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Iraq advances toward Iran's refinery at Abadan

U.S. claims neutrality, offers to share Persian Gulf information

BAGHDAD, Iraq (UPI) — Iraq sent columns of tanks and armored vehicles rumbling down a road from Kut to Basra yesterday, in preparation for an assault on the major Iranian oil refinery city of Abadan.

Western analysts said Abadan and its giant oil refinery on the disputed Shatt-al-Arab waterway appeared to be Iraq's next major target in the 17-day-old Persian Gulf war.

In Washington, the United States yesterday stepped up its involvement in the dispute, offering to share with other nations in the Persian Gulf region information collected by U.S. AWACs reconnaissance planes sent to Saudi Arabia last week.

The United States has pledged repeatedly that it is neutral in the war and intends to stay neutral. State Department spokesman John Trantner said the offer to share information was not a breach of that policy and was in keeping with the U.S. offer to help "friendly, non-belligerent" countries in the area.

The Pentagon also disclosed that the United States had sent a technical

survey team to Saudi Arabia to review its air defenses, but said it would send no weapons.

Two vessels from the American 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea sailed through the Suez Canal yesterday heading for the Arabian Sea to join a U.S. task force already there, sources at the American embassy in Cairo reported. The sources identified the two vessels as the 9,000-ton destroyer Peterson and the 5,300-ton frigate Jesse Brown.

Iraqi artillery pounded Abadan again yesterday but there were no signs of a ground attack.

Stacks of pontoons for temporary bridges were reportedly concealed under camouflage in a date palm grove just on the Iraqi side of the border, presumably to be used to ferry tanks for an assault on Abadan.

Iraq's move toward Abadan began after Iraqi forces captured almost the whole of Khurrumshahr Sunday and Monday, leaving only pockets of Iranian

resistance in the city center, which the Iraqis seemed in no hurry to clean up.

Iran, however, insisted that it still held Khurrumshahr.

Iran said tank battles raged further north of Khurrumshahr yesterday, and Iraqi warplanes attacked targets inside Iran.

Shipping sources in Muscat, Oman, reported almost 40 oil tankers were outside the Persian Gulf, waiting for an end to the war. Iranian oil sources were quoted by the Kuwait news agency as saying tankers were still picking up Iranian crude from the Kharg Island terminal, near the head of the Gulf.

Survivors told Western reporters that foreign ships trapped in the Shatt-al-Arab were shelled by Iranian artillery and that crewmen of sunken ships were machine gunned to death as they swam for their lives.

Iran said armored battles were fought between the Iranian port of Khurrumshahr and the city of Ahvaz and another

between Ahvaz and the Iraqi border 60 miles away.

At yet another major battle on the northern front, Iran's chief of staff claimed his forces inflicted so many casualties on the Iraqis — "about 500" — that "our forces have still not finished picking up the Iraqi dead and wounded."

Iran said Iraqi planes attacked Dizful, 150 miles north of Abadan, and the nearby city of Shushtar. It said three Iraqi planes were shot down.

Iraq ordered army reservists to report for duty by Oct. 17 and asked Iraqis outside the country to contact Iraqi diplomats.

In Basra, survivors yesterday told dramatic tales of a sudden barrage Tuesday afternoon that hit foreign ships trapped by the war at Khurrumshahr.

"They want to destroy all the ships and they want to destroy all the people because when the people swim they were shot at by machine guns," said the radio operator of the 4,399-ton Romanian cargo ship Olanesti.

He said two small Indian freighters were sunk quickly. Crewmen swimming for their lives were shot in the water. Many were killed, but exact numbers were unknown. The Romanian radio operator said he knew of only five survivors from the two Indian ships.

The Olanesti was hit immediately afterward, perhaps from the gun of a British-built Chieftan tank the Iraqis were known to have had in Khurrumshahr. As the 30 crewmen abandoned ship he said he radioed:

"Our ship is destroyed, our ship is destroyed. We shall lose our ship. Adieu, adieu, adieu."

Gen. Valyollah Fallahi, Iran's chief of staff, said Iraq's claim to have taken Khurrumshahr was a lie. It was Iranian forces, he said, that were "engaged in mopping up in the city" after hurling back three Iraqi attacks.

But Fallahi, in a long interview broadcast by Tehran radio, indicated the focus of fighting had switched to the area of Ahvaz, 60 miles north of Abadan, and the

northern front near the Iraqi-occupied border city of Qasr-i-Shirin.

He said Iranian forces "broke up an Iraqi armored column between Ahvaz and Khurrumshahr" Tuesday and broke up another between Ahvaz and the border the day before. "Heavy fighting" raged between Sar-i-Pul and Gilan on the northern front, Fallahi said.

Fallahi said Iran would soon be ready to counter-attack and was capable of "regaining the borders" and even of invading Iraq if ordered to do so.

