

Polish police fight thousands of union protesters

By THOMAS W. NETTER
Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Hundreds of riot police backed by water cannons tear-gassed and clubbed thousands of union protesters screaming "Solidarity! Solidarity!" yesterday in the worst clashes since the early days of martial law.

Ambulances careened through the city taking people beaten and bleeding to hospitals. City medical officials refused to estimate the number of injured.

Telephone lines were cut in many areas of the capital, including Western news agencies, and Warsaw television reported authorities threatened to reimpose the curfew that was lifted a day earlier. Fighting was also reported

near headquarters of the ruling Communist Party.

It was the worst outbreak of violence since nine Solidarity miners died in clashes with troops near the southern city of Katowice, three days after martial law was decreed Dec. 13 following 16 months of union challenges to Communist rule.

"They think that they can still warm up the political climate in Poland as if they had not had enough," Warsaw television quoted Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski as telling Parliament while rioting raged across town. "But if they think they'll achieve their aims, they are making a tragic mistake."

Later, Rakowski told a news conference the government was "very sorry" about the latest outbreaks.

Official sources also reported marchers jammed streets in the northern port of Gdansk where Solidarity was formed, but eyewitness accounts were not immediately available. The sources said foreign journalists were banned from the city, suggesting there was violence.

At least 25,000 people converged in Warsaw's historic Castle Square area at 4 p.m. (10 a.m. EDT) in response to protest plans publicized during Saturday's May Day counter-parade organized by underground Solidarity leaders.

The Communist government warned in nationwide broadcasts Sunday night it would not tolerate more illegal outbreaks, and at least 400 riot police with rifles and clubs backed by water-cannon trucks roamed the square before as the Warsaw protesters gathered in attempts to frighten them off.

"Gestapo! Gestapo!" rallygoers yelled, ignoring police orders to disperse. Then the police commander ordered his officers to fire tear-gas grenades and they charged the crowd, swinging clubs.

Thousands of demonstrators panicked and fled into nearby cobblestoned streets filled with acrid tear-gas smoke, witnesses said. Police chased the crowd into areas up to a mile away, but hundreds of protesters regrouped and the rout turned into a riot.

Witnesses said police fought in the old town with screaming rioters who erected barricades of cafe tables and chairs. They lobbed sticks and stones at helmeted officers charging through gray clouds of tear gas.

Other demonstrators outran police and began new marches in several central areas of

Warsaw, tearing down and burning some red communist flags and picking up red-and-white Polish flags placed on buildings for the May Day celebration, witnesses said.

The illegal Castle Square rally was organized to mark the 191st year of the short-lived Polish constitution of 1791. The liberal charter was annulled two years later when Poland was divided by Prussia.

The Sunday night warning against more illegal demonstrations came after martial law rulers relaxed some of their Dec. 13 edicts, including the 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. Officially sanctioned gatherings were also permitted.

Police cordoned off the old town, demanded identity papers and allowed only people who live there to enter.

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123 Argentine seamen rescued

Cruiser sunk by British carried 1,042 seamen, communique says

By The Associated Press

Argentina issued a communique late yesterday saying that a British submarine torpedoed and sank on Sunday an Argentine cruiser carrying 1,042 seamen and that 123 have been rescued.

The communique said operations "are being carried out" to try and save others from the icy Atlantic waters southwest of the disputed Falkland Islands.

An Argentine navy source had said earlier that extreme weather conditions would make swift rescue operations imperative.

"You cannot survive long in an open boat in those waters," he said.

Previous Argentine statements had indicated the cruiser General Belgrano managed to stay afloat after the attack by a hunter-killer submarine, until a midafternoon communique yesterday said it was "presumed sunk."

The communique said, "This attack constitutes a treacherous act of armed aggression perpetrated by the government of Great Britain in open violation" of the U.N. Charter.

The Argentines said the General Belgrano was torpedoed at a point 36 miles outside the 200-mile blockade zone declared by the British around the Falklands. Britain also said the nuclear-powered sub struck the cruiser outside the zone, but claimed it was a direct threat to British ships enforcing the blockade.

In the communique, the Argentine Joint Chiefs of Staff said a navy plane searching the fog-shrouded area had spotted "various" lifeboats and search boats were en route to look for survivors.

