

## Lebanese Christians combat Palestinians near Israeli border

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Artillery duels between Palestinian gunners and right-wing Christians in south Lebanon yesterday left fields and olive groves burning across wide sections of the southeastern border area near Israel.

The Palestinians said the Christians used phosphorus shells to set the countryside ablaze.

Palestinian guerrillas in Khiam, Blat and Ebel es Saqi swapped tank, artillery and heavy machinegun fire with Israeli-backed rightists in Marjayoun and Kleia, reports from the field said.

The battles, which began Saturday night, have left at least two dead and four wounded.

"There is smoke everywhere," said one area resident. "There's a hillside on fire in Kawkaba near the Hasbani River and patches of fire are scattered over all the heights in the Arkoub between Khiam and Kfar Shouba."

The southeastern Arkoub area is known as "Fatahland" due to the

large concentration of Palestinians in the area.

Israel has been supporting the Christians in their battle against the guerrillas since last summer. There have been numerous recent reports of Israeli shelling across the border in support of the Christian forces, as well as patrols inside Lebanese territory.

On the political front, former president Camille Chamoun said Lebanon should spurn reconstruction aid if other Arab countries "blackmail" the Lebanese by insisting on rapprochement among the nation's bitterly opposed left and right wing factions and the Palestinians.

"If the Arabs don't help out of a feeling of brotherhood and cooperation, respecting the dignity of the Lebanese, we don't want aid from anybody," the right-wing Christian leader told the English-language weekly "Monday Morning."

"We can get along without anybody's help. It will take us longer, but we can do it," he said.

## House to vote on spending bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House votes this week on two spending bills totaling \$71.5 billion that President Carter has threatened to veto if they reach his desk without being trimmed.

Scheduled for consideration today is a \$10.2-billion public works appropriation measure including 17 of 18 water projects that Carter says are not worth their financial and environmental costs.

Later in the week, the House will consider a bill appropriating \$61.3 billion for the Labor and Health, Education and Welfare departments. The HEW appropriation is \$1.4 billion more than Carter requested.

The Senate is expected to vote during the week on bills authorizing foreign-aid spending and increasing U.S. participation in international lending organizations.

Reps. Butler Derrick, D-S.C., and Silvio O. Conte, R-Mass., say they will offer an amendment to the public works appropriations bill to remove 16 of the 17 disputed water projects.

The amendment is encountering stiff opposition from advocates of the projects, but a leader of an environmental group predicted it would at least come close to carrying.

Brent Blackwelder of the Environ-

mental Policy Center said opponents of the projects were confident of doing better than they did in April, when the House rejected, 252 to 143, a move to lower the budget ceiling for water projects by \$100 million.

"If we get a one-third vote or better, it will assure a veto," the environmental activist said.

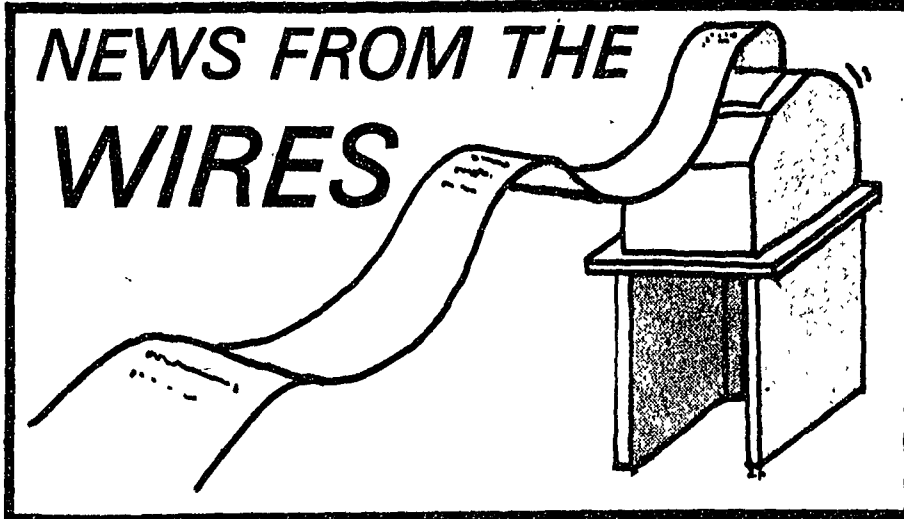
In the Senate, the subcommittee on public works appropriations will meet Wednesday amid reports that it may strike as many as nine of the projects opposed by Carter.

Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., the subcommittee chairman, is known to

favor sending Carter a bill that the President would find sufficiently acceptable to sign.

Projects that congressional and environmental sources said the subcommittee was considering eliminating were:

Bayou Bodcau, La., \$2.4 million Grove Lake, Kan., \$1 million LaFarge Lake, Wis., \$2 million Lukfata Lake, Okla., \$200,000 Meramec Park Lake, Mo., \$10 million; Savery-Pot Hook, Colo. and Wyo., \$6 million; Yatesville Dam, Ky., \$7.2 million Cache Basin, Ark., \$2 million; and the Oahe irrigation project, S.D., \$17 million.



## Summit heads meet, argue African issues

LONDON (UPI) — Commonwealth summit leaders met yesterday in a tightly guarded Scottish hotel, hoping to sort out in private talks some of their disagreements over such problems as southern Africa and President Idi Amin's regime in Uganda.

They met at a luxury hotel at Gleneagles, near Perth. Only heads of state and government and their wives were present. There were no officials or advisors, and even their foreign ministers stayed behind in London.

Scores of police mounted a huge security operation around the 210-room hotel, its hundreds of acres of grounds and three neighboring golf courses.

Cold, drizzling rain kept the summit leaders indoors.

Among issues that divided them were racial strife in southern Africa, condemnation of Amin's government, sports contacts with South Africa and ways of narrowing the poverty gap between rich and poor nations.

Prime Minister James Callaghan, host to the gathering, spent most of the day in a series of bilateral talks.

The whole group flew to Scotland Saturday and was scheduled to return to London by train today.

All the Commonwealth leaders supported the latest joint Anglo-U.S. moves aimed at a peaceful transfer to a black government in Rhodesia in 1978. All, except Fiji and Malawi, supported the nationalist guerrillas.

But some, like Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda, argued that Britain could put heavier pressure on the white regime of Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith, including possible oil sanctions against neighboring South Africa.

The leaders also were deeply split over Amin. Last week, in an elaborate hoax, Amin announced he was going to gatecrash the conference after being told he was not welcome.

Some, like Kaunda and Jamaica's Michael Manley, favored outright condemnation of Amin. Others, like Nigeria's delegation leader Brig. Shahu Yar'adua, said he should not have been kept away and objected to discussion of Uganda in his absence.

## Death toll in nightclub fire reaches 162

SOUTHGATE, Ky. (UPI) — The death toll in the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire rose to 162 yesterday with the announcement that one of the injured in the May 28 blaze has succumbed in a hospital.

The latest death, that of Dan Barker, 29, of Southgate, was the first among persons who were hospitalized for injuries related to the fire. Barker died Saturday night in Cincinnati General Hospital where six other fire victims still are being treated and are listed in

conditions ranging from serious to critical.

Barker's wife Karen and two other fire victims are listed in fair condition at St. Luke's Hospital in northern Kentucky. Booth Hospital, also in northern Kentucky, has discharged one fire victim, transferred a second to Miami Valley Hospital and has one in fair condition. St. Elizabeth Hospital, another facility in northern Kentucky, has transferred two patients and discharged two others.

Meanwhile, officials investigating the

fire are shifting the focus of their inquiry, trying to determine whether the ill-fated nightclub met state fire and building codes.

It is a complicated, tedious job that will take "at least several more weeks," according to Kentucky State Police Commissioner Kenneth Brandenburg.

Kentucky officials announced the cause of the fire Friday — defective electrical wiring in recessed ceiling lights. With that phase of the inquiry completed, Brandenburg said they

must turn to "judgment questions."

These would include whether building and fire codes were observed in remodeling jobs; whether the required documents were filed when remodeling was done; whether the huge nightclub was overcrowded the night of the fire; and whether club management turned in the first fire alarm as soon as possible.

"We're just beginning the interview phase to find answers to these judgment questions," Brandenburg said. "If we need to interview 3,000 people, we will."

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