

Soviet coup... 72 hours that shook the world

MONDAY

04:00 local time: eight-man junta seizes power one day before President Gorbachev is to ratify Union Treaty. Hundreds of tanks move into Moscow

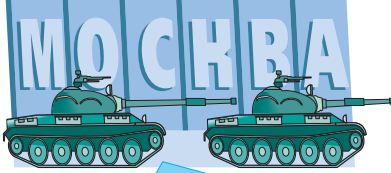
Gorbachev under house arrest at holiday home in Crimea

Russian Federation President, Boris Yeltsin, calls for resistance. Paratroopers defend Yeltsin

Estonia: warships blockade port of Tallinn

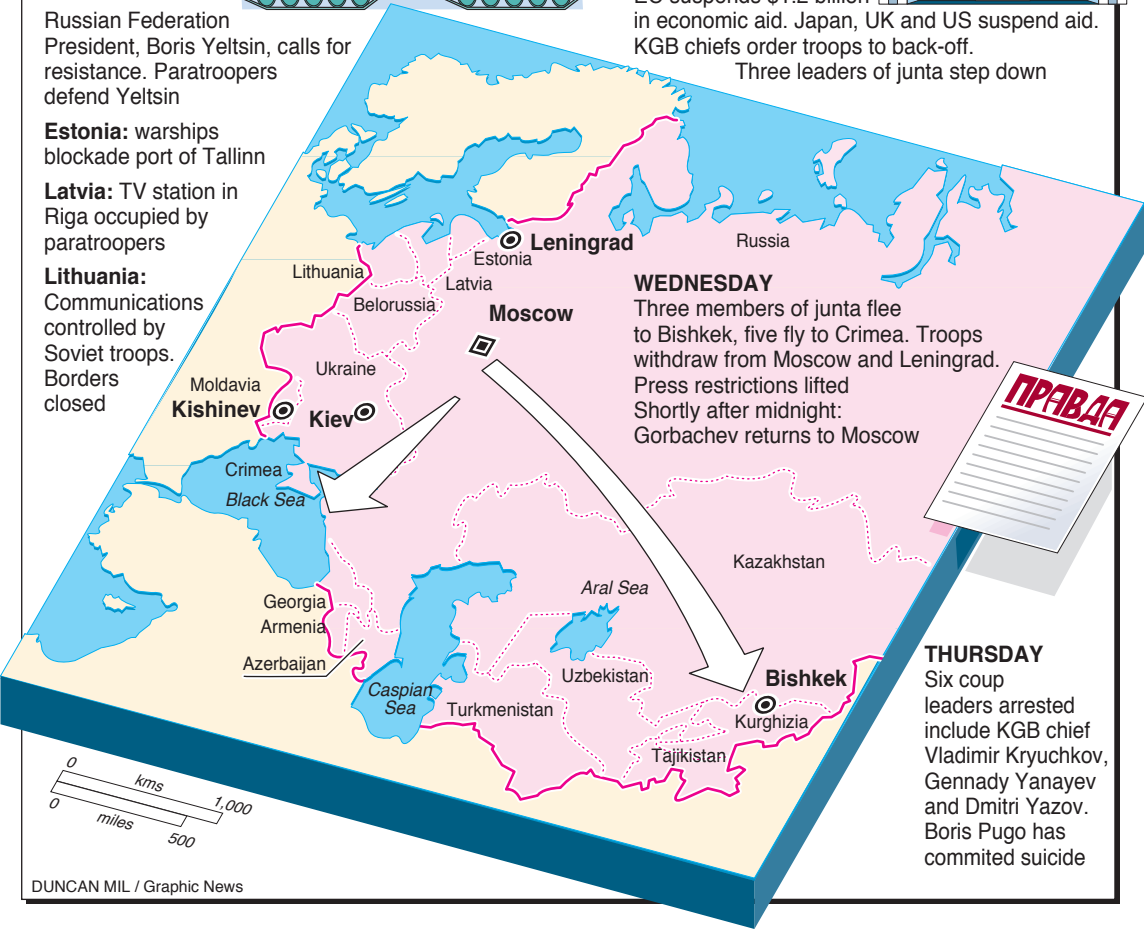
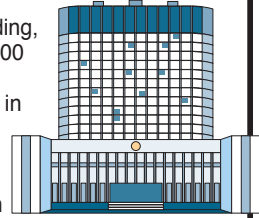
Latvia: TV station in Riga occupied by paratroopers

Lithuania: Communications controlled by Soviet troops. Borders closed



TUESDAY

Tanks deployed around Russian Federation building, curfew imposed but 15,000 Yeltsin supporters man barricades. Fifteen killed in clashes. Huge anti-coup demonstrations in Kiev, Kishinev and Leningrad. EC suspends \$1.2 billion in economic aid. Japan, UK and US suspend aid. KGB chiefs order troops to back-off. Three leaders of junta step down



WEDNESDAY

Three members of junta flee to Bishkek, five fly to Crimea. Troops withdraw from Moscow and Leningrad. Press restrictions lifted Shortly after midnight: Gorbachev returns to Moscow



THURSDAY

Six coup leaders arrested include KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, Gennady Yanayev and Dmitri Yazov. Boris Pugo has committed suicide