Iraq, in its twice-daily military communiqué, said two Iranian planes were shot down and 10 helicopters destroyed, plus nine tanks and seven other vehicles destroyed, in fighting Tuesday.

In Moscow a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman dismissed Tehran radio reports that the Soviet Union would supply arms to Iran. He said this was "rubbish," and that such stories "are too ridiculous" for comment.

The Gulf news agency in Bahrain reported that next month's OPEC meeting in Baghdad had been canceled because of the war.

Funding bill signed

Tuition increase eliminated for now

By TOM BOYER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Gov. Dick Thornburgh yesterday assured the University of its entire \$127 million state appropriation by signing legislation fully funding state-related institutions.

Thornburgh signed 51 nonpreferred appropriation bills, funding the institutions at the levels originally passed last summer.

The passage of the legislation practically eliminates the possibility of a tuition increase this year, although the University's budget proposals for next year include a 5 percent hike.

No official comment from the University was available.

The governor also approved a technical measure adding about \$33 million to his estimate of state revenues to help pay for the appropriations, because the state constitution prohibits deficit spending.

The funding legislation was passed Tuesday by the state House, one day before the legislature recessed until after the Nov. 4 general election.

In a written statement, Thornburgh said, "We have been able to overcome the revenue shortfall created by the Liquor Control Board, which forced me to cut the original appropriation by 10 percent."

Thornburgh had to cut the nonpreferred appropriations by \$33 million last July when the LCB did not approve a plan to raise \$26 million through a 10-cent-per-bottle surcharge and the legislature defeated a bill to raise license fees.

Thornburgh had counted on both measures in framing his budget proposals in January.

However, the LCB approved a plan last month to provide the \$26 million through a new price structure and from profits left over from past years.

The price structure, which is slated to earn \$6 million of that \$26 million, is being challenged in Commonwealth Court, but the outcome of that lawsuit will not affect the nonpreferred funding.

The remaining shortfall was covered with \$4 million in fee increases that Thornburgh can make without legislative approval, and \$1.5 million in unspent funds that had been budgeted for projects and equipment.



Sea of grain
The clouds gathered in the sky over this farm south of State College on Route 322 portend colder weather. Though the wheat is still standing, the harvest will be in before long and the fields may be soon covered with snow.

Syria, Soviet Union sign friendship pact

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Soviet Union and Syria signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation yesterday and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev said the pact was to "improve the situation in the Middle East."

Brezhnev spoke at a state dinner in honor of visiting Syrian President Hafez Assad, who arrived yesterday seeking support for his shaky regime and possibly military aid.

Brezhnev indicated the treaty was aimed at offsetting the U.S. presence in the Middle East, but stressed Moscow would not intervene in the Iran-Iraq war.

"The Soviet-Syrian treaty is called upon to help improve the situation in the Middle East and establish there a real and just peace," he said. "It is not directed against third countries. This is a treaty in the name of peace and not in the name of war."

"We are not going to intervene in the conflict between Iran and Iraq,"

Brezhnev said. "We stand for its earliest political settlement by the efforts of the two sides."

The Soviet president took the occasion to once again criticize alleged "imperialist" interference in the Iraq-Iran war, which he said threatened the security of the Arab nations.

Assad, who said last month his nation would merge with Libya to form an Arab bulwark against Israel, must have been pleased at the treaty that presumably assures Soviet support in case of a conflict with the Jewish state.

Details of the treaty were not disclosed, but Arab sources said the "treaty of support and friendship" may allow Russian troops to be stationed in Syria, a core of Iraq which supports Iran in the current Persian Gulf war.

Brezhnev, Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and Deputy Premier Nikolai Tikhonov greeted Assad at flag-bedecked Sheremetyevo airport.

Polish premier announces major shake-up in cabinet

WARSAW, Poland (UPI) — Polish Premier Jozef Pankowski announced a major shake-up of his cabinet yesterday at the end of a parliamentary session that activated the power of a former secret police chief to root out corruption.

The official PAP news agency also announced that Parliament stripped immunity from the former chairman of radio and television, Maciej Szczepanski, so that he can face trial on assorted corruption charges.

Earlier, the Parliament re-elected as head of a watchdog body strongman Mieczyslaw Moczar, a former secret police chief who reportedly built up numerous files on the corrupt lifestyles of a number of senior officials.

A virulent anti-Semite, Moczar, 68, was responsible for the purge of thousands of Jews from public life in the late 1960s in an anti-Zionist drive.

One of the first targets of the new anti-corruption mood in Poland promises to be Szczepanski, a close friend of ousted Communist Party Secretary Edward Gierk, who is accused of embezzling state funds and was rumored to own a

yacht, two planes and several sumptuous homes.

In his cabinet shake-up, Pankowski promoted Interior Minister Stanislaw Kowalczyk to deputy premier in charge of economic problems.

