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Snipers upset election : <u>1</u>. . . . Lebanese congress meets

campaigned among rival Christian and Moslem militia leaders yesterday as snipers threatened the newly called parliamentary session to elect a president. Scattered sniping in Beirut kept areas of the capital deserted but for the first time

since Lebanon's twentyseventh truce was declared Friday, no new casualties were reported to add to the toll of nearly 16,500 dead and 34,000 wounded over 11 months With a truce holding and the site for a parliament meeting

fixed, House Speaker Kamel Assad called deputies to session Saturday. They are expected to draft laws clearing the way for the resignation of President Suleiman Franjieh and the election of his successor. A force of 500 Lebanese

army and internal security troops formed a "security belt" around the parliament's meeting site, the Esseily villa near the central security offices. The villa lies in the 'green line" zone separating Christian eastern Beirut from the Moslem western sector of the divided capital. Assad set no date for

elections but parliament

would have only two days then be open to "tackle the after that — until noon Monday — to elect Franjieh's successor before the current 10-day truce expires.

Accepting the truce on Friday, Moslem leftist leader be ready to welcome any Arab initiative - including Kamal Jumblatt threatened the Syrian initiative — that is that his forces would renew aimed at providing assistance the war if Franjieh had not in surmounting the ordeal,' Jumblatt said. resigned and a successor acceptable to the leftists was not elected within that time. After a meeting of leftist

Asked by reporters if the leftists would prolong the truce after the April 12 parties, Jumblatt issued the deadline, Jumblatt said "we first conciliatory statement will examine the situation after Saturday's parliamen-

since laying down his terms for the truce and declared his "satisfaction" at developments.

But while parliament was scheduled to meet, it was by no means certain that it Jumblatt, stressing the need for parliament to meet and amend the constitution would. Shooting erupted in the vicinity of Esseily villa for the election of a new president, said the way would

British ship bombarded

crew.

tary meeting."

were no casualties among its

The British Ambassador in

Damascus, David Roberts,

has been asked to make the

strongest representations to

LONDON (UPI) — Motor torpedo boats flying Syrian flags attacked the British container ship Cheshire Venture Monday off the Lebanese coast, British officials said yesterday.

the Syrian authorities, the The officials said reports officials said. reaching London indicated the Cheshire Venture, 1,592 tons, was hit seven times above the waterline. There for repairs.

shortly after Assad anproblem at its roots" on the nounced that parliament basis of the leftists' proposed would meet there. reform program. "In this connection we will

'There are still parties that do not want a settlement and it would take only one sniper on Saturday for things to go boom," a government source said.

Among the other problems facing the parliament was the still unresolved issue of who would succeed Franiieh.

Several candidates are in the running, including National Bloc leader Raymond Edde, Central Bank Governor Elias Sarkis, and lawyer Michel El

Khoury. Jumblatt is known to back Edde while Syria and the Christians favor Sarkis. El Khoury's name has been mentioned along with that of deputy Pierre Helou as a possible compromise between the two front-runners.

Another problem was Franjieh himself. He has been reported to have agreed to the heavy pressure to resign on him from all

quarters, but publicly he has announced no decision yet. Another problem was getting workmen to risk

sniper fire to get in and ready the villa, which has been unused for years, for the The Cheshire Venture is on its way to Limassol, Cyprus, meeting.

Chinese warn against violence

against new outbreaks of violence in ancestors' tombs. China's current power struggle, yesterday called on security forces to "track down" troublemakers and "deal resolute blows at them."

The People's Daily editorial appeared a day after angry mobs went on a rampage in Peking's huge Tien An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace) Square, reacting to a showdown battle between Party Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Vice Chairman Teng Hsiao-ping.

No force was used Monday against the rioters, who set fire to at least three vehicles and a building. But several hundred of the tens of thousands of people in the square during the daylong disturbances were arrested.

The mob was protesting the removal of wreaths honoring Chou En-lai on the

HONG KONG (UPI) — The Chinese ommunist Party newspaper, warning Martyrs Monument on Monday, a day making" by many elements, including Chinese annually pay respects to their party factions. Communist Party newspaper, warning Chinese annually pay respects to their

Diplomatic sources said top level meetings were believed to have been held in the Chinese capital yesterday to determine how to deal with any new disorders.

The editorial, broadcast by Peking Radio, did not mention Monday's incidents. It called for strict control of the campaign against Teng, the first vice premier who had been expected to succeed the late Chou when he died last January.

The editorial said the struggle, "initiated and led by our great leader Chairman Mao himself," was "victo be "rabid resistance and trouble- during the Cultural Revolution.

"It is imperative," the editorial ad-ded, for security forces to deal severely with troublemakers, to "track them down sternly and deal resolute blows at them.'

Indicating a high level concern that the situation could develop into chaos similar to that of the Cultural Revolution 10 years ago, the editorial said, "we should keep a watchful eye at all times on the new trends of class struggle."

The current power struggle became evident in February when wall posters began appearing on university cam-puses attacking Teng as a "capitalist-roader" deviating from Mao's policy line. Teng had made a dramatic toriously developing throughout the comeback on China's political stage country. But it also said there was bound during Chou's illness after being purged

JALL WEEN TO APRIL 4-10 EVENTS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7th DOM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7th Montreaux Jazz Festival" Noon Kern Lobby JAZZ FILMS (FREE) Noon MUB Assembly Room JAZZ STEREO Ng am-4 pm Paul Robeson Cultural Ctr. DAMONSPLACE THEATRE St. Louis Blues" 7:30 & 9:30 pm FREE 112 Kern JAZZ COFFEEHOUSE B:00 pm 301 HUB