything without warrant. He claims this is done in an attempt to prevent “economic sabotage and other economic crime.”

Bulgaria / Turkey – January 26, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria's defense minister, general Yordan Mutaftchiev, says the country's army is no threat to democracy. He also declares that he is very satisfied with the improvement in relations with Turkey and that an efficient army is fundamental for the security of Bulgaria after the breakup of the Warsaw Pact.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – January 27, 1991 (YC, HR)

Kiro Gligorov is elected the President of Macedonia.

Soviet Union / Georgia – January 28, 1991 (KCA)

Georgian authorities, changing their previous position, announce that police reinforcements in South Ossetia will be withdrawn.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 28, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the new Soviet foreign minister, Aleksandr A. Bessmertnykh jointly announces the postponement of the planned February Moscow summit between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. (It was the second time that a superpower summit had been put off. The first time occurred in 1960 in connection with the U 2 crisis).

Soviet Union – January 29, 1991 (KCA)

A presidential decree reinforces a directive allowing soldiers to begin to patrol the streets of major cities and town throughout the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / U.S. – January 29, 1991 (LBC)

From President Bush's State of the Union Address: "The end of the Cold War has been a victory for all humanity...Europe has become whole and free and America's leadership was instrumental in making it possible...The principle that has guided us is simple: our objective is to help the Baltic peoples achieve their aspirations, not to punish the Soviet Union".

Yugoslavia / Croatia – January 30, 1991 (OSA)

Franjo Tudjman acknowledged that the Croatian government had ordered weapons following the previous summer disturbances in Croatian city of Knin with mostly ethnic Serb population.

Czechoslovakia / Council of Europe – January 30, 1991 (KCA)

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe votes unanimously to approve Czechoslovakia's membership application.

Group of 24 – January 30, 1991 (KCA)

The Group of 24 finds that assistance to Eastern and Central Europe amount to \$38,000 million. 40% and 27% of this total were given to Poland and Hungary – respectively.

Hungary / NATO – January 30, 1991 (KCA)

The Hungarian Parliament votes to accept NATO's offer of associate membership and to further seek diplomatic, official relations with the Council of Europe and the European Community.

Croatia / Yugoslavia – January 30, 1991 (KCA)

The JNA infuriates Croats by calling for the arrest of Croatia's Defence Minister Colonel- General Martin Spegelj on sedition charges.

Soviet Union / Georgia – January 30, 1991 (KCA)

Georgia votes to set up a republican army in order to aid its transition to independence.

Soviet Union / Baltic States – January 30, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet leaders announce that paratroopers and two-thirds of OMON units are being withdrawn from the Baltic States. It is thought that this is due to international criticism.

Lithuania / Soviet Union / Iceland – January 31, 1991 (KCA)

Iceland becomes the first country to resume diplomatic recognition of Lithuania as independent.

Yugoslavia – January 30, 1991 (YC)

The talks between Alija Izetbegović and Kiro Gligorov take place in Sarajevo.

Yugoslavia – January 31, 1991 (YC)

The Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia adopts the Charter announcing that it would initiate the procedure of disassociation from Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – January 31, 1991 (KCA)

At talks discussing the future constitutional structure of Yugoslavia, the Croatian delegate walks out after it fails to ensure the JNA is excluded from the negotiation.

Soviet Union / Moldavia – January 31, 1991 (KCA)

The Moldavian Supreme Soviet passes a resolution stripping the presidential decree that allowed soldiers to police streets in areas throughout the Soviet Union of legal authority in its territory.

Hungary – January 31, 1991 (LBC)

The Hungarian parliament resolves to join the North Atlantic Council - the parliamentary arm of the North Atlantic Treaty as an associate (nonvoting) member.

February

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland / European Union – February 1991 (KCA) Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland begin negotiations on association agreements with the EU, which offers a 10-year transition period to mutual free trade, with asymmetrical EC tariff cuts over the first five years.

Romania / Council of Europe – February 1, 1991 (KCA)

An Assembly committee grants Romania “special guest status” amidst “continuing doubts about the process of democratization” in the country.

Bulgaria / Czechoslovakia – February 1, 1991 (KCA)

Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev tells CTK, the Czechoslovakian news agency, that Bulgaria was planning to leave the Warsaw Pact.

Eastern Europe / U.S. - February 1, 1991 (LBC)

The US State Department issues its annual report to Congress on the status of human rights around the world. According to report the 1989 human rights gains in most countries of Eastern Europe had were "largely consolidated" in 1990.

Yugoslavia – February 2, 1991 (YC)

The tensions between Serbs and Croats are rising in Slavonia and Baranja. The meeting of the regional organization of the Serbian Democratic Party takes place, alongside rallies in Vukovar, Beli Manastir and other towns.

Soviet Union - February 4, 1991 (LBC)

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin warned against foreign intervention in the Baltics controversy. Churkin said that his government would regard any such intervention as interference in Soviet internal affairs.

Soviet Union / Iraq / US – February 4, 1991 (KCA)

Conservatives in the Soviet army and CPSU oppose the Soviet Union’s passive support for the US effort in the Gulf War and urge Gorbachev to move the conflict back in line with UN resolutions.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Hungary – February 5, 1991 (RWE)

Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszensky confirmed Hungarian weapon sales to Croatia. As it turned out it all was without approval of federal authorities.

Soviet Union / Iran – February 5-8, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union’s Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov visits Tehran for talks with Vellayati and with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Va’ezi concerning the Gulf War. As he leaves, Belonogov complains of the “deliberate destruction” of Iraqi civilian, residential areas.

Yugoslavia – February 6, 1991 (YC)

The delegation of the Council of Europe visits Yugoslavia. It is led by Fernadez Ordones and Catherine Lalumiere. It is assessed that the precondition Yugoslavia has to fulfill in order to join the Council of Europe is to resolve the crisis peacefully and to hold multiparty elections for the Federal Assembly.

Soviet Union / Baltic States / U.S. – February 6, 1991 (LBC)

The White House announces a \$5 million emergency medical aid destined directly to the Baltic republics and to Ukraine.

Albania – February 6, 1991 (KCA)

Students at Tirana’s Enver Hoxha University begin boycotting classes to demand an end to the compulsory study of Marxist theory and the history of the ruling Party of Labor, as well as to change the university’s name.

Yugoslavia – February 7, 1991 (YC)

The session of the Presidency of the SFRY takes place in Belgrade. Slovenian representative Janez Drnovšek declares that Slovenia will formally initiate the procedure for disassociation from Yugoslavia, as it was announced in the Charter adopted by the Slovenian Assembly on January 31.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – February 7, 1991 (OSA)

Slovenian and Croatian State Presidents Milan Kucan and Franjo Tudman announced that their republics were ready to break with Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – February 8, 1991 (OSA)

Unsuccessful negotiations between federal and republican leaders on resolving the long-standing political and economic crisis in Yugoslavia. Croatian delegation boycotted the meeting. Slovenian State President Milan Kucan announced Slovenia’s secession and walked out of the meeting. A fourth round of talks was scheduled for February 13.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – February 8, 1991 (OSA)

The federal government submitted to the Federal Assembly draft legislation that would ban all political organizations in the armed forces. Its aim was to defuse the tensions between the federal

authorities and the republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – February 8, 1991 (KCA)

The Croatian and Slovene governments disclose details of a January 20 mutual defence pact between the two republics. The central part of the pact was a declaration that both would immediately declare their independence from Yugoslavia should there be any armed intervention by the Yugoslav National Army (JNA).

Germany – February 8, 1991 (KCA)

The Treuhand agency announces that Interflug, the former East German state airline, will be closed with a loss of 2,900 jobs.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – February 9, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuania holds a national referendum asking: “Are you in favour of the Lithuanian state being an independent, democratic republic?”

Albania – February 9, 1991 (KCA)

The *Guardian* reports that beards are no longer illegal in Albania.

Warsaw Treaty Organization – February 11, 1991 (KCA)

Reports emerge that Gorbachev has written to leaders of Warsaw Pact member states calling for “the liquidation of Warsaw Pact military structures by April 1.”

Soviet Union / Lithuania – February 11, 1991 (KCA)

In Lithuania, official results of the national referendum show a voter turnout of 84.3%, of whom 90.47% voted for Lithuanian independence and 6.56% voted against it. In response, the Supreme Council of Lithuania adopts a constitutional law proclaiming the country “an independent democratic republic.” They also called upon the global community to support their independence.

Warsaw Treaty Organization – February 12, 1991 (KCA)

An official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry confirms that Warsaw Pact members intend to dissolve the Pact.

Soviet Union / Iran / Iraq – February 12, 1991 (KCA)

Primakov arrives in Baghdad and, on the following day, tells a press conference that some progress is being made between Aziz and Saddam and that Aziz will go to Moscow to continue discussions.

Soviet Union / U.S. – February 12, 1991 (KCA)

Prime Minister of the Soviet Union Valentin Pavlov announces that the sudden January withdrawal of 50 and 100 rubles banknotes was prompted by the discovery of a plot by the West to create hyperinflation by flooding the Soviet economy with billions of rubles. He claims this would be done to overthrow Gorbachev. Pavlov, in an interview with *Trud*, combines his allegations with attacks on free marketers and private enterprise. Many see this as an attempt to scapegoat the West for the extremely unpopular banknote withdrawal.

Soviet Union / France – February 12, 1991 (KCA)

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, on a visit to Moscow, offers credits to the Soviet Union

worth \$610 million.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – February 12, 1991 (OSA)

Croatian and Slovenian State Presidents met to coordinate their strategies for the February 13 Belgrade meeting.

Soviet Union – February 13, 1991 (KCA)

Russian Federation Deputy Prime Minister Gennady Filshin resigns due to purported involvement in the foreign investors scandal announced the previous day by Valentin Pavlov. Filshin claims he was set up.

Soviet Union / Iceland – February 14, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Ambassador in Reykjavik, Igor Krasavin, is recalled due to Iceland’s decision to establish diplomatic ties with an independent Lithuania.

Soviet Union / Kuwait / Iraq – February 14, 1991 (KCA)

In Moscow, Gorbachev meets with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al Ahmad al Jabir as Sabah and says that Primakov has “recognized some flexibility from the regime in Baghdad.”

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Vojvodina – February 14, 1991 (RWE)

Vojvodina’s federal Presidency agreed that Yugoslav Kostic, the President of the Vojvodina Presidency, should succeed Dragutin Zelenovic in his acting capacity after Zelenovic’s resignation in connection with his election as Serbian Prime Minister.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland - February 15, 1991 (LBC)

Czechoslovakia –Hungary and Poland the leaders sign the Visegrad agreement.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland – February 15, 1991 (KCA)

Leaders from Czechoslovakia –Hungary – and Poland meet outside Budapest to sign a declaration proclaiming the three countries’ “total integration into the European political, economic, security, and legislative order,” and to discuss the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. The declaration, signed by heads of state of the three countries, also undertook to establish democratic and market-based political and economic policies and guaranteed full rights to minorities. Hungarian President Jozsef Antall rejected suggestions that the declaration was directed against the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / Russia – February 15, 1991 (KCA)

The USSR Committee for Supervision of the Constitution, in response to a formal complaint from the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, gave an interim ruling finding “substantial flaws” in Gorbachev’s January 29 decree allowing soldiers to patrol streets throughout the Soviet Union.

Germany – February 15-26, 1991 (OSA)

The 41st Berlin International Film Festival takes place, with the Golden Bear (the highest prize available at the festival) being awarded to the Italian film *La casa del sorriso*, directed by Marco Ferreri. The retrospective dedicated to Cold War films is also shown at the festival.

Soviet Union / Iraq – February 16, 1991 (KCA)

Vellayati holds talks in Moscow with Bessmertnykh.

Albania – February 18, 1991 (KCA)

Over 700 Enver Hoxha University students and faculty begin a hunger strike.

Soviet Union / Russia – February 19, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin, on a live nationwide television broadcast, personally attacks Gorbachev and demands his resignation. He calls upon the Russian people for support against Gorbachev. Backlash erupts from Yeltsin’s adversaries in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, who begin procedures to hold a vote of no confidence in his leadership.

Soviet Union / Iraq – February 19-20, 1991 (KCA)

Tariq Aziz meets with Gorbachev, where the Soviet leader proposes an eight-point peace plan, which Aziz immediately takes to Baghdad to show Saddam. Bush and the UK do not support the peace plan, but on the following day, Italy’s Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti declares it “perfectly in line” with UN resolutions.

Yugoslavia – February 20, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Assembly of Slovenia adopts the 99th amendments to the Constitution, according to which Slovenia is defined as an independent state, and the relations with other states, including Yugoslav successor states will be regulated on the basis of the international law.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – February 20, 1991 (KCA)

The Slovene Assembly adopts a resolution on the “disassociation of Slovenia from Yugoslavia,” which sets in motion steps towards Slovenia’s secession. A constitutional amendment is adopted which recalls all sovereign rights to Slovenia from Yugoslavia, calls for the creation of Slovene currency and banking system, and promotes diplomatic recognition of Slovenia as independent. Slovene President Milan Kucan estimates the shift would take at least six months.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia – February 20, 1991 (RWE)

A defence pact between Slovenia and Croatia was concluded. It was a declaration that in case of an armed intervention by the Yugoslav National Army in either republic, both would immediately declare their full independence from Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia / Bosnia-Hercegovina – February 20, 1991 (OSA)

After holding separate meetings with the State Presidents of Serbia and Croatia in January, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told the reporters that he is less optimistic about the Sarajevo summit because both Presidents are “firmly holding to their views.

Albania – February 20, 1991 (KCA)

Following student-led demonstrations in Tirana, President Ramiz Alia declares presidential role. Earlier in the day, protestors toppled a huge statue of Enver Hoxha in Skanderbeg Square. It is announced that the name of Enver Hoxha University will be changed.

Soviet Union / Russia – February 20, 1991 (KCA)

The CPSU newspaper *Pravda* condemns Yeltsin’s speech calling for the resignation of Gorbachev. In the USSR Supreme Soviet, similar criticism was spoken. A resolution was passed declaring

Yeltsin's statement unconstitutional by a margin of 292 to 29 votes.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia - February 20-21, 1991 (LBC)

The parliaments of the northern Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia adopt measures towards independence.

Soviet Union / Russia – February 21, 1991 (KCA)

In the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, Yeltsin's opponents succeed in convincing one-fifth of the deputies to convene an emergency sitting of the Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies on March 28, apparently in hopes of removing him from office.

Soviet Union / Iraq – February 21, 1991 (KCA)

Aziz visits Moscow and reports to Gorbachev that Iraq accepts the Soviet-drafted peace plan.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – February 21, 1991 (KCA)

In Lithuania, the post of Minister in the Lithuanian government for talks with the Soviet Union is created by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius.

Croatia / Yugoslavia – February 21, 1991 (KCA)

The Croatian Assembly approves resolutions that assert the primacy of Croatia's constitution and laws over Yugoslavia's. It also dealt with the procedure for Yugoslavia's dissolution and set out the circumstances under which Croatia would participate in a reorganized Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria - February 21, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria's President Zheliu Zhelev lays a wreath at the grave of dissident Georgi Markov, who was assassinated by the Bulgarian Secret Service with a poisoned umbrella in London in 1978."

Bulgaria – February 22, 1991 (OSA)

A land reform law is adopted by the Grand National Assembly, with the main objective being the privatization of agriculture. The law provides for the return to former owners or their heirs of collectivized land.

Soviet Union – February 22, 1991 (KCA)

Up to 400,000 people demonstrated in Moscow in defence of *glasnost* in the face of new political censorship.

Yugoslavia – February 22, 1991 (OSA)

A fifth round of talks between the Yugoslav federal and republican leaders takes place in Sarajevo. Leaders agreed to establish a commission to examine different concepts of future Yugoslavia. Yugoslavian State Vice President Stipe Mesic (an ethnic Croat) walked out of the session saying that rather than discussing all aspects of the crisis in Yugoslavia it was more about examining Croatia.

Yugoslavia – February 22, 1991 (HR)

The European Parliament passes a resolution demanding that the Serbian Government suspends the repression in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia – February 22, 1991 (YC)
Slobodan Milošević and Momir Bulatović submit a common draft on principles of constitutional organization of Yugoslavia as a democratic federation.

Yugoslavia – February 22, 1991 (HR)
The Assembly of Croatia passes a Resolution on the defense of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, which suspends the Constitution of the SFRY.

Soviet Union – February 23, 1991 (KCA)
A rally is held in contrast to the pro-*glasnost* protest of the previous day in support of the authority of the army. Unofficial estimates for attendance were as low as 40,000, while official attendance was 300,000.

Soviet Union / Iraq / US – February 23, 1991 (KCA)
Gorbachev phones Bush and other coalition leaders urging for more negotiations before launching military offensives. The US still launches a full-scale land offensive within eight hours after noon.

Poland – February 24, 1991 (LBC)
Poland announces a tentative three-year accord with the International Monetary Fund. The agreement would replace a previous one-year IMF pact and is scheduled to provide at least \$2 billion in IMF aid.

Soviet Union / Russia – February 24, 1991 (KCA)
Over 100,000 people rally in support of Yeltsin.

Warsaw Pact – February 25, 1991 (LBC, KCA)
The foreign and defense ministers of the six Warsaw Pact nations sign an agreement to disband the alliance's military structure by March 31. The accord was signed at a summit in Budapest, Hungary. This happened following the November 1990 meeting between the Warsaw Pact and North Atlantic Treaty Organization declared they were no longer enemies.

Bulgaria – February 25, 1991 (LBC)
The trial of Todor Zhivkov, Bulgaria’s former Communist Party leader opens in Sofia as the first communist leader in Eastern Europe to be tried in public.

Yugoslavia – February 26, 1991 (HR)
Serbian Autonomous Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Syrmia is founded.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – February 26, 1991 (RWE)
The military prosecutor in Zagreb indicted Croatian Defence Minister Martin Spegelj on a charge of armed rebellion.

Albania – February 27, 1991 (KCA)
A government decree authorizes the private ownership of cars and motorcycles.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Herzegovina / Croatia / Montenegro / Serbia – February 28, 1991 (KCA)
The self-styled “Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina” declares the region’s separation from

Croatia. In Knin, the region’s government expressed its wish to unite with Serbia and Montenegro and the Serb population of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Krajina also emphasized that it would continue to follow Serbian law, as long as it was not at odds with federal laws or laws adopted in the region.

March

Germany – March 1991 (OSA)

CDU’s Eastern counterpart wins 163 of 400 *Volkskammer* seats; allied groups win 29 seats; Social Democrats agreed to join a five-party ‘grand coalition’ headed by Christian Democrats’ Lothar de Maizière – pledged unification with the Federal Republic.

Germany – March 1991 (OSA)

The Tresor nightclub is founded in an old power station in Berlin, becoming one of the first clubs in Germany to play techno music, a genre now prevalent and popular in the German capital.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 1, 1991 (HNR)

Massive vague of strikes in some mining regions took place, such as Kuzbass (Kemerevo oblast) and Donbass, and some lasted for two months. At the end of March more than 200,000 people were on strike. The miners were not only asking for higher salaries, but also for the continuation of democratic reforms, Gorbachev's resignation, nationalization of CPSU assets, etc. As miners were the most organized detachment of the working class, their protest had a big political echo. In August 1991, an enormous majority of the charters supported Yeltsin and the Russian Republic.

Soviet Union – March 1, 1991 (KCA)

The Financial Times reports that Gorbachev has appointed Oleg Ozherelev as his economic advisor. This is later confirmed.

Yugoslavia – March 2-4, 1991 (YC, HR, KCA)

First armed clashes take place between Serbs and Croatian police units in Pakrac, who tried to take over the militia outpost in the town. The Yugoslav People’s Army intervened following the order of the SFRY Presidency, in order to prevent inter-ethnic conflicts. First Serbian refugees from Osijek, Vukovar and Tenja start arriving to Serbia. This is the first time the JNA is used to put down violence outside Serbia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – March 2-3, 1991 (RWE)

On March 2 President of Yugoslavia’s Collective State Presidency without consulting with other members of Collective State Presidency approved the Yugoslav National Army intervention in Pakrac. On March 3 the Croatian police withdrew from the town, leaving the town in the control of Serbian authorities.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia – March 3, 1991 (LBC)

The peoples of the Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia vote for independence from the Soviet Union in nonbinding plebiscites.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – March 4, 1991 (OSA)

Serbian government stated that the intervention of Croatian antiriot units in Pakrac was against the

Serbian population of Croatia and constituted it as another step toward the destabilization of Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union / Germany – March 4, 1991 (LBC)

The Supreme Soviet ratifies the six-nation treaty on German unification.

Bulgaria / Romania / European Communities – March 5, 1991 (KCA)

The Foreign Ministers of the EC and the European Parliament approve aid to Bulgaria and Romania amounting to ECU 100,000,000. This aid had been delayed after the EC had frozen aid to the Soviet Union. This was also released.

Soviet Union / European Communities – March 5, 1991 (KCA)

The Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Communities and European Parliament vote to release food aid and credit for the Soviet Union, which had been previously frozen to protest the Soviet military crackdown in the Baltic States.

Soviet Union / United Kingdom – March 5, 1991 (KCA)

Prime Minister John Major pays his first visit to Moscow and meets with Gorbachev, Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dmitry Yazov, Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, and representatives of the Baltic republics and opposition leaders.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – March 5, 1991 (OSA)

After ethnic clashes in Croatia the eight-member Collective State Presidency held a closed-door emergency meeting to draw up plans for preventing further clashes and employing security forces if necessary.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – March 6, 1991 (OSA)

Croatia's Prime Minister in an official letter to Serbia's Prime Minister accused Serbia of inciting violent armed actions in Croatia.

Bulgaria / Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland / Romania / European Union – March 6, 1991 (KCA)

Frans Andriessen, the EU Commissioner responsible for external relations and trade policy and relations with other European countries, begins visits to Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania.

European Communities – March 7, 1991 (KCA)

Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission of the European Communities, proposes that the EC commit itself to a common defence policy.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 7, 1991 (KCA)

Ignoring a Serbian government ban, circa 100,000 people flood Belgrade's streets and demand the resignation of Milosevic, his administration, and the senior officials of the Belgrade television network. Riot police, tanks, and armoured cars meet them. A student and policeman are killed. Over 90 people are injured. Vuk Draskovic, the chairman of the Serbian Renaissance Movement, is among 636 arrested.

Soviet Union – March 7, 1991 (KCA)

In keeping with the December 1990 decision to restructure the USSR leadership, the new Security Council is constituted when the USSR Supreme Soviet approved eight nominations by President Gorbachev.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – March 7, 1991 (KCA)

The Slovenian Assembly approves a law allowing Slovene conscripts to the JNA the choice to refuse to serve, and instead join the Slovene police or Territorial Defence units.

Soviet Union – March 8, 1991 (KCA)

The USSR Cabinet decides to rescind the 500-a-month rubles limit on withdrawals from private savings bank accounts. This withdrawal limit had been imposed when the USSR had withdrawn high-denomination banknotes on January 22.

Yugoslavia – March 9, 1991 (YC, HR)

Mass demonstrations take place in Belgrade. The meeting is initially organized by Vuk Drašković and his opposition party Serbian Renewal Movement, against the Serbian authorities and Slobodan Milošević. The meeting turns into vicious clashes between the demonstrators and the police, during which two men get killed. The Government then orders the Yugoslav People’s Army onto the streets, and the police detain Drašković and several other member of his party. The demonstrators in Belgrade continue throughout next 4 days. The Government agrees to free Drašković and to replace the Radio Television Belgrade general director as well as the Minister of Interior.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 9, 1991 (KCA)

An anti-communist demonstration in Belgrade is violently suppressed.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 9, 1991 (KCA)

At a rally organized by the Democratic Russia group, Yeltsin calls for a declaration of “war on the leadership of the country,” and urged for a united front of left-wingers to oust Communist officials. Yeltsin declares 1991 to be the decisive year in the fight for democracy in Russia.

Soviet Union / U.S. – March 10, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet authorities, in the first case of its kind since the state’s 1990 accession to Interpol, allows a Russian-born US citizen perpetrator of insurance fraud to be extradited to the US.

Soviet Union / Portugal – March 11, 1991 (KCA)

Gennady Gerasimov takes up the post of Soviet ambassador to Portugal.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 12, 1991 (KCA)

Vuk Draskovic is released following further demonstrations and the charges against him are dropped.

Yugoslavia – March 12-16, 1991 (YC, HR)

Presidency of the SFRY refuses the proposal of the Supreme Command Headquarters to raise the Yugoslav People’s Army combat readiness due to political and security situation in the country. Dissatisfied with such decision, the President of the Presidency Borisav Jović resigns on March 15, followed by Presidency members from Vojvodina and Montenegro the next day. Slobodan

Milošević states publicly on March 16 that he refuses to take part in the work of the Presidency of the SFRY, since it leads to the disintegration of the country.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 12, 1991 (OSA)

Opposition leaders walked out of Serbia’s National Assembly emergency meeting after their and the protestors demands were not met by the Assembly.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – March 13, 1991 (OSA)

Leaders of Serbian Democratic Party of Croatia and Croatia’s President Franjo Tudjman agreed on a meeting that the problems of Croatian Serbs would be settled peacefully by democratic and nonviolent means.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 13, 1991 (KCA)

Darmilo Bogdanovic, Serbia’s Interior Minister, who had ordered troops into Belgrade, tenders his resignation. The head of Belgrade television leaves his post. Vuk Draskovic keeps up his demands for the resignation of the entire Serbian government. The Serbian intelligentsia follows suit.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 14, 1991 (KCA)

Continued demonstrations see nearly all the protestors arrested on March 9 released.

