

Issue Date: **November 04, 1993**

## Georgia: C.I.S. Membership Decreed; Other News

- [Russian Help Requested, Granted](#)
- [Arrest Warrants Issued](#)

Georgian President Eduard A. Shevardnadze October 22 signed a decree taking his country into the Commonwealth of Independent States. Shevardnadze October 8 had said that Georgia would join the grouping of former Soviet republics. He made the announcement following talks October 8 in Moscow with Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin, Armenian President Levon A. Ter-Petrossian and Azerbaijani President Geidar A. Aliyev. That decision was endorsed October 19 by more than half of the 219 members of Georgia's parliament. [See 1993 [Azerbaijan: Aliyev Sworn In as President; Other News](#), 1993 [Separatists Seize Most of Georgia's Abkhazia Region; Government Forces Expelled; Other News](#)]

Azerbaijan had joined the C.I.S. September 24. With Azerbaijan in, and Georgia's membership remaining only formally to be confirmed, only the three Baltic states among the former republics of the Soviet Union had not opted to join the C.I.S.

Georgia's entry into the C.I.S.--which Shevardnadze had resisted--was aimed in part at securing Russian military assistance against a rebellion in western Georgia. The revolt was being conducted by supporters of Shevardnadze's predecessor, Zviad K. Gamsakhurdia, who had been toppled by a coup in 1992. Gamsakhurdia had demanded that he be restored to the presidency. He called October 10 for the overthrow of Shevardnadze's government. [See 1992 [Shevardnadze Becomes Georgian Head of State; Ex-Soviet Envoy Returns to Native Soil; Other Developments](#)]

### Russian Help Requested, Granted

Saying that the Georgian army had "virtually disintegrated," Shevardnadze October 18 broadcast an appeal for Russian armed support in the fight against Gamsakhurdia's supporters. Russian troops--some of them already stationed in Georgia--October 20 began deploying to protect the railway that linked the capital, Tbilisi, with the Black Sea port of Poti, then in rebel hands.

In a series of battles October 22-26, Georgian government troops rolled back rebel gains. Samtredi, a critical rail and road junction town which the rebels had seized October 17, was retaken October 22, reportedly with the help of sophisticated Russian armor. Poti was retaken October 25, followed by the winning back of Senaki November 1.

The first officially acknowledged clash between Russian soldiers and Gamsakhurdia's men took place along railway lines in two locations October 31. A Russian officer November 1 said there were no Russian casualties in the fight, in which several rebels were killed.

### Arrest Warrants Issued

The Georgian government October 27 issued warrants for the arrest of Gamsakhurdia and his leading deputies.

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### [Modern Language Association \(MLA\)](#)

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