

Kuwait lodges protest after Iranian strike

The Associated Press

Kuwait lodged a formal protest Thursday against what it said was the firing of two rockets by an Iranian warplane at a northern border post. The first incident of the Iraq-Iran war spilling into a nearby country triggered a wave of concern among Kuwait's oil-rich neighbors.

There was no indication whether the rockets were fired accidentally or deliberately. Both Iraq and Iran reported air raids on each other's targets in the area close to the border post of Abdali.

Ground fighting appeared to slow down in the northern sector of the war front while Iran claimed its forces pushed back Iraqi troops about four miles from the oil refining city of Abadan, under Iraqi siege for almost a month.

Iranian troops silenced Iraqi artillery shelling the provincial capital of Ahwaz, an official statement from Tehran reported.

Although the rocket attack Wednesday on the Kuwaiti desert outpost of Abdali caused no injuries or damage, Kuwait leaders received expressions of support and solidarity from Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Saudi Crown Prince Fahd telephoned Kuwaiti Crown Prince Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah and assured him of "the importance Saudi Arabia,

attaches to the safety and territorial integrity of Kuwait," Kuwaiti sources said.

Fahd said his country was prepared "to stand by Kuwait's side in case of any threat from outside."

With 50 warplanes and a total armed force of 12,000 men, Kuwait's military arsenal is much smaller than that of either Iraq or Iran, each with several hundred aircraft and about a quarter million-strong armed forces.

The border post of Abdali is 12 miles from an Iraqi military base and is near the Shatt al-Arab estuary, the disputed southern border between Iraq and Iran where much of the fighting has taken place since the war began Sept. 22.

Tehran radio said a report from Ahwaz told of several Iraqi MiGs violating the city's air space and being forced to flee by Iranian anti-aircraft fire. The report said Iraqi artillery shelled Ahwaz's residential areas several times, causing some damage and leaving at least two people dead.

Another Tehran radio broadcast reported fierce fighting on the roads leading out of Abadan toward the towns of Manshahr and Ahwaz. The Iranian news agency Pars said Iranian losses Wednesday night and Thursday in the fighting near Abadan were three killed and several wounded.

An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio listed one Iranian soldier killed, the lowest figure

reported since the outbreak of the war. Recent Iraqi communiqués have listed 40 to 50 Iranians killed each day.

Foreign correspondents visiting the northern edge of the 300-mile front at Qasr-e-Shirin said the situation appeared to be quiet there. The reporters, on an escorted trip arranged by the Iraqi Information Ministry, were taken to a point about 6 miles east of the Iraqi-occupied border town.

Meanwhile, the president of Iran's Supreme Court and head of Parliament's Islamic hardliners was quoted Thursday as saying the assembly will have to decide whether to put the 52 U.S. hostages on trial if Washington fails to meet Iranian terms for their release.

Iran's prime minister conferred with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, possibly on the hostages, and government officials were said to have discussed the U.S. reply to Iran's demands in meetings throughout the day.

Christopher was said to have told the Algerians in a lengthy explanation of the formal reply that the U.S. government could provide a pledge of non-interference but that it faced legal obstacles in fulfilling the other conditions.

News In Brief

House argues over revenue sharing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House wrangled over extending the no-strings general revenue sharing program Thursday, with members saying the real issue was the power, efficiency and sanity of the federal government.

There is congressional opposition to the program because it carries no centralized power with it, Rep. Barber Conable Jr., R-N.Y., said.

A move to simply enact a one-year extension of the federal revenue sharing program for local governments was defeated 306-65 and the members debated instead whether to accept a multiyear extension of the grants, a move favored by organizations representing state and local governments.

Companies may collect surcharge

RALEIGH (AP)—The North Carolina Supreme Court says insurance companies may collect an 8.3 percent surcharge on automobile insurance issued or renewed from January to March.

Despite a lower court ruling, the North Carolina Reinsurance Facility has been imposing the surcharge ever since the ruling. The Supreme Court says means the surcharge can take effect while the court considers the larger issue of whether such surcharges must be approved by the insurance commissioner.

