

state/nation/world

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Moslem rebels seize west Beirut, cease fire

By G.G. LABELLE
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Triumphant Moslem rebels in command of west Beirut declared a cease-fire yesterday in their six-day war with the Lebanese army and said they were withdrawing from the city's devastated streets.

A Christian militia commander, Fadi Frem, called on his fighters to confront the Moslem- leftist challenge, declaring, "We will see them at the battlefield." But no major clashes were reported in the city.

The future of Lebanon's Christian president, the U.S.-backed Amin Gemayel, hung in the balance, his army weakened by Moslem defections.

Off-Beirut, the five-inch guns of the mighty-U.S. battleship New Jersey thundered to life at midnight yesterday, shelling what was believed to be a rebel position after the U.S. Marine base at the airport again came under fire. One Marine was wounded.

In west Beirut, 39 employees and dependents of the U.S. Embassy were airlifted out by helicopter because of "the current unstable situation," a Marine spokesman said.

State Department officials in Washington said the evacuees, considered non-essential for the embassy's operation, were taken to a 6th Fleet ship for later transfer to Cyprus. They said 54 personnel, including Marine embassy guards, remained in Beirut.

Two U.S. warships — the carrier Independence and destroyer Rickards — cut short a port call in Turkey and were steaming back to rejoin the flotilla off Lebanon.

The new explosion of fighting, which began last Thursday and climaxed Monday with the rebel take-

over of Moslem west Beirut, has put the multinational Beirut peacekeeping troops in a difficult position — cut off from the Lebanese government they are here to support.

One French soldier was killed and at least 15 other members of the multinational force were wounded — including two Marines — in the fighting Monday and yesterday. About 200 Lebanese were reported killed and more than 300 wounded in the six days of fighting, police said.

The latest round of violence in this country's intermittent civil war pits militiamen of the Shiite Moslem movement Amal and of the Syrian-supported Druse Progressive Socialist Party against government forces backed up by Frem's Christian militia, which is an arm of the Phalange Party led by the president's father, Pierre Gemayel.

Yesterday, only scattered army resistance continued to the militia takeover of west Beirut. Many soldiers apparently gave up without a fight Monday, in line with Shiite leader Berr's call for the army's Moslem majority not to battle their Moslem brothers.

The sound of small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades could be heard coming from the port area yesterday. The army and Shiite militiamen also still fought around St. Michael's Church, near a crossing point between east and west Beirut. At artillery shelling from both sides broke off in mid-afternoon, amid a heavy rain, a Western military source reported.

By yesterday afternoon, taken forces of Lebanese army soldiers remained at government buildings in west Beirut, but larger forces of militiamen were also outside the buildings and clearly in control.

Berr and Jambalt called on their forces to observe a 2:15 p.m. cease-



Shiite Moslem militiamen ride through a street in West Beirut yesterday on an armored personnel carrier they captured from the Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Army was driven from most of West Beirut during heavy fighting with the leftists.

fire, and the Lebanese army command said it would join in the truce. But gunfire continued beyond the deadline, though it was less intense.

Late last night, an Amal spokesman said Amal forces were being withdrawn from west Beirut's streets, an operation to be completed today. Local radio said Amal and Druse leaders were discussing arrangements for Lebanese police to take over security duties in west Beirut.

This seemed to indicate that the cease-fire was taking hold, or at least that the anti-Gemayel forces

were confident the army was too demoralized and divided for the president to try to reassert authority in the city's Moslem western sector.

Earlier, in Christian east Beirut, Frem called on his Phalangist "Lebanese Forces," the largest Christian militia, to be "vigilant" against ene-

state news briefs

Woman abducted, past beau sought

LAFAYETTE HILL, Pa. (AP) — Police yesterday were seeking two men and a 25-year-old woman the men allegedly abducted yesterday morning as she was walking to her front door.

Paula Todd of Lafayette Hill, an affluent northwest Philadelphia suburb, was walking across her lawn from the car of a friend shortly after midnight when she was grabbed by an unidentified man who jumped from a silver-colored Buick Regal that pulled up as her friend was driving off, said White Marsh Township Police Sgt. Donald Apel.

Apel said police believe the silver car was driven by Todd's former boyfriend, John Petreze, 35, of Conshohocken. Todd was grabbed and dragged to the car, which then sped off down the road, came to a dead end and turned around. Todd was taken to the car, kidnapped and tried to block the road with his car, Apel said.

Apel said Butler then took a pistol from the glove compartment of his car and fired four shots at the Buick, which kept going.

