

Gunfire rocks Beirut as troops prepare to leave

By G.G. LABELLE
Associated Press Writer

BEIRUT, Lebanon — The giant guns of the battleship New Jersey pounded the rebel-held hills beyond Beirut yesterday, in a thundering all-day barrage that brought the United States in firmly on the government's side in Lebanon's civil war.

On Beirut's southern edge, meanwhile, 1,400 U.S. Marines waited for orders sending them back to their ships offshore, under President Reagan's announcement Tuesday that the Marines would be withdrawn from their perilous position in the coming weeks.

The small British contingent in the multinational Beirut peacekeeping force did pull out yesterday, and Italy ordered a gradual withdrawal of its troops.

Lebanon's U.S.-backed Christian president, Amin Gemayel, appeared to be in an ever more precarious spot. His army's 6th Brigade declared it was defecting to the side of the rebels in west Beirut — Shiite Moslem and Druse militiamen who have Syrian support.

Gemayel, whose prime minister and Cabinet resigned over the weekend, met for a second day with special U.S. Mideast envoy Donald Rumsfeld in a search for solutions to the crisis.

The New Jersey opened up with its 16-inch guns — the biggest afloat — at 1:25 p.m. after artillery shells began raining down on Christian

east Beirut and near the U.S. ambassador's residence and Gemayel's presidential palace in suburban Yarze, said Marine Maj. Dennis Brooks, a U.S. military spokesman.

Beirut radio reports said the artillery fire was coming from Druse leftist gun crews in central mountain areas occupied by the Syrian army.

The New Jersey "is firing as directed by the president's statement of last night," Brooks said.

Reagan said in his policy statement Tuesday that the U.S. Navy would provide "naval gunfire and air support against any unit firing into greater Beirut from parts of Lebanon controlled by Syria."

Until now, U.S. gunships and warplanes had generally hit only rebel units suspected of firing on the Marines at Beirut airport.

The east Beirut bombardment killed two people and wounded 60, the right-wing Christian "Voice of Lebanon" radio said.

The official Syrian news agency said dozens of Lebanese, including women and children, were killed by U.S. Navy's "barbaric bombardment."

In Washington, the Pentagon said the New Jersey, joined in the barrage by the U.S. destroyer Caron's five-inch guns, struck 15 military targets with more than 350 shells, the heaviest U.S. bombardment since American ships went into action off Lebanon last

year. The Christian radio claimed 30 Druse batteries were knocked out.

An unnamed Syrian military spokesman was quoted as saying the naval shelling represented an "escalation of the acts of premeditated aggression against the Lebanese people."

The Druse radio station said the Lebanese army also shelled the Druse village of Shweifat, southeast of Beirut airport, killing 25 people.

Late last night, the reverberating blasts from the New Jersey still shook this battered city. From the shoreline, flames could be seen flaring hundreds of feet from the gun barrels as they fired the half-ton shells into the distant hills. The shelling of east Beirut also continued into the night.

Unidentified warplanes roared over Beirut in rainy night weather, and the Druse radio said they also flew over the Druse hill area, but it did not report any air strikes.

Reagan's withdrawal announcement Tuesday came after weeks of mounting pressure in Congress for removal of the Marines from their exposed position at Beirut airport.

Under the Reagan plan, 500 Marines are to return to their ships over the next month, and the others will be pulled out in phases. Marine spokesman Brooks said orders with a withdrawal timetable had not arrived. But the young Marines dug in at the airport were clearly excited.

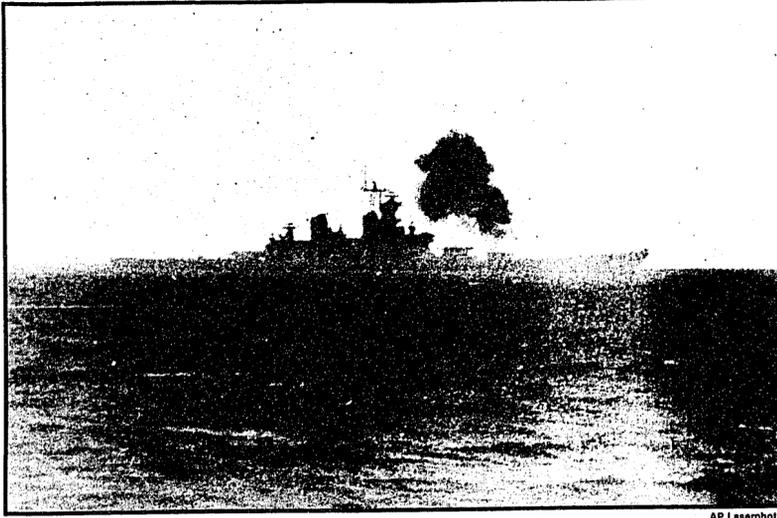
"We heard last night. We drank our two beers for the day and had sweet dreams about going home," said Lance Cpl. Nick Motta of Orlando, Fla.