Britain claimed its helicopters also sank one

Argentine patrol vessel and damaged one in an action early yesterday north of the Falklands and inside the zone.

The Defense Ministry in London requisitioned the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2 to take 3,000 infantrymen to the Falkland Islands war zone, escalating pressure on Argentina, which seized the disputed colony April 2.

Argentina lost one of its four submarines when it was scuttled by the crew at South Georgia Island on April 25 as British marines recaptured the island 880 miles east of the Falklands. South Georgia is a dependency of the Falklands and was seized by Argentine forces April 3.

The loss of the cruiser, submarine and patrol boat leaves the Argentine navy with one aircraft carrier, seven destroyers, seven frigates, three submarines, eight patrol crafts, two fast gunboats and two torpedo boats, according to Jane's Fighting Ships 1981-82.

Telam, the Argentine government news agency and the only news organization allowed to have reporters on the Falklands, claimed that British air raids on the Goose Green settlement Saturday killed 11 civilians and wounded 17. Virtually all of the Falklands 1,800 residents are of British descent.

Telam said British Sea King helicopters fired "indiscriminately" in attacks on Goose Green, 40 miles west of the capital of Stanley. It claimed that Argentine gunners shot down the helicopters and the British suffered "a great many casualties," but it gave no numbers.

The agency also claimed that British Harrier jets, which attacked the Stanley airport and Goose Green, dropped a type of explosives prohibited by a Geneva convention on warfare. It did not elaborate.

A British Defense Ministry spokesman was asked

about the Telam account of civilian casualties and said, "We have no information on this subject."

He repeated the British assertion that raids on the Stanley airfield were carried out by a single Vulcan bomber and Harrier jets with Harriers also hitting a second airstrip at Goose Green, and not by helicopters.

Argentina rejected the latest effort at diplomatic settlement — a new peace plan offered by Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry. The governing junta in Buenos Aires claims the plan was suggested by Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Dean Fischer said "statements from Argentina have not been encouraging."

British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym wound up a three-day trip to the United States, where he conferred with Haig and held talks at the United Nations, with no sign of progress toward a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

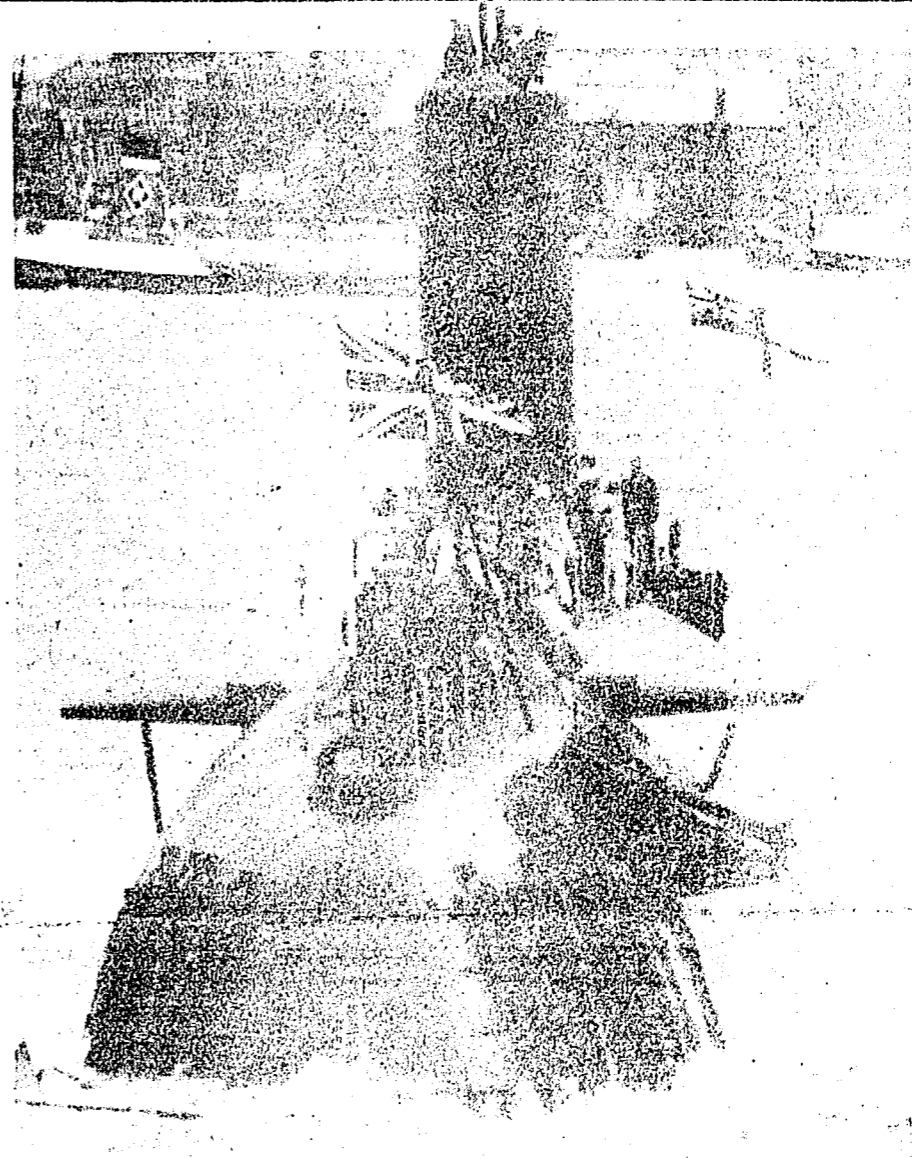
"Argentina must now make the first move," Pym said before leaving New York for London. "They started this, they invaded the islands."