UFO probably a meteor, viewers say

HARRISBURG (AP) — A bright-burning object spotted in the night sky above southeastern Pennsylvania early yesterday was probably a meteor or "space junk," according to a area sky-watcher.

The object was spotted by people in York, Dauphin and Cumberland counties. Police officers in Harrisburg early yesterday saw the object, with one saying it looked "like a ball of fire or an aircraft engine on fire."

Harrisburg International Airport reported it had no aircraft on its radar screen within a 60-mile area vastly different from the object, which was observed before 3 a.m., reportedly appeared to move from northeast to southwest, with some observers estimating its altitude of 5,000 feet.

nation news briefs

Fed seeks higher credit card charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve Board member urged Congress yesterday to allow merchants to charge higher prices for customers who use credit cards.

"Our studies confirm that cash customers subsidize credit customers to some extent," Federal Reserve governor Nancy H. Teeters told the Senate Banking subcommittee on consumer affairs.

She said that although the cost of credit adds only about 1 percent to the price of an item, the total markup across the economy amounts to about \$6 billion a year.

Congress, which begins a 10-day recess on Friday, is facing a tight deadline for action on a House-approved, six-month extension of a law that forbids merchants to charge higher prices for people who buy with credit cards. The law expires Feb. 27, leaving the Senate nine working days to consider the bill.

Teeters, whose position was opposed by banking and credit card lobbyists, said the Federal Reserve prefers an open market system under which merchants could either give a discount for a cash purchase or require a credit card user to pay more for the same item.

High Eskimo suicide rate reflects era

KOTZEBUE, Alaska (AP) — The Eskimos of northern Alaska, struggling to adjust to a modern era vastly different from their heritage, are also coping with a suicide problem of alarming proportions: They are killing themselves at more than 10 times the national average.

"The men shoot or hang themselves," said Florence Jetton, psychiatric nurse at the Kotzebue Public Health Service Hospital since 1978. "The women take pills."

Inupiat leaders say the suicides may reflect the grief and desperation of a people driven from their traditional world and unable to survive, or even cope, in another.

The national suicide rate is about 12 per 100,000 people, but the rate in the Kotzebue area of northwest Alaska — including 11 neighboring villages — is approximately 150 per 100,000. The population is about 6,000.

world news briefs

Exiled Iranian general killed in France

PARIS (AP) — Two gunmen shot and killed the leading military figure in pre-revolutionary Iran — once known as "the butcher of Tehran" — and his brother on a fashionable Paris street yesterday.

Gholam Ali Oveissi, 65, a former four-star general, and his brother, Gholam Hosein Oveissi, a former army colonel in his 60s, died instantly after being shot in the head.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the killings, but former officials of the late shah immediately blamed the deaths on the Iranian government of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The gunman ambushed Oveissi and his brother as they were leaving Oveissi's apartment in Paris' affluent 16th district, shot them each in the head and escaped in a car.

Oveissi, army chief of staff under the late Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, was the last military governor of Tehran in monarchist Iran. He had a reputation as a ruthless hardliner in carrying out the shah's policies.

Oveissi had lived in exile, mainly in France, since the shah fled Iran five years ago following Khomeini's triumphal return to Iran.

Aquino's brother gains political favor

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Five months after his brother was assassinated at the Manila International Airport, Agapito "Buty" Aquino is emerging as a major opposition figure in the Philippines.

A former plastics manufacturer and onetime actor in a cough syrup commercial, Aquino, 44, wasn't widely known before Benigno Aquino's Aug. 21 killing, and has little political experience.

But opposition demonstrators now chant "Buty" along with "Ninoy," the nickname of his brother.

No other opposition leader has so far appeared likely to fill Benigno Aquino's role as President Ferdinand E. Marcos' chief rival. Marcos, 66, has indicated he will run for re-election in the 1987 election, and some local observers are projecting Agapito Aquino as an opposition candidate. But Aquino says he is not ready to run for office.

Space shuttle: Launch problem jeopardizes future flights

By PAUL RECER
AP Aerospace Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Until engineers find and fix the problem that left two satellites unuseable, NASA's space transportation system will be unable to launch heavy payloads to high orbit, leaving the shuttle program crippled and without a major source of income.

A failure by the Payload Assist Module rocket booster led to the loss of both the Palapa-B satellite Monday and the Westar VI last Friday.

Aerospace officials have issued an industry quarantine to a recall. The PAM, officials say, will not be used again until engineers understand what caused the failures and can fix the problem.

"Some clarification of the problem would have to develop before we could recommend further use of the PAM motor," said Richard D. Brandes, a vice president of Hughes Aircraft Co., manufacturer of the twin satellites.