Czechoslovakia - March 14, 1991 (LBC)

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel calls on the Slovaks to hold a referendum on Slovak independence.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 14, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin concedes that his March 9 call for left-wingers to “declare war” upon the Communist leaders had been too extreme.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 15, 1991 (KCA)

Jovic resigns his position in response to a refusal by the Presidency to sanction Serbian demands for the introduction of unspecified “emergency measures” by the armed forces. It is believed that Milosevic inspired Jovic’s resignation.

Soviet Union / China – March 15, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet Deputy Prime Minister, Yury Maslyukov, with his counterpart Tian Jiyun, signs an agreement under which China would provide the Soviet Union with a commodity loan worth \$730 million. The *Independent*, the next day, describes the agreement as reversing “the historic relationship between Moscow and Beijing, which...in the 1950s was heavily dependent on Soviet money, technology, and political guidance.”

Germany – March 15, 1991 (OSA)

The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany, signed in Moscow in 1990, enters into force after ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany and by the four Allied nations. This puts an end to the limitations on German sovereignty resulting from post-World War II arrangements.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 16, 1991 (KCA)

Kosovo’s representative to the Collective State Presidency, Riza Sapunziju, is recalled due to “anti-

Serbian activities.” In response to this, Yugoslav Kostic, Vojvodina’s representative, announces his withdrawal too. Nenad Bucin, the Montenegrin representative, declares a boycott of the Collective State Presidency.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 16, 1991 (KCA / LBC)

Milosevic claims that the presidency of Yugoslavia has “long since stopped functioning.” He announces also that his republic would no longer recognize the legitimacy of the Yugoslav federal government and that a mobilization of Serbia's special police reserves to protect the republic from "anti-Serb" forces. People interpret this as calling for military intervention.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – March 16, 1991 (KCA)

The self-appointed executive council of Krajina adopts a formal decision to break away from Croatia, while remaining a part of Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria - March 17, 1991 (OSA)

50,000 demonstrators at a rally in Sofia on Sunday called on Bulgaria's former communist party to stop obstructing democratic reforms or relinquish power.

Soviet Union – March 17, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union holds an all-union referendum asking voters “Do you consider it necessary to preserve the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as a renewed federation of equal, sovereign republics, in which human rights and the freedoms of all nationalities will be fully guaranteed?” Six republics officially boycotted the referendum. In the rest, the official number for voter turnout was 80%. 76.4% voted “yes.” Surprisingly, barely 50% voted “yes” in Moscow or Leningrad, and only 44.6% voted “yes” in Kiev. Gorbachev publicly campaigns for a “yes” vote, while Yeltsin campaigns for a “no” vote.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – March 18, 1991 (KCA)

OMON special police seize Audris Butkevicius, the head of the Lithuanian Defence Department. He is questioned for 12 hours before being released.

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Kosovo– March 18, 1991 (OSA)

The Serbian National Assembly relived Kosovo’s representative on the Collective State Presidency of his duties.

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Kosovo– March 19, 1991 (OSA)

Serbian National Assembly adopted a law abolishing the Kosovo provincial State Presidency.

Germany – March 19, 1991 (KCA)

In European Parliament, *Bundesbank* president Karl Otto Pöhl, warns against introducing a single currency too soon. He cites the “disaster” that ensued when the deutschmark had been too quickly introduced to East Germany after unification.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – March 19, 1991 (KCA)

Slovenia’s president, Milan Kucan, vows Slovenian secession should the army interfere in the republic’s internal political affairs.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – March 19, 1991 (KCA)

Milosevic claims that, unless Croatian paramilitary units in Croatia are disarmed, Serbia would arm the Serbs in Pakrac.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – March 19, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia’s president, Franjo Tudjman, calls for presidential-level talks on the constitutional crisis in Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union / U.S. – March 19, 1991 (KCA)

US officials announce that the new Soviet ambassador to Washington is to be Viktor Kompletov, a veteran diplomat with a history in US affairs.

Yugoslavia – March 19, 1991 (KCA)

The general staff of the armed forces issues a statement rejecting any involvement in political debate about the country’s future, but reassured that armed forces would always prevent inter-republic violence.

Soviet Union / Russia / Ukraine / United Kingdom – March 19-22, 1991 (KCA)

UK Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary Douglas Hurd visits the Soviet Union. There, he announces that a UK consulate would be opened in Kiev, holds talks with Yeltsin, with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, and Gorbachev.

Soviet Union / Georgia – March 20, 1991 (KCA)

USSR Interior Ministry Officials negotiate a ceasefire in Tskhinvali, but it breaks down immediately.

Bulgaria - March 20, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria's state airline agrees to begin flying home Vietnamese guest workers after clashes in which two Vietnamese were killed. The 12,000 Vietnamese guest workers in Bulgaria are increasingly seen as a threat as Bulgaria tries to move to a market economy.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – March 20, 1991 (KCA)

OMON members fire with automatic weapons on a bus carrying Lithuanian defence force members after two OMON units had chased it into the centre of Vilnius.

Poland / U.S. – March 20, 1991 (LBC)

President Bush announces that the US would waive 70 percent of Poland's debt to the US. Bush hails Poland's radical economic reforms: "We want your economic transformation to succeed, your new democracy to flourish."

Yugoslavia – March 20, 1991 (YC)

National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia refuses to accept the resignation of Borisav Jović and obliges him to return to office. Serbian Assembly elects Sejto Bajramović as the SFRY Presidency member from Kosovo.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – March 20, 1991 (RWE)

The Macedonian Assembly elected a new government led by Nikola Klujsev.

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Kosovo— March 21, 1991 (OSA)

Serbian National Assembly elected Sejdo Bajramovic as the new Kosovo representative. His election must also receive approval from the Federal Assembly.

Yugoslavia / Croatia— March 21, 1991 (OSA)

Croatian National Assembly passed a law allowing the government to disband any local government that disobeyed republican law

Yugoslavia – March 21, 1991 (YC)

National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia assumes authorities of the dissolved Kosovo Assembly and releases Riza Sapundzia from the office of SFRY Presidency member from Kosovo.

Yugoslavia – March 21, 1991 (YC, HR)

At the expanded session of the SFRY Presidency it is agreed to start negotiations between presidents of all Yugoslav republics on the future of Yugoslavia. Five meetings, which follow, remain futile.

Czechoslovakia / NATO / European Union – March 21-22, 1991 (KCA)

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel visits Brussels pressing for closer relations between his country and NATO and the EU. This visit is the first instance of a central or east European head of state travelling to discuss this.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – March 21, 1991 (KCA)

Jovic formally withdraws his resignation at the meeting of the Federal Presidency.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 21, 1991 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet calls for the Moscow city *soviet* to ban mass demonstrations planned for March 28.

Czechoslovakia / NATO - March 21, 1991 (LBC)

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel visits the NATO headquarters in Brussels. Havel warns that without a large infusion of Western economic aid, Eastern Europe would fall prey to "instability, poverty, misfortune and disorder" during its "fundamental transformation".

Germany – March 21, 1991 (OSA)

The song ‘Dieser Traum darf niemals sterben’ wins German national finals and it therefore enters into the Eurovision Song Contest 1991 as Germany’s entry.

Germany – March 22, 1991 (KCA)

The *Financial Times* reports that Treuhand will “no longer be able to close large plants without agreement with the relevant East German local authorities.”

Soviet Union / Georgia / Russia – March 23, 1991 (KCA)

In Kazbegi, Georgia, Yeltsin meets with Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and agrees to set up a joint militia detachment to police South Ossetia.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 24, 1991 (KCA)

The executive committee of the Moscow city *soviet*, in defiance of the USSR Supreme Soviet’s March 21 request, authorizes the March 28 rallies.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 25, 1991 (KCA)

As the USSR Cabinet bans all rallies in Moscow until April 15, Gorbachev decrees that a new Soviet-controlled police directorate will be established in Moscow.

Germany – March 25, 1991 (KCA)

The IG Metal trade union organizes a protest of over 60,000 calling for the resignation of Chancellor Helmut Kohl in face of increasing economic issues in East Germany.

Yugoslavia – March 25, 1991 (HR)

Slobodan Milošević and Franjo Tudman meet secretly in Karadordevo.

Yugoslavia – March 26, 1991 (YC)

The European Community releases a Declaration on Yugoslavia, thereby supporting all efforts to solve the crisis through dialogue and calling for all sides to refrain from using force. EC concludes that united and democratic Yugoslavia has the best chance to be integrated into new Europe.

Germany – March 26, 1991 (KCA)

Associated Press reports that Pentacon, a Dresden camera company, is to be merged with the West German Company Beroflex, with the loss of 4,000 out of 5,000 jobs.

Soviet Union / Czechoslovakia – March 26, 1991 (KCA)

Moscow radio announces that the Soviet Union will complete troop withdrawal (as well as “all types of ammunition, including nuclear”) from Czechoslovakian territory by May 26.

Germany – March 27, 1991 (KCA)

The Treuhand agency announces an indefinite extension of the end-March deadline for loan repayment totalling DM 19 billion made by private banks to companies that Treuhand controls.

Soviet Union / Russia – March 28, 1991 (KCA)

The controversial left-wing demonstration goes ahead as planned in Moscow amidst huge police and troop presence. However, they are blocked by around 50,000 troops from approaching the Kremlin. The Russian Federation congress condemns the government’s show of force and invalidates the ban on Moscow demonstrations and sends First Vice-president Russian Khasbulatov to appeal to Gorbachev for the withdrawal of police and troops, which the Soviet leader agrees to do on the following day.

Yugoslavia – March 28, 1991 (YC)

The first meeting of Presidents of Yugoslav republics takes place in Split. No agreement is reached.

Yugoslavia – March 29-31, 1991 (YC, HR)

Armed clashes break out in Plitvice between the police forces of Croatia and of Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina. The Presidency of the SFRY calls for cease-fire, and orders the

relevant Yugoslav People’s Army units to intervene.

Soviet Union / Ukraine – March 30, 1991 (KCA)

Cardinal Miroslav Lubachivsky, the 77-year-old spiritual leader of up to 5,000,000 Ukrainian Catholics returned to Lvov after 52 years in exile. The Uniate (Eastern Rite Catholic) Church, partly repaired by his return from exile, had been the world’s largest banned religious organization for more than 40 years.

Warsaw Pact - March 31, 1991 (LBC)

The Warsaw Pact formally dissolves its military structure in Moscow while preserving its political arm, the Political Consultative Committee. TASS Soviet news agency warns the Warsaw Pact allies that they would threaten Soviet security interests by joining NATO.

April

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Slovenia – April 1991 (KCA)

Free elections are held in Slovenia and Croatia. The Communist party is ousted in favour of the Nationalist parties.

Germany – April 1991 (KCA)

By early April, the Treuhand agency decreases the workforce of Robotron from 68,000 to 15,000.

Yugoslavia – April 1, 1991 (YC)

Executive Council of the Kninska Krajina National Council decides that Krajina should join the Republic of Serbia and that the laws of the Republic of Serbia and the Constitution of the SFRY would be in force on the territory of Krajina.

Germany – April 1, 1991 (KCA)

Detlev Rohwedder, executive head of the Treuhand agency (the company entrusted with the privatization of former East German state enterprises), is shot dead at his home in Düsseldorf by the Red Army Faction.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – April 1, 1991 (KCA)

The “Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina” decides to become part of Serbia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – April 2, 1991 (KCA)

The Serbian Assembly fails to endorse the decision of the “Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina” to join with Serbia politically.

Soviet Union – April 2, 1991 (KCA)

The government introduces drastic retail price rises, averaging 60%.

Germany – April 3, 1991 (KCA)

The *Guardian* reports that Treuhand has become the “focus of growing public anger” and is viewed as the “embodiment of Eastern Germany’s economic misery.” By this point in time, it had closed

employers employing over 80,000 people because their enterprises were deemed incapable of surviving in the free market.

Germany / Romania – April 3, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Talks are held between the Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Germany's Vice Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In an interview with the German television station *ZDF*, Adrian Nastase notes that his aspiration are to make the realities in Romania better known. His visit will be centred on aspects of cooperation with the government in Bonn.

The Romanian Foreign Minister specifies the transition to the market economy couldn't be made without difficulties, and that surgery is needed to change structures on a number of planes. He adds that Romania expects Germany to help its economy – first by credits, and also by managerial assistance. The Romanian Foreign Minister also referred to the relation between conservatives and reformers in Romania's political life, and to the broadcasting time allotted to national minorities and the opposition on Romanian television.

Bulgaria – April 3, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria shuts down its intelligence network in the west to bolster confidence in its democratic reforms.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – April 3, 1991 (KCA)

The JNA deploys further armoured units in Croatia, heightening fears of a military takeover.

Yugoslavia – April 4, 1991 (YC)

The second round of talks between the presidents of the Yugoslav republics takes place in Belgrade. Slobodan Milošević proposes the future Yugoslav economic community.

Romania / Germany – April 4, 1991 (OSA)

The Romanian Foreign Minister, Arian Nastase, concludes his visit with two significant moments; one meeting at the Ministry of the Interior, and another with representatives of German employers. The exchange of views between the Secretaries of State of the Interior, Horst Waffenshmidt and Franz Kroppenstedt, concentrated on the situation of ethnic Germans in Romania.

The Romanian Foreign Minister, Nastase, spoke about the rights of the Romanian citizens of German descent, and about their guarantees, as well as about the Romanian government's special programme to stop the outflow of ethnic Germans from Romania. The German hosts reinforced the willingness of the German government to assist in this programme. Methods of inter-government cooperation emerged during the talks, including the setting up of a joint working team to make suggestions for action in consultation with the representatives for Saxon and Swabian organisations in Romania and Germany.

The talks at the Federation of German Industry cover the best methods of stimulating the interest and participation of German businesses and industrial quarters in the Romanian economy. The Romanian Foreign Minister outlines the government's reform programme and the measures that have already been taken for transitioning to a market economy and the privatisation of the economy, as well as measures to guarantee foreign investment in Romania.

He urges the Federation of German Industry to encourage businessmen and industrialists to come to Romania so that they may have an opportunity to see and assess the Romanian economic potential. The hosts express their interest in encouraging German firms to invest in Romanian industries, and stress the significance of the political stability of Romania and its image abroad, as well as the significance of guarantees for foreign investment.

Soviet Union / Russia – April 5, 1991 (KCA)

The Russian Federation’s Congress of People’s Deputies decides to create a directly elected president of Republic after seeing overwhelming support on a public referendum.

Germany – April 5, 1991 (KCA)

Hans Eichel is sworn in as Minister President at the head of an SPD-Green coalition in Hessel.

Germany – April 7, 1991 (KCA)

In a visit to the Eastern German city of Erfurt, Chancellor Kohl was pelted with eggs and jeered by a group of several hundred protestors.

Germany – April 8, 1991 (KCA)

15,000 – 30,000 attend a protest against the German government in the face of growing economic problems in the East. A minute’s silence is observed for Rohwedder.

Poland – April 8, 1991 (KCA)

Polish General Viktor Dubinin, commander of Soviet forces in Poland – claims that unspecified nuclear weapons had been stored in Poland.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia / – April 8, 1991 (KCA)

Tudjman announces that the JNA leadership has assured him they will not involve themselves in the political process of the country.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – April 8, 1991 (RWE)

The trial of Croats charged with “preparing an armed insurrection on the territory of the Republic of Croatia”, including Croatia’s Defence Minister Martin Spegelj opened at the military court in Zagreb. Due to high tensions and riots the trial could start operating only 10 days later.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – April 8, 1991 (KCA)

In the Croatian city of Split, several thousand demonstrators smash the windows of buildings belonging to the JNA or Serbs.

Poland / Germany - April 8, 1991 (LBC)

Polish visitors streamed into Germany on the first day that such travel was allowed without a visa.

Soviet Union / Poland - April 9, 1991 (LBC)

The Soviet Union starts to withdraw its military forces from Poland without a formal agreement to do so.

Germany – April 9, 1991 (KCA)

The German Cabinet approves tax-free incentives to encourage civil servants to move from the West to East. It also announces 15% pension increases from July 1 onward for Eastern pensioners. This still leaves their pensions at half of those of Western pensioners.

Soviet Union / Georgia – April 9, 1991 (KCA)

Georgia declares independence.

Germany – April 10, 1991 (KCA)

The *Financial Times* reports that Leuna and Buna, Eastern Germany’s two largest chemical concerns, will each receive DM 250 million in credits guaranteed by Treuhand for their restructuring.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – April 10, 1991 (KCA)

In the Croatian town of Sibenik, a JNA club is firebombed.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – April 10, 1991 (RWE)

The Serbian Assembly accepted the resignation of republican Interior Minister Radimilo Bogdanovic. A parliamentary commission concluded that Bogdanovic had lost control of riot police in March 9 Belgrade riots, which led to death of 2 people. The opposition also moved a no confidence votes against the Prime Minister, Justice Minister and Industry Minister. These motions failed.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – April 11, 1991 (RWE)

The Yugoslav National Army deployed tanks in Plitvice National Park, which was claimed by the Autonomous Region and was part of Croatia.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – April 11, 1991 (RWE)

Biggest post-war strike with nearly 700,000 workers started. Textile, leather and metallurgical industries stopped work demanding from the Serbian government to pay their minimum wages and abolish the taxes introduced at the end of 1990. The government capitulated and agreed with the demands of strikers

Yugoslavia – April 11, 1991 (YC, HR)

The third meeting of 6 presidents of Yugoslav republics takes place in Brdo near Kranj. They agree that all republics should hold referendums by the end of May to decide whether Yugoslavia would be a confederation of sovereign republics, as proposed by Slovenia and Croatia, or a democratic federation, as proposed by Serbia and Montenegro. The fourth and fifth meetings take place during the April, in Ohrid and Cetinje respectively.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – April 11, 1991 (KCA)

The Croatian government announces its establishment of the Croatian National Guard Corps.

Germany – April 12, 1991 (KCA)

Chancellor Kohl and Social Democrat party leader Hans-Jochen Vogel agree to establish two joint working parties to stem unemployment in eastern Germany and to work with legal and administrative obstacles to investment there.

Germany – April 13, 1991 (KCA)

Birgit Breuel succeeds Rohwedder as executive head of the Treuhand agency.

Soviet Union / Georgia – April 14, 1991 (KCA)

Zviad Gamsakhurdia, former Chair of Georgia’s Supreme Soviet, is elected by that body to be the new executive President of Georgia.

Soviet Union / Georgia – April 15, 1991 (KCA)

President Gamsakhurdia decrees that government bodies should organize a campaign of civil disobedience against Soviet interests in Georgia, with the aim to restore total independence to the republic.

EBRD – April 15, 1991 (LBC)

Officials from 39 countries, including several heads of government, gather in London for the inauguration of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The EBRD, with \$12.2 billion in capital was established in 1990 for the specific purpose of helping countries of Eastern Europe in their transformation towards market economy.

Yugoslavia – April 16, 1991 (KCA)

Around 700,000 workers stage the largest strike in Yugoslavia’s post-war history to demand minimum wage payment by the Serbian government and the abolishment of new taxes introduced in 1990. The government immediately bends and promises that the demands will be met by the end of April.

Germany – April 17, 1991 (KCA)

IG Metal organizes a rally at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin attracting around 30,000 protestors.

Bulgaria – April 17, 1991 (OSA)

More than 30,000 people rally in downtown Sofia in support of the former communists.

Yugoslavia – April 19, 1991 (KCA)

Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic announces a 30% devaluation of the dinar, which would continue to be pegged to the deutschmark at DM 1.00=13 dinars, in order to compensate for excessive public spending.

Soviet Union / North Korea / South Korea – April 19-20, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev makes an official visit to South Korea after returning from Japan. This is the first visit by a Soviet official to post-war Korea, and shows the improving relations between South Korea and the Soviet Union. Gorbachev, speaking with Roh Tae Woo, suggests drafting a treaty of friendship and cooperation. The Soviet leader also expresses his support for South Korean membership in the UN, despite North Korea’s wish to have a joint Korean seat. Gorbachev also expresses his agreement that North Korea should open its nuclear facilities to the International Atomic Energy Agency’s inspectors.

Germany – April 21, 1991 (KCA)

Land elections in Chancellor Kohl’s home state show the CDU losing power for the first time since 1949. Kohl admits a “bitter defeat.” The SPD is now in government in 10 out of 16 *Länder*. The

ruling federal coalition loses its majority in the *Bundesrat*.

Hungary / Soviet Union – April 22, 1991 (KCA)

Former Prime Minister of Hungary Károly Grósz reveals that the Soviet Union had secretly deployed nuclear weapons in Hungary until 1988. He said he became aware of them after becoming Prime Minister in 1987 and had sought to have the weapons removed.

Soviet Union – April 23, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev signs a pact with the Presidents of Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, intended to stabilize relationships between the central and republic governments. *The Times* described the pact as a mix of “deregulation and authoritarian measures.” It was not signed by Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Moldavia. These countries would, therefore, be excluded from a “common economic space.”

Germany – April 23, 1991 (KCA)

The Federal Constitutional Court rules that landowners and industrialists whose property was expropriated during the Soviet occupation of Eastern Germany do not have a right to its return.

Czechoslovakia – April 23, 1991 (KCA)

Vladimir Meciar is dismissed as head of the Slovak government by the Slovak parliament. Seven of his supporters are also ousted. First Deputy Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky, leader of the Christian Democratic Movement, replaces Meciar. Recent investigations by rival political parties had found him guilty of incompetence, lying, and abusing his access to former secret police files.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – April 24, 1991 (RWE)

The chairman of the Serbian Renaissance Movement opposition party Vuk Draskovic was charged with calling an illegal demonstration and being a party to violence in connection with March 9 Belgrade riots.

Czechoslovakia – April 24, 1991 (KCA)

Crowds gather protesting Meciar’s dismissal. Trade unions threaten strike action.

Hungary – April 24, 1991 (KCA)

The Hungarian National Assembly approves legislation partially compensating former owners of land and property that was taken under the communist regime and nationalized.

Germany – April 24, 1991 (KCA)

The Federal Constitutional Court rules that the government is entitled to dismiss up to 600,000 former East German civil servants who, at the time of unification, had been given temporary contracts.

Hungary / Soviet Union – April 24, 1991 (KCA)

A spokesman for the Soviet Defence Ministry says “a negligible volume” of nuclear arms “had once been stored in Hungary under the auspices of the Warsaw Treaty.” Further details are not released.

Bulgaria – April 25, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria's finance minister orders former communist party organizations to repay 3,5 billion leva (195 million dollars) he said was taken from state funds during 40 years of communist rule.

Czechoslovakia – April 25, 1991 (KCA)

A vote of no confidence in the Slovak parliament is narrowly defeated.

Soviet Union / Russia – April 29, 1991 (KCA)

Konstantin Smirnov-Ostashvili, leader of extreme nationalist organization *Pamyat*, hangs himself in prison.

Yugoslavia – April 29, 1991 (HR)

Forces of the Serbian Authonomous Region of Krajina surround the Croatian village Kijevo near Knin, demanding that the Croatian police withdraw.

Soviet Union / Georgia – April 30, 1991 (KCA)

An earthquake, measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale, strikes northern Georgia, killing more than 100 people.

May

Soviet Union / US / IMF / World Bank – May 1991 (KCA)

In late May, Gorbachev goes to Washington to meet with IMF, World Bank, and US administration officials (including the President and Secretary of State) to discuss Soviet economic plans and the prospects for Western aid.

Germany – May 1991 (OSA)

German spy, Jeurgen Mohamen Gietler, is sentenced to five years in prison, after a mostly-secret trial. He is found guilty of providing Iraqi agents in Bonn with secret information that helped Baghdad during and after the Gulf crisis of 1990-1991. This information included an exchange of letters between George Bush and German chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl, detailing US military plans to move troops and weapons through Germany to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Yugoslavia – May 2, 1991 (YC, HR)

Armed conflict breaks out between Serbian population of Borovo Selo and members of the Croatian police. Twelve Croatian policemen died in the conflict.

Soviet Union / China – May 3-7, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Dmitry Yazov, visits China. According to the *Xinhua* news agency, this is the first delegation of Soviets led by a Defence Minister to visit China.

Yugoslavia – May 3, 1991 (YC)

Demonstrations take place in Zadar and Šibenik, during which Serbian property is being demolished.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 3, 1991 (RWE)

Yugoslav National Army moved with tanks in Borovo Selo and occupied several villages near Knin.
Croatia’s President Franjo Tudjman warned that “open warfare” had begun against Croatia, blaming Serbian nationalists for provoking intervention

Germany – May 4, 1991 (OSA)

Six-member group, Atlantis 2000, competes in the Eurovision Song Contest 1991 in Rome, Italy. Germany was awarded only 10 points – its lowest score in the Song Contest to that date.

Soviet Union / Russia – May 5, 1991 (KCA)

At a meeting between Yeltsin and General Vladimir Kryuchkov, head of the USSR State Security Committee (KGB), it is decided to create a separate Russian KGB.

Yugoslavia – May 5, 1991 (YC)

Croatian President Franjo Tudman visits Trogir. He suggests the municipal leaders that enterprises should shift to the production of military equipment and invites citizens to confront the Yugoslav People’s Army.

Bulgaria - May 6, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria declares a formal end to all hostile intelligence activity and opens its archives to foreign scrutiny in a gesture of goodwill.

Yugoslavia – May 6, 1991 (YC, HR)

Demonstrations against the Yugoslav People’s Army take place in Split. One soldier gets killed and several wounded.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – May 6, 1991 (RWE)

National Defence Secretary Vlejko Kadijevic asserted that Yugoslavia is in a state of civil war, the Defence Secretariat placed the Yugoslav National Army in a full state of combat alert and ordered the Croatian government to stop attacks against the army and intranational conflicts.

Yugoslavia / USA – May 6, 1991 (RWE)

All US economic aid for year 1991 and support for credits in international financial institutions were frozen because of “systematic and gross violation of human rights”.

Yugoslavia – May 7, 1991 (RWE)

Collective State presidency held an extraordinary session. The meeting was split between Serbia and Montenegro wanting an imposition of state emergency and Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, who were against.

