

Mexico City tightens security

By JOSEPH B. FRAZIER
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — Police intensified patrols and visitors had to register upon entering and leaving public buildings yesterday, but the capital rejected district requests to send the army to guard against spreading rebel violence.

In a major Cabinet shuffle to deal with the uprising that first erupted in Chiapas state, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari replaced his embattled interior minister, Patrocinio Gonzalez Garrido.

Gonzalez, a former governor of Chiapas, earlier denied reports of guerrilla activity in his state and was criticized for allowing alleged human rights violations while he was governor.

Chiapas was generally quiet yesterday.

But bombings in the capital and elsewhere and rebel threats of a wide war prompted officials in Mexico City to tighten security in government and other public buildings and in banks.

In addition to the visitor-registration requirement, more police

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— Griselda Garcia
Mexico City spokeswoman

were assigned to streets, subways and other crowded gathering places in the city, said Griselda Garcia, a spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office.

The independent Excelsior news service said 80,000 police were on alert in Mexico City and the adjacent State of Mexico.

Bombs have exploded in recent days in Mexico City, in the resort city of Acapulco, at power lines in rural areas, and at the Mexican consulate and a Mexican restaurant in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

The bombings apparently are tied to the uprising by the Zapatista National Liberation Army that began New Year's Day in Chiapas, one of Mexico's poorest states. Only one woman has been injured in the explosions.

The rebels occupied towns in

Chiapas for several days, saying they were fighting for better living conditions and an end to the exploitation and oppression of Mexico's native Indians. Officials say 107 people have died in the uprising.

Garcia and the head of Mexico City's government, Manuel Aguilera Gomez, rejected requests by the heads of the capital's 16 administrative districts for soldiers to patrol streets and set up military checkpoints on highways. "We're not going to go to that extreme," Garcia said. "This is a difficult moment, but we want to maintain calm."

Salinas chose as his new interior minister Attorney General Jorge Carpizo MacGregor, the former head of the National Human Rights Commission. He will be responsible for national internal security.

Salinas named Foreign Minister Miguel Camacho Solis, known as an able conciliator, to be "Commissioner for Peace and Reconciliation in Chiapas." Manuel Tello Macias, the ambassador to France, will be new foreign minister.

The Mexican attorney general's office said Sunday that one weekend car bomb in a shopping center was made with some of the 3,000 pounds of dynamite stolen nearly two weeks ago by the Zapatistas in Chiapas.

The latest explosion caused minor damage Sunday but no casualties at an electrical tower near San Juan Tezonantla, 25 miles northeast of the capital. The Zapatistas claimed responsibility for some bombings. It was unclear whether sympathizers set off others. Many blasts did little damage and appeared to be the work of amateurs.

The federal government said Sunday that 30 arrested guerrillas admitted being led by two Guatemalans: commanders Marcos and Jesus Mesa Yaladaqui. In all, 107 suspected rebels are in custody.

Airlift to provide crucial supplies to Sarajevo residents

By SRECKO LATAL
Associated Press Writer

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Relief agencies received Serb promises to stop shelling the airport, paving the way for a resumption today of Sarajevo's crucial airlift.

The airlift has been stop-and-start for nearly a week due to Serb shelling, leaving Sarajevo's 380,000 residents with dwindling supplies. The besieged capital depends almost entirely on relief aid.

Serb shelling shut the airport for five days last week. It reopened Sunday and seven planes landed, though two shells fired by Serbs hit the runway early in the day.

But relief agencies suspended the Sarajevo flights yesterday because Serbs would not promise to stop shelling the airport.

Later in the day, Ron Redmond, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva, said that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic gave safety assurances to U.N. officials.

Redmond said 21 aid flights were scheduled for today.

In Bonn, Germany, President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia said that he and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia made no significant

progress in talks aimed at reaching a cease-fire for central Bosnia.

"We have achieved no important results today," Izetbegovic said on Germany's ZDF TV network after concluding two days of negotiations in Bonn with Tudjman.

A Croatian diplomat, Zalko Plavnik, said earlier that Izetbegovic and Tudjman had reached a tentative truce agreement for central Bosnia.

Tudjman has demanded that Bosnia's Muslim-dominated army halt a military offensive against Bosnian Croats and said the Bonn talks were a last chance to end the war.

He threatens to send regular army troops from Croatia to intervene unless the Bosnian army stops its offensive. Croatia risks world sanctions if it intervenes more directly in Bosnia.

The Bosnians have recently made military advances, and they oppose a peace plan that would give the Muslim-led Bosnian government control of about a third of Bosnian territory.

Bosnia's Muslims and Croats were originally allies when the Bosnian Serb rebellion against independence from Yugoslavia began more than 20 months ago, but they later began fighting over territory.

The Bosnian army is pushing against the Croat-held town of Vitez, northwest of Sarajevo

and focus of much of the recent Croat-Muslim fighting.

The Bosnian army cut across the enclave's main road early Sunday. Croat and U.N. officials earlier said that fighting was continuing Monday in a Croat attempt to flush out the Muslims from several houses they had taken.

But Associated Press reporter Mark J. Porubcansky in Vitez later reported that the Bosnian army consolidated its hold on several houses across the main Vitez-Busovaca road, and also pushed north from Kruscica village late in the afternoon. That narrowed the pocket to perhaps three-quarters of a mile at its narrowest point.

Besides effectively cutting the Vitez pocket in two by seizing the road, the move apparently is aimed at relieving a small colony of Muslims holed up in the enclave of Stari Vitez within the Croat-held territory.

In other developments, Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of Muslim Pakistan, disclosed plans yesterday to go to Sarajevo in February to protest the war in Bosnia and call for an end to a U.N. arms embargo against Muslim-led Bosnian government.

Shelling of Sarajevo by Serb artillery abated yesterday, but resumed later in the day, Bosnian radio reported. The city's main Kosevo hospital reported 11 wounded.

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