L.A. workers walk off jobs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Members of three unions representing 10,000 garbage collectors, police guards and traffic officers walked off their jobs Thursday in a contract dispute in the second strike by municipal employees in the city's history.

City officials said supervisors took over traffic control and sewage plant maintenance in this city of nearly 3 million people when some workers began their strikes at midnight. Other workers either refused to go to work or arrived and then walked off the job.

U.S.S.R. criticized on human rights

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Citing repression of dissidents and the shadow of the Kremlin's incursion in Afghanistan, the United States stepped up the West's attack on the Soviet Union Thursday at the international conference on human rights and detente.

The purpose of the 36-nation conference is to review compliance with provisions of the 1975 Helsinki accords on European security and cooperation.

hangar

From page 1

The mayor said that they could only zone the land as University, then restrict the usage. But then to restrict to the University is to restrict it to one person and that's illegal."

Chuck Antle, associate vice chancellor of business and finance, said the University was pleased the hangar would be built. "From the standpoint of the University, the decision is very positive because AHEC needs the hangar. But the University also realizes the concerns of the neighborhood around the airport."

John Payne, the director of AHEC, was pleased with the decision. "We were very happy that the issue was finally decided. We were surprised that the other restrictions were not passed."

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Gordon Rutherford, director of the Planning Office, said, "We can live with it. Obviously, it lets us do what we wanted to do in the first place. We're going to try to work with the Town Council to satisfy the other folks."

Everyone involved agreed the matter was not resolved. "Anything could happen now," Driessen said. "The University came to town with the interest to go along with the restrictions and the Town Council chose to do nothing."

Antle said, "The matter is definitely not resolved. The solution that all the parties involved are offering is a new airport, located away from town."

Driessen said that her group would back plans for a new airport. "We certainly encourage it. But the people who should really be fighting for it are the pilots who will be using it."

"I would like to see the town sponsor a municipal airport," Boone said. "I don't think that building the airport is a problem. The site has already been selected."

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rafting

From page 1

After the water was bailed out and had started back down river, the water fights began. Some of us grabbed bailers and filled them with water, while others paddled silently behind the enemy raft. "Now." The signal was given, and we bombarded the enemy boat in a cloud of water. Too often we got as wet as the raft we attacked. Sometimes, when we hurled bailers full of water at other rafts, the water ended up hitting our own crew.

The missed shots occasionally led to mutiny. Thus, there was a greater chance of being pushed overboard by an angry crewmate than of being knocked out of the boat by a rapid.

Once, we went over a six-foot waterfall. A guide had to accompany each raft over the falls, so our boats went at staggered intervals. The guide's instructions were simple. "Just wedge your feet underneath the tubing and lean toward the center." Those onshore, waiting their turn, heard laughter, screams, shouts and more curses as the raft tumbled like a roller-coaster through the white water. Back onshore the frightened paddlers were easy to discern; they did not say a word. Their faces were blank as their turn to go over the falls approached.

After a few more rapids on the river, we came to the flats. A mile and a half of very shallow water stretched before us. We ended

up doing more walking in the shallows and pushing off rocks than paddling.

Once we headed toward a large boulder and couldn't decide on which side to pass. But, the current decided for us. The river pushed the raft up high on the rock, and as we slid to one side someone yelled, "Now what do we do?" But the water pushed us on. Somehow, we untangled ourselves and crawled back to our places.

In the shadows of the mountains the wind picked up, and through our drenched clothes we felt the autumn cold.

After seven hours of paddling, laughing and getting wet, we came ashore. As we climbed the hill and crossed the road to board the bus, we joked about how heavy our legs felt. The aches from muscle exhaustion felt like arthritis.

Our fingers were red and numb. Someone said it was time for a beer, a backrub, dinner and a few hours of sleep.

The next day on the balcony of the dorm, a friend described the trip quite appropriately. "It was like being out of time. We were the only ones on earth and nothing else existed, nothing else mattered."



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