Soviet Union / China – May 7, 1991 (KCA)

The *Kyodo* news agency of Japan reports that Yazov and his Chinese counterpart, General Qin, have failed to finalize an arms deal during the visit.

Yugoslavia / Croatia - May 7, 1991 (LBC)

The Yugoslav military begins calling up reserves and deploying units in the western part of the country in response to rising ethnic bloodshed and unrest in Croatia.

Soviet Union / U.S. – May 8, 1991 (LBC)

President Bush hails Soviet leader Gorbachev for role in Eastern Europe: "What he did in terms of Eastern Europe...has my deep respect."

Soviet Union / Syria – May 8-9, 1991 (KCA)

Aleksandr Bessmertnykh visits Syria to hold talks with Assad at the beginning of a regional set of conferences aimed at promoting Middle East peace efforts.

Yugoslavia – May 8, 1991 (RWE)

Markovic issued a statement to the Federal Executive Council allowing the army its legal function of defending the integrity of the country and halting inter-ethnic clashes and called for the demobilization of Croatian armed units.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – May 8, 1991 (RWE)

After the independence referendum in 1990 Slovenia announced that it would secede from Yugoslavia by June 26.

Conflicts between Yugoslavian National Army and the Slovene territorial defence force continued, as it was believed that JNA tried to hinder the independence of the republic.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 9, 1991 (RWE)

The collective State Presidency gave the Yugoslavian National Army wider powers in Croatia but stopped short of imposing a state of emergency, following what, bloody clashes started between Croats and Serbs in the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajna.

Soviet Union / Jordan – May 9-10, 1991 (KCA)

Bessmertnykh visits Jordan to meet with King Hussein and his counterpart, Foreign Minister Masri. After the meetings, Bessmertnykh says that he could not “foresee, conceive, or accept” holding peace conferences while settlements continued to be built in Israeli occupied territories.

Yugoslavia – May 9-10, 1991 (YC)

The SFRY Presidency adopts a program of measures and activities for solving ethnic and inter-republican conflicts. It is suggested that in the regions in Croatia predominantly inhabited by Serbs, movement should be allowed only to the Yugoslav People’s Army and to the federal police units.

Yugoslavia – May 10, 1991 (YC)

Joint session of both chambers of SFRY Assembly is interrupted, because delegates from Croatia, Slovenia and 17 Albanian representatives claim the appointment of Sejdo Bajramović illegitimate since the Kosovo Assembly was dissolved.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 10, 1991 (RWE)

Tudjman rejected the idea of disarming of police reservists, because it threatened the sovereignty and integrity of his country, which was at war and must be defended with all means.

Yugoslavia / Croatia– May 10, 1991 (OSA)

12 opposition parties in Croatia announced their conclusion that Croatia was in a state of war and expressed their dissatisfaction with the President’s Franjo Tudjman’s politics and handling of the

crisis.

Soviet Union / Israel – May 10, 1991 (KCA)

Bessmertnykh arrives in Israel, the highest Soviet official to do so since the 1967 severance of diplomatic ties, and holds talks with Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Soviet Union / Egypt – May 11, 1991 (KCA)

Bessmertnykh arrives in Egypt to hold talks with Mubarak.

Soviet Union / U.S. / Middle East – May 12, 1991 (KCA)

According to the *Financial Times*, Baker and Bessmertnykh meet over dinner to discuss an “against-the-odds attempt to ‘kick start’ the...peace process.”

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 13, 1991 (OSA)

Ethnic Serbs in Krajina region voted in favour of incorporating their region into Serbia. With turnout of 73 percent, 99 percent voted in favour of uniting with Serbia and remaining in Yugoslavia. Croatia denounced the referendum as illegal. Tensions between Serbs and Croats put Yugoslavia on a brink of a civil war.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 13, 1991 (OSA)

Stipe Mesic a Croatian politician and former Vice President of Croatia, who should have become Yugoslavia’s first non-communist president in 1991 said in an interview that he will call for a UN peace-keeping force if civil war breaks out in his country. He said he expects to face many crises in Yugoslavia, but he does not believe that a civil war will erupt.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia / Bosnia-Herzegovina – May 13, 1991 (OSA)

President of Macedonia Kiro Gligorov and Presidency President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic announced advancing a join proposal about Yugoslavia’s future order. It defines the principles for reaching an agreement on the common functions in the areas of human rights, economic relations, defence and foreign policy. It will be aimed at resolving the disputes in the talks of republican leaders and the preservation of the Yugoslav community.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 13, 1991 (OSA)

Leader of the opposition Serbian Radical Party announced that they will organize demonstration against electing Stipe Mesic (Croatian) president of the Yugoslav State Presidency, who in accordance with the system of rotation would have been elected president of the Yugoslav Presidency for a one-year term.

Soviet Union / Egypt / U.S. – May 13, 1991 (KCA)

Baker, Bessmertnykh, and Mubarak meet in Cairo. Baker and Bessmertnykh speak afterwards about a “plateau” in the peace process.

Soviet Union / Saudi Arabia / Syria – May 13, 1991 (KCA)

Bessmertnykh visits Saudi Arabia and Syria, again.

Soviet Union / Palestine – May 14, 1991 (KCA)

Bessmertnykh visits Geneva to hold talks with Yasser Arafat.

Soviet Union / China – May 15-19, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev is visited by his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. Jiang’s visit is the first by a CCP general secretary since Mao visited in 1957 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the October Revolution.

Yugoslavia – May 15-20, 1991 (RWE)

The term of Borisav Jovic as President of the Presidency had expired. His successor Stipe Mesic assumed the office only on May 20, despite the failing to win an absolute majority of five votes in Federal Assembly. Yugoslavia effectively had been without commander of the armed forces and President for several days.

Bulgaria - May 17, 1991 (OSA)

World Bank officials say that they are prepared to loan Bulgaria 250 million dollars to help shore up the economy, but also warn that Western credit is strictly tied to the implementation of economic reforms.

Yugoslavia – May 18, 1991 (RWE)

A committee was set up including Croatian representatives to investigate the causes of the crisis and the right of a nation to self-determination.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – May 19, 1991 (LBC)

Croatian vote overwhelmingly supports Croatian sovereignty in a loose confederation of Yugoslav republics.

Yugoslavia – May 19, 1991 (YC, HR)

Referendum on separation of Croatia is held. 83% of the electorate shows up at the polls, out of which 94.17% votes for independence of Croatia. Citizens of Krajina boycott the referendum.

Yugoslavia – May 19, 1991 (YC)

The Muslim National Council of Sandžak is established. It adopted a Declaration according to which all national interests of Muslims in Serbia are within the competence of the Council. Sulejman Ugljanin becomes the President of the Council.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – May 20, 1991 (RWE)

Croatia refused to hand former Defence Minister Martin Spegelj to the JNA after being accused by the military court for preparing an armed insurrection against the JNA.

Yugoslavia – May 20, 1991 (HR)

The US Congress cancels the economic assistance to Yugoslavia, with an explanation that Serbia represses Kosovo.

Soviet Union – May 20, 1991 (KCA / LBC)

The USSR Supreme Soviet passes into law a bill allowing for free travel and emigration from the Soviet Union beginning in 1993.

Soviet Union / Italy – May 22, 1991 (KCA / LBC)

In a meeting between Gorbachev and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, Gorbachev expresses his desire to attend July’s G-7 meeting.

Yugoslavia / U.S. – May 24, 1991 (LBC)

Secretary of State James Baker announces the restoration of U.S. aid to Yugoslavia. Baker certified to the U.S. Congress that human rights were being respected in Yugoslavia. The aid was cut off only two weeks before as a result of the so-called Nickles amendment of the 1991 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act. The provision required the U.S. secretary of state to certify to Congress that human rights were being respected in all parts of Yugoslavia. The amendment was aimed against the Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanians in the province of Kosovo. Yugoslavia lost about \$5million in annual direct U.S. assistance.

NATO / U.S. - May 28, 1991 (LBC)

The Defence ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization approve a fundamental military restructuring of the alliance. As part of the restructuring the strength of US troops in Europe would be cut by as much as 50 percent within five or six years. The US was expected to reduce its troop strength in Germany from 200,000 to about 70,000.

Soviet Union – May 29, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union passes legislation designed to attract foreign investment.

Germany – May 29, 1991 (OSA)

The Inter-City Express (ICE) is inaugurated, with several vehicles converging on the newly built station Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe, from various different locations. It is now the flagship train of the German state railway, Deutsche Bahn.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – May 29, 1991 (RWE)

“Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina” proclaimed its existing “basic statute act” to be a constitutional law. Milan Babic the leader of the region said, that in the federal unit of Krajina the laws and regulation of the Republic of Serbia are applied.

Yugoslavia / EC – May 30-31, 1991 (RWE)

Talks took place in Belgrade between federal leaders, the presidents of republics and the President of the EC Commission, Prime Minister of Luxembourg and the current chair of the EC Council of Ministers. It was confirmed that the EC was ready to help a democratized and reformed Yugoslavia, with market economy, political pluralism and respects of human rights. The EC leaders confirmed their willingness to start talks on Yugoslavia’s associate membership as soon as the constitutional crisis is resolved.

Yugoslavia / Croatia - May 30, 1991 (LBC)

The parliament of Croatia unanimously authorizes the republic's secession from Yugoslavia if Croatia fails to reach a confederation agreement with the other Yugoslavian republics.

Bulgaria – May 30, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgarians start to panic-buy fuel, sugar, flour and cooking oil as the government predicts that the prices of virtually all products will rise by 20 or 30% in the short-term due to higher transport costs.

June

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union – June 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union agrees to pay the equivalent of \$160 million to Czechoslovakia to compensate for damage done since the 1968 invasion.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia – June 1, 1991 (RWE)

Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic condemned as illegal the moves of Slovenia and Croatia to secede.

Soviet Union / Russia – June 2, 1991 (KCA)

Russian Federation Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Maley announces a planned proposal to privatize 70% of the republic’s property and assets through three stages, with nothing less than 20% of the state assets in private hands at the end of 1992. In the plan, checks will be given to each Russian citizen, who could then invest them in whichever company they choose. 30% of all shares will be handed over through a privatized enterprise to the workforce.

Soviet Union / U.S. – June 3, 1991 (KCA)

President Bush announces the waiver for a further year of the Jackson-Vanik restrictions on trade with the Soviet Union, which had precluded most-favoured-nation status unless Soviet restrictions on Jewish emigration were restricted. The waiver’s extension made \$600 million immediately available for the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / U.S. – June 4, 1991 (KCA)

President Bush announces the nomination of Robert S. Strauss as the next US ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Slovenia / Yugoslavia - June 4, 1991 (LBC)

Slovenia officially informs the Yugoslav parliament of its intention to secede from the Yugoslav Federation. The set date was June 26.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – June 4, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet troops surround parliament in Vilnius and set up checkpoints throughout the city. Worries escalate over a takeover.

Soviet Union – June 5, 1991 (KCA)

In Oslo, Gorbachev receives his Nobel Peace Prize. He calls upon the global community to support the country as it enters the “critical phase” of *perestroika*, warning that if the program failed, “the prospect of entering a new peaceful period in history will vanish.”

Bulgaria – June 5, 1991 (OSA)

The Grand National Assembly repeals its own decision (made 8 days earlier) to hold a referendum on Bulgaria's constitutional form. The choice would have been between monarchy and republic. The referendum was annulled for pragmatic and political reasons. First, the law regulating referendums needed to be reformed. Second, Bulgaria's dire economic situation did not allow for public spending on a referendum. Third, and most importantly, despite the rising popularity of the

former Tsar Simeon II, a majority of Bulgarians support the current republican form of government.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – June 5, 1991 (RWE)

Slovenian Assembly passed the last of the key laws to ease „the takeover of actual power” and the Slovenian independence process.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – June 6, 1991 (RWE)

Talks between Federal Executive Council and the Slovenian government stalled over whether Slovenia would dissociate or secede from Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia – June 6, 1991 (YC)

The 6th and last summit of Presidents of Yugoslav republics takes place in Stojčevac near Sarajevo. No agreement is reached.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia– June 7, 1991 (RWE)

The Assembly of Macedonia changed the official name of the country to Republic of Macedonia from Socialist Republic of Macedonia. It also adopted four constitutional amendments that increased the republic’s political and economic sovereignty.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – June 11, 1991 (RWE)

The Slovenian Constitutional Commission approved the draft of a constitutional document transferring the competencies of the Federation to the Republic of Slovenia.

Soviet Union / U.S. – June 11, 1991 (KCA)

The US Congress approves crediting the \$1,500 million to the Soviet Union for the purchase of US farm products.

Soviet Union – June 11, 1991 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet orders an income tax cut and eliminated differences in tax rates between state employees and the self-employed.

Soviet Union / U.S. – June 11, 1991 (LBC)

To allow the Soviet purchase of US grain, US President Bush approves up to \$1.5 billion in federal loan guarantees for the Soviet Union.

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Bosnia-Hercegovina / Croatia– June 12, 1991 (OSA)

Croatian State President Franjo Tudjman met with Slobodan Milosevic and Alija Izetbegovic in Split to discuss the future constitutional structure of Yugoslavia and worsening ethnic relations.

Soviet Union - June 12, 1991 (LBC)

Boris N. Yeltsin, campaigning as an independent candidate is elected to the newly created executive presidency of the Soviet Union's Russian Republic.

Soviet Union / Russia – June 12, 1991 (KCA)

Boris Yeltsin is elected President of Russia by defeating five other candidates.

Soviet Union / Russia – June 12, 1991 (KCA)

The people of Leningrad vote by 55% to 43% to change their city’s name to St Petersburg.

Soviet Union / G-7 – June 13, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev is invited to London to meet with leaders of the G-7 group to discuss plans for Soviet economic reform. Economists vie to win Gorbachev’s support for their economic plans.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – June 13, 1991 (RWE)

Public protests in Kosovo. The leader of the Kosovo Parliamentary Party, Veton Suroi, was later sentenced to two months imprisonment for organizing that event without permission.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – June 13-14, 1991 (RWE)

The Federal Executive Council demanded to remit customs duties from Slovenian importers to the federal authorities

Albania / Bulgaria / Greece / Romania / Yugoslavia – June 14, 1991 (KCA)

The first Conference of the Balkan Democratic Parties is held in Athens and attended by non-communist parties from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania – Yugoslavia, and four others. Smaller groups send observers. The groups agree to establish a secretariat in Athens to promote cooperation amongst Balkan states espousing democracy and a free market.

Czechoslovakia – June 17, 1991 (KCA)

Talks at Kromeriz between federal and republican representatives are held discussing the new constitution. It is decided that Czechoslovakia will be a “voluntary union.”

Poland / Germany – June 17, 1991 (KCA)

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Polish Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki sign a ten- year treaty of good-neighbourliness and cooperation in Bonn. In the treaty, the government gives its support to eventual Polish inclusion in the EC. The treaty also recognized the rights of the circa 500,000 Germans living in Poland.

Germany – June 17, 1991 (OSA)

The Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation is signed by Germany and Poland. This treaty acts as a supplementation to the *German-Polish Border Treaty*, signed a year previously, and signifies both countries’ dedication to respecting the rights of national minorities living on either side of the border, and to the promotion of cultural contacts – particularly amongst young people.

Soviet Union / U.S. – June 18, 1991 (KCA / LBC)

Yeltsin arrives in the US for a four-day series of meetings with Bush, Vice-President Dan Quayle, and other government figures. Bush makes it publicly clear that relations with Yeltsin would not undermine “official relations” with Gorbachev.

Bulgaria – June 18, 1991 (OSA)

The National Bank President Todor Valchev says that Bulgaria may soon cut interest rates due to evidence inflation is under control after the price liberation reforms.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – June 18, 1991 (RWE)

Permanent session of the Croatian Assembly opened with the aim of adopting all the necessary legislations for independence.

Soviet Union / Hungary / Czechoslovakia – June 19-21, 1991 (LBC)

The last Soviet troops and their dependents leave Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Hungary / Soviet Union – June 19, 1991 (KCA)

The last Soviet forces leave Hungary. The total financial cost of environmental damage by the Soviet troops is estimated at 60,000 million forints. The Soviets admit only 3-3,500 million forints.

Yugoslavia – June 19, 1991 (YC)

Ministerial Council of the CSCE at its meeting in Berlin adopts a Declaration expressing their support for democratic development, unity and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia. They endorse economic reforms in Yugoslavia, full application of human rights including the rights of minorities, and peaceful solution of the present crisis in the country.

Romania – June 20, 1991 (ADC)

The Party of Great Romania – led by President Corneliu Vadim Tudor, is established.

Germany – June 20, 1991 (OSA)

German lawmakers elect (narrowly) to move the seat of federal government from Bonn back to historic capital of Berlin.

Yugoslavia / Albania / U.S. – June 21-22, 1991 (LBC, YC, HR)

Secretary of State James Baker pays a one-day visit to Yugoslavia and Albania. In Belgrade Baker meets federal Premier Ante Markovic and holds individual discussions with the presidents of the six Yugoslav republics. He expressed U.S. concern over Yugoslavia's political crisis. At the end of his visit to Yugoslavia he stated that the US support democratic and united Yugoslavia, and that they would not recognize unilateral secessionist moves.

Albania U.S. – June 22, 1991 (LBC)

Baker visits Albania as the first secretary of state ever to do so. In Tirana he was received by a crowd of an estimated 200.000- 300.000 people. Baker told the crowd, "Welcome to the assembly of free peoples building a Europe whole and free. You are with us and we are with you."

Yugoslavia / Macedonia– June 22, 1991 (RWE)

Macedonia announced a program in the event of dissociation.

Yugoslavia – June 22, 1991 (OSA)

Federal Defence Minister of Yugoslavia Veljko Kadijevic stated that the military would do its utmost to prevent the breakup of Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union / Russia / U.S. – June 23, 1991 (KCA)

It is announced that Russia will have its own counsellor in the Soviet embassy in Washington and its own representative at the Soviet UN mission.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – June 25, 1991 (LBC)

The republics of Slovenia and Croatia formally declare independence from Yugoslavia, but hedge on actual secession.

Yugoslavia – June 25, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Assembly of Slovenia adopts documents on the separation from Yugoslavia and the Declaration of independence.

Yugoslavia – June 25, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Assembly of Croatia unanimously adopts the Declaration on Proclamation of an independent and sovereign Republic of Croatia, thereby starting the process of dissociation from Yugoslavia. It also adopted a Charter on rights of Serbs and other national minorities.

Yugoslavia / Serbia / Kosovo – June 25, 1991 (OSA)

Student protest in Pristina against Serbian rule in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia – June 25, 1991 (RWE)

At an emergency session the federal parliament called on a Yugoslav National Army intervention to protect Yugoslavia’s borders despite the fact, that the post of the President of the Collective State Presidency, which was also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces was still unfilled.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – June 25, 1991 (OSA)

Croatian National Assembly adopted a law according to which JNA can remain in the republic for no more than three years.

Yugoslavia – June 26, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Yugoslav Federal Government assesses the decisions of Slovenia and Croatia as illegal. It issues an order banning the establishment of border check points within the SFRY and authorizes the federal police and army to regain control over Yugoslav borders with Italy, Austria and Hungary – which were taken over by Slovenian border organs.

Delegates from Slovenia and Croatia leave the Yugoslav Federal Assembly.

Yugoslavia – June 27, 1991 (YC, HR)

Armed conflicts break out between the Yugoslav People’s Army and the Territorial Defense of Slovenia in Omoz. Slovenian Presidency declares the YPA actions as an aggression on the independent Slovenia, and calls the Slovenian citizens for resistance. This marks the beginning of seven day war in Slovenia. During the 3-day-long armed struggle 49 YPA members got killed, and 2.333 imprisoned.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – June 27, 1991 (RWE)

The Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina declared the unification with the Bosanska Krajina.

Soviet Union / Ukraine – June 27, 1991 (KCA)

The Ukrainian government votes to postpone debating the Union Treaty until September 15 to examine possible contradictions with Ukraine’s July 1990 declaration of independence. Outside of Parliament, OMON troops and militiamen attack 2,000 protestors picketing Ukraine’s signing of the Union Treaty.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia – June 28-29, 1991 (LBC)

Yugoslav forces attack Slovenia prompting the EC to dispatch a diplomatic mission for mediation. The breakaway Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia agree to a three-month suspension of their independence declarations in order to halt federal military intervention. A cease-fire agreement is mediated in Belgrad and Zagreb by a team of foreign Ministers-Jacques Poose of Luxembourg, Gianni de Michelis of Italy and Hans van den Broek of the Netherlands representing the EC. Yugoslavia is compelled to accept mediation under a threatened cutoff of \$1billion in scheduled EC aid.

Yugoslavia – June 28, 1991 (YC)

The Yugoslav Federal Government calls for cease-fire in all parts of the country.

Yugoslavia – June 28, 1991 (YC)

The European Community decides to send a peace mission to Yugoslavia. The mission includes three foreign ministers – Jacques Pos, Gianni de Michelis and Hans Van Den Broek. It also decides to freeze any further economic assistance to Yugoslavia.

COMECON - June 28, 1991 (LBC)

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon) is formally dissolved in Budapest.

Yugoslavia / Italy / Luxembourg / the Netherlands / European Communities – June 28-30, 1991 (KCA)

Heads of state and government of the European Communities meet in Luxembourg, but their meeting is overshadowed by the crisis in Yugoslavia. The “troika” of foreign ministers dealing with the Yugoslavian crisis (from Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) reports on their visit to Yugoslavia the previous day and returns on June 30 to Yugoslavia when new violence erupts.

Yugoslavia – June 29, 1991 (YC)

An agreement is reached to stop war operations in Slovenia, to transport wounded YPA members to hospitals and to withdraw the YPA units to the barracks.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – June 30, 1991 (RWE)

Stjepan Mesic the Vice-President of Croatia was proclaimed President of the Collective State Presidency.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia– June 30, 1991 (RWE)

After a meeting in Ljubljana between Markovic, Kucan and Peterle, the JNA agreed to withdraw from Slovenia on July 1.

Czechoslovakia / Soviet Union – June 30, 1991 (KCA)

The last Soviet soldier in Czechoslovakia –General Eduard Vorobyov, leaves two weeks after his troops.

July

Poland – July 1991 (KCA)

Evidence emerges of an illegal attempt by a Polish government agency to buy back the country’s foreign debt at a discounted rate.

Yugoslavia – July–August 1991 (HR)

Throughout Croatia (in Tenja, Mirkovci, Kninska Krajina, Kordun, and western Slavonia) armed clashes break out between the Croatian police and newly established militia (Zbor narodne garde) on one side, and local Serbian forces and the YPA on the other side.

Poland – July 1991 (KCA)

Presidential aid Maciej Zalewski secretly visits the US to win the approval of the IMF for the introduction of a state of emergency in Poland – so that the economy could be run by decree.

Germany – early July 1991 (OSA)

Bundesrat votes to remain in Bonn, reserving the right to reconsider in later years.

Germany – July 1, 1991 (OSA)

German cannibal, serial killer and child-molester, Joachim Kroll, also known as the Ruhr Cannibal or the Ruhr Hunter, dies of a heart attack in the prison of Rheinbach.

Bulgaria / Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland / Romania / Soviet Union – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

In Prague, the Warsaw Treaty Organization is dissolved by its six remaining members in order to shift towards a Pan-European security structure based on agreements at the Paris CSCE (Conference for security and Cooperation in Europe) in November 1990.

Yugoslavia – July 1, 1991 (YC)

In the presence of a three-member EC delegation, the SFRY Presidency declares Stjepan Mesić President and Branko Kostić Vice-President of the Presidency. The Presidency members from Serbia, Kosovo, Vojvodina and Montenegro demand a written guarantee from the EC that the Assembles of Croatia and Slovenia will observe a three-month moratorium on enforcement of decisions on dissociation.

Poland – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

President Lech Walesa signs into the law a bill governing procedures for Poland’s first democratic elections. The election is scheduled for October 27.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

A bill “on the basic principles of destatization and privatisation of enterprises” is passed by the Supreme Soviet. 40-50% of state assets are to be denationalized by the end of 1992 and 60-70% by 1995.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

New customs duties, up to 20 times higher than before, come into force upon Soviet citizens bringing goods into the country.

Soviet Union – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

Unemployment is officially registered in the Soviet Union for the first time since 1930 when Stalin declared that it had been eliminated. Employment benefits are now offered at varying levels throughout the republics.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

The Lithuanian government raises retail food prices by an average of between 20% and 56%.

Estonia – July 1, 1991 (KCA)

Prices of agricultural products are freed except for milk products after the Russian Prime Minister Silayev complained to Lithuania and Estonia that their pricing policy violated inter- governmental agreements.

Warsaw Pact – July 1, 1991 (HOR / ADC)

The Warsaw Pact is dissolved in Prague.

Yugoslavia / CSCE – July 1-2 (RWE)

The Conflict Prevention Centre of the CSCE called for an immediate ceasefire in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / USA – July 2 (RWE)

Despite the fact that the United States favored a united Yugoslavia, it stated that it does not support the use of force to preserve Yugoslavia’s integrity.

The President of the United States of America George Bush indicated to the head of the Collective State Presidency, Stjepan Mesic, that it would accept the peaceful achievement of independence by republics.

Poland – July 2, 1991 (KCA)

The Warsaw Securities Exchange reopens after a 52-year break.

Yugoslavia – July 2, 1991 (YC)

Presidency of Slovenia accepts the proposal on ending the hostilities in Slovenia.

Soviet Union – July 2, 1991 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet overwhelmingly passes legislation allowing republics to draft their own criminal codes, with certain limitations. Prison terms are limited to a maximum of 15 years. A proposal to abolish capital punishment is defeated, with it being allowed for treason, aggravated murder, rape of a minor, and “crimes against peace and the safety of mankind.”