Brandes said the failures of the two crafts were so similar "it's eerie," implying there may be

some basic flaw in the rocket booster system despite an earlier record of successes.

This leaves a large question mark in the middle of what was to have been the busiest year yet for the space shuttle.

The PAM was designed to be the workhorse of the National Space Transportation System. The boosters were to be used to move payloads weighing 4,000 pounds or less from the low orbit where the shuttle operates 165 miles above Earth to the 22,300-mile-high orbit that is the working home of communications satellites. Without the PAM or similar boosters, the shuttle is changed from a long-haul space truck to a short-haul van.

The PAM has been used 16 times successfully — five times in the shuttle program — and those successes helped attract new customers to the shuttle. The Westar VI, for instance, was originally scheduled to be launched on the French rocket Ariane. Western Union decided to move to the shuttle because of its sterling record on earlier satellite launches.

NASA officials now worry that the PAM fail-

ures may affect that reputation and cost NASA paying customers.

Although the shuttle performed perfectly in deploying the satellites, and the failures came in hardware built by contractors not under the control or supervision of the space agency, NASA feels the effects directly because so many shuttle customers depend upon the PAM.

The shuttle was scheduled to make four PAM launches this year and some NASA officials have expressed concern privately about the possible impact on the shuttle's mission schedule and even cancel flights.

The potential loss of income for NASA also is significant, since it is paid about \$10 million for every satellite it launches.

The PAM failure also will mean "considerably higher" insurance premiums for future satellite launches, Stephen Merrett, an underwriter for Lloyd's insurance market in London, said yesterday. The Westar VI was insured for \$105 million and Palapa B was insured for \$75 million.

Grieving parents seek government's help in finding missing children

By BILL MCLOSKEY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — "You cannot stop it," an anguished mother told a Senate subcommittee yesterday, describing how her daughter had been taken from her twice.

She and others urged Congress to pass the legislation, which would increase the role of the federal government in finding missing children.

"You cannot stop it. If it's going to happen, you cannot stop it. They will find some point in your schedule where it is a weak point," Jean Humphrey of Sallisaw, Okla., told the subcommittee. She related how her daughter Jamie Lynn was snatched when she was 3½ and again when she was 5½.

The second abduction occurred right outside the little girl's kindergarten. The child's grandfather, who had just dropped her off at the school, and four teachers gave chase but were cut off by a private detective, allegedly working for the father, Humphrey said.

The child was recovered a year later, in Canada, where someone saw her picture on television.

Another mother, Gloria Yerko-

rich, whose daughter Joanna has been missing since she was taken by her father in 1974, told of the abduction of her then 5-year-old child. As she spoke, her other daughter listened and stifled tearful sobs.

Yerkoich told the Senate Justice Committee's subcommittee on juvenile justice, "I have a lot of drive" as she explained the work of an organization she formed, Child Find, Inc.

The privately financed group has located 800 children in less than three years, she said. Fifteen were found after their photos were shown at the end of an NBC television program, "Adam," which told the story of a missing Florida boy later found murdered. Forty other children whose photos appeared on the program are still missing.

While praising the news media for its interest and cooperation, Yerkoich, of New Paltz, N.Y., called for passage of a proposed law that would provide \$10 million a year to establish a toll-free telephone number for people to call with information on missing children, and establish a national clearinghouse to provide technical assistance to local and state governments to help find missing children.

Economic advisers unite on budget cuts

By SALLY JACOBSEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's key economic advisers put aside their public squabbling yesterday and presented a united front, urging Congress to slash the enor-