The Argentine Joint Chiefs of Staff said the General Belgrano was torpedoed southwest of the Falklands near Isla de los Estados.

Argentina protested the attack 50 miles outside the zone, but Britain said it was justified because the Belgrano presented "a considerable threat" to the Royal Navy armada sitting off the archipelago.

Before the Argentine announcement that the cruiser had sank, British Defense Ministry spokesman Ian McDonald said it had been severely damaged.

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AP Laserphoto
The British nuclear-powered submarine HMS Conqueror cruises the waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The Conqueror may have been the submarine that sank the Argentine cruiser General Belgrano early yesterday morning.

Cruiser sinking deals Argentine navy severe blow

By WILLIAM HEATH
Associated Press Writer

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The Argentine navy suffered a severe blow yesterday when the cruiser General Belgrano sank in the wintry South Atlantic after being torpedoed by a British submarine.

The Foreign Ministry said 1,042 sailors were aboard, and reports at the United Nations in New York said as many as 500 sailors may have perished. The ministry said only that efforts to find possible survivors in lifeboats were continuing. It branded the British attack as "evil aggression."

Communiques from the Joint Chiefs of Staff reported the cruiser General Belgrano was "presumed sunk" and a search plane had

spotted "various" lifeboats in the area southwest of the Falkland Islands where the warship had sent its last radio signals. It was torpedoed Sunday afternoon.

The communiques did not, however, mention British claims that its carrier-based helicopters sank one Argentine patrol boat and damaged another early yesterday north of the disputed Falklands.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, said that during consultations on the Falklands conflict, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported he had been informed by Argentine Ambassador Eduard Roca "that the ship had sunk and they (Argentine authorities) presumed approximately 500 dead."

An Argentine naval source said the cruiser

had enough lifeboats for all the crew, but rapid rescue operations were imperative because "you cannot survive long in an open boat in those waters."

The Argentine navy had sent ships "to provide help if necessary" to the General Belgrano, torpedoed near Isla de los Estados (Island of the States) off the tip of South America and outside the 200-mile war zone declared by Britain around the islands.

The 13,645-ton warship was the Argentine navy's only cruiser and the second largest ship in the fleet behind the aircraft carrier 25th of May. It was the former U.S. Navy cruiser Phoenix, which fought in World War II and was sold to Argentina in 1951.

On the diplomatic front, a new U.S.-backed plan to settle the Falkland Islands crisis was

rejected by the junta.

Argentine officials issued more condemnations of United States for siding with Britain in the dispute over the archipelago, and Buenos Aires dockworkers refused to unload a U.S. cargo ship.