Yugoslavia / Germany – July 2, 1991 (OSA)

Chancellor Herman Kohl threatens to cut off all German aid to Yugoslavia if the Belgrade Government sends troops against the republics of Slovenia and Croatia again. At this stage, both Slovenia and Croatia are oriented towards an independent future.

Yugoslavia / CSCE – July 3-4, 1991 (RWE)

An emergency meeting of senior officials of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (in which Yugoslavia is also a member-state) was held in Prague. They agreed to

recommend the dispatch of an EC-based mission to Yugoslavia to supervise the ceasefire and to send CSCE mission to assist the political dialogue.

Yugoslavia / EC – July 5, 1991 (RWE)

Foreign Ministers of EC met in extraordinary session and decided to dispatch the Foreign Ministers of Luxembourg, Netherlands and Portugal to Yugoslavia, to impose an arms embargo and to freeze EC financial aid.

Yugoslavia – July 5, 1991 (YC)

The European Community underlines in the Declaration on the Situation in Yugoslavia adopted in Hague that only the peoples of Yugoslavia should decide the future of their country, thereby expressing strong opposition to every use of force.

Poland – July 5, 1991 (KCA)

The *Sejm* decides to introduce income taxes beginning on the first day of the next year at a basic rate of 20% and 40% for those with higher incomes. Ukraine refuses to implement the new rates.

Yugoslavia – July 7, 1991 (YC, HR)

The meetings of the members of the SFRY Presidency, leaders from Croatia, Slovenia, federal Prime Minister and interior and defense ministers takes place in Brioni under the auspices of European Community. The Common Declaration on Peaceful Solution of the Yugoslav Crisis, the so-called Brioni Declaration, is adopted. It is stated that only the peoples of Yugoslavia can decide upon their own future, that the situation in Yugoslavia requires monitoring and urgent negotiations, that all sides will refrain from unilateral steps, especially from forcible acts, that an international monitoring missions will be established in Slovenia and Croatia, and that their decisions to declare sovereignty and independence will be suspended for a duration of three months.

Romania / Germany – July 8, 1991 (OSA)

A delegation of the Federal Ministry of Germany pays a two-day visit to Romania. Minister of Laband Social Security, Mihnea Marmeliuc, and Secretary of State (and head of the German delegation), Werner Tegtmeier, sign an accord on cooperation in labour and social security policy. The document stipulates that experiences shall be exchanged in promoting labour and social security instruments, regulations and institutions; consultations shall be held on the organisation of labour administration and the reorganisation of the social security system in Romania, and mutual information shall be supplied regarding labour relationships.

Yugoslavia / USA – July 8, 1991 (RWE)

The United States endorsed the EC arms embargo on Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia – July 9, 1991 (OSA)

Federal Secretary of Development in Yugoslavia announced that the economy might collapse by the end of August 1991.

Yugoslavia – July 9, 1991 (YC, HR)

The Parliament of Europe adopts a resolution on Yugoslavia, which disapproves of unilateral acts of secession.

Romania / Germany – July 9, 1991 (OSA)

The Parliamentary Germany-Romania Friendship Group meets in Bucharest, headed by film director and senator Sergiu Nicolaescu. Klaus Frenke, chairman of the group and Bundestag Deputy of the Christian-Democratic Union, leads the German delegation. Upon their arrival at the airport, Klaus Frenke states to the press that he came to Romania to develop links with the democratic parties in Southern and Eastern Europe, and as a chairman of the Parliamentary Germany-Romania Friendship Group. He says that he came after one and a half years to see, in person, the progress made in democratisation, and to receive information about the new draft constitution and the rights stipulated for minorities. He also expresses his hope that, at the end of the visit, other opportunities would arise for defending German-Romanian ties.

Romania / Germany – July 9, 1991 (OSA)

A German delegation, headed by Werner Tegtmeier (Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs), has a round of talks in Bucharest, with representatives of several Romanian union federations. The union leaders ask questions – and receive answers – regarding the system of social protection in Germany, unemployment and the evolution of the labour market, the system of conversion of the manpower and the possibility for Romanian workers to work in Germany for a period of time. The agreement concludes with the Romanian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection saying that a number of union leaders are going to pay a visit to Germany.

Romania / Germany – July 10, 1991 (OSA)

Dan Martian, Speaker of the Assembly of Deputies, receives the delegation of the Germany-Romania parliamentary Group of Friendship, led by Klaus FGX, Chairman of the Group and a Christian-Democrat member of the Bundestag. They also discuss problems regarding the national minorities in Romania and relevant references in the draft constitution. Mutual desire is expressed to consolidate the collaboration ties between the two countries' parliaments. The guests also meet with leaders of the parliamentary groups in the Assembly of Deputies.

Romania / Germany – July 10, 1991 (OSA)

The delegation of the Germany-Romania Parliamentary Group of Friendship start the series of contacts to be conducted in four days with members of the Romanian parliament, political parties, and various personalities from the economic and political life in Romania. The German delegation, headed by Klaus Frenke (Chairman of the Germany-Romania Parliamentary Group of Friendship, and Christian-Democrat member of the Bundestag), has its first interview at the Senate House with members of the Romania-Germany Parliamentary Group of Friendship, followed by successive interviews with members of the Foreign Policy Commission of the Romanian parliament and with representatives of the parliamentary groups in the Senate.

The Romanian parliamentarians make a point of emphasising (on behalf of the Romanian people) the moral and material support given by the German government in hardships faced by Romania after the December 1989 Revolution, thanking the German people once more.

Talks are conducted on matters of bilateral interest as well as matters of international political life. Klaus Frenke expresses the position of the Bundestag in saying that, 'Romanian-German relations are fine.'

The German delegation wants to know precisely how the new constitution of Romania settled the rights of the national minorities – the German minority in particular.

Hungary – July 10, 1991 (KCA)

The *Országgyűlés* passes a law for the return of property to churches over a decade.

Soviet Union / Russia – July 10, 1991 (KCA)

The Russian Congress of People’s Deputies opens in Moscow and formally inaugurates Yeltsin as Russian President.

Bulgaria – July 10, 1991 (KCA)

Bulgaria announces that it will close down its two oldest nuclear reactors, provided they received economic aid to modernize their nuclear industry, following a highly critical report on their safety commissioned by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Soviet Union / U.S. – July 10-14, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet Foreign Minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, meets with US officials, including Secretary of State James Baker, in Washington. Baker claims, on the last day, that the two have made “outstanding” progress in clearing up areas of disagreement.

Bulgaria / Georgia / Romania / Russia / Soviet Union / Ukraine / Yugoslavia / Armenia / Azerbaijan / Greece / Turkey – July 11-12, 1991 (KCA)

Representatives from Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, and Azerbaijan form, for the first time, part of the Soviet delegation to the conference of Black Sea countries in Moscow, which discuss economic cooperation between Black Sea countries. The conference is held between Bulgaria, Romania – the Soviet Union, and Turkey. Greece and Yugoslavia attend with observer status.

Soviet Union – July 11, 1991 (KCA)

The joint union-republic anti-crisis program is published. It had been formally approved by Gorbachev on July 8 and was signed by all nine republics negotiating the Union Treaty, plus Armenia. Its aim is “to build a socially oriented market economy within a single, union-wide economic space.”

Soviet Union / Belarus / Bulgaria – July 11, 1991 (KCA)

Bulgaria signs a \$180 million trade agreement with Belarus.

Hungary – July 12, 1991 (KCA)

The Parliament passes a law obliging trade unions and employees’ organizations to declare their property, which would be subsequently divided according to the level of support in trade union elections.

Yugoslavia – July 12, 1991 (YC)

The SFRY Presidency adopts the Brioni Declaration. It is decided that all armed formations except YPA and regular peacetime militia will be demobilized by July 18.

Bulgaria – July 12, 1991 (KCA)

Amidst mass protests and political disagreements, Bulgaria adopts a new Constitution (by 309 out of 400 votes) defining the state as a republic with a parliamentary form of government, and as a “democratic, constitutional, and welfare state.” It establishes a separation of powers, a constitutional court, and provides the holding of direct presidential elections. It also adopts a five-year residency

qualification for presidential candidates, which means that Simeon II, pretender to the Bulgarian throne (abolished in 1946) would not be able to stand. The new Constitution goes into effect the next day.

Czechoslovakia / Russia – July 13, 1991 (KCA)

The Finance Ministers of Czechoslovakia and the Russian Federation sign an agreement in Prague dealing with forms of payment for trade. Payment can now be made by barter or cash settlements in hard and national currencies.

Russia – July 15, 1991 (KCA)

In Leningrad, Mayor Anatoly Sobchak’s decision to introduce military patrols is revoked by the presidium of the city soviet.

Eastern and Central Europe / G7 - July 15-17, 1991 (LBC)

Leaders of the Group of Seven meet in London. The G-7 states its "strong interest in the success of market reforms and democracy" in Eastern and Central Europe, and repeats its commitment to supporting such reforms. They also call for permanent cease-fire between the army and secessionist forces in Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria – July 16, 1991 (KCA)

President Zhelyu Zhelev announces that local and general elections will be held on September 29.

Soviet Union / U.S. – July 17, 1991 (LBC)

President Bush and Gorbachev jointly announce an agreement to sign a treaty on the reduction of strategic nuclear weapons. They also disclose that their postponed Moscow summit would be held on 30-31 July.

Bulgaria – July 17, 1991 (OSA)

Violent clashes occur between supporters of the former communist party and sympathizers of the anti-communist UDF, after a rally of the socialist party ended. Three people are hospitalized, several dozens injured. At least four are detained.

Romania / Germany – July 17, 1991 (OSA)

Prime Minister Petre Roman receives Gunth Grob, President of the Board of Directors of a German railway car manufacturing company, who is visiting Romania. Grob states to the press that his company had agreed to furnish about 155 first and second-class railway cars in Romania between 1991 and 1992. The Romanian Transport Minister, Traian Basescu, who was in attendance for the interview, specifies that 60 of 155 railway cars would be dispatched to Romania before the end of 1991, and that the German federal government had undertaken to credit 85% of this contract’s value, worth \$150 million. The Transport Minister also expresses satisfaction for the conclusion of this contract, which will make it possible for the Romanian railway company to improve its services.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – July 18 (RWE)

Franjo Greguric was appointed Prime Minister of Croatia in succession to Josip Manolic who became head of a new war cabinet.

Yugoslavia – July 18, 1991 (YC)

The SFRY Presidency decides that the YPA should withdraw from Slovenia within three months.

Czechoslovakia – July 18, 1991 (KCA)

The Federal Assembly approves a bill permitting the organization of a national referendum discussing the possibility of secession of a republic. The Czech or Slovak Parliament could submit a proposal to hold such a referendum, which could be vetoed by the federal President, Vaclav Havel.

Soviet Union / Belarus – July 18, 1991 (KCA)

Belarus refuses to recognize a resolution of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers on production during the transition to a market economy because it violated Belarusian legislation.

Soviet Union / Russia – July 20, 1990

Yeltsin issues a decree going into effect on August 4, which bans all party political organizations from enterprises and government bodies, republican and union, within the Russian Federation.

Soviet Union / U.S. – July 20-31, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev hold the first post Cold War US-Soviet summit in Moscow. The two presidents sign the START agreement on the reduction of strategic nuclear arms, a follow-up treaty to the SALT II agreement. Bush calls the treaty "testimony to a new relationship".

Poland / Soviet Union – July 22, 1991 (KCA)

Poland and the Soviet Union agree for Poland to pay for 22% of its Soviet oil imports with medicine.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia / Croatia – July 22, 1991 (LBC)

As many as 20 people die in the fights between Croats and ethnic Serbs in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia. The news prompted Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to walk out of high-level talks on Yugoslavia's future. The fights are ending in Slovenia.

Yugoslavia – July 22, 1991 (YC)

The extended SFRY Presidency meeting adopts a Statement against the use of force. Croatia conditions its acceptance by unconditional retreat of the YPA units to garrisons. Croatian President Franjo Tudman states at the press conference that “population should perhaps be ready for a general war for defense of Croatia”.

Soviet Union / IMF - July 23, 1991 (LBC)

The International Monetary Fund discloses that the Soviet Union applied for full membership in the IMF and the World Bank. The surprise request was forwarded on 15 July.

Soviet Union / U.S. – July 23, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union applies for full membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Reports emerge that the US sharply criticizes their application.

Poland – July 23, 1991 (KCA)

Six senior Industry Ministry officials are dismissed over the bankruptcy of the Ursus tractor

company.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Russia – July 23, 1991 (KCA)

Three towns on the border with Russia, Narva, Sillamae, and Kohtla-Jarve, issue a statement demanding special status within Estonia.

Romania / Germany – July 23, 1991 (OSA)

The German ambassador to Bucharest, Klaus Terfloth, says in an interview with daily *Curierul National* that there is no doubt that Romania is considered a member of the European family. He adds that Romanian parliamentarians have been invited to attend NATO parliamentarians' meetings, signifying that every possible measure has been taken so that Romania may become a member of the European Community with equal rights.

Yugoslavia – July 24, 1991 (YC)

In the absence of the representatives from Slovenia and Croatia the Federal Assembly adopts a decision to suspend the decisions of the two republics to declare sovereignty and independence.

Poland / Soviet Union – July 24, 1991 (KCA)

Negotiations between Poland and the Soviet Union fail due to Poland wanting Soviet troops out by the end of 1991 and the Soviets wanting until 1993 to withdraw fully.

Hungary / Soviet Union – July 24-25, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian and Soviet Defence Ministry officials meet in Budapest to discuss a military agreement.

Soviet Union – July 24, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces that work on the draft Union Treaty has been completed. This third draft states that matters of defence, foreign policy, energy, communications, transport, and the union budget would be jointly decided between the centre and the republics. In all other matters, however, republican laws are to have priority over union laws. Republics will likewise have control over their own resources, except for gold, diamonds, and hard currency. The USSR will also drop the word “socialist” from its title and become the “Union of Soviet Sovereign Republics.” Presidents will be directly elected. There will still be a bicameral Supreme Soviet, but within this body, the Soviet of the Union would be subordinate to the Soviet of the Republics. A Constitutional Court would judge disputes between the union and the republics and between individual republics.

Soviet Union – July 25, 1991 (KCA)

A Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee plenum opens, and adopts socialist democracy in place of orthodox Marxism-Leninism.

Soviet Union / U.S. – July 25, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady expresses dismay: The U.S. advised the Soviet Union "sometimes to the point of boredom, not apply for membership" without first undertaking meaningful economic reforms.

Soviet Union – July 25, 1991 (LBC)

Soviet President Gorbachev urges the ruling Communist party to scrap "outdated ideological dogma" and embrace "world socialist and democratic thought". His remarks came at the plenary

session of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Soviet Union – July 26, 1991 (KCA)

Foreign trade officials from all 15 union republics meet and sign an agreement to divide amongst themselves Soviet diamond, gold and hard currency reserves, and foreign credits to the Soviet Union, as well as to share responsibility for the USSR’s \$65,000 million foreign debt.

Yugoslavia – July 26-27 (RWE)

Representatives of Yugoslavia, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland met in Dubrovnik. A statement was issued endorsing EC proposal to end the violence in Yugoslavia.

Russia – July 28, 1991 (KCA)

Alexander Yakovlev, “the architect of perestroika,” announces his resignation as Gorbachev’s senior advisor.

Soviet Union / Estonia – July 28, 1991 (KCA)

Estonia sets its own internal ruble exchange rate at 33 rubles per \$1.

Soviet Union / Lithuania / Russia – July 29, 1991 (KCA)

The presidents of Lithuania and Russia meet and sign a 10-year cooperation treaty in Moscow. The first clause, of indefinite duration, states their mutual recognition of sovereignty.

Yugoslavia – July 29, 1991 (YC, HR)

The YPA units start withdrawing from Slovenia.

Soviet Union /Lithuania – July 29, 1991 (KCA)

The Lithuanian government introduces a system of coupons intended to regulate the market of basic consumer goods in high demand.

Soviet Union / U.S. – July 30-31, 1991 (KCA)

Following nearly ten years of continuous negotiation, Gorbachev and Bush hold their third summit meeting in Moscow and sign the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), whereby each side commits to reducing their nuclear weapons by 30%. The US grants most-favoured- nation status to the Soviet Union. Five bilateral agreements are also signed. Bush also meets with Yeltsin and the Kazakh President, Nursultan Nazarbayev. Gorbachev states that “a more determined reciprocal movement is needed,” particularly a lift on COCOM restrictions on the transfer of technology from the West to the Soviet Union.

Romania / Germany – July 30, 1991 (OSA)

The German ambassador to Bucharest, Klaus Terfloth, says in an interview with the magazine *Tribuna Economica* that Germany wants to make investments and cooperate with Romania in fields such as power production, communications, telecommunications, chemistry and machine building. In reference to the future of Romanian-German relations, the German ambassador mentions that, although the commercial exchanges between the two countries had diminished compared with the past few years – partially because of the deficits Romania had at that moment – bilateral economic relations could be further developed. When the Romanian government is able to create optimum conditions for foreign investments, the relations between the two countries will mark considerable

progress. Terfloth adds that ‘an important role in this will be played by the will of the Romanian people for these conditions to become true.’

Yugoslavia / EC – July 30 (RWE)

Federal Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, President of Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina attended a meeting in Brussels with EC Foreign Ministers. The EC offered to quadruple its number of observers. However, they agreed to go into Croatia only if all the parties agreed on the ceasefire.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – July 30 (RWE)

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman boycotted a meeting of the Collective State Presidency.

Yugoslavia / Croatia– July 31 (RWE)

Franjo Tudjman announced that a legislation had been prepared to offer home rule to the Serbian community in Autonomous Region of Krajina.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – July 31, 1991 (KCA)

Six Lithuanian border guards are killed at a border post at Medininkai. A seventh dies later. The sole survivor reports that OMON is responsible. Gorbachev orders an investigation.

August

Soviet Union / China / Cuba / Iraq / Libya / Sudan – August 1991 (KCA)

In responding to the mid-August coup, Cuba stresses Soviet self-determination and China reiterated its refusal to interfere in Soviet internal affairs. Libya, Sudan, and Iraq support the coup, believing it will restore “international balance.”

Soviet Union – August 1991 (KCA)

By the end of the month, 14 people involved in the coup are charged with high treason, a crime that warrants the death penalty.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo / Serbia – August 1991 (RWE)

Serbia took over the control in councils of several towns in predominantly Albanian Kosovo, which were previously administrated by Albanians. Serbia also took over control of radio and television centres in Pristina (Kosovo) and Novi Sad (Vojvodnia).

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Herzegovnia / EC / Turkey– August 1991 (RWE)

Alija Izetbegovic appealed to Turkey and EC for support in resisting Serbian plan to divide up Bosnia-Herzegovina between Serbia and Croatia with a Muslim buffer state.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – August 1, 1991 (RWE)

In a major government reorganization in Croatia opposition politicians were included in the new “government of democratic unity” for the first time.

Germany – August 1991 (OSA)

The MK3 Volkswagen Golf is launched, replacing the MK2, which had been in production for eight 645

years.

Bulgaria - August 1, 1991 (OSA)

The price of meat and bread double, due to the liberalization of prices in February. Trade Unions estimate that at least one quarter of the population lives below the poverty line.

Soviet Union / Ukraine / U.S. – August 1, 1991 (KCA)

Bush addresses a session of the Ukrainian parliament. He tells members of parliament that the US would not support “suicidal nationalism.” The deputy head of the parliament, Ivan Pilusch, says “the visit shows, intentionally or not, that President Bush acknowledges...the Ukrainian people’s struggle for independence.”

Yugoslavia / EC / Serbia– August 2 (RWE)

The EC “troika” arrived in Zagreb but talks with Belgrade broke down after Milosevic boycotted the talks.

Czechoslovakia / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – August 2-3, 1991 (KCA)

Czechoslovakia signs trade agreements with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Yugoslavia – August 3, 1991 (YC)

SFRY Presidency decides on immediate cease-fire and establishes a commission chaired by Branko Kostić to monitor the enforcement of this decision together with Croatian organs. Following the session, Stjepan Mesić addresses the Croatian Assembly asking them to refuse the Commission and to name Serbia an aggressor. The Assembly of Croatia decides to sever all relations with the Republic of Serbia.

Soviet Union / Lithuania – August 3, 1991 (KCA)

A group called the “security Service in Defence of the Interests of the Russian People” claims responsibility for the July 31 border guard killings. The Lithuania government claims this group is a “protective cloak for OMON or more likely the KGB.”

Yugoslavia / Croatia / EC – August 4, 1991 (LBC)

EC mediation talks in Belgrade collapse when Serbian representatives decide to boycott the high-level meetings. "Our mission in Yugoslavia failed", Van den Broek announced before leaving the country. As many as 300 people had been killed in the fights between Serbs and Croats since Croatia's declaration of independence on June 25.

Bulgaria – August 5, 1991 (LBC)

The World Bank announces that it would lend Bulgaria \$ 250 million for the importation of basic goods at a variable interest rate starting at 7.73%, with a maturity of 17 years.

Yugoslavia – August 6, 1991 (OSA)

The eight-member Collective State Presidency gathered on an emergency session and proclaimed an unconditional ceasefire in Croatia would begin on August 7.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – August 7, 1991 (RWE)

Macedonia decided to hold an independency referendum on September 8.

Bulgaria - August 7, 1991 (OSA)

President Zhelev announces that the number of Bulgarian generals has been reduced by 75% since the communist regime was ousted in 1989. Zhelev says that 106 generals had retired since then, and that the democratization process is an opportunity and not a threat for the army.

Germany – August 7, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – The Bonn government announces that the United Nations has promised to give German prosecutors information about German companies believed to have helped Iraqi production of chemical weapons. A German Foreign Office spokesperson says that U.N. investigators in Iraq obtained the information.

Germany – August 7, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) The German Foreign Office announces that negotiations with Romania on an overall treaty will start after the summer vacation. The negotiations had been scheduled to take place on 7th-8th of August but have been postponed due to the Yugoslav crisis. German officials note that no new date has been set for the start of negotiations with Romania.

Germany – August 7, 1991 (OSA)

(LEIPZIG) – A farming tool company in former East Germany founds a joint venture to cultivate farmland in the Ukraine. The board chairman of the German company BBG (*Bodenbearbeitungsgeraete*), Klaus Schieferdecker, says that it will participate with an association of 29 Kolkhozes of the Ukrainian city of Gussyatin, and one agrarian-industrial complex in the city of Pereyaslovskiy. The new venture is called Agros Kiev. Schieferdecker says BBG is contributing technology, know-how and plant protection to the project, which is aimed at boosting production. He says it will cost 50 million marks by 1994.

Yugoslavia – August 8, 1991 (YC)

A working group of the Croatian Assembly submits a study according to which Serbian population in Croatia should be offered local self-government, cultural autonomy, proportionate participation in government on all levels, and the establishment of the District of Krajina with a special status.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – August 8, 1991 (RWE)

Croatia broke off all relations with Serbia.

Yugoslavia / Albania / Kosovo – August 8, 1991 (RWE)

The Albanian Democratic Party proposed the incorporation of Kosovo into Albania if the breakup of Yugoslavia continued.

Soviet Union – August 10, 1991 (KCA)

The July 1 hikes in customs duties upon Soviet citizens bringing goods into the country are suspended.

Yugoslavia – August 12, 1991 (YC)

Top-level meeting of representatives from Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina takes place in Belgrade. President Alija Izetbegović is absent. The Initiative for Peaceful and Democratic Solution of the Yugoslav Crisis is adopted – the so-called Belgrade Initiative.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 13, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin asserts that, after signing the Union Treaty, Russia should control its own resources.

Bulgaria – August 13, 1991 (OSA)

Anup Singh, Head of the IMF mission for Bulgaria, confirms that Bulgaria's economic reforms program is proving a success and that the country will need fewer foreign loans than previously expected.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – August 13, 1991 (RWE)

A Serbian Autonomous Region of Western Slavonia was established on the territory of Croatia.

Romania / Germany – August 15, 1991 (OSA)

A first round of negotiations between Germany and Romania on an overall treaty takes place, with German officials stating that the two countries subsequently exchanged drafts of the envisaged treaty.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Hercegovina – August 16, 1991 (RWE)

President of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Alija Izetbegovic announced a referendum on the future of Bosnia-Hercegovina at a date to be determined by the republic’s parliament.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – August 16, 1991 (RWE)

Democratic Alliance of Kosovo announced a referendum for Albanians of the region on their future in Yugoslavia.

Soviet Union – August 16, 1991 (KCA)

Aleksandr Yakovlev warns of an impending coup while announcing his resignation from the CPSU, saying, “I want to warn society that an influential Stalinist clique has been formed within the leading nucleus of the party.... The truth is that the party leadership...is ridding itself of the democratic wing of the party and is preparing for social revenge and for a party and state coup.”

Soviet Union – August 18, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev later reports that Boldin, General Plekhanov, Shenin, and General Varennikov visit him on this day while he is on holiday and place him under house arrest after he refuses to endorse a state of emergency. This delegation then returns to Moscow and reports that Gorbachev is seriously ill.

Soviet Union / Soviet coup d’état attempt – August 18-21, 1991 (RIA and LJ)

A failed coup d’état to replace Gorbachev as the president of USSR took place. The main goals of the traitors were to stop the dissolution of USSR, and to stop the signing of the Union of Sovereign States document that would allow the existence of USSR as a confederal, decentralized system. This was the last event, after which the rest of Soviet states declared independence, one by one. The organizers were all arrested, and Gorbachev returned to power, but the supposed agreement was broken up.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 19, 1991 (KCA)

Tanks are sent onto the streets of Moscow and other surrounding cities as it is announced that

Gorbachev has been deposed. Yanayev, Pavlov, and Baklanov sign a statement and distribute it through Tass, the official news agency. It is announced that Vice-President Gennady Yanayev will take over and a state of emergency is introduced in unspecified areas of the Soviet Union for six months. A State Committee for the State of Emergency is formed and lists its members. This conservative takeover lasts only for three days, amid a lack of support by the citizenry and members of the military and state security forces. Yeltsin protests, announcing his willingness to fight for the reforms of perestroika.

