

# Soviet Asian republic lifts state of emergency

DUSHANBE, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Angry demonstrators forced Tadjikistan's parliament to lift a state of emergency Monday, while protesters in Georgia were warned to lay down their arms or face "radical measures."

Political and ethnic turmoil reverberated across the crumbling Soviet Union Monday. Russian officials warned Moldavia against harming ethnic Slavs in their bitter dispute in that western republic, saying they would take any legal steps necessary "to defend the rights, lives, honor and dignity of ethnic Russians."

And the upheaval apparently worried Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev. On Monday, he reiterated a vow to resign if the 12 remaining republics do not agree on a common market, according to the Tass news agency.

"I will immediately leave my post because, without integration, the country is threatened with collapse and this is a lethal path. I myself will not be connected with such a course," Gorbachev was quoted as saying.

In other developments:

- Lawmakers in the Central Asian republic of Turkmenia scheduled an Oct. 26 referendum on independence. Turkmenia, Russia and Kazakhstan are the only Soviet republics that have not formally declared independence, although many of the independence statements are seen merely as establishing bargaining positions.
- Teachers staged a brief strike on the Soviet Kuril island of Iturup, vowing never to give up the territories seized from Japan after World War II.
- Thousands of people rallied in the Azerbaijani capital

of Baku demanding new parliamentary elections, the Interfax news agency said. Some also called for a mobilization to fight Armenians, despite a cease-fire.

- Election officials in the Georgian-controlled territory of Abkhazia reported widespread fraud in balloting for a new legislature and said only 39 out of 230 seats could be filled, Tass reported.
- The broadcasting center in the Azerbaijan-controlled region of Nakhichevan was destroyed by mortar fire in a running ethnic dispute. TV and radio transmissions were knocked out and may take many months and millions of rubles to restore, local officials told Tass.
- Three days of demonstrations ended in the Chechen-Ingush autonomous republic in Georgia after a Russian delegation arrived to mediate in an ethnic dispute at the request of local officials, according to Tass.

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## Japanese Parliament axes reform

TOKYO (AP) — Parliament scrapped a package of political reform laws on Monday, snubbing Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu but not necessarily hurting his re-election drive.

Kaifu's two-year term as party president and prime minister expires at the end of October. Several senior politicians are vying for the post, which is to be decided in a party election Oct. 27.

Vowing to restore public trust in politics, Kaifu has made political reform his main domestic policy goal. He was chosen as prime minister two years ago when other members of the governing Liberal Democratic Party were tainted by an influence-peddling scandal.

The reform package rejected Monday would have overhauled Japan's election system and tightened controls on political funds. A parliamentary committee blocked a vote on the package during the current legislative session, which ends Friday, and failed to place it on the agenda of the next session.

Kyodo News Service said Kaifu had threatened to dissolve Parliament's lower house and call general elections if the decision were allowed to stand. It quoted unnamed sources as saying Kaifu's party had agreed to negotiate the package with opponents.

The reforms include creating single-seat election districts to replace the multiple-member districts now used in voting for Parliament's lower house.

Since members of the same party often battle one another in these districts, critics say campaigns often focus on pork-barrel politics and not on issues.

But critics of the plan included opposition members, who said it would allow Kaifu's Liberal Democrats to win landslide victories. Currently, the top several vote-getters in a district all gain seats, meaning an opposition candidate could run behind a Liberal Democrat and still be elected.

Opponents of the plan, including many Liberal Democrats unwilling to give up their seats, said single-member districts will not end money-dominated politics.

Backers of the bill were angry.

Home Affairs Minister Akira Fukuda complained that he had not been informed the package would be dropped. "It's nonsense," said Masayoshi Ito, a former foreign minister and a proponent of the bill.