

Rhodesian rebels attack tourist site

VICTORIA FALLS, Rhodesia (UPI) — Rhodesian security forces yesterday reported a guerrilla attack on a tourist motel in this town on the Zambian border in one of the most daring insurgent operations of the Rhodesian war.

A government communique said one white Rhodesian immigration official was killed and two other persons were wounded.

The guerrillas threw grenades, opened fire with a mortar and fired about 300 rounds of automatic weapons fire in the Saturday night attack on the Peters Motel.

A communique in Salisbury reported a Rhodesian army "hot pursuit" operation against guerrilla bases inside Mozambique on Rhodesia's western border. Troops killed 12 guerrillas and two blacks who broke a curfew, the report said, and the guerrillas killed a black Rhodesian official.

Residents of the Mozambique border town of Umtali were warned to be ready to leave their homes in case of an attack by Mozambican troops in retaliation for the Rhodesian "hot pursuit" attack inside Mozambique.

"Umtali could well be bombarded with rocket and mortar fire tonight," an army spokesman said.

Reporters at the Forbes border post, three miles from Umtali, said the Mozambican soldiers had set up nine new mortar positions 300 yards from the post yesterday and army officers reported a "steady flow" of troops into the area.

The communique also reported three whites died in southwestern Rhodesia, but there were no details.

The motel attack was one of the boldest of the war and the first time guerrillas had struck so close to the center of a town. The motel is about a mile from the center of

Victoria Falls.

Military sources said the attackers probably came from Zambia and crossed the Zambezi River at a shallow point upstream from Victoria Falls, one of the world's most spectacular cataracts and among Africa's major tourist attractions. The Zambezi River, which forms the border between Zambia and Rhodesia, hurls 355 feet into a gorge, propelling upward a perpetual spray that forms rain forests for miles.

Motel manager Freddie Pacella said the attack began at 9:45 p.m. and lasted eight minutes.

"The guests hit the floor and the bullets went all over," Pacella said.

Most of the motel's windows were either punctured or shattered and the walls pock-marked.

The guerrilla war has been waged mostly along Rhodesia's eastern border, but several shops, farms and travelers have come under attack in the west and south-west since June. Security forces have banned night driving around Victoria Falls and nearby Wankie game reserve.

Rhodesian leader to leave talks

GENEVA, Switzerland (UPI) — Prime Minister Ian Smith probably will leave the stalled Rhodesia peace conference Wednesday — the day the conference was expected to resume full sessions — Rhodesian sources said yesterday.

American diplomat William E. Schauffele Jr. reportedly held a secret round of talks with delegates in an attempt to accelerate the pace of the conference, but no details of his activities were available.

The Rhodesian sources said Smith decided to leave Geneva because of the lack of progress at the British-sponsored conference, which has brought the white regime and four black nationalist groups together to choose an interim, multiracial government.

He will leave two cabinet ministers behind to head

a scaled-down white delegation, the sources said — Foreign Minister Pieter van der Byl and Mark Partridge, minister of lands and natural resources.

Other delegation leaders also said yesterday they were impatient at the standstill in the talks.

Schauffele's role at the conference was deliberately low key. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger sent his chief African trouble-shooter to the conference as an observer following an impasse over American peace proposals for a transition to black majority rule in Rhodesia within two years.

Schauffele, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said he would meet with all conference participants, but he kept his plans secret. He ducked out a side entrance of his hotel yesterday to avoid reporters.

Ivor Richard, the British U.N. ambassador who is the conference chairman, held another round of private, informal consultations with leaders of the five delegations.

After a one-hour meeting with Richard, Ndabani Sithole of the Zimbabwe African National Union said, "No material progress has been made so far. Things are going too slowly for my liking."

British officials said the date of the next full session most likely would be Wednesday. The two sessions of the talks Thursday and Friday have lasted less than two hours.

Smith had said Saturday he planned to return home for several days unless the conference moves off a standstill.

"I've got the feeling for the next week or so we may be sitting here twiddling our thumbs," he said.

New Thai law tough on Viets

NONG KHAI, Thailand (AP) — The new martial law regime is cracking down on the large Vietnamese community in Thailand. It claims the actions are designed to control areas of potential Communist subversion.

"It looks like we Vietnamese will have no more freedom in this country," said one of the nearly 100 Vietnamese arrested in Nong Khai. "The government is getting tougher and tougher on us."

Police here say they have seized about 3,000 documents they describe as Communist in nature, pictures of the late Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam and private correspondence between

Vietnamese in Thailand and Vietnam.

Nong Khai, a town of about 50,000 people, is stirring with border patrol police, special forces units and troops of the Thai army's 3rd division. Searches of Vietnamese homes are every day occurrences.