Soviet Union – August 19, 1991 (LBC)

A group of top Soviet hard-liners, backed by the security forces, detain President Mikhail S. Gorbachev in an attempted coup d'état.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – August 19, 1991 (KCA)

Tanks are stationed in all three Baltic capitals. General Fyodor Kuzmin, commander of the Baltic military district, declares the government to be subordinate to him. Government authorities are given the authority to establish governments in exile if the legitimate government is taken over.

Soviet Union / NATO – August 19, 1991 (KCA)

The North Atlantic Council meets to discuss NATO's response to the coup.

Soviet Union / U.S. – August 19, 1991 (KCA)

The US puts economic aid to the Soviet Union on hold and instructs its newly appointed ambassador to the Soviet Union, Robert Strauss, to visit Yeltsin but refuse to present his credentials to President Yanayev of the coup.

Soviet Union / Estonia – August 20, 1991 (KCA)

Estonia declares its independence from the Soviet Union. Soviet forces soon begin to withdraw.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland / Soviet Union – August 20, 1991 (KCA) Representatives from Czechoslovakia –Hungary – and Poland meet to discuss the Soviet coup in Warsaw. The day before, Czechoslovakia tightens border security on its border with the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 20, 1991 (KCA)

From 5 p.m., Yeltsin declares himself the commander of the Soviet Union's security forces on Russian territory until the constitution is followed again. He calls for a general strike to oppose the coup. Foreign radio stations broadcast his statements across the country, but Soviet television and Moscow radio broadcast only the statements of the SCSE. *Radio Russia* is suspended by SCSE decree, but its correspondents broadcast from inside the Russian Supreme Soviet building on a different wavelength. Troops station themselves outside newspaper offices and seize transmission towers.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 20, 1991 (KCA)

Huge demonstrations are held in front of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet building and last past 11 p.m. defying the curfew. Makeshift barricades are built and “defence units” are established to prevent against attacks on the building against pro-coup forces. Police and armed KGB officers loyal to Yeltsin also defend the building. The building is not attacked.

Soviet Union / Ukraine – August 20, 1991 (KCA)

The Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet votes that the SCSE has no jurisdiction in the republic. Previously, according the *Independent* of Sunday, August 25, General Varennikov had offered not to interfere in Ukrainian affairs if Ukraine accepted the SCSE government.

Soviet Union / European Communities – August 20, 1991 (KCA)

In The Hague, an emergency meeting of EU Foreign Ministers demands the reestablishment of constitutional government in the Soviet Union and suspends about \$1 billion in aid. This is cancelled after the coup’s collapse.

Yugoslavia – August 20-21, 1991 (RWE)

The Collective State Presidency and the leaders of the six republics agreed to keep the federation at a minimum economic and political level for 3 months, with continuing trade and monetary policy to be able to pay to the country’s foreign creditors.

An agreement laid down that borders could be changed by democratic and legal procedures based on a nation’s self-determination.

Soviet Union / Latvia – August 21, 1991 (KCA)

Latvia declares its independence from the Soviet Union. Soviet forces soon begin to withdraw.

Romania / U.S. – August 21, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. President Bush waives the Jackson-Vanik amendment with regard to Romania – paving the way for a restoration of Romania's most-favored-nation trade status. (The Jackson-Vanik amendment was enacted as part of the 1974 Trade Act and tied MFN status for the then socialist states to liberal emigration rules. The Amendment was designed to curb the extension of the MFN status to the Soviet Union. Romania was the first socialist state to negotiate the MFN in 1975, but the status was repealed in 1989 as a result of Romania's human rights violations).

Soviet Union – August 21, 1991 (KCA)

As troops begin withdrawing from Moscow and media restrictions lift, Gorbachev broadcasts a statement confirming that he is again in control of the country. In light of the coup’s apparent failing, previously silent bodies, such as the CPSU and the USSR Supreme Soviet’s Presidium declare the action of the SCSE illegal or voice their opposition to it. The Procurator General’s office announces that criminal proceedings for high treason are being levied against members of the SCSE.

Soviet Union / NATO – August 21, 1991 (KCA)

An extraordinary NATO Foreign Ministers’ meeting is held in Brussels and calls for the immediate restoration of Gorbachev and announces its support for Yeltsin. They agree to do nothing to recognize or legitimize the current government.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 21, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin is granted additional powers by Russia’s Supreme Soviet.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 22, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin creates a system of specially appointed “presidential representatives” to the regional soviets that supported the coup (Rostov, Krasnodar, Lipetsk, Samara). The chairmen of these territories are

removed from office.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 22, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev takes a position of continuing support for the CPSU at a press conference.

Bulgaria - August 22, 1991 (OSA)

The eight-day miners' strike ends after a meeting between Podkrepa Chairman Konstantin Trenchev and Deputy Prime Minister Dimitar Ludzhev."

Bulgaria - August 23, 1991 (OSA)

Statistics report that industrial output dropped by 22.6% in the first six months of 1991 on a yearly basis.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev agrees to Yeltsin’s demands that he sign decrees confirming the measures taken by the Russian government during the coup, thereby making them constitutionally binding.

Soviet Union – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

Bessmernykh is dismissed as Foreign Minister due to “passivity” during the coup. He had claimed to be ill, but had only condemned the coup on August 21. He claims he is resigning and has not been dismissed.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

By decree, all union enterprises and natural resources in Russia are transferred to Russian jurisdiction.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

The CPSU control commission expels the coup leaders from the party, but simultaneously warning against “anti-communist hysteria.”

Soviet Union – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

Party cells within the KGB are banned.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

CPSU headquarters in Moscow and Leningrad are sealed and documents are seized.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin obliges Gorbachev to read out the record of the USSR Cabinet of Ministers meeting of August 19, during which Pavlov had gained its endorsement of the state of emergency.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces that he and Yeltsin have agreed to take over the other’s functions if an emergency necessitated it. He also announces leadership changes in three state organizations commanding troops, made after consulting with Yeltsin. The Interior Ministry is to be headed by Viktor Barannikov, Russian head of police. General Shaposhnikov is appointed Minister of Defense and General Vladimir Lobov is appointed as Chief of General Staff.

Soviet Union – August 23, 1991 (KCA)
Bodies of the Communist party in the Foreign Ministry are dissolved.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 23, 1991 (KCA)
Yeltsin signs a decree in front of Gorbachev suspending the activity of the Russian Communist Party until investigations into the coup had occurred.

Soviet Union / Latvia / Lithuania – August 23, 1991 (KCA)
The CPSU is banned in Latvia and Lithuania.

Soviet Union / U.S. – August 23, 1991 (LBC)
President Bush refuses to comment on personal changes in the Soviet Union: "Who's on first over there is up to them".

Romania / Germany – August 23, 1991 (OSA)
A message from President Ion Iliescu of Romania to Chancellor Hermut Kohl of Germany is relayed by Romanian Culture Minister Andrei Plesu to Rudolf Sers, Federal Minister for Special Assignments and Head of the German Chancellery. The message contains Romania’s stand on the recent events in the Soviet Union and concrete proposals for support from Germany during this critical period. Ministers Plesu and Seiters points out some of the ways in which Germany could back the course to democracy and reform in Romania and mediate her full admission to the European structures.

Soviet Union - August 24, 1991 (LBC)
The Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. votes to suspend all activities of the Communist Party in the wake of a bungled coup against Soviet President Gorbachev.

Soviet Union - August 24, 1991 (LBC)
Gorbachev resigns as First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / Ukraine / Belarus / Moldavia - August 24-27, 1991 (LBC)
Ukraine, Belarus and Moldavia join the Baltic republics in taking steps toward independence from the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 24, 1991 (KCA)
Government communications are transferred to Russian KGB and Communications Ministry jurisdiction.

Soviet Union / Estonia – August 24, 1991 (KCA)
The CPSU is banned in Estonia.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Russia – August 24, 1991 (KCA)
Russia recognizes the independence of Latvia and Estonia.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 24, 1991 (KCA)
Political parties are banned from the armed forces by Gorbachev and Yeltsin.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 24, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev announces his resignation as CPSU general secretary and says that the CPSU Central Committee had failed to condemn the coup and that it should “take the difficult but honourable decision to dissolve itself.”

Soviet Union – August 24, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev sets up a committee for the interim management of the economy, headed by Silayev with three reformers as his deputies.

Soviet Union / Belarus – August 25, 1991 (KCA)

The Belarusian President Nikolai Dementei resigns in light of having expressed support for the coup in Russia. The Supreme Soviet of Belarus votes to declare “the political and economic independence of Byelorussia.”

Yugoslavia – August 25, 1991 (YC, HR)

Conflicts escalate in Vukovar, marking the beginning of the Battle of Vukovar – a 87-day long siege of the city by the YPA. Conflicts erupt in other parts of Croatia as well.

Yugoslavia / Germany - August 25, 1991 (LBC)

Yugoslav federal forces launch what appeared to be a full-scale military offensive in support of the ethnic Serb guerillas fighting in the republic of Croatia. German foreign minister Hans- Dietrich Genscher threatens diplomatic recognition of Croatia and Slovenia, if the Yugoslav military continue to ally itself with the Serb guerillas in Croatia.

Soviet Union / U.S. / Latvia / Lithuania / Estonia - August 25-29, 1991 (LBC)

The U.S. makes clear its expectation that independence would be granted to the Baltic republics, resists pressure to formally recognize the three republics. (The United States never recognized the 1940 annexation into the Soviet Union of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia)

Russia / Soviet Union – August 26, 1991 (KCA)

It is announced that, with Gorbachev’s agreement, the functions of several USSR ministries and two central banks are transferred to the control of the respective Russian ministers.

Soviet Union – August 26, 1991 (KCA)

The chief administrator of the CPSU Nikolai Kryuchina commits suicide, according to reports.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 26, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin issues a statement, saying the Russia “reserves the right to raise the issue of a revision of borders” with all neighbouring republics, except the Baltic States. Anger follows in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Romania – August 27, 1991 (ADC)

The Romanian Parliament recognizes the Republic of Moldova as an independent country with Chişinău as its capital. The two countries share the same national anthem.

Yugoslavia – August 27, 1991 (YC, RWE)

In the Declaration on Yugoslavia, the European Community proposes convening a Peace

Conference on Yugoslavia and establishment of an Arbitration Commission consisting of five members elected among representatives of Constitutional Courts of the EC member States. EC Foreign Ministers meeting accused Serbia as the state responsible for the conflict. After this the EC's new ceasefire agreement was not endorsed by Serbia and the accusations were rejected by Milosevic.

Yugoslavia / Croatia– August 27, 1991 (RWE)

New ceasefire between JNA and Croatia after talks in Brioni broke down within hours as fighting resumed in Vukovar.

Soviet Union / Moldova / Romania – August 27, 1991 (KCA)

Moldova declares independence, and is recognized officially by Romania.

Soviet Union – August 28, 1991 (KCA)

Boris Pankin is appointed Foreign Minister after Aleksandr Bessmertnykh is dismissed from the position.

Soviet Union – August 28, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev removes the KGB leadership and places KGB troops under the control of the Defence Ministry. He also establishes a commission to investigate KGB responsibility for the coup.

Soviet Union – August 28, 1991 (KCA)

The USSR Supreme Soviet passes a vote of no confidence in the Pavlov Cabinet. The Cabinet is dissolved.

Soviet Union – August 28, 1991 (KCA)

Boris Pankin, ambassador to Czechoslovakia –is appointed Foreign Minister.

Soviet Union / Georgia – August 28, 1991 (KCA)

Georgia announces that it is creating its own ministry of defence.

Soviet Union / Russia / Ukraine – August 28, 1991 (KCA)

Ukraine proclaims itself a nuclear-free republic and seeks the removal of Russia's nuclear weapons within its borders.

Yugoslavia – August 29, 1991 (YC)

Presidents Slobodan Milošević and Franjo Tudman meet with President François Mitterrand in Paris.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

The responsibilities of the two central banks, Gosbank and Vneshekonombank, are transferred back from Russian to central control.

Soviet Union – August 29, 1991 (LBC)

The World Bank sets aside a \$30 million technical assistance fund for the development of key industries in the Soviet Union. The World Bank and the IMF withholds the decision on granting full

membership to the Soviet Union.

Soviet Union / Moldova – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

Diplomatic ties are established between Romania and Moldova.

Soviet Union – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

The activity of the CPSU’s suspension is mandated by the USSR Supreme Soviet. CPSU bank accounts and financial operations are frozen.

Soviet Union / Russia / Ukraine – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

Ukraine and Russia agree to abide by their November 19, 1990 treaty guaranteeing borders.

Soviet Union / Russia – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

Ten of the 16 autonomous republics in the RSFSR make a joint declaration of their wish to remain in the RSFSR.

Soviet Union / Latvia / Russia – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin visits Latvia.

Soviet Union / Baltic states – August 29, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet military leaders order the demobilization of Baltic conscripts in the armed forces. KGB activities are suspended and its property is handed over to the Baltic governments.

Bulgaria / Israel - August 30, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria and Israel sign a series of cooperation agreements after a four-day visit to Bulgaria by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir. Bulgaria also agrees to be a transit point for Soviet Jewish immigrants heading for Israel.

September

Germany – September 1991 (OSA)

Four former border guards begin their trial for the fatal shooting of a young man at the wall in 1989 – the last killing at the wall, before it fell later that year. Controversy arises surrounding the prosecution of East German border guards, but not the leaders who issued orders to shoot those trying to escape.

Croatia / Yugoslavia – September 1991 (KCA)

Croatia has lost nearly one-third of its territory to Serbian nationalist militants. The Yugoslav National Army (JNA) openly identifies with these militants. The JNA is weakening by desertions and refusals by conscripts to enlist. Croatian separatists win back a bit of control. The European Communities arrange a ceasefire that seems to hold. The Hague peace conference works towards long-term solutions.

Croatia / Serbia / Yugoslavia – September 1, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia and Serbia endorse the EU peace proposals.

Soviet Union / U.S. / Latvia / Lithuania / Estonia - September 2, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. President Bush announces full U.S. diplomatic recognition for Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Yugoslavia – September 2, 1991 (KCA)

Two documents are signed in Belgrade proposing an immediate ceasefire by all six Yugoslav republics, the (Croatian) President of the Collective Presidency Stjepan Mesic, and the (Croatian) Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic. This agreement is mediated by the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands Hans Van den Broek. Under these conditions, the European Communities and the Conference on security and Cooperation in Europe are to monitor the ceasefire.

Bulgaria – September 2, 1991 (KCA)

Bulgaria’s Grand National Assembly decides to appoint a parliamentary commission to inquire into the conduct of Bulgarian government officials during the attempted coup in August in the Soviet Union. The decision follows reports that the Bulgarian Socialist Party had secretly supported the coup leaders. Reports from opponents of the BSP claim that Former Prime Minister Andrei Lukanov’s Early-September trip to London was actually a flight from the country into hiding.

Germany – September 2, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – The German Foreign Office says that negotiations with Romania on the text of an overall treaty will probably begin next month. Bonn has concluded treaties with the Soviet Union and Poland, and is negotiating others with Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

Soviet Union – September 2-6, 1991 (KCA)

The Congress of People’s Deputies of the Soviet Union meets to discuss the post-coup situation, and the need for constitutional reform. The body overwhelmingly passes a document claiming that the coup had created an “historic opportunity of accelerating the radical transformations and renewing the country” and called for a new “Union of Sovereign States.” A new government is formed comprising three main bodies – a State Council, a newly organized Supreme Soviet, and an interim Economic Committee. The Vice-Presidency is abolished.

A declaration of human rights was also passed, which, according to *Le Monde*, placed the individual above the collective for the first time in Soviet history.

Yugoslavia – September 3, 1991 (YC, HR, KCA)

The Declaration of the European Community on Yugoslavia is adopted in Hague. It is decided that a Conference on Yugoslavia will take place on September 7 in Hague, chaired by Lord Peter Carrington. The principles adopted in order to ensure peaceful fulfillment of opposing aspirations of Yugoslav peoples include non-recognition of any unilateral change of borders by use of force, protection of rights of all in Yugoslavia, and full respect for all legitimate interests and aspirations.

Within hours of a meeting in TheHague of EU Foreign Ministers, the ceasefire breaks and the heaviest fighting of the conflict ensues as Serbian nationalists scramble to strengthen their positions before the peace conference.

Yugoslavia / CSCE – September 3-4, 1991 (RWE)

On an emergency meeting the CSCE called for an embargo on weapon and war equipment against all parties in the Yugoslavian conflict.

Yugoslavia / South Africa / Uganda – September 3-4, 1991 (RWE)

According to Ugandan government South Africa had been supplying weapons to Croatia. South Africa denied these allegations.

Bulgaria – September 4, 1991 (KCA)

Following highly critical safety reports, the first of six Soviet-era reactors at the Kozloduy nuclear plant is closed for modernization. The nuclear plant provides about 40% of Bulgaria’s electricity.

Yugoslavia – September 5, 1991 (KCA)

200 EC and CSCE monitors arrive in Zagreb to police the ceasefire.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – September 6, 1991 (KCA)

The State Council of the Soviet Union votes unanimously to recognize Lithuania’s, Latvia’s, and Estonia’s independence. Many countries immediately follow suit.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania / EC – September 6, 1991 (KCA)

The three Baltic Foreign Ministers go to Brussels to request associate membership in the European Communities.

Soviet Union / Latvia / Lithuania / Estonia - September 6, 1991 (LBC)

The State Council the new Soviet provisional executive body formally recognizes the independence of the three Baltic republics. The Baltic region had been annexed to the Soviet Union in 1940.

Yugoslavia – September 7, 1991 (YC, HR, KCA)

Conference on Yugoslavia is opened in The Hague. Representatives of the SFRY Presidency, Federal Government, Presidents of the Yugoslav republics, the Council of the EC, representatives of EC member states and of the European Commission participate in the conference. During a conference, violent debates erupt between the Presidents of Croatia and Serbia, Franjo Tudjman and Slobodan Milosevic, respectively. A declaration is adopted ensuring that borders could not be changed with military force and the rights of minorities would be respected.

Yugoslavia – September 7, 1991 (YC, HR)

A referendum on the future status of Macedonia takes place. The majority of 74, 14% of the voters opt for the independence of Macedonia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – September 7, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia closes its pipelines running to Serbia and ignores federal orders to reconnect.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – September 8, 1991 (KCA / LBC)

In Macedonia, 75% of the population registered to vote goes to the polls. 95% vote in favour of a “sovereign and independent Macedonia with a right to enter a union of sovereign states of Yugoslavia.”

Germany – September 9, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – German officials announce that talks with Bulgaria on an overall treaty will resume this week. German officials announce that a second round of talks with Hungary will be held soon, but the exact date is still to be decided, and that further talks with Romania are set for October. When

asked about Czechoslovakia, German officials only say that talks will be continued. Both the German and Czechoslovakian Foreign Ministers are due to attend the Helsinki Process meetings on 10th September in Moscow. Negotiations with Czechoslovakia had been blocked over the issue of demands for compensation by Sudetan German expellees.

Yugoslavia – September 9, 1991 (KCA)

Prime Minister Ante Markovic announces that the government of Yugoslavia is to be reorganized.

Albania / Yugoslavia – September 9, 1991 (KCA)

The JNA kills three Albanian border patrol guards after they apparently cross the border by accident.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Herzegovina / Serbia – September 9, 1991 (KCA)

Bosnian Muslims detain the “Defence Minister” of the (Serb) “Krajina Republic,” along with three JNA officers. The Bosnian Muslim President, Alia Izetbegovic, decides to release them after Serbs threaten to attack the town.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Herzegovina – September 10, 1991 (KCA)

Bosnia appeals to the EU to send observers.

Yugoslavia / Albania / Serbia – September 10, 1991 (KCA)

In Pristina, police disperse circa 1,000 Albanian teachers are protesting the threatened dismissal of 6,000 Albanian teachers in Kosovo for refusing to teach according to the Serbian curriculum. Serbia also prevents 350,000 Albanian students from re-entering school for not following the curriculum.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Germany / Latvia / Lithuania / Yugoslavia / United Kingdom – September 10, 1991 (KCA)

The third Conference on the Human Dimension of the Conference on security and Cooperation in Europe opens in Moscow. Foreign Ministers of the 35 participating countries attend.

The Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin announced the admission to the CSCE of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Gorbachev calls for greater western assistance and proclaims that “liberty has become the supreme value” of the Soviet Union.

The crisis in Yugoslavia is discussed and some Foreign Ministers call for broader intervention powers. German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher tells the CSCE that Germany favours the creation of a peacekeeping force with the power to intervene in countries with suspected human rights violations, regardless of whether their governments approved. Similarly, the United Kingdom expressed its sympathy with movements to move beyond the unanimity rule of the CSCE. On September 9, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister made similar comments.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania / Europe – September 10, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are admitted to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Soviet Union / U.S. – September 10, 1991 (KCA)

James Baker begins a visit to the Soviet Union and holds talks with Gorbachev, Pankin, Bakatin, Yeltsin, Russia’s Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Yevgeny

Shaposhnikov, and the Chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces General Vladimir Lobov.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 11, 1991 (KCA)

Fighting closes central Croatia’s last link with most of its Adriatic Coast at Maslenica. Cities in the east experience the worst bombing of the conflict this night.

Hungary / France – September 11, 1991 (KCA)

The Hungarian and French Foreign Ministers, Geza Jeszenszky and Roland Dumas, sign a treaty of friendship and concord in Paris that lays down terms of cooperation on minority issues and the integration of Hungary in the EC.

Hungary / France – September 11, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall is in Paris dealing with a recent French veto on increasing Hungarian, Czechoslovakian, and Polish meat exports to the EC.

Germany – September 12, 1991

(BONN) – Germany and Bulgaria resume negotiations in Bonn on an overall treaty. Von Studnitz (responsible for Eastern Europe at the Foreign Office) leads Bonn’s delegation, and the Bulgarian Ambassador to Germany, Stoyan Stalev, leads the Bulgarian delegation. Following the first round of negotiations in July and talks with Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev, German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher says that the negotiations would be concluded this month. Bonn has already concluded such treaties with Poland and the Soviet Union, and is negotiating others with Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Herzegovina / Serbia / EC – September 12, 1991 (KCA) Kostajnica falls to Serbian forces, marking the first section of Bosnia brought within Serbian borders. EC monitors admit that their peace mission has failed and warn they will leave if their safety is jeopardized.

Yugoslavia – September 12, 1991 (YC)

The first plenary session of the Conference on Yugoslavia started in The Hague behind closed doors. Foreign Ministers from Yugoslavia and senior EC officials take part in the Conference.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – September 12, 1991 (KCA)

Serbian nationalists take control of Serbian areas and declare another “autonomous province” on the Bosnia-Montenegro border. Three of these regions are set up.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 12, 1991 (KCA)

Federal Defence Minister Col.-Gen. Veljko Kadijevic rejects Mesic’s (the JNA’s nominal commander) order to withdraw troops, reiterating that the JNA was only responsible to the Presidency as a whole. Mesic again claims he intends to resign after the expiration of the EU moratorium on October 7. He calls the disobedience of the army a military coup and claims he will ask for foreign intervention and trials against army commanders unless the JNA ceased attacking Croatian towns.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 12-13, 1991 (RWE)

Two Croatian ministers and the deputy of agriculture and Transport Minister resigned from the federal government on September 12. On September 13 the Information Minister called on Croats to resign from all federal bodies.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 13, 1991 (RWE)

Stjepan Mesic urged the UN to send in peacekeeping forces and appealed to Germany to recognize Croatia unilaterally.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 13, 1991 (KCA)

Branjo Salaj, Croatia’s Information Minister, calls on Croats to leave their posts in all federal bodies.

Soviet Union – September 13, 1991 (KCA)

Shaposhnikov affirms, “The USSR’s missile weaponry will continue to be under the control of the centre.”

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 13, 1991 (KCA)

Croatians capture Major General Milan Aksentijevic. In retaliation, Ploce is attacked and a state of emergency is declared in Zagreb.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – September 14, 1991 (KCA)

US Secretary of State James Baker visits Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius (the three Baltic capitals), announces a \$14 million aid package to be distributed equally between the three states, and affirmed that the US would unfreeze \$60 million in assets belonging to the three states seized by the US in 1940.

Soviet Union / U.S. / Latvia / Lithuania / Estonia – September 14, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. Secretary of Sates James A. Baker visited the newly independent Baltic States as the first secretary of state ever to visit the region. Baker pledged only modest aid for the region, a total of \$14 million in fiscal 1991 to be divided among the three countries. The Baltic leaders pressed Baker to help persuade the Soviets to quickly remove the estimated 100,000 Soviet troops still based on Baltic soil.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 15, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia cuts off supplies to 15 of its army bases.

Yugoslavia – September 16, 1991 (KCA)

Lord Carrington flies to Igalo, Montenegro to have talks with Milosevic, Tudjman, and Kadijevic.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Hungary – September 16, 1991 (KCA)

Croatian radio accuses Hungary of shooting down two Yugoslavian jets over Hungarian airspace. Hungary denies the accusation.

Hungary / Serbia – September 16, 1991 (KCA)

Serbia’s militia occupies pumping stations along the Adria pipeline that supplies one-third of Hungary’s oil.

Albania – September 16, 1991 (KCA)
Albanian President Ramiz Alia signs the 1975 Helsinki Final Act in Helsinki.

