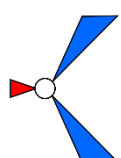


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<p><13/c></p>  <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	<p>and temporarily banning stoppages in key economic sectors [see p. 36978]. At the CPSU congress currently in session Gorbachev tried to play down the significance of the strikes, claiming that the “general strike” urged by independent miner’s leaders had not materialized. However, Ryzhkov on July 12 told the congress that production had been halted for 24 hours at 230 of the country’s 655 coalmines, with shorter stoppages occurring at many others. June independent miners’ congress Delegates representing miners in most Soviet coalfields held a week-long congress in mid-June in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk, at which it was decided in principle to set up an independent miners’ union. By a nearly three-to-one majority the congress on June 15 passed a resolution declaring that the CPSU could no longer be considered the champion of workers’ rights, and was losing its authority. It called for a “mass exit” of members from the party, for CPSU cells in state enterprises to be abolished, and for the CPSU to surrender its assets to the state. Sovereignty declarations in Ukraine and Byelorussia The Ukraine on July 16 and neighbouring Byelorussia on July 27 (both separate members of the UN) joined the growing list of Soviet republics to declare sovereignty. Deputies to the Supreme Soviet in the Ukraine adopted 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 made no mention of the Ukraine’s right to secede from the Soviet Union, however, most speakers in the debate having rejected full independence as a goal. Nevertheless, in several important respects, the declaration went further than sovereignty declarations adopted in June in the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan and Moldavia [see pp. 37539-40]. Most notably, it insisted on the Ukraine’s right to have “its own armed forces, internal security troops and state security bodies”, and to veto the deployment of Ukrainian citizens outside the republic for military service (a subsequent resolution, adopted on July 30, condemned the deployment of Ukrainian conscripts in peacekeeping duties in Transcaucasia and Central Asia, and called for all Ukrainian conscripts serving in other republics to be repatriated by Dec. 1). The declaration also proclaimed the intention of making the Ukraine a “permanently neutral state”, free of nuclear weapons. Regarding economic sovereignty, it called for the creation of an independent financial system and demanded the Ukraine’s share of Soviet currency and gold reserves. It also proclaimed the right to “demand compensation for damages caused to the republic’s ecology by union bodies”. The declaration was passed by 355 votes to four with one abstention.</p> <p>The Washington Post of July 17</p> <p>described this overwhelming endorsement as “an indication of how far the official Communist majority has had to move in order to keep pace with the pressure from Rukh [the main nationalist opposition group]”. Nevertheless, several elements in the sovereignty declaration represented a compromise between the Communists and</p>
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	<p>nationalists, notably the provision for dual Ukrainian and USSR citizenship. The declaration by the Supreme Soviet in Byelorussia closely resembled the Ukrainian declaration, but alluded to secession by ascribing to the republic the right to “voluntary unions with other states, and free withdrawal from such unions”. New Ukrainian President As a result of his election as CPSU deputy general secretary [see above], the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet on July 18 accepted the resignation of Volodymyr Ivashko as its Chairman (de facto Ukrainian President), after only six weeks in office [ibid.]. The Supreme Soviet on July 23 elected as his replacement Leonid Kravchuk, the second secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party, from a field of five candidates. Threatened crackdown against armed nationalist groups Gorbachev on July 25 issued 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. Clearly intended to curb the activities of nationalist guerrilla groups operating in the Transcaucasian and Central Asian republics (particularly Armenia), the decree appeared designed for use equally to prevent militia units being formed in the Baltic republics as an alternative to the Soviet police and armed forces. Armenian defiance of decree On July 28 the new Armenian Supreme Soviet (constituted on July 20 following elections begun in May) openly defied Gorbachev by voting to suspend application of his decree on Armenian territory. Armenian nationalist leaders warned that any attempt by troops to disarm the militias operating there might produce a bloodbath. In recent months there had been numerous incidents, in Armenia and the disputed Nagorny Karabakh enclave within Armenia, in which Armenian militants ambushed troops and raided police stations to capture weapons [for worst such incident, in Yerevan in May, see p. 37462]. The local authorities had been accused by security officials and the Soviet press of laxity or even connivance. Continuing violence in Kirghizia As clashes between Kirghiz and Uzbeks in southern Kirghizia’s Osh oblast (region) continued, reports emerged indicating the full horror of the intercommunal violence which had flared early in June [see pp. 37540-41]. There were suggestions that the death toll was up to five times higher than officially stated. Pogrom in Uzgen It became clear that the most serious incidents had occurred in Uzgen, where the Uzbek population had been subjected to a pogrom by gangs of Kirghiz who invaded</p>
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