With more than 4,000 to 5,000 old-time Vietnamese residents and 16,000 refugees from Communist governed Laos across the Mekong River from here, the area is considered by Thai authorities a potential hotbed of Communist subversion.

There is another reason for increased police and army surveillance in Nong Khai, a Mekong River crossing point

into Laos. The provincial governor says that more than 300 leftist Thai students, politicians and Vietnamese subversives have fled to Laos since the military took power in Thailand in a coup Oct. 6.

Some Thais and Vietnamese confided that a few of their friends had crossed the half-mile-wide Mekong since the military seized power and began a sweep of what it considers potential subversives.

"I was sitting in my house. Suddenly three policemen came in and began searching through every room," said the Vietnamese prisoner, Tran Van Linh, in an interview in jail. "They took portraits of Ho Chi Minh from

the wall and private correspondence with friends of mine in Hanoi. Of course I have friends in Vietnam, but I'm not a subversive."

Linh, a merchant who has lived in Thailand for 19 years, said he is ready to return to Vietnam if Hanoi and Bangkok reached an agreement.

Thailand's Vietnamese minority, living chiefly in the north east and numbering some 60,000, has been a source of tension between Vietnam and Thailand since the early 50's, when thousands fled their homeland in the wake of the French-Indochina war.

Numerous efforts at repatriation have proved

fruitless. With the growth of Thailand's Communist insurgency, the economically influential Vietnamese community has been regarded by many as a breeding ground for guerrillas and a channel for Hanoi's support of the rebellion.

One of the first announcements of the new government was to accuse "Vietnamese Communists" of agitating student demonstrations in Bangkok which led to bloody street fighting Oct. 6.

Official Vietnamese media responded with propaganda blasts at Bangkok, accusing the new regime of persecuting the Vietnamese.

Ulster gunmen slay 4 more

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (UPI) — A round of sectarian killings that began with the hospital murder of Maire Drumm, one of Northern Ireland's most prominent Catholic figures, has claimed at least four more lives.

Police sources said yesterday they believed they may have identified the gun used to kill Drumm, a 56-year-old grandmother, as she chatted with fellow patients in her room in the Mater hospital.

The sources said preliminary forensic reports indicated the fatal bullets were fired from a weapon that police previously determined was used by gunmen of an extremist Protestant Parliamentary organization, the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Three more Catholics were shot dead in separate incidents even before Drumm's funeral, scheduled for today.

Services for Drumm, a former vice President of Sinn Fein, the legal political front of the outlawed Irish Republican Army, was expected to draw the largest emotional outpouring in years. Her assassination

Friday overshadowed the other killings. One young Catholic was stopped on the street at 3:30 a.m. Saturday as he walked home with his girlfriend. She was ordered at gunpoint to lie face down on the sidewalk while the other two gunmen abducted the youth and beat him severely before shooting him dead with a single bullet in the head.

Two more gunmen hijacked a newspaper delivery truck Saturday night and, while the 10-year-old son of the victims watched, they shot two men dead at point-blank range.

The boy, son of John Maguire, 56, was hit in the leg in the burst of gunfire. The victims, both Catholics, had just made their final delivery of the Belfast Telegraph newspaper when their truck was taken away.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters was blamed for the killing of the Catholic youth. But sources connected to Protestant paramilitary groups denied they were involved in any of the weekend slayings.

Rightists boycott Lebanon peace talks

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Christian rightists boycotted talks yesterday aimed at implementing the peace plan for Lebanon in a dispute over who will control the Arab peace-keeping force.

Sporadic shooting, sniping and kidnapping undermined the 11-day-old cease fire. The rightist Amshet Radio said U.S. diplomat George

Lane soon will meet both Moslem leftists and Christian rightists in an American-sponsored drive to bring the warring factions together.

Such contacts would mark the first time an American diplomat has ventured across Beirut's confrontation lines since the murder of U.S. Ambassador Francis E. Meloy last July.

A meeting of leftists, rightists and Palestinians failed to materialize mainly because of the Christians' objections that only President Elias Sarkis could preside over such a gathering.

Egyptian Maj. Gen. Mohammed Hassan Ghoneim, military leader of the peacekeeping force of 2,300 already in the country,

had tried to gather all the warring factions for the talks. Lane is known to be ready to re-establish contacts with all sides in the fighting, but he was reliably understood not to have received any instructions from Washington on when to begin.

In the scheduled meeting, Ghoneim planned to present a timetable for reopening high-

ways, creation of buffer zones and deployment of peace-keeping troops.

To date, the various groups have largely ignored calls to begin withdrawing their troops, reopen the main highways, remove roadblocks and barricades and return control of public utilities to the central government.

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