Soviet Union – September 16, 1991 (KCA)
It is announced that a council of foreign ministers from republics will form the USSR’s supreme diplomatic body, whose responsibilities will include determining foreign policy and appointing diplomats.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 17, 1991 (KCA)
Lord Carrington manages to negotiate another ceasefire, which will go into effect at noon the next day, which provides for withdrawal of Croatian and JNA forces and demobilizes the National Guard.

Albania – September 17, 1991 (KCA)
Albanian President Ramiz Alia signs the Charter of Paris in Paris.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania / United Nations – September 17, 1991 (KCA)
Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are admitted to the United Nations.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 17, 1991 (KCA)
Fighting erupts in Zagreb. One suburb and a television tower are attacked from the air and barracks are besieged.

Soviet Union / UN / Latvia / Lithuania / Estonia – September 17, 1991 (LBC)
The 46th United Nations Assembly opens. The three Baltic States receive membership.

Yugoslavia / UN – September 17, 1991 (LBC)
The U.N. Security Council votes to embargo all arms deliveries to Yugoslavia.

Germany – September 17-23, 1991 (OSA)
(HOYERSWERDA) – Xenophobic riots last for 6 days, started by neo-Nazis attacking Vietnamese street-vendors; 16 people arrested, after attacks were staged on a home for Vietnamese and Mozambican laborers; approximately 150 youths are involved in the attack, hurling petrol bombs at the building and at the cordon of police protecting it.

Croatia - September 18, 1991 (LBC)
Fighting continues in the breakaway Yugoslav republic of Croatia in spite of a new cease-fire agreement engineered by the European Community.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 18, 1991 (KCA)
Luka Bebic, Croatia’s Defence Minister, resigns and is replaced by his deputy, Gojko Susko.

Soviet Union – September 18, 1991 (KCA)
It is announced by *Interfax* that the KGB will play no role in the Foreign Ministry.

Bulgaria / Greece – September 19, 1991 (KCA)

The Prime Ministers of Greece and Bulgaria hold talks in Athens with the President of Yugoslavia, Milosevic, regarding the future of Macedonia. Bulgaria regards the Macedonians as Bulgars.

Hungary – September 19, 1991 (KCA)

Jozsef Antall, Hungary’s Prime Minister, offers to help the EU patrol the Hungarian- Yugoslavian border due to continued violations of airspace and incidents on the borders.

Hungary / Yugoslavia / France / Germany / United Kingdom / Western European Union – September 19, 1991 (KCA)

The third session of the peace conference begins in The Hague. Serbia rejects the notion of any peacekeepers being dispatched to Yugoslavia, after the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President François Mitterrand endorsed the idea of Western European Union peacekeepers operating in a buffer zone in the area. The United Kingdom suggests an oil embargo rather than the French/German idea, as it represented a too long-term commitment.

Yugoslavia / European Union / Western European Union – September 19, 1991 (KCA) After a meeting, EU Foreign Ministers and WEU Defence Ministers issue a communiqué ensuring that “no military intervention is contemplated” in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia – September 19, 1991 (KCA)

Markovic accuses Defence Minister Kadijevic and his deputy of siding with Serbia and calls on the two to resign.

Germany – September 19 and 20, 1991 (OSA)

(HOYERSWERDA) – Crowds gathered outside the residence of the few hundred remaining foreign workers on Albert Schweitzer Strasse – younger members of the crowd began throwing rocks, bottles, and Molotov cocktails at the building, with the incident being repeated the next day.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 21, 1991 (KCA)

Ante Paradjik, vice-president and leader of the militant branch of the right-wing Croatian Party of Rights (HOS), is killed by Croatian police at a roadblock.

Yugoslavia / France / United Nations – September 21-22, 1991 (KCA)

After the JNA takes control of Petrinja and other towns with heavy fighting, the French government calls for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

Germany – September 21, 1991 (OSA)

(HOYERSWERDA) – The building on Albert Schweitzer Strasse is evacuated, with 17 of its inhabitants injured, some of them severely so. Meanwhile, hundreds of neo-Nazis from other areas of Germany travel to the city in order to target another asylum home, this time on Thomas Müntzer Strasse – between 150 and 600 local residents join the militants, rejoicing every time a window is smashed, or a Molotov cocktail is thrown.

Germany – September 22, 1991 (OSA)

(HOYERSWERDA) – Having heard news of these attacks, neo-Nazis from other areas of Germany travel to the city, with their new target being the asylum home on Thomas Müntzer Strasse, where

the militants were joined by 150 – 600 local residents, rejoicing each time a window was smashed, or a Molotov cocktail was thrown.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 22, 1991 (KCA)

Tudjman and Kadijevic agree to an absolute ceasefire as of 3 p.m.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – September 22, 1991 (OSA)

“The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo in exile” in Pristina endorsed a resolution on the country’s independence and sovereignty.

Yugoslavia / Montenegro – September 22, 1991 (OSA)

The Montenegrin Prime Minister said at a press conference that the Montenegrin leadership was preparing to declare the republic’s sovereignty. He also said that in current form Yugoslavia is counterproductive and it should be established which republics wanted to remain in a common state.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – September 23, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia and the navy begin to lift their blockades. Croatian forces begin moving military units into combat positions around strategic locations.

Germany – September 23, 1991 (OSA)

(THIENDORF) – Dozens of youths break into a home for asylum-seekers, vandalizing it, only six of whom were arrested.

Germany – September 23, 1991 (OSA)

(FRIETAL) – A refugee asylum centre is attacked by neo-Nazis, yet no arrests are made.

Germany – September 23, 1991 (OSA)

(DRESDEN) – 22 are arrested after young neo-Nazis attack refugee centre in several towns in Eastern Germany; seven people are wounded in incidents reflecting the growing xenophobic tensions in Saxony, with particular hostility being displayed towards foreign workers and asylum seekers.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – September 24, 1991 (KCA)

In a visit to Tallinn, Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development announces that the Baltic States were soon to become members of the bank.

Soviet Union / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania – September 24, 1991 (KCA)

The three Baltic Prime Ministers, Gediminas Vagnorius of Lithuania, Ivars Godmanis of Latvia, and Edgar Savisaar of Estonia, meet in Tallinn and agree to allow free trade and visa-free travel between the three states.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – September 24, 1991 (RWE)

Croatia stated that as a precondition of peace all JNA units must withdraw from its territory and refused to recognize Serbian control of Croatian areas. Croatian authorities gave 5 days to JNA to leave Croatia with their equipment.

Yugoslavia / Belgium / France / United Kingdom / United Nations – September 25, 1991 (KCA)

The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 713, sponsored by Belgium, France, and the UK, calls for an arms embargo on Yugoslavia and an immediate end to fighting. 713 also requests the Secretary-General of the UN, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, to aid in the mediation process.

Yugoslavia – September 25, 1991 (YC)

UN Security Council adopts a Resolution on Yugoslavia 713. It is stated that the development in Yugolavia poses a threat to peace and security in the world, and the efforts of the EC and the CSCE to resolve the Yugoslav crisis are supported. The UN Security Council decides to enforce a general embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Yugoslavia on the basis of Article 41 of the UN Charter.

Romania – September 25-27, 1991 (HOR / ADC)

Dissatisfied miners from the Jiu Valley return to Bucharest to protest economic conditions. Government institutions are attacked. PM Petre Roman resigns on September 26. The miners leave the capital after discussions take place between Ion Iliescu and Miron Cozma (the miners’ leader).

Yugoslavia – September 26, 1991 (YC)

Branko Kostić calls a session of the SFRY Presidency. He refers to a special provision of the Presidency Rules of Procedure. From this point, the sessions of the Federal Presidency are attended only by representatives of Serbia, Vojvodina, Kosovo and Montenegro.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia / Croatia / Montenegro – September 26, 1991 (KCA)

After calls from Croatia for the JNA to pull out of the country, they do. The JNA also agrees to remove Montenegrin reservists from Bosnia.

Soviet Union / France / Guinea-Bissau / Ireland / Sweden / United Kingdom / Ireland – September 26, 1991 (KCA)

Izvestiya reports that the Soviet ambassadors to France, the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Ireland, Sweden, and Guinea-Bissau are to be retired.

Yugoslavia / Western European Union – September 26, 1991 (KCA)

The fourth session of the peace conference in The Hague commences. Three groups are set up to study constitutional solutions, economic relations between the republics, and the position of ethnic minorities in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo / Serbia – September 26-30, 1991 (KCA)

The Kosovo Assembly organizes a referendum on sovereignty for the Albanian province, 92% of whose residents speak Albanian. There is an 87.01% turnout and 99.87% approve of sovereignty for Kosovo. The Serbian government declares this illegal.

Hungary – September 27, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian Radio claims that 16,000 foreigners, mostly Romanians, are officially employed in the country.

Yugoslavia – September 27, 1991 (KCA)
Croatia passes a law banning its citizens from service in the JNA.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia– September 28, 1991 (RWE)
Serbia partially mobilized JNA reserve in Serbia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia– September 28, 1991 (RWE)
Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic accused Slobodan Milosevic of using the JNA to advance Serbia’s aims.

Soviet Union / U.S. – September 29, 1991 (LBC)
U.S. President Bush announces a planned unilateral reduction of the US nuclear arsenal by about 2, 400 U.S. nuclear weapons and calls on the Soviet Union to respond in kind.

Soviet Union – September 30, 1991 (KCA)
Gorbachev appoints Yevgeny Primakov as the head of the State Security Committee. In this position, Primakov will be in charge of foreign intelligence operations formerly conducted by the KGB.

Yugoslavia – September 30, 1991 (YC)
Referendum of ethnic Albanians takes place in Kosovo. Organizers claim that 99% of the voters opted for a sovereign and independent Kosovo.

October

Romania / Germany – October 1, 1991 (OSA)
The Days of German Culture opens at Ploiesti, sponsored by the local branch of the cultural association Romania-Germany. The first actions of the eight-day cultural program take place at the hostel by the local library ‘Nicolae Iorga’, the teacher’s house, and the culture palace. Ploiesti houses a symposium on the significance of the German culture within the European context, the liaison between the German and Romanian cultures.

Romania – October 1, 1991 (HOR)
Romanian President Ion Iliescu names Theodor Stolojan (a political independent) as Prime Minister. A coalition government is formed which includes representatives of the National Liberal Party.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 1991 (KCA)
The ceasefire arranged by the European Communities between the Croatian separatists and the JNA collapses.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 1, 1991 (KCA)
Croatian forces capture the important garrison of Bjelovar near Zagreb.

Yugoslavia – October 1, 1991 (KCA)
The high command of the JNA accuses Croatia of violating the September 22 ceasefire and

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threatens reprisal on civilians. Attacks begin.

Yugoslavia – October 1, 1991 (HR)

The Yugoslav People’s Army attacks Dubrovnik and Konavle.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo– October 1, 1991 (OSA)

Students of all ages and their parents protest in Kosovo against the establishment of a Serbian-language uniform curriculum for all middle and secondary schools in Serbia.

Yugoslavia – October 3, 1991 (RWE)

On a meeting not attended by Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia the other four members of the Collective State Presidency (Serbia, Montenegro, Vojvodina, Kosovo) voted to take on the powers of the Yugoslav Assembly as they stated to be in conditions of an immediate danger of war.

Yugoslavia – October 3, 1991 (KCA)

The Yugoslav navy blockades seven Croatian ports.

Romania / Germany – October 3, 1991 (OSA)

Romania’s President, Ion Iliescu, is invited to a reception marking one year since the unification of Germany. Iliescu exchanges opinions with the German ambassador to Bucharest, Klaus Terflot, tackling the latest developments in Romania, the political negotiations for the formation of the new government, and the furthering of the program of transition to a market economy. President Iliescu greets the German people and leaders.

Germany – October 4, 1991 (OSA)

German ambassador, and Commissioner of Arms Control and Disarmament, Josef Holik, has an interview with Constantin Ene, the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They exchange opinions on issues related to the necessity of arms control and disarmament, both in the present and the future.

Also on October 4th, Holik participates in a round table organised by Romania’s Association of International Law and International Relations on a German perspective regarding the prospects for security, arms control and disarmament in Europe.

Hungary – October 4, 1991 (KCA)

Hungary enforces a 1983 government decree restricting entry into the country to those with documentation and means of subsistence.

Yugoslavia / EU – October 4, 1991 (KCA)

In talks in The Hague, agreements are made between Croatia and Serbia on lifting blockades of army barracks and including the Serbian minority in Croatia in future talks.

Soviet Union / U.S. – October 5, 1991 (LBC)

Soviet President Gorbachev offers deeper cuts in intercontinental ballistic missile warheads then set by President Bush's announcement on September 29. The Soviet leader matched Bush by immediately taking Soviet strategic bombers off alert, deactivating 503 intercontinental missiles. In addition, Gorbachev announced that Soviet military forces would be reduced by 700, 000 troops,

but gave no specific timetable.

Yugoslavia / EU – October 6, 1991 (KCA)

EU Foreign Ministers in Utrecht threaten trade sanctions against republics impeding a ceasefire due midnight on October 7.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 6, 1991 (RWE)

Croatia ordered general mobilization.

Hungary – October 7, 1991 (KCA)

Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky claims that 50,000 foreigners are illegally living in Hungary or engaging in black market activities.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 7, 1991 (KCA)

The JNA bombs the presidential palace in Zagreb.

Yugoslavia – October 8, 1991 (KCA)

The self-styled Prime Ministers of Krajina and Slavonia, two self-proclaimed Serbian autonomous regions in Croatia, Milan Babic and Goran Hadzic, boycott the meeting in The Hague because they would not be viewed as a “minority.”

Yugoslavia – October 8, 1991 (YC, HR)

After the three-month Brioni moratorium expired, the Assembly of the Republic of Croatia declares independence of the Republic of Croatia, and severs all legal and state bonds with the SFRY. The Assembly of Slovenia also declares independence of the Republic of Slovenia, and gives a 10-day notice to the YPA to withdraw all units from the Slovenian territory.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 8, 1991 (RWE)

A ceasefire between Croatia and the JNA provided for the lifting of the sea-blockades on Adriatic ports and of the Borongaj barracks in Zagreb.

Soviet Union / Poland - October 8, 1991 (LBC)

The Polish foreign ministry announces that the U.S.S.R. agreed to remove the estimated 45, 000 Soviet troops in Poland by the end of 1992. The Soviets began a pullout in April, without a formal agreement.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – October 8, 1991 (KCA)

Slovenia introduces the tolar as its own currency.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 8, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia severs relations with Yugoslavia, thereby identifying the JNA as an invading force and nullifying Yugoslav law on Croatian territory.

Hungary – October 10, 1991 (KCA)

Budapest city council rejects proposal to host 1996 World Exposition due to inadequate funds. Funds instead will be used to develop rural areas.

Yugoslavia / EU – October 10, 1991 (KCA)
Tudjman and Milosevic agree that JNA forces will withdraw from Croatia within a month.

Lithuania / Soviet Union – October 10, 1991 (KCA)
Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis meets with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov for the second time (after October 2) to discuss when negotiations might begin between the two countries.

Albania / France – October 10, 1991 (KCA)
French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas makes a one-day visit to Albania to hold talks with Prime Minister Ylli Bufi on Albania's reforms and the situation in Yugoslavia.

Bulgaria - October 10, 1991 (OSA)
PlanEcon Report indicates that the Bulgarian economy is in a full-blown "depression." In the first half of 1991, GDP declined by 13.6%, net industrial output by 11.4%."

Hungary – October 11, 1991 (KCA)
Hungarian Radio announces that ethnic Hungarians from neighbouring areas will be given priority in receiving work permits within the country.

Yugoslavia / EC / Serbia – October 11, 1991 (RWE)
The Collective State Presidency, dominated by Serbians, rejected the October 10 EC agreement.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 12, 1991 (RWE)
An EC convoy bringing aid to Croatian town of Vukovar was attacked. It appeared that attacks had been carried out under JNA control.

Yugoslavia / UN – October 13, 1991 (KCA)
Cyrus Vance, former US Secretary of State, arrives in Yugoslavia as a UN special envoy.

Bulgaria - October 13, 1991 (OSA)
The first elections under the new constitution are held. Thirty-eight parties participate, but only three manage to reach the four percent threshold needed to enter parliament. The electoral system had in practice left a quarter of voters without representation. The opposition narrowly beats the BSP.

Yugoslavia – October 15, 1991 (YC)
Presidents Franjo Tudman and Slobodan Milošević meet with Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow, where they sign an agreement on immediate cease-fire.

Yugoslavia – October 15, 1991 (YC, HR)
Representatives of the Party for Democratic Action and of Croatian Democratic Union in the Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina adopt the Memorandum on Sovereign Bosnia-Herzegovina, despite the opposition of the Serbian Democratic Party, whose representatives left the session.

Bulgaria - October 16, 1991 (OSA)
The *New York Times* reports on the dire worker safety situation at the nuclear plant Kozloduy.

Blagoy Dimitrov, a nuclear technician, explains that the staff are demoralized and undisciplined. Many workers are not allowed to have decontamination showers at the end of the working day due to breakdowns in the piping system. Additionally, many staff are said to drink beer and homemade spirits during their shifts.

Russia / Yugoslavia – October 16, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin meets with Tudjman and Milosevic.

Yugoslavia – October 16, 1991 (KCA)

Croatia promises to guarantee the safety of any deserting JNA soldiers who left before November 10.

Slovenia / Yugoslavia – October 17, 1991 (KCA)

All Yugoslav ambassadors of Slovene descent resign.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 17, 1991 (RWE)

Vukovar was target of heavy attacks.

Yugoslavia / Montenegro – October 17, 1991 (OSA)

Montenegrin National Assembly took steps toward affirming its sovereignty as one of the six internationally recognized sovereign parts of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / EC – October 18, 1991 (RWE)

The eight member of Collective State Presidency and the Croatian President ordered a ceasefire before the start of the EC talks on the same day.

Yugoslavia / EU – October 18, 1991 (KCA)

In The Hague, the EU proposes a plan for the future political structure in Yugoslavia. Serbia was the only republic in Yugoslavia to reject the proposals. The EU plan drew up a free association of sovereign states cooperating on certain issues. Minorities would be given a second nationality and their own schools and legislatures. EC foreign ministers give Serbia until November 5 to accept, or they will impose trade sanctions with Yugoslavia and restore them with whichever republics agreed to the plan.

Yugoslavia – October 18, 1991 (YC)

The second session of the Conference on Yugoslavia takes place in The Hague. Lord Carrington submits a Draft Declaration on Yugoslavia with proposals for the solution of the Yugoslav crisis, according to which former federal units would be awarded sovereignty and independence, and would be internationally recognized as states, mechanisms for protection of human rights would be established, especially the rights of national and ethnic groups, special status would be granted to territories where certain national or ethnic group constitutes a majority, and special emphasis was to be put on the status of Serbs in Croatia. Slobodan Milošević refused the proposed solutions, stating that they “suspend the existing constitutional order and abolish Yugoslavia as the state which continuously exists for 70 years.”

Soviet Union - October 18, 1991 (LBC)

President Gorbachev and presidents of eight of the 12 Soviet constituent republics sign a treaty of

economic union. Ukraine was among the four republics who snubbed the accord.

Germany – October 18, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – German officials announce that a third round of negotiations with Hungary on an overall treaty is scheduled for November 18th and 19th in Budapest. The German Foreign Office announces that, after the second round in Bonn last month, the treaty could be agreed upon in the third round. Germany has already concluded such treaties with the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, and Czechoslovakia. German officials also state that they are hoping for another round of negotiations with Romania in November, but that a date has not yet been allocated for this.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo – October 19, 1991 (RWE)

Kosovo elected a provisional coalition government headed by Bujar Bukoshi.

Yugoslavia / Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe – October 22, 1991 (KCA)

Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe decide to form a mission to monitor human rights in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Kosovo / Albania – October 22, 1991 (RWE)

Albania recognized the new government of Kosovo headed by Bujar Bukoshi.

Yugoslavia / Germany– October 22, 1991 (RWE)

Yugoslavia’s National Defence Minister Veljko Kadijevic responded to EC peace plan by accusing Germany of planning to attack Yugoslavia for the third time in that century and preparing a military assault against it. He also called for mobilization to stop the Croatsians.

Germany / Romania – October 22, 1991 (OSA)

The German Minister of Transport Dr Gunther Krause and Romania’s ambassador in Bonn, Radu Comsa, sign the accord between the government of Romania and the government of the Federal Republic of Germany on navigation on inland navigable ways. The accord creates premise for an intensive use of the Danube-Black Sea Canal and for the navigation of the Romanian river-going fleet in the ports of Western Europe in the perspective of the opening in September 1992 of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal, which will link the Black Sea to the North Sea. Upon the signing of the document, the German government announces it had decided that the Romanian ships may sail toll-free in the Regensburg-Kelheim sector.

Germany / Romania – October 23, 1991 (OSA)

At the Intercontinental Hotel in Bucharest, a foreign policy seminar begins, under the sponsorship of ‘Hans Seidel’ Foundation (a German Christian-Democratic union). Dieter Schmidt, director of the foundation’s Institute for Foreign Relations, made the opening address. He was followed by Harmut Koschyk, member of the EEC Committee of the German Lower Chamber, who read a report on ‘the place of Romania in the German foreign policy outlook’. Radu Badeanu, editor-in-chief of the foreign policy section of the weekly *Express*, who spoke about the present trends in Romania’s external policy, represented the Romanian side. Other contributions were made by National Peasant Party’s president Corneliu Coposu on the evolution and role of democratic parties in Romania; by Civic Alliance vice-president Professor Emil Constantinescu; by HDUR Coordinating Council member Borbely Imre; by Ion Mihailescu, vice-rector of the Bucharest

University and member of the steering committee of the Civic Alliance Party, who spoke about the social consequences of the economic reform in Romania. The discussion centred on the situation of the German minority in Romania, which decreased to about 70,000 people, over the past fifty years, with an emphasis on recent years and the present period. The precarious state of Romania's economy was agreed to be the prime motivation for their further emigration. Speakers opined that the settlement of the national minorities issue follows the observance of similar provisions in the national legislations of Western countries.

Hungary / Soviet Union – October 23, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian radio reports that Gorbachev's spokesman claims the Soviet President condemns the 1956 Warsaw Treaty intervention in Hungary as an international law violation.

Yugoslavia – October 23, 1991 (YC)

Lord Carrington proposes a new plan for solving the Yugoslav crisis, which only slightly differs from the Draft Declaration on Yugoslavia he proposed on October 18.

Yugoslavia – October 24, 1991 (KCA)

The Great National Assembly of the SARs of Slavonia, Barajna, and Western Srem in Croatia unify with the SAR of Krajina and the Community of Municipalities of Bosanka Krajina in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Yugoslavia / Montenegro / Croatia– October 24, 1991 (OSA)

Presidency of the Republic of Montenegro decided that the two Montenegrin JNA units sent to the battlefields in Croatia would be called back.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Hercegovina – October 24, 1991 (RWE)

“Assembly of the Serbian Nation of Bosnia-Hercegovina” was formed and a referendum on remaining in Yugoslavia was announced for November 9 and 19.

Austria / Hungary – October 25, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian Defence Minister, Lajos Für, and Austrian Defence Minister, Werner Fasslabend, sign 15-point bilateral military cooperation agreement.

Bulgaria - October 25, 1991 (OSA)

It is reported in the Journal of Commerce that Bulgaria lost 22.6% of its GDP in the first half of 1991.

Germany – October 25, 1991 (OSA)

Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Constantin Ene, conducts talks with a delegation made up of representatives of the Foreign Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Scientific Research, The Ministry of Home Affairs and Karl Foundation of Duisburg, Germany. The delegation, led by Mrs Ute Banerjea-Komers, Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visit Romania to conclude an accord on cooperation in managerial staff training. The talks focus on the current stage in the economic and political situation of Romania.

Germany – October 26, 1991 (OSA)

(DRESDEN) – 19 are arrested in neo-Nazi attack, following a weeklong series of attacks on a

foreign-refugee hostel, described as ‘the worst episode of xenophobic violence since the Nazi era’; amongst those arrested, several are leftists trying to stop the attack who eventually ended up battling the police; the attackers are cheered on by the townspeople of Hoyerswerda, and the hostel is evacuated as police can no longer guarantee the safety of its occupants.

Germany – October 27, 1991 (OSA)

Mete Eksi, a 19-year-old Turkish student, gets into a brawl with three brothers at Berlin Adenauerplatz. He is beaten with a baseball bat, sustaining injuries so severe that he becomes comatose.

Poland – October 27, 1991 (KCA)

Poland holds free multiparty elections.

Croatia / EU – October 27, 1991 (KCA)

Croatian Foreign Minister Zvonimir Separovic reports in a letter to EU foreign ministers that 5,000 people had been killed in Croatia since the start of July. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, more than 280,000 had left their homes.

Hungary / NATO – October 28, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall visits NATO headquarters.

Germany – October 28, 1991 (OSA)

(GOTTINGEN) – Leftists attack the training centre of an extreme rightist political party using firebombs and stones, leaving 15 people wounded; cars carrying about 40 attackers roll up without warning at the building used by the Independent German Workers’ Party in Mackenrode; three of the wounded are hospitalized, and the remaining dozen are treated for minor injuries; the police state that attackers escaped, avoiding police roadblocks.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – October 28, 1991 (RWE)

A four-day-old ceasefire between JNA and the city of Dubrovnik had broken down.

Yugoslavia – October 29, 1991 (YC)

Foreign Ministers of EC member states meet in Brussels. A Declaration is accepted, announcing restrictive measures against all sides involved in the Yugoslav conflict which continue with blocking the efforts of the Conference on Yugoslavia to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. The EC will terminate the agreement on cooperation and trade with Yugoslavia and renew it only with those sides which contribute to peace process.

Hungary / NATO – October 30, 1991 (KCA)

Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General John Galvin, visits Hungary until November 2 and has talks with Jozsef Antall and Defense Minister Lajos Für.