The Marine commander, Brig. Gen. James Joy, said 250 Marine support personnel already had been moved aboard ship, but this was a temporary move taken Tuesday because the situation in west Beirut seemed "rather unsettled."

The Marine Corps announced in Washington that a Marine major, Alfred L. Butler, 33, of Cocoa, Fla., was found fatally shot in the chest yesterday in his quarters at the Beirut airport. The circumstances of his death were under investigation, the Washington statement said.

On the seafloor boulevard in front of U.S. Embassy offices yesterday, helicopters evacuated about 50 civilians working here under U.S. government contracts, bringing to almost 100 the number of embassy employees, dependents and others evacuated to the offshore flotilla, and on to Cyprus, in two days.

The 115-man British contingent pulled out of its base east of the airport yesterday and was airlifted by helicopter to a Royal Navy ship offshore. Later yesterday, the Italian government said it was ordering a "gradual withdrawal" of its 1,400-man peacekeeping force here. France, the fourth nation in the peacekeeping force, said it had no immediate withdrawal plans.



The American battleship New Jersey fires its 16-inch guns at anti-government forces entrenched in the Syrian-held mountains east of Beirut. The barrage came on the heels of Reagan's announcement that American warships would retaliate immediately if Lebanese rebels fire upon Beirut.

Withdrawal of U.S. Marines could help Reagan . . . or not

By TERENCE HUNT
Associated Press Writer

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — President Reagan's order to move American Marines in Beirut to the safety of ships offshore was a dream come true for political strategists plotting his re-election campaign even though it escalated the U.S. military role in Lebanon. At the same time, however, suggestions were raised that the president had reneged on his word not "to cut and run" from Lebanon. And, Democrats stepped up their attack on Reagan for keeping the troops there as long as he did.

news analysis

Former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, in an interview on NBC's "Today" show, said he would have been very reluctant to pull the Marines out and added, "I think that the consequences of something that is perceived to be an American withdrawal under pressure in the face of the opposite statements that have been made (by Reagan) for weeks is likely to be quite serious throughout the Middle East and maybe other parts of the world."

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., said, "I'd rather lose a little face than lose a half-million men."

In any event, Reagan's decision seems sure to help him politically.

As Election Day approaches, Americans watching television will not see scenes of Marines hunkering down in bunkers, or stretchers carrying wounded and dead servicemen from bombed-out shelters.

Instead, the picture will be one of American warplanes streaking over Beirut and warships offshore pounding Syrian-backed artillery positions. At Reagan's campaign headquarters in Washington,

the president's advisers had hoped for just such a decision.

Jim Lake, a spokesman for the Reagan-Bush campaign committee, said that from a political standpoint "we'd always rather see American servicemen not at risk, not being shot at anywhere in the world. That's a plus."

Asked whether there was a negative side to the president's decision, he replied, "I don't think so, no."

In political terms, the Marines' presence in Beirut has been a big liability for the president. During Reagan's administration, 264 American servicemen were killed in Lebanon, and public opinion surveys showed that a majority of Americans favor the Marines' withdrawal.

Democrats have been attacking Reagan over Lebanon for months, and Democratic presidential candidates have been demanding the Marines' withdrawal.

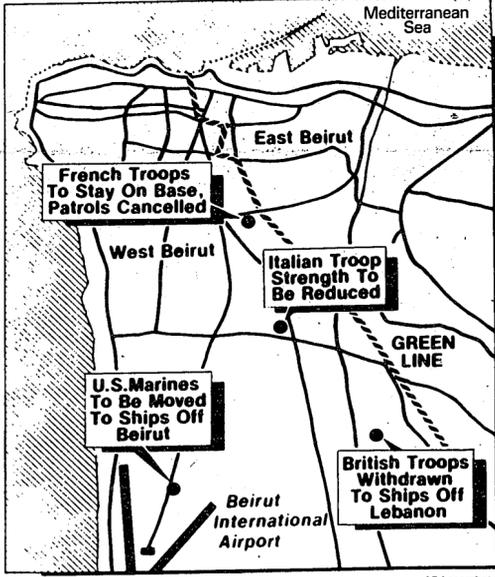
In recent days, the administration has been on the defensive as House Democrats pushed forward with a non-binding resolution calling for a prompt and orderly pullout of the Marines.

"Looking at the Lebanon issue strictly through the prism of politics, we would feel somewhat relieved if the Marines were not there," Richard Wirthlin, the president's campaign pollster, said in a recent interview.

Wirthlin said at the time that a troop withdrawal would not have an immediate political impact, but added: "I think longer term it would be because Lebanon has been the focus for a very difficult issue that this president faces in foreign affairs."

Although the president's decision should take the heat off the Lebanon issue, there could be a new debate over who "lost" Lebanon, if it comes to that.

In his order Tuesday, Reagan instructed that the Marines be moved gradually to ships offshore, beginning with the relocation of about 500 troops within a month.