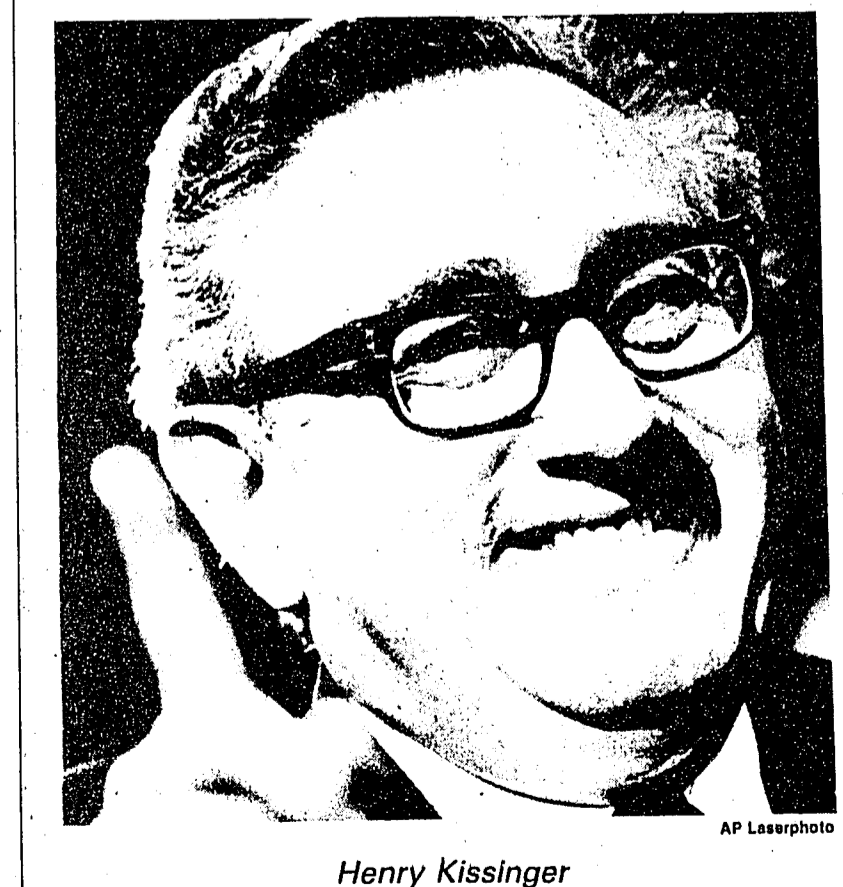
mous budget deficits or risk sending the economy into a tailspin.

They issued their appeals less than a week after Reagan submitted to Congress a spending plan for 1985 that projects deficits of \$100 billion in each of the next few years,

not far off the record \$195.4 billion posted in 1983.

"We have a total agreement that we should get these deficits down," said Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, just days after sniping at the red-ink views of presidential economist Martin Feldstein.

Just a corridor away, Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker issued his strongest-ever condemnation of excessive red-ink spending, telling the House Banking Committee that the budget and foreign trade deficits are "a clear and present danger" to the recovery.



Kissinger urges Central American aid

Congress wants improved human rights as condition of funding

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Warning that "time is short," Henry A. Kissinger urged Congress yesterday to pump billions of dollars in economic and military aid into Central America to counter Soviet and Cuban threats to U.S. interests in the troubled region.

The former secretary of state, however, encountered skepticism among members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, including Paul Tsongas, D-Mass., who said Kissinger's Committee that the budget and foreign trade deficits are "a clear and present danger" to the recovery.

"Time is short," Kissinger said. "Let us make the effort now."

Several senators, including Richard Lugar, R-Ind., and Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., mentioned mental interests, including national security interests, at stake in Central America.

He said the region is plagued by social injustice, political turmoil and severe economic difficulties, and that the United States has "a moral obligation" to help.

Kissinger said the \$3 billion, five-year plan, "is ambitious, but by no means extreme or gargantuan." It is modest, he said, if compared with the costs to the United States if the region collapsed under pressure from leftist guerrilla forces.

Kissinger said the plan is "a concerted and significant effort" to guarantee its citizens' human rights and moving to eliminate right-wing death squad activities.

The Kissinger panel also said Congress should require periodic reports of progress on human rights and other reforms as a condition of U.S. aid at a time of budget restraint at home.

Kissinger replied that "we can't get Western European standards from countries at civil war," but said that if the aid plan is adopted, the

region's governments would be encouraged to eliminate mismanagement.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., called the aid package "a mandate for socialism, financed by the U.S. taxpayer," and Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., complained of overemphasis on military solutions in the commission's plan.

Tsongas said Congress would resist such an aid package because many legislators believe Reagan is less serious about opposing human rights abuses than battling a leftist threat in the region.

As he spoke, the House rebuffed Reagan by approving a bill — identical to one the president vetoed Nov. 30 — that would make continued U.S. aid to El Salvador contingent on periodic written assurances from the administration that the Salvadoran government was making a "concerted and significant effort" to guarantee its citizens' human rights and moving to eliminate right-wing death squad activities.

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stock report

Late rally ends winter massacre

NEW YORK (AP) — A embattled stock market yesterday, as a late rally halted a selling spree that one analyst dubbed "the 1984 winter massacre."

"The first wave of selling is over," Monte Gordon, director of research at Dreyfus Corp., said after the mixed session.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks, down 22.72 points Monday, started the day by falling another 8 points before rebounding.

Volume Shares 127,106,900
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Down 383
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