Bulgaria - October 30, 1991 (OSA)

Notwithstanding the problematic power supply of the country, the reactors of the Kozloduy nuclear power plant are functioning at around one third of their maximum capacity due to safety reasons.

Yugoslavia – October 30, 1991 (YC)

Lord Carrington proposes the third version of the document on the solution of the Yugoslav crisis.

Hungary – October 31, 1991 (KCA)

A bill is approved by the *Országgyűlés* granting compensation to people deported or imprisoned, or to families of those illegally killed, under the Communist regime from 1939 to 1989. This is expected to affect about 250,000 people and cost 6-6,500 million forints.

Albania / Germany – October 31-November 1, 1991 (KCA)

Albanian Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Kapllani signs an investment promotion agreement with German counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

November

Russia / Soviet Union - November 1, 1991 (LBC)

The Russian Congress of People's Deputies, the overall parliament of Soviet Russia, grant Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin sweeping powers to launch and direct radical economic reforms in Russia. The move won cautious acceptance from Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Bulgaria – November 1, 1991 (KCA)

The faction of the Bulgarian Socialist Party in parliament becomes the Parliamentary Union for Social Democracy.

Albania – November 1, 1991 (KCA)

Controls are removed on the prices of products and services in heavy industry and transport.

Moldova / Romania – November 2, 1991 (KCA)

Moldovan Prime Minister Valery Muravsky makes a one-day visit to Romania to “speed up the process of the Republic of Moldova’s integration with Romania.”

Germany – November 3, 1991 (OSA)

(GREIFSWALD) – 200 rightists throw rocks in an attack against the Greifswald hostel and the riot police who were present, injuring 15 officers, and seriously damaging the hostel; at 4am, a group of West Germans arrive with a bus and convoy of 45 cars in order to bring the refugees to safety; the asylum-seekers are moved to Shalom Church in Norderstedt, and five days later refuse a government order to return to the East, stating that they fear for their lives and question the commitment of the officers responsible for their safety.

Hungary – November 4, 1991 (KCA)

The *Országgyűlés* passes a bill allowing prosecution for murder and treason committed between 1944 and 1990. President Göncz, disapproving of the law, asks the Constitutional Court for a ruling on the law.

Soviet Union / Ukraine – November 4, 1991 (KCA)

Ukraine sets up a 6,000-man Border Guard and stations them on inter-republican boundaries. As a result, the Soviet Union votes to work towards a legal definition of state borders by February 1, 1992.

Soviet Union – November 4, 1991 (KCA)

The leaders of all 12 republics of the Soviet Union, save Moldavia and Armenia, attend a meeting of the State Council and agree to abolish all Union Ministries, except railways, atomic power, and electricity. In a closed session, it is decided that the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs will also survive.

Romania / Western Europe Union – November 4, 1991 (KCA)

A delegation from the Western Europe Union, led by Secretary-General Wilem van Eekelen, visits Romania.

Bulgaria – November 4, 1991 (KCA)

The National Assembly elects Stefan Savov as its Speaker.

Albania / Lithuania / Interpol – November 4-5, 1991 (KCA)

Albania and Lithuania join Interpol at its sixtieth session.

Soviet Union / World Bank – November 5, 1991 (KCA)

The World Bank signs a \$30 million technical aid deal with Gorbachev.

EC / Serbia - November 5, 1991 (LBC)

Serbia rejects an EC peace proposal that was tentatively accepted by Yugoslavia’s other republics. The rejection, and another broken cease-fire, spurred the EC to impose sanctions.

Soviet Union – November 5, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union adopts the “Open Skies” policy, allowing surveillance aircraft to pass through its territory for defence purposes. The policy allows the Soviet Union to do the same.

Yugoslavia / EC – November 5, 1991 (RWE)

The eighth session of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia in The Hague takes place between Yugoslav leaders and the EC foreign ministers.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia – November 5-6, 1991 (RWE)

First fighting on Serbian territory. Croatian forces, which were believed to be the non-state controlled right-wing militants of HSP, were reported to attack Serbian villages.

Finland / Soviet Union – November 5-6, 1991 (KCA)

A new good neighbourliness and mutual cooperation treaty is agreed upon, under which neither state would use or threaten to use force against the other and would mutually respect each others’ territory.

Bulgaria - November 6, 1991 (OSA)

A confidential UN report reveals the widespread safety abuses at the nuclear power station of Kozloduy, reportedly larger than those at Chernobyl. The Bulgarian government itself reported that an uncontrolled chain reaction was possible in spent fuel storage containers. To complicate the situation, the most qualified staff are quitting.

Moldavia / Soviet Union / Ukraine – November 6, 1991 (KCA)

Ukraine and Moldavia agree to sign the Treaty on Economic Community, leaving Azerbaijan and Georgia as the sole non-signatories.

Russia – November 6, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin takes on the role of Prime Minister. Vice President Rutskoi is named head of an operational control centre, and Gennady Burbulis is named first Deputy Prime Minister. Yegor Gaidar is named the Deputy Prime Minister of economic policy and Aleksandr Shokhin is named Deputy Prime Minister of social policy.

Russia – November 6, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin issues a decree banning the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Russian Communist Party, and nationalizing their property.

Romania – November 6, 1991 (KCA)

Prime Minister Theodor Stoloianu announces that the Romanian currency is to be made internally convertible, ending the historical two-tiered system of exchange rates.

Germany – November 6, 1991 (OSA)

Chancellor Helmut Kohl delivers a government declaration on forthcoming summit meetings of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and European Community; his address, along with remarks by Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich-Genscher, are marked by more urgent concerns. In his address, Kohl says that recognition must not be put on the back burner, and urges sanctions beyond those agreed by the European Community on Monday (4th November). He also cautions supporters that it's in the interests of Croatia and Slovenia that support is taken by the whole Community, and not just by Germans alone. Dietrich-Genscher's remarks include strong steps towards recognition, such as the decision to open a Consulate General in the Slovenian capital in order to turn it – as well as the pre-existing Consulate General in the Croatian capital – into an embassy as soon as recognition occurs. Genscher also lists additional sanctions desired by Bonn, including a comprehensive trade embargo cutting off Yugoslav army's fuel supplies, and a freezing of Yugoslav Central Bank accounts that might help to finance the fighting. Genscher also notes that all Community members had agreed to the initial sanctions and warns that if some did not act to put them into effect on Friday (8th November), then this would cause a serious crisis. Greece has already indicated unhappiness with the idea of sanctions.

Additionally, Genscher urges actions by the United Nations Security Council to make sanctions mandatory for all states, beyond the European Community, too. Kohl's speech also demands that Soviet nuclear weapons be kept under central control, reflecting concern that the republics, which are growing in political strength, may become unprecedented nuclear powers. Kohl demands that any guarantees about the nuclear weapons be durable. Kohl also says that the Baltic States and the other new Eastern European democracies must be made to feel wanted by the European Community, and not kept at arms length; Germany has urged opening the Community to them, but has met resistance from Paris. Urging Western aid for the Soviet Union, Kohl rejects the view of some other Western countries that this should be a task for Germany alone.

Kohl seeks to bridge the gap in the dispute over a new European Defence Force, which France wants to be a part of the European Community, and which Britain wants to be linked with NATO.

Kohl links it with both, assuring NATO that German troops in the envisaged expanded brigade with France would remain assigned to the alliance. Kohl also states that NATO and an American presence remain indispensable, whilst also rejecting apparent American complaints about the European force. Due to Washington's public restraint on this dispute, it is assumed that this reflects privately expressed reservations.

Germany – November 7, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Germany announces a plan to place tens of thousands of new asylum-seekers in special centres, and drastically speed up the process of deciding which refugees will be able to stay in the country.

Georgia / Soviet Union – November 7, 1991 (KCA)

Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia announces that Georgia has taken over all equipment and facilities belonging to Soviet Interior Ministry troops and the Soviet army stationed in the republic's territory.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – November 7, 1991 (RWE)

Serbia announced the creating of new Special Forces of 20,000 well-trained soldiers. The next day Serbia closed its borders to men liable to military service.

NATO - November 7-8, 1991 (LBC)

The Rome meeting of the 16 member states of NATO set a new, post-Cold War course for the alliance. The democratization of Eastern Europe, the reunification of Germany and the collapse of Warsaw Pact forced NATO to redefine its role in Western security since 1949. According to the newly released document the next possible threat to peace could come from Eastern Europe in the form of political instability, nationalist unrest. Foreign ministers of the European Community impose an economic embargo on Yugoslavia in an effort to halt the civil war in the country.

Bulgaria – November 8, 1991 (KCA, OSA)

The first entirely non-communist Bulgarian government takes office, led by Filip Dimitrov. The cabinet is composed of 14 Ministers, 4 of which belonging to the UDF but unaffiliated to any of the political parties in the coalition. Dimitrov says that the ministers have been chosen based on their qualifications. All ministers have a higher education, and the average age is 49.

Hungary – November 8, 1991 (KCA)

In an attempt to improve the competitiveness of Hungarian exports, the forint was devalued by 5.8%.

NATO / Eastern Europe – November 8, 1991 (KCA)

NATO leaders end a summit meeting in Rome with a call for closer cooperation with Eastern European countries. The leaders invite Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia –Estonia, Hungary – Latvia, Lithuania, Poland – Romania – and the Soviet Union to send foreign ministers to a meeting planned for December 20 in Brussels.

In a separate statement, the summit jointly urges Soviet republics to respect international arms control treaties, keep nuclear weapons under central authority, and limit the size of their armies. In another separate statement, the summit condemns attacks by the JNA and calls for a ceasefire in the region.

Bulgaria – November 8, 1991 (KCA)

The first entirely non-communist Bulgarian government takes office.

Yugoslavia – November 8, 1991 (YC, HR)

Foreign Ministers of EC member states meet at an extraordinary meeting in Rome. They decide to terminate the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Yugoslavia, to restore the quantitative limits for textiles, remove Yugoslavia from the list of beneficiaries of the General System of Preferences, to suspend benefits under the PHARE programme, to invite the UN Security Council to enhance effectiveness of the arms embargo and to take steps towards imposing an oil embargo. It is also decided that positive compensatory measures should be applied towards those parties which cooperate in finding a peaceful and comprehensive political solution to the crisis.

Yugoslavia – November 9, 1991 (YC)

The SFRY Presidency sends a letter to the UN Security Council, requesting urgent sending of UN peace forces to Croatia.

Yugoslavia – November 9-10, 1991 (YC, HR)

A separate referendum of Serbs takes place in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Over 90% of the voters opt for remaining within Yugoslavia.

Germany – November 9, 1991 (OSA)

Neo-Nazis stage rallies in two East German cities, clashing with leftist militants on the anniversary of *Kristallnacht*. Police charge 234 people with preach of public order, resisting arrest, vandalism, and arson. Neo-Nazi demonstrations also take place in Leipzig, Halle, and Wismar, where neo-Nazis battle with foreign students at a university cafeteria. The demonstration in Halle feature an address by David Irving, a British historian and Holocaust-denier, stating that “this movement is being driven by xenophobia, but it is also being driven by nationalism.” This marks the sharp increase in neo-Nazi demonstrations in recent months, since the number of foreigners entering Germany (mostly from Yugoslavia, Romania, and other economically-struggling Eastern European countries) increased significantly. At this time, foreigners make up less than 2% of Germany’s population in Eastern states, and less than 6% nationwide.

Germany – November 9 and 10, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Following the insidious wave of xenophobic attacks, many church groups and leftist political organisations in West Germany set up all-night vigils to protect the homes of foreigners seeking political asylum; unions and churches in Saxony issue an appeal for humanity towards foreigners, reminding people of Kristallnacht and urging the public not to build new walls against those who are different; media organizations commission public-service announcements, promoting similar messages; “In 160 countries around the world, Germans are foreigners, too”; billboard campaign from celebrities such as Steffi Graf and Herbert Grönemeyer stating “I am a foreigner.”

Germany – November 10, 1991 (OSA)

(BERLIN) – Commemoration of the 53rd anniversary of the *Reichskristallnacht*, politicians and representatives of Jewish organisations condemn the violent attacks on minorities in Germany; the mayor of Berlin, Diepgen, reminds citizens that their own freedom is the same of their fellow citizens, and that each individual bears responsibility in such a matter; more than 25,000 people

gather in Berlin to rally against racism and xenophobia in the Lustgarten; remembrance of Kristallnacht cannot take place until pogroms, or xenophobic massacres/attacks, are not acceptable in Germany.

Germany – November 10, 1991 (OSA)

(BADEN BADEN) – Commission of the European Community proposes shorter asylum procedures and deportations of rejected refugees; the Commission wants to prevent asylum from being eroded.

Yugoslavia / UN– November 10, 1991 (RWE)

The Collective State Presidency suggested UN peacekeeping forces should be deployed around Serb-populated regions of Croatia. The Croatian leadership insisted that forces should be deployed on the republican borders.

Yugoslavia / USA – November 10, 1991 (RWE)

President George Bush said that US would impose trade sanctions on Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / G24 – November 11, 1991 (RWE)

G-24 donor countries suspended aid to Yugoslavia.

Romania / European Communities – November 11, 1991 (KCA)

At a meeting of Finance Ministers in Brussels, the European Communities grant additional loans to Romania.

G-24 Countries – November 11, 1991

The Foreign Ministers of the G-24 meets in Brussels. Albania attends for the first time.

Yugoslavia – November 12, 1991 (YC)

The EC member states condemn the escalation of violence in Yugoslavia, especially the attacks upon Vukovar, Dubrovnik, and other cities in Croatia, at their meeting at Nordvick.

Yugoslavia / EC – November 12, 1991 (RWE)

Considering Croatia’s and Serbia’s request for EC or UN peacekeeping forces an EC Foreign Ministers meeting in Noordwijk requested Lord Carrington to travel to Yugoslavia for further negotiations with the republic’s leaders.

Yugoslavia / EC / Croatia– November 13, 1991 (RWE)

After a ceasefire agreement in Dubrovnik evacuation of refugees and EC monitors started.

Soviet Union / U.S. – November 13, 1991 (KCA)

Gorbachev and US. officials discuss modernizing the Soviet agricultural sector in Moscow.

Romania – November 13, 1991 (KCA)

A Hungarian radio station reports panic buying due to the November 6 decision to make the Romanian currency internally convertible.

Bulgaria – November 13, 1991 (KCA)

The National Assembly sets a January 12, 1992 for the presidential elections.

Germany – November 13, 1991 (OSA)

Mete Eksi dies from his injuries, 13 days after the attack.

Germany – November 14, 1991 (OSA)

(BERLIN) – Berlin Justice Department announces investigation of three German men for manslaughter of a 19-year-old Turkish student, Mete Ekşi, who was beaten with baseball bats, and died from his injuries approx. 2 weeks after the fact.

Hungary – November 14, 1991 (KCA)

The *Financial Times* reports that a banking act was passed meant to aid in the privatization of Hungary’s banking system. The law limited all shareholders, the state included, to a maximum 25% share.

Latvia / Soviet Union – November 14, 1991 (KCA)

The Latvian Supreme Council authorizes cutting off food and electricity to Soviet military bases.

Soviet Union – November 14, 1991 (KCA)

The Interstate Economic Committee is formed and Ivan Silayey is confirmed as its chair. The IEC is to replace the interim economic committee, which had been attempting to manage the economy since the coup.

Soviet Union – November 14, 1991 (KCA)

It is announced that an agreement has been reached on forming a Union of Sovereign States. Gorbachev describes this as a union of “Non-federal Democratic States.”

Yugoslavia / EC / Serbia – November 14, 1991 (RWE)

After a meeting with Lord Carrington and Milosevic in Belgrade Kadijevic an immediate ceasefire agreement was reached.

Soviet Union – November 15, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union announces that the Soviet Foreign Ministry will be fundamentally reorganized.

Russia / Soviet Union – November 15, 1991 (KCA)

The Russian government announces that it is taking control of Soviet oil-export licenses beginning December 1. It also announces that it will take control of gold and diamonds in its territory.

Germany – November 15, 1991 (OSA)

Approx. 130 Turkish youths protest against the racist killing of Ekşi, throwing bottles, rocks, and fireworks at the Police.

Germany – November 15, 1991 (OSA)

(LEIPZIG) – Neo-Nazis break into two Vietnamese homes in Leipzig, beating and stabbing one resident, and wrecking the flat with baseball bats. The police state that the victim has been hospitalised in serious condition, but that no arrests have been made regarding either of these attacks.

Germany – November 15, 1991 (OSA)

(BERLIN) – 44 foreign asylum seekers, who have occupied lecture rooms at Technical University for three weeks since fleeing neo-Nazi attacks in Eastern Germany, begin a hunger strike to press city authorities for protection against racist violence.

Germany – November 16, 1991 (OSA)

(BERLIN) – 6,000 people (approx. 60% of whom were Turks) protest against xenophobia and mistreatment of Turks in general – provoked by the killing of 19-year-old Ekşi, and 500 Turks battle riot police

Germany – November 17-20, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Mircea Ionescu-Quintus, Romanian Minister of Justice, pays a visit to Bonn, as a guest of the German Minister for Justice Dr Klaus Kinkel, in order to attend the Conference of Ministers for Justice of Central and Eastern Europe on ‘Law and Jurisdiction Enforced as Guarantees of Liberty.’

Russia – November 17, 1991 (KCA)

Russian measures lift import and export controls, introduce a floating ruble exchange rate beginning January 1, 1992, allow Russian citizens to hold hard-currency accounts, permit all Russian firms to engage in foreign trade, and raise salaries by as much as 90%.

Bulgaria - November 17, 1991 (OSA)

German ecologists say that Bulgaria's troubled reactor at Kozloduy, plagued by radioactive leaks and failures, is also a fire hazard. Bulgarian Atomic Energy Committee Yanko Yanev acknowledges the danger, but says Bulgaria lacks the economic resources to improve safety at the plant.

Bulgaria - November 18, 1991 (OSA)

A Bulgarian defense company reaches an agreement to assemble Ford cars under a joint international venture agreement. The new company, Namco, will create 20,000 jobs and produce 5,000 cars a year for the US market.

Hungary / United Kingdom – November 18, 1991 (KCA)

Hungarian President Arpad Göncz begins a 5-day state visit to the United Kingdom.

Bosnia-Herzegovina / Yugoslavia – November 18, 1991 (KCA)

In Bosnia-Herzegovina’s election for state Presidency, nationalist parties win all seven seats, ousting the ruling Communists.

Soviet Union / G7 Countries – November 18-21, 1991 (KCA)

Talks begin between the Soviet Union and G-7 countries are held in Moscow on the Soviet debt issue. The Baltic States send representatives as observers. It is decided that deferment of principal repayments will be allowed. The republics also agree to implement the IMF recommendations on economic reform and to honour the \$84,000 million foreign debt.

Soviet Union – November 19, 1991 (KCA)

Eduard Shevardnadze is reappointed as the Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Soviet Union / US – November 19, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin appoints Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozlovsky, as special representative to the US. He is to work within the Soviet embassy.

Yugoslavia / WEU – November 19, 1991 (RWE)

Foreign Ministers of the WEU agreed to allow naval ships to create humanitarian corridors to Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Herzegovina / UN – November 20, 1991 (RWE)

Bosnia-Herzegovina requested the deployment of UN troops in the light of plebiscites in Serbian and Croatian populated areas.

Soviet Union – November 20, 1991 (KCA)

Eduard Shevardnadze says of Gorbachev that, after the coup in August, "his change toward democracy is, in my mind, final."

Yugoslavia – November 20, 1991 (YC)

After over three months of fighting between the YPA and Croat forces, the YPA takes over the town of Vukovar.

Soviet Union / US – November 20, 1991 (KCA)

The US approves \$1,250 million in loan guarantees to the Soviet Union to buy food and animal feed.

G7 - November 21, 1991 (LBC)

The Group of Seven leading industrial countries reach an agreement with the Soviet republics to defer repayments on foreign debts accumulated by the Soviet Union. The pact defers \$3.6 billion in principal payments on medium- and long term debt owed to the G7 nations through 1992.

Romania – November 21, 1991 (ADC)

The Romanian Parliament adopts a new constitution, which changes the country's name to the Republic of Romania.

Romania – November 21, 1991 (KCA)

Parliament endorses a new constitution that guarantees pluralism, human rights, and a free market.

Yugoslavia – November 21, 1991 (RWE)

The resignation of Zivko Pregl (Vice-President), Joze Slokar (Transport and communications) and Franc Horvat (Foreign Economic Relations) and other ministers from the Federal Executive Council was accepted.

Russia / Germany – November 21-23, 1991 (KCA)

In his first visit abroad since the attempted coup, Yeltsin visits Germany and meets with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, political party leaders, businessmen, and President Richard von Weizsäcker.

Yugoslavia – November 21, 1991 (YC)

The Assembly of Macedonia passes the new Constitution, defining Macedonia as a sovereign and independent state.

Yugoslavia – November 22, 1991 (YC)

Special envoy of the UN Secretary General Cyrus Vance discusses in Belgrade the possibilities for sending UN peace forces to Croatia.

Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland – November 22, 1991 (KCA)

The European communities, along with Czechoslovakia –Hungary – and Poland – sign initial association agreements providing for free trade within 10 years’ time and allowing for the future possibility of EU membership for the three Eastern European countries.

Germany / Romania –November 22, 1991 (OSA)

The Romanian newspaper, *Azi*, reacts to the ongoing negotiations of the Romanian-German Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, and states that the treaties concluded by Germany with Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria, offer Romanian negotiators tangible precedents for formulating and obtaining an agreement that meets the expectations of the Romanian public opinion. The newspaper reads that, when officials in Hungary question the objectivity – and subsequently the authority – of the Treaty of Trianon, and when the Vienna Award is constantly quoted as ‘an act that would meet today, too, the ethnic realities and the rights of the Hungarians in Transylvania’, it is imminently important that the preamble to the Romanian-German Treaty show that the signatories ‘consider the award imposed on Romania as an act of national-socialist arbitrariness and consequently consider it as invalid’. The importance of the statement in the Romanian-German Treaty that ‘recognises that the Vienna Award of August 30th, 1940, was imposed on Romania under the threat of violence by the national-socialist regime’, should no longer be commented upon, and it reflects a national desideratum which the Romanian Foreign Ministry has the duty to honour.

Croatia / Serbia / Yugoslavia - November 23, 1991 (LBC)

At a meeting in Geneva, Croatian, Serbian and Yugoslav army sign a United Nations-mediated cease-fire accord in which they agree in principle to admit a multinational peace-keeping force into Yugoslavia to help end the civil war. The agreement is signed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Col. Gen. Veljko Kadijevic, the Yugoslavian defense minister. The accord was mediated by former US secretary of state Cyrus R. Vance, the chief U.N. mediator in the Yugoslav crisis.

Georgia – November 25, 1991 (KCA)

The Georgian Supreme Council votes to lift the state of emergency in South Ossetia in an effort “to reduce tension in the region.”

Yugoslavia / Amnesty International– November 25, 1991 (RWE)

Amnesty International in a report accused all sides in the conflict of torture and murder of civilians.

Yugoslavia / Council of Europe – November 25, 1991 (RWE)

Yugoslavia’s special status at the European parliament was suspended.

Russia / U.S. – November 25-27, 1991 (KCA)

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev visits the US, meets with James Baker, and delivers a message from Yeltsin to Bush.

Poland / Council of Europe – November 26, 1991 (KCA)

Poland becomes the third Eastern European country to join the Council of Europe after holding free multiparty election.

Soviet Union / European Communities – November 26, 1991 (KCA)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development announces its first loans to the Soviet Union, totaling \$19 million.

Bulgaria - November 27, 1991 (OSA)

As a result of pressure from Germany and the international community, Bulgaria agrees to shut down two Soviet-era nuclear reactors at the Kozlodui 67plant for health and safety reasons. Bulgaria was already suffering from a loss of supplies of electricity and coal from the Soviet Union, forcing the imposition of power cuts in October.

Yugoslavia – November 27, 1991 (YC, HR)

UN Security Council adopts the Resolution on Yugoslavia 721, which suggests establishing peacekeeping operation in Yugoslavia

Soviet Union – November 27, 1991 (KCA)

Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dmitry Yazov grants sweeping new power to troops in the Baltic areas. They are now allowed to fire on people for harassing them or attacking bases, and to seize installations if supplies are threatened.

Germany / Romania – November 27, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – The German-Romanian Joint Economic Commission hold its 16th session; German’s Economic Ministry states that Parliamentary State Secretary Klaus Beckmann would lead its team, and Trade and Tourism Minister Constantin Fota would lead Romania’s delegation. An Economic Ministry statement says that the meeting would discuss the economic situation in both countries, Romania’s reforms, and bilateral economic, industrial, and technical cooperation. The statement also says that bilateral trade had declined in the first eight months of the year, with German sales to Romania down by more than 50%, and Romania’s exports to Germany by nearly 30%.

Yugoslavia / Germany – November 27, 1991 (RWE)

Federal Chancellor of Germany Helmut Kohl promised the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia by Germany before Christmas.

Yugoslavia / ICRC – November 27, 1991 (RWE)

In Geneva the sides of the conflict with the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross agreed to implement the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – November 28, 1991 (RWE)

Following the talks between the representatives of the JNA and Croatia JNA forces began withdrawing from barracks in Zagreb.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – November 28, 1991 (RWE)

After ceasefire violation on Croatian territory Croatia agreed to deploy peacekeeping forces not only on republican borders.

Russia – November 28, 1991 (KCA)

The Supreme Soviet passes a law giving citizenship to Russians living outside of the borders of the Russian Federation. This affects the estimated 26 million Russians living in other Soviet and former Soviet republics. This law also restores citizenship to 175 cultural figures stripped of their Russian citizenship upon emigration and to those who had joined the mass Russian emigration to Israel.

Yugoslavia / CSCE – November 29, 1991 (RWE)

Fifth emergency meeting on Yugoslavia of the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe opened in Prague.