Members of the multinational force in Lebanon are each considering or taking steps to reduce their involvement in the divided country. This map explains the positions of the U.S. Marines and British, Italian and French troops yesterday.

Total loss:

Recovery cost of Westar satellite would be astronomical

By NAN CRYSTAL ARENS
Collegian Staff Writer

Although technology exists that could salvage the ill-fated Westar VI satellite, it has been declared a total loss by its owners because of the cost involved in a rescue, a spokesman for the Johnson Space Center said yesterday.

Terry White said the Westar malfunctioned after deployment from the space shuttle last week, causing it to be placed in a useless orbit. "If we had gone equipped to (retrieve the satellite) pre-flight and if we had enough fuel to get up to where we could get a hold of it, it would be possible," White said. "But the customer would have to pay for it and it would be expensive."

Several problems exist with such a proposed salvage attempt, White said. First, it would require a large amount of fuel to propel the shuttle into an orbit high enough to intercept the satellite.

The satellite is now in an elliptical orbit ranging from 150 to 600 nautical miles. The shuttle is in a circular orbit at 150 nautical miles, White said.

He said the shuttle would have to boost itself into a higher orbit and descend to rendezvous with the satellite. This would require more maneuvering fuel than the shuttle is carrying.

The second problem is what to do with the satellite when it is found. White said a technique similar to the one that will be used on the April 4 mission of the shuttle, which will locate, retrieve and repair

'The practicality and expense of going out and capturing the satellite make it out of the question. You're talking about a lot of money and it really wouldn't be worth it.'

—Terry White, spokesman for the Johnson Space Center

another satellite, could be used but the Westar might still be rotating too fast.

During deployment, the Westar was rotating at 55 rpm which is too fast for shuttle astronauts to attach the necessary grappeling knob, White said.

The Solar Maximum Mission (SMM) satellite, however, is rotating at one degree per second which is slow enough for astronauts to work with, White said.

"One degree per second is just not very fast," White added.

During the SMM rendezvous, the shuttle will intercept the satellite and an astronaut propelled by one of the newly tested jet-powered backpacks will go out to the satellite, match its rotation by using the thrusters in the pack and attach a door-knob shaped grappeling hook.

The shuttle arm will then be used to capture the satellite and bring it to a specially designed cradle in the shuttle bay for servicing, White said.

Astronauts in a separate space walk will then replace the malfunctioning "black box" which contains some of the satellite's

experiments and part of the attitude control, White said.

The logistical problems associated with the Westar VI make this technique of capture impractical, White said.

"The practicality and expense of going out and capturing the satellite make it out of the question," he added. "You're talking about a lot of money and it really wouldn't be worth it."

The Westar VI and another satellite launched by the Indonesian government were designed to orbit the earth in a geocentric orbit, White said. The geocentric orbit is a circular orbit 22,300 nautical miles above the equator.

At this altitude, the velocity of the satellite equals the rotational velocity of the earth, White said.

"(The satellite) appears to hover over one place on the earth," he added.

In this type of orbit, communication signals can be relayed from the satellite to stationary ground antennas, White said.

"Arthur Clarke was the conceptual inventor of the geocentric orbit back in the 1950's" White said. "He came up with the idea

even before he wrote '2001: (A Space Odyssey)'."

White said the new rocket backpack, designed to provide individual mobility for astronauts free of a tether, will have a variety of uses when space construction becomes a reality.

"You've seen hardhats working on steel beams on a construction site, well, we will have space hardhats," White said. "To get around, you need a Buck Rogers type backpack."

The packs could be used during the construction of the space station proposed by President Reagan during his State of the Union address this year, White added.

The new innovations in U.S. space technology have caused uncertainty among space specialists in the Soviet Union, the United States' chief competitor in space, Vernon Aspaturian, Evan Pugh professor of political science, said yesterday.

"Their whole approach is characterized by a great deal of anxiety," Aspaturian said. "They believe it is all a backdoor to the militarization of space."

The view that the United States is moving toward the militarization of space has only been compounded by Reagan's call for killer satellites, a space station and a particle beam weapon, he added.

Aspaturian said he did not believe the Soviet Union was necessarily "behind" the United States in space technology.

"They are following a different track than we are," he said.

thursday

inside

• Tenants of the former Laurel Glen apartments — now Heritage Oaks and Pennwood North — will soon receive payment on security deposits lost when the complex went bankrupt in 1980. . . .Page 3

• The College of Engineering recently allocated funds to the industrial engineering department for the renovation and enhancement of equipment in its robotics laboratory. . . .Page 8

• The women's basketball team crushed the University of Pittsburgh last night, 93-56. . . .Page 9

index

Classifieds..... 13
Comics/crossword..... 17
Opinions..... 6
Sports..... 9
State/nation/world..... 4

weather

Partly to mostly sunny and milder today with a high of 35. Partly cloudy and not as cold tonight with a low of 25. Increasing cloudiness and mild tomorrow with a high near 40. . . .by Glenn Rolph