Union officials said the workers ignored the Delta Line's Santa Mercedes "as a reaction to the U.S. attitude to support Britain, which is bombing our islands," and that they wore pins reading "Our Heart is with the Argentines."

In a report from the Falkland Islands, which the Argentines call the Malvinas, Army Chaplain Jose Fernandez, a Roman Catholic priest, said the spirits of Argentine troops "are 100 percent, you could even say 101 percent."

An Argentina government source who asked not to be identified also said the ruling junta rejected a new peace plan that Argentina claimed was proposed by Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr.

The peace proposal, sent via Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry, was rejected early yesterday by the Argentines, who said it was similar to the Haig proposal presented April 27.

The source said his government "would not be surprised if Haig tries again to repeat his proposal in the next few days via some other channel. Of course we will reject it again and thus we will appear before world opinion as an intransigent, stubborn and warlike country."

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inside

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weather

The fine weather continues. Partly sunny today with high temperatures near 74. Suntan index of 8.5. Mostly clear tonight with lows around 44. Partly sunny tomorrow with a chance of a thundershower late in the day. Highs near 80
—by Mark Stunder

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Media, critics have misled students

Record number of families will receive financial aid, Bell says

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Education Secretary T.H. Bell charged yesterday that the news media and "almost hysterical" critics have misled students into believing little federal aid is available for college this fall.

"We're not emasculating the student aid program," Bell told reporters in his first press conference in three months. His department will spend \$4.3 billion to help people attend college in the year ahead, he said.

"These are (not) draconian cuts," said Bell, who also denied rumors that he plans to resign. Despite tighter eligibility rules imposed on Guaranteed Student Loans last fall and new curbs the Reagan administration is seeking, Bell said, a record number of students and parents will get some type of subsidized federal loans for the 1982-83 school year.

"New tables, published today in the Federal Register, indicate that students attending an average private college costing \$6,885 could still receive a full \$2,500 Guaranteed Student Loan if their family's income was nearly \$40,000.

At the same time, students at the average public, four-year college will not be able to get a full \$2,500 loan if the family's income exceeds \$30,000. But those from families making up to \$36,000 could get a loan of at least \$1,000.

Those figures assume the student is from a two-parent family of four, with one child in college.

Colleges will consult the new family contribution schedules to determine which students from families earning between \$30,001 and \$75,000 are eligible for the loans. Those whose families make above \$75,000 must file a separate financial statement disclosing assets to see if they qualify.

The education chief said federal student aid has become "too generous" and should be scaled back.

"The more you rush in with mega-federal dollars, the more you start pushing people aside and depriving them of the privilege of earning their own way, which in and of itself is a strengthening experience," he said.

Critics are "alarmed and apprehensive and almost hysterical about it and because of that, some students are making decisions not to go on to school at all, when, indeed, they could still afford to do it if all of our proposals were adopted," Bell said.

"I really think maybe the press and the electronic media have been just a little bit slanted," he said.

The administration does not want to cut off all loans to graduate students, but to shift them from the regular guaranteed loan program to a new auxiliary loan program that charges higher interest, he said.

Some 3.5 million students, including 600,000 to 700,000 graduate students, borrowed nearly \$7.8 billion in guaranteed loans last year. They pay no interest while in school and 7 to 9 percent afterwards.

The auxiliary loans charge 14 percent interest from the start and most graduate students would have to begin repaying at least the interest in 60 days. They are not offered yet in most states, but

Education Department officials say they soon will be.

Until last Oct. 1, all students could get guaranteed loans regardless of wealth. Now, those from families with incomes above \$30,000 must demonstrate need and borrowers must pay a 5 percent origination fee when taking out the loans.

President Reagan also wants to double the loan origination fee to 10 percent and require students to repay at market interest rates two years after graduation. He also asked Congress to ban graduate students from the Guaranteed Student Loans: neither Republicans nor Democrats has not supported his request.

Bell's department estimates that with no changes in the law, 3.6 million students will get guaranteed loans and 686,000 students and parents will take out auxiliary loans for the 1982-83 school year.

If the new eligibility rules pass, the department projects 2.9 million guaranteed student loans and 943,000 auxiliary loans this year.