

More than 300 dissident group nationwide coa

SEOUL (UPI-Kyodo) More than 300 dissident groups not affiliated with established political parties organized themselves into a nationwide coalition Saturday pledging to fight for national self-reliance, democratization and South-North Korea reunification.

About 2,000 people gathered at Yonsei University in western Seoul and inaugurated what was tentatively called the "National Coalition for Nationalistic and Democratic Movements."

A declaration adopted at the inaugural rally said workers will be the central force of the new movements for which youths and students will provide the dynamism for struggle under support from all other "conscientious" circles.

"As immediate tasks, we will push campaigns opposing foreign influences and dictatorship and fight for self-reliance, democracy and national reunification," the declaration said.

"For national reunification, an acute military confrontation existing between South and North Korea should be brought to an end. The present armistice agreement (between the two Koreas) must be replaced by a peace treaty.

"The unlimited arms race between the South and the North should be curbed. The vast military might held by the two sides should be reduced to an adequate level. And nuclear weapons and foreign forces deployed to this land must be withdrawn as soon as possible."

Splinter groups merged

The new coalition merged into a single large organization the many splinter dissident groups not represented in the established political orbit, including some farmers and workers unions, women's organizations, and religious and literary circles.

A spokesman for the coalition said its supreme ruling organ will be a machinery of 1,103 delegates of whom 480 will be from workers and farmers groups. The coalition will have a 110-member standing Central Committee, the spokesman said.

Oddly enough, the spokesman said the coalition will keep its members from taking part in the "politics of the es-

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Police, protesters clash in Seoul

SEOUL (Reuter-Kyodo) Riot police clashed with thousands of anti-government and anti-American demonstrators on Sunday in a protest called by a day-old alliance of 20 dissident groups.

More than 10,000 workers, students, labor activists and dissidents massed peacefully in a city street and then headed toward the headquarters of President Roh Tae Woo's ruling Democratic Justice Party several blocks away.

Police arrested scores of protesters, kicking and punching many of them.

Role for new generation

The emergence of the coalition meant the leadership of the hard-core dissident force underwent a change of generation. The Rev. Moon Ik Hwan, top leader of the force in the past, disbanded his United Minjung (People's) Movement for Unification and Democracy shortly before the coalition was inaugurated.

Moon and others who led the hard-line dissidents were being kicked upstairs to be advisers to the new organization, dissident sources said.

Lee Jong Chan, secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, said "If the new coalition represents progressive circles it will have to try to accommodate various voices in the streets and evolve from a street movement force into a normal political group."

Lee Sang Soo, a spokesman for Kim Dae Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy, welcomed the birth of the new coalition, but said "We should struggle together for self-reliant democratization of the nation."

The Democratic Reunification Party led by Kim Young Sam said through party spokesman Suh Chong Il that "As long as they do not deny parliamentary democracy they should be respected as a healthy progressive force."