Russia / Soviet Union – November 30, 1991 (KCA)

A compromise agreement between Yeltsin and Gorbachev gives the Russian Federation joint control with the centre over Union budget policy.

Yugoslavia – November 30, 1991 (YC)

The CSCE Crisis Committee convenes without the participation of the Yugoslav delegation. They adopt the resolution supporting the activities of the UN in connection with the crisis in Yugoslavia.

Bosnia-Herzegovina / Macedonia / Montenegro / Serbia / Yugoslavia – November and December 1991 (KCA)

Free elections are completed within Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, and Montenegro. Nationalists oust the Communists in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, but Communists win elections by a large margin in Serbia and Montenegro.

December

Germany – December 1991 (OSA)

The Volkswagen Golf is voted European Car of the Year; this is the first Volkswagen model to receive the accolade.

Kazakhstan - December 1991 (AJ)

The President of Kazakhstan issued a decree "On the Rehabilitation of Citizens Involved to account for participation in the events of December 17-18, 1986 in Kazakhstan." The December events of 1986 in Alma-Ata became a catalyst for the democratization of political life.

Yugoslavia / UN – December 1-8, 1991 (KCA)

The UN special envoy to Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance, makes his fourth visit to the country to discuss the chance of deploying UN troops to the region, although this was to be contingent upon an absolute ceasefire. JNA garrisons in Croatia were allowed to leave from their Croatian blockaders.

Ukraine - December 1, 1991 (LBC)

A referendum in the Soviet republic of Ukraine overwhelmingly votes for independence from the

U.S.S.R.

Yugoslavia – December 2, 1991 (YC, HR)

The EC Ministerial Council decides not to apply economic sanctions to Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Slovenia and Croatia, and consider Montenegro as well. In practice, the sanctions introduced on November 8 were applied to Serbia and to Montenegro.

U.S. - December 2, 1991 (LBC)

President Bush instructs Secretary of State Baker to go to Kiev before the end of December for high-level talks on the possible establishment of diplomatic relations.

Ukraine / Canada – December 2, 1991 (KCA)

Canada recognizes Ukrainian independence.

Yugoslavia / European Communities / US – December 2, 1991 (KCA)

EC Foreign Ministers, after a meeting in Brussels, decide to restore credit and trade agreements and lift aid sanctions with four of the six republics in Yugoslavia, excluding Montenegro and Serbia. The US imposes sanctions on all Yugoslav republics.

Yugoslavia / EC – December 2, 1991 (RWE)

An EC monitors’ document accusing the JNA in brutal aggression and calling the EC to use forces against it was leaked.

Baltic States / Soviet Union – December 3, 1991 (KCA)

Rafik Nishanov, Chair of the Soviet of Nationalities, warns that Baltic republics would not be able to negotiate their statuses until they signed the new Union Treaty.

Bulgaria - December 3, 1991 (OSA)

Bulgaria's top nuclear regulator, Yanko Yanev, says that the country's new safety-first policy in nuclear power is expected to cause blackouts.

U.S. / Czechoslovakia / Hungary / Poland - December 3, 1991 (LBC)

U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney announces the lifting of the ban on the sale of U.S. armaments to Czechoslovakia –Hungary and Poland.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – December 4, 1991 (RWE)

Croatian Assembly approved a law on minorities according to which Croatia accepts all international human rights conventions and grants cultural autonomy to the ethnic minorities.

Serbia / Germany – December 4, 1991 (KCA)

Germany closes air and road links with Serbia.

Russia / Soviet Union – December 5, 1991 (KCA)

As agreed upon with G-7 countries, the *Vneshekonombank* ceases principal repayments of the Soviet Union’s foreign debt.

Russia / Soviet Union / Ukraine – December 5, 1991 (KCA)

7 of the original 15 Soviet republics reach a partial agreement to divide Soviet debt, with Russia taking 61.34% and Ukraine taking 16.37%.

Croatia / Yugoslavia – December 5, 1991 (KCA)

The Croatian President of the Collective State Presidency, Stjepan Mesic, resigns to the unanimous approval of the Croatian parliament.

Germany / Romania – December 5, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Germany and Romania conclude a second round of negotiations on an overall treaty. The Germany Foreign Office state that negotiations from Monday 2nd – Wednesday 4th of December in Bucharest had reached agreement on the first parts of the envisaged treaty, and that the next round of negotiations would be held in the new year in Bonn.

Germany – December 5, 1991 (OSA)

Germany’s Education Ministry says Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldavia, Latvia, Byelorussia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia will send Deputy Education Ministers, and the other six republics will send experts on vocational training to the forthcoming visit and talks at German education institutions. The German statement says that the talks would focus on support by Bonn in the creation of vocational training systems in the Republics, and that a German-Soviet accord on cooperation in training managers runs out at the end of the year, and the Republics have expressed interest in continuing individual projects.

Hungary / Russia / Soviet Union – December 6, 1991 (KCA)

Jozsef Antall, Hungary’s Prime Minister, signs a treaty in Moscow ensuring good diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Equality between the two nations is stressed, in contrast to past diplomatic activity with the Communist state. A clause within condemns the 1956 Soviet invasion of Hungary. A similar treaty establishing full diplomatic relations with Russia is also signed.

Yugoslavia – December 6, 1991 (HR)

The US Government introduces economic sanctions against all Yugoslav republics.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – December 6, 1991 (RWE)

JNA launched a new offensive against Croatia.

Hungary – December 6, 1991 (KCA)

Peter Akos Bod, the former Minister of Industry and Commerce, is appointed to succeed Gyorgy Suranyi as the governor of the National Bank. Suranyi had been dismissed after undergoing attacks by right-wing politicians.

Hungary / Ukraine – December 7, 1991 (KCA)

Jozsef Antall signs a treaty in Kiev establishing cooperation between Hungary and Ukraine.

Romania – December 8, 1991 (ADC)

The question of whether to adopt the new Romanian constitution is put to the public in the form of a referendum. 77.3 percent of citizens vote in favour of the document while 20.4 percent oppose it. 2.3 percent of all votes are declared invalid. The new constitution is thus adopted, transforming Romania into a Western Europe-style parliamentary democracy.

CIS - December 8, 1991 (LBC)

The leaders of three Slavic republics sign an agreement forming a "Commonwealth of Independent States" to replace the old U.S.S.R.

Russia / Soviet Union / Ukraine – December 8, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union is declared defunct at a meeting near Minsk of the leaders of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. The declaration is made by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, and Chair of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus Stanislav Shushkevich. The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is created and is open to all former Soviet states and any others that share their goals. The CIS will unify control of its member states’ strategic forces, cooperate economically, and honour the internal obligations of what was the Soviet Union. The meeting also decides that Russia will take over the Soviet Union’s seat on the UN Security Council.

Germany – December 8, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Education Officials from 15 former or present Soviet Republics visit Germany for talks at German education institutions.

Yugoslavia – December 9, 1991 (YC)

Presidents of all Yugoslav republics meet in The Hague at an invitation of Lord Carrington. They agree that the Conference on Yugoslavia should continue to exist.

Bosnia-Herzegovina / Yugoslavia – December 9, 1991 (KCA)

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the last round of elections (the other two on November 18 and December 2) is held for the recently reorganized bicameral Assembly. The vast majority of seats go to the three nationalist parties claiming to represent the Muslim, Serb, and Croat populations. The Party of Democratic Action (SDA-the largest Muslim party) wins 86 seats, the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) wins 72, and the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) wins 44. The League of Communists wins only 19 seats. Other seats become occupied by smaller parties.

Yugoslavia / European Communities – December 9, 1991 (KCA)

The Yugoslavian peace conference in The Hague reconvenes. An EC arbitration committee reports that Yugoslavia is “legally in the process of dissolution.” This is rejected by the Yugoslavian rump presidency.

Macedonia / Yugoslavia – December 9, 1991 (KCA)

In Macedonia, the third round of elections (following November 11 and 25) is held, producing a hung parliament. The largest winners were the nationalist Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (37 seats), the Macedonia League of Communists-Party for Democratic Change (31 seats), the Alliance of Reform forces (18 seats), and the two parties representing the Albanian minority – the Party for Democratic Prosperity and the National Democratic Party (25 seats together). Macedonian nationalists accuse the Albanians of voting fraud, and investigations resulted in annulling first-round results in 33 constituencies, but not all in Albanian areas.

Serbia / Yugoslavia – December 9, 1991 (KCA)

In Serbia, the election is held for the Serbian Presidency. Socialist Party leader and incumbent

Serbian Presidency President, Slobodan Milosevic, wins 65% of the vote, thereby defeating 30 other candidates.

Yugoslavia / Macedonia – December 9, 1991 (RWE)

Macedonia’s representative declared his plan to live the Federal Presidency.

European Communities – December 9-11, 1991 (KCA)

The heads of state of the European Communities meet in Maastricht, the Netherlands and end with an agreement that framed a treaty for the European Union.

Bulgaria / Estonia / Latvia / Lithuania / Romania / Turkey – December 10, 1991 (KCA)

Joint declarations of cooperation are signed between Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania – and Turkey.

Yugoslavia – December 10, 1991 (YC)

The Arbitration Commission of the Conference on Yugoslavia, the so-called Badinter Commission, issues its first opinion on the situation in Yugoslavia. They conclude that the SFRY is in the process of dissolution, that the republics should solve the problems of State succession in accordance with the international law, and with special attention to human rights and rights of peoples and minorities, and that those republics wishing to remain in a common state should create new associations with democratic institutions.

Yugoslavia – December 11, 1991 (YC)

The so-called Vance Peace Plan on the UN peacekeeping operation in Yugoslava is submitted to the UN Security Council as an annex to the Report of the Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali to the UN Scrutiny Council (Document D/23280). Under the provisions of the plan, the UN peacekeeping forces would be deployed in specified area of Croatia, designated as “United Nations Protected Areas”. Three UNPA zones were foreseen – in Eastern Slavonia, Western Slavonia and Krajina. All units of the Yugoslav Peoples Army, Croatian National Guard and Territorial Defense should be withdrawn from these areas, and paramilitary units disbanded and demobilized. Local police forces should be responsible for maintenance of public order, and UN infantry units and civilian police observers would perform the function of protecting the population and ensuring the process of demilitarization. This would be a temporary arrangement designed to create conditions for peace and security, necessary for negotiations on a comprehensive settlement of the crisis.

According to an oral report of his personal envoy Cyrus Vance, UN Secretary General Peres de Cuellar submitted a report to the Security Council in which he stated that conditions for sending UN peace forces to Croatia have not yet been met since cease fire has not been established.

Germany – December 11, 1991 (OSA)

Former leader of East Germany, Erich Honecker, seeks asylum along with his family in the Chilean Embassy in Moscow whilst facing extradition to Germany, as well as a trial for manslaughter charges. At this time, Honecker is also applying for political asylum within the Soviet Union.

Russia / Soviet Union – December 11, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin and Gorbachev hold separate meetings with military commanders to ensure support for the CIS. Yeltsin informs them of a 90% pay raise.

Bulgaria - December 11, 1991 (OSA)

Officials of the Defense Ministry announced that the compulsory military service will be further reduced from the current 18 months to 1 year. This move is part of an effort to create a professional army, the officials say.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – December 11, 1991 (RWE)

Budimir Loncar the Federal Foreign Minister officially resigned.

Yugoslavia / Germany / UN / Serbia – December 12, 1991 (RWE)

A letter by UN Secretary-General was sent to Germany expressing his concern over Germany government’s plan to recognize Slovenia’s and Croatia’s independence. The Serbian government also opposed these intentions and threatened to increase attacks from Serbia in case of recognition.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – December 12, 1991 (RWE)

Serbian government resigned. The composition of new government was announced on December 23.

Soviet Union / Ukraine – December 12, 1991 (KCA)

Ukrainian President Leonid Kraychuk signs a decree appointing himself commander of the circa 1.2 million Soviet troops in Ukraine.

Bulgaria - December 12, 1991 (OSA)

Western tourists (mostly British) are flocking to winter resorts in Bulgaria despite fears that fighting in neighboring Yugoslavia would scare them off.

Bulgaria - December 13, 1991 (OSA)

Parliament approves a law that confiscates the property of the Socialist Party. The socialists walked out before the vote and called the law "repressive."

Lithuania / Soviet Union – December 13, 1991 (KCA)

Lithuanian President Vytautas announces that the Soviets have postponed their plans to negotiate with Baltic republics indefinitely.

Yugoslavia / Bosnia-Hercegovina – December 13, 1991 (RWE)

Bosnia-Hercegovina’s Assembly approved the republic’s representative non-attendance at Federal Presidency meetings since October.

European Communities – December 14, 1991 (KCA)

The European Court of Justice finds that the judicial controls elaborated in the treaty founding a common European Economic Area, agreed upon in October, are incompatible with the EC’s law’s judicial independence.

Germany – December 14, 1991 (OSA)

Honecker receives an offer of asylum from North Korea; however, he rejects this offer, instead hoping to receive special protection from Chile as, under his leadership, East Germany had granted exile to many Chileans following the military coup of 1973.

Russia / Soviet Union / U.S. – December 15, 1991 (KCA)

The US Secretary of State, James Baker, arrives in Moscow and declares “the Soviet Union as we know it no longer exists.” He holds talks with Yeltsin, Soviet Defense Minister Shaposhnikov, Interior Minister Barannikov, Gorbachev, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and other Russian government leaders. He also travels to meet leaders of Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kirgizstan. He is told that nuclear disarmament is proceeding under unified control.

Yugoslavia / UN – December 15, 1991 (KCA)

The UN Security Council votes unanimously to send a small contingent, with military personnel, to Yugoslavia in order to prepare for the deployment of peacekeeping troops. It also urges UN members to do nothing to worsen the situation.

US / Soviet Union - December 15-19, 1991 (LBC)

Secretary of State Baker's visit to the U.S.S.R. Baker receives assurances from key republic leaders that the Soviet nuclear arsenal would remain under some form of central control once the commonwealth becomes reality.

Russia – December 16, 1991 (KCA)

The Russian Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic policy, Yegor Gaidar, declares that the *Vneshekonombank* is bankrupt.

Yugoslavia / European Communities – December 16, 1991 (KCA)

EC Foreign Ministers vote to extend recognition by January 15 to Yugoslav republics meeting certain criteria. These are acceptance of the UN, Helsinki Act, and Paris Charter; commitments on the rule of law, democracy, and human rights; guarantees of ethics and minority rights; acceptance of the inviolability of frontiers; honouring disarmament and regional security commitments; arbitration to decide a structure to replace the old state; and acceptance of the draft agreement on Yugoslavia’s future laid out by the EC peace conference.

Montenegro / Yugoslavia – December 16, 1991 (KCA)

The second round of Assembly elections are held (following December 9) in Montenegro. The Montenegrin League of Communists wins 83 seats – a vast majority.

Poland / Czechoslovakia / Hungary – December 16, 1991 (LBC)

Poland – Czechoslovakia and Hungary sign 10-year association agreements with the European Community in Brussels.

Bulgaria - December 16, 1991 (OSA)

In the cabinet appointed after the electoral victory of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), Bulgaria got its first civilian Defense Minister since the 1930s.

Yugoslavia – December 17, 1991 (YC, HR)

Foreign Ministers of the EC meet in Brussels, where they adopt a Declaration on the Guidelines on the Recognition of the New States in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and a Declaration on Yugoslavia. According to the second document, the EC would recognize the independence of all Yugoslav republics if they fulfill the criteria outlined in the Declaration on the Guidelines. All Yugoslav republics are invited to submit their applications and a proof that they meet the criteria by

December 23. Those applications would be further assessed by the Arbitration Committee of the Conference on Yugoslavia, whereas decisions on possible recognitions would be made by the EC Ministerial Council after January 15, 1992.

Russia / Soviet Union - December 17, 1991 (LBC)

Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev holds a two-hour private discussion with Russian Republic President Boris N. Yeltsin in the Kremlin. Gorbachev accepts as imminent the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. All Soviet federal functions would either be dissolved or formally transferred to the newly created Commonwealth of Independent States by Jan. 1, 1992.

EC / Croatia / Slovenia - December 17, 1991 (LBC)

The European Community, seeking a diplomatic solution to the six-month civil war in Yugoslavia, announces that it would recognize the independence of the Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia in January 1992.

European Communities – December 17, 1991 (KCA)

Meeting in The Hague, 45 states and organizations, 12 of which were countries of the EC, sign the European Energy Charter, which is meant to “[unlock] the resources of the former Soviet bloc countries.” It is agreed that a legally binding agreement would follow in 1992.

Yugoslavia / European Communities – December 18, 1991 (KCA)

Lord Carrington meets the Presidents of Slovenia and Croatia, Milan Kucan and Franjo Tudjman, in Austria.

Germany – December 18, 1991 (OSA)

A new trial of former-East Berlin German border guards accused of killings at the Berlin Wall begins. The two defendants are charged with manslaughter for shooting a young man as he tried to climb the wall to enter West Berlin in 1984.

Germany – December 18, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – Four Bavarian Christian Democratic Bundestag deputies visit Romania for talks with government politicians and ethnic Germans. A statement released in Bonn says that the deputies had urged the Romanian government to relax restrictions on buying property there, stating that the question of citizenship and purchases of property remain an immense obstacle to ethnic Germans returning to Romania, who had resettled in the Federal Republic. The statement also made the point that only those who can buy property will be willing to invest there.

Germany – December 18, 1991 (OSA)

(BONN) – The German and Hungarian Finance Ministers, Theodor Waigel and Mihaly Kupa, sign a customs treaty in Bonn. The German Foreign Office states this was the first such agreement on customs matters with an East European state. A statement says that the treaty provides for mutual support of the customs authorities of both countries to prevent, investigate, and prosecute customs violations. The statement also calls for increased cooperation in procedures for checking goods, training officials, and simplifying procedures.

Hungary / Soviet Union – December 18, 1991 (KCA)

Hungary’s Defense Minister, Lajos Fuer, signs a five-year agreement of military cooperation with

the Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, between the two countries. A clause within guarantees the treaty’s validity should the Soviet Union be dissolved or politically changed.

Yugoslavia – December 18, 1991 (YC)

SFRY Presidency states that the EC Minsiterial Council violated the UN Charter and international law by its decision of December 17.

Yugoslavia – December 19, 1991 (YC, HR)

Serbian national Council accepts proclamation of Republic of Srpska Krajina. It adopts a new Constitution and elects Milan Babić as its first president.

Russia / Soviet Union – December 19, 1991 (KCA)

Yeltsin issues three decrees that bring all the ministries of the former USSR under Russian Federation control, except for the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Atomic Power and Industry.

Germany / Croatia / Slovenia - December 19, 1991 (LBC)

The German government unilaterally recognizes the independence of Croatia and Slovenia. In addition, it holds out economic assistance to Croatia.

Yugoslavia / Croatia / Serbia– December 19, 1991 (RWE)

Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina and the Autonomous Region of Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem occupying about a third of Croatia proclaimed themselves the Serbian Republic of Krajina. The following day Serbia recognized them.

Yugoslavia / Montenegro / Serbia / Vojvodina – December 19, 1991 (RWE)

Representative of Vojvodina in Yugoslav Presidency announced the formation of a third Yugoslavia covering Serbia, Montenegro and Serbian Krajina.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – December 20, 1991 (RWE)

The federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic (Croat) resigned in protest to the 1992 budget in which according to Markovic 81% of the money was marked for the JNA.

Bosnia-Herzegovina / Yugoslavia – December 20, 1991 (KCA)

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, the three nationalist parties recently voted into power form a coalition. Alija Izetbegovic of the Muslim nationalist party (SDA) is chosen as President of the Presidency, Jure Pelivan of the Croatian nationalist party (HDZ) is chosen as Prime Minister, and Momcilo Krajisnik of the Serbian nationalist party (SDS) is chosen as President of the Assembly.

Soviet Union – December 21, 1991 (KCA)

The Soviet Union is replaced by a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), made up of 11 of the former republics (not Georgia) in a loose alliance. Central control is to be kept over nuclear weapons and Soviet treaties would still be respected by the CIS.

Croatia / Yugoslavia – December 21, 1991 (KCA)

The Croatian Assembly promulgates a new constitution for the republic, which proclaims Croatia’s sovereignty, preserves the right to secede from Yugoslavia, and grants the President of Croatia

sweeping powers.

Bulgaria - December 22, 1991 (OSA)

A state television report of a nuclear accident sparks panic, but it turns out to be a "Christmas joke." The purported incident was said to have occurred at the Kozloduy nuclear plant, and citizens were told to stay indoors and wait for an address from the head of state. After fifty minutes from the original report, the same television network announces that it was just a "Christmas joke." A criminal investigation on the matter is announced by the Atomic Energy Committee Chairman, Yanko Yanev.

Soviet Union – December 23, 1991 (KCA)

The USSR Committee for the Supervision of the Constitution dissolves itself.

Yugoslavia – December 23, 1991 (KCA)

With the second round of elections (following December 9) in Serbia, the SPS, the ruling Socialist Party, wins 194 of 250 seats in the Assembly.

Yugoslavia – December 23, 1991 (YC, HR)

FR Germany officially recognizes the independence and sovereignty of Slovenia and Croatia, to become effective on January 15, 1992.

Yugoslavia – December 23, 1991 (KCA)

Slovenia holds a referendum concerning secession from Yugoslavia. Voter turnout is 93.5% of the registered voters. 94.6% vote in favour of mandating the government to declare independence if no agreement on rearranging Yugoslavia is made within six months.

Montenegro / European Communities – December 23, 1991 (KCA)

The government of Montenegro says that it will not be asking for EC recognition.

Kosovo / European Communities – December 23, 1991 (KCA)

Ethnic Albanians of Kosovo ask for the EC recognition of their independence.

Croatia / Slovenia / Germany – December 23, 1991 (KCA)

Germany recognizes the independence of Slovenia and Croatia and promises diplomatic relations commencement on January 15.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – December 23, 1991 (RWE)

A new constitution adopted in Slovenia by the republic's Assembly.

Yugoslavia / Croatia – December 23, 1991 (RWE)

The Croatian dinar is introduced as the new currency of Croatia.

Russia / Soviet Union / UN – December 24, 1991 (KCA)

Yuli Vorontsev, the Soviet Union's UN representative, becomes Russia's representative and delivers a letter from Yeltsin to the Secretary-General that informed all UN members that the Soviet Union would henceforth be represented by Russia.

Bosnia-Herzegovina / Croatia / Macedonia / Slovenia / European Communities – December 24, 1991 (KCA)

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Slovenia are reported to request recognition from the EC.

Soviet Union – December 25, 1991 (KCA)

Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as President and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and hands the nuclear codes over to Yeltsin. The Soviet Defence Minister, Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, becomes Commander-in-Chief.

Soviet Union / CIS - December 25, 1991 (LBC)

The Soviet Union is officially dissolved and replaced by a Commonwealth of Independent States made up 11 of the 12 former Soviet constituent republics. The demise of the U.S.S.R. came shortly after Soviet President Gorbachev announced his immediate resignation in a nationally televised address.

Russia / EU – December 25, 1991 (KCA)

The EU declares Russia to be “exercising the rights and international obligations of the former Soviet Union.”

Yugoslavia / UN – December 25, 1991 (KCA)

The Yugoslav government calls for the introduction of UN forces.

Yugoslavia – December 25, 1991 (RWE)

New dinar introduced.

Germany – December 25, 1991 (OSA)

Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russian authorities expel Honecker – against Gorbachev’s wishes – and the new government demands he leave the country, or face deportation.

Ukraine / EC / Armenia – December 26, 1991 (KCA)

The EC diplomatically recognizes Ukraine and Armenia as independent states.

Macedonia / European Communities – December 26, 1991 (KCA)

Macedonia drafts constitutional changes to align its government with the EC conditions for recognition.

Russia – December 26, 1991 (KCA)

A joint session of the Soviet of the Republics and the Soviet of the Union release the staff of the USSR Supreme Court, the judges of the Supreme Court of Arbitration, and other officials of their duty.

Russia / U.S. – December 26, 1991 (KCA)

The US gives diplomatic recognition to Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Kirgizstan. It recognizes the independence of other former Soviet states, but claims it will wait to recognize them until they meet certain standards of human rights and democracy.

Russia – December 27, 1991 (KCA)
All-Union Television and Radio becomes the *Ostankino Russian State Television and Radio Company*.

Yugoslavia / European Communities / United Nations – December 27, 1991 (KCA)
The Yugoslav Presidency, discontent with the EC's proposals, asks the UN to take control of the peace process.

Yugoslavia / Serbia – December 27, 1991 (RWE)
Serbia introduced its own currency to replace the Yugoslav dinar.

CIS / China – December 27, 1991 (KCA)
China, despite harsh criticism of Gorbachev, recognizes all CIS member states.

CIS / Japan – December 28, 1991 (KCA)
Japan formally recognizes all CIS members.

Bulgaria / Israel / Palestine - December 29, 1991 (OSA)
Bulgarian foreign minister Stoian Ganey expresses his country's support for the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel. He says that Jewish emigration does not constitute a threat to peace in the Middle East. However, he condemned the construction of settlements in the West Bank as such a threat.

Yugoslavia – December 29, 1991 (RWE)
Federal Assembly approved the 1992 budget in which 76,6% of expenditure was destined for the JNA.

Yugoslavia / Slovenia – December 30, 1991 (RWE)
In Slovenia the ruling DEMOS coalition dissolved and called for early elections in the spring of 1992.

Russia – December 30, 1991 (KCA)
Commander-in-Chief Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov is asked to continue his position for two months while new structures are created.

Confederation of Independent States – December 30, 1991 (KCA)
The CIS agrees that space research will be a joint venture of all member states.

Yugoslavia / UN – December 31, 1991 (RWE)
The Serbian-dominated Collective State Presidency approved the United Nation's plan for peacekeeping forces.

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