Coal and Mining Minister Wlodzimierz Lejczak was replaced by his deputy, Under Secretary Mieczyslaw Glanowski. Lejczak was replaced partly because of dissatisfactions from miners who objected to a four-shift work system that has since been replaced with a three-shift system with weekends off.

Foundry Minister Josef Tejchma was replaced by Zbigniew Szlajda, who was undersecretary in the same ministry.

Jozef Tejchma, Poland's ambassador to Switzerland replaced Zygmunt Najdowski as Minister of Culture, a job he had some six years ago but was ousted from due to his "liberalism."

Two deputy premiers, Kazimierz Barcikowski and Tadeusz Grabski were relieved because they had been appointed party secretaries during the recent plenary meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee.

Carter admits to making some ill-advised remarks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter, backing away from his sharp rhetorical attacks against Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, said yesterday some of his statements were ill-advised and he would be more reticent in the future.

He also said Reagan shared the blame for the tone of the campaign. Asked whether it was his nature to be mean, he interrupted ABC News reporter Barbara Walters to say, "I don't think I am mean, Barbara."

Carter's remarks bolstered indications that he was preparing to abandon the two-fisted campaign approach that prompted criticism of his campaign as unbecoming a president. Carter offered no apologies for his remarks.

The president appeared in the ABC interview several hours after his spokesman agreed that the president's strategy of attacking Reagan may have backfired.

Reagan, arriving in LaCrosse, Wis., was told of the president's comments about toning down criticism and said: "Well, I think that would be nice if he did. If he's decided to straighten up and fly right, that'll be fine. I don't think there is any

winner when someone has resorted to that kind of campaigning."

Trailing in pre-election surveys, Carter has been increasingly aggressive in his criticism of Reagan, a style in stark contrast to the Rose Garden strategy he pursued during the Democratic primary contests.

Asked whether his sharp attacks on Reagan were a mistake, Carter told Walters: "Yes, I say that, but there is enough blame to go around. I think the press sometimes has failed to cover major issues."

"Reagan has made comments about me that were ill-advised and I have made some about him that were ill-advised. I would like to get back on the track."

Walters reminded the president that he has been accused of being mean, vindictive and hysterical. He replied: "Those charges are not accurate. I think it's true that when Reagan says I am desperate or vindictive or hysterical, he shares some blame. . . that the tone of the campaign has departed from what it should be for this highest office in the land."

Asked whether he was apologizing, Carter said, "Explaining. Sometimes human nature comes through and when I feel extremely deeply about a subject . . . it's incumbent on me to express it but I will try to do it with more reticence in the future."

In Harrisburg yesterday, Gov. Dick Thornburgh criticized Carter for unwarranted and unhealthy attacks on Reagan.

Thornburgh took the president to task for his remarks that with Reagan's election, "black may be separated from white, North from South and Jew from Christian."

"Gov. Reagan's record reflects a lifetime opposition to prejudice and bigotry," Thornburgh said in a statement. "I genuinely feel that President Carter owes Gov. Reagan and the American people an apology."

Thornburgh said, "This type of divisive rhetoric has no place in an American political campaign and I earnestly call upon the president to refute it. . . I think that all Pennsylvanians will reject the kind of unwarranted and unhealthy attack the president has made on Gov. Reagan."

In Hershey, GOP National Chariman Bill Brock said last night that Carter has nobody but himself to blame for backing away his sharp rhetorical attacks against Reagan.

Brock, who calls Pennsylvania one of the "background states" in the Nov. 4 election, commented shortly after Carter made his statement in an ABC interview. The GOP chairman was attending a political fundraiser here when contacted by The Associated Press.

"Jimmy Carter's latest assaults on Gov. Reagan cannot be blamed on Ronald Reagan or the press' failure to cover the issues," Brock said. "The blame lies solely with Mr. Carter, who has consciously attempted to avoid any discussion of the serious issues facing this country."

Brock said he welcomes the chance for Carter to discuss such issues as inflation, unemployment and national security.

"It is a challenge for Mr. Carter to explain his miserable record of the last four years and to offer the American voter his vision of the next four years," Brock said.

Brock said the only conclusion that can be

drawn from Carter's campaign rhetoric is that "he took the low road in frantic avoidance of any meaningful discussion of his tragic record of the last four years."

Carter's comments came after Reagan branded the president "a badly misinformed and prejudiced" man when Carter asserted that Reagan's election would split the country along racial, religious and regional lines.

Reagan made his assessment in Philadelphia as he set out yesterday morning on a campaign route that began in a Polish-American neighborhood in that city and wound up in Ohio.

Still the same

Mostly sunny, breezy and slightly cooler today with a high of 65. It will be clear and cold tonight with a low of 36. Scattered frost is possible in the normally colder outlying areas. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow with some high cloudiness during the afternoon. It will become mild in the afternoon as the high temperature hits 70.