

## World and Nation

# Army says Honduras conflict unlikely

From Associated Press reports

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — American soldiers practiced military maneuvers Sunday on a Honduran airstrip just 21 miles from the Nicaraguan border, but U.S. officials said the threat from Sandinista troops had subsided and combat appeared unlikely.

"These guys are not going to get involved in any sort of conflict," said Maj. Gary Hovatter, spokesman for U.S. troops in Honduras.

U.S. officials in Washington said the Sandinistas appeared to be drawing back from the Honduran border and predicted that the training exercise involving 3,200 U.S. troops would soon end.

A U.S. House delegation viewed a military exercise involving U.S. infantrymen and Honduran soldiers at Jamastran, a dirt airstrip just 20

miles from the border of Nicaragua and about 80 miles south of the Bocay border region, where Honduran fighters dropped bombs on Sandinista positions Saturday.

Honduran officials said the raid was carried out because about 600 Sandinista troops were not evacuating quickly enough from the disputed Bocay area, which Honduras considers its territory. Two Honduran jet fighters carried out a similar raid Thursday.

No one was hurt in either raid and no damage was reported in Saturday's attack.

The 600 Sandinistas were part of a force estimated at 2,000 that was believed to have entered Honduran territory last week in pursuit of U.S.-backed contra rebels.

The action prompted President

Reagan to send in U.S. troops to non-combat areas for military exercises in a show of force against the Marxist regime.

In Washington, national security adviser Lt. Gen. Colin Powell said the fighting between Nicaragua and Honduras was essentially over.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto sent a protest note to Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez, saying his government "energetically and formally protests" Saturday's attack, which it called "aggression against Nicaraguan territory."

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has denied that the Sandinistas were in Honduran territory.

On Sunday, Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco said reports that Sandinista troops remained inside Honduras

territory was a ruse by the Reagan administration to obtain more money for the contras.

Tinoco also said Monday's first-ever direct talks with contra rebels inside Nicaragua will focus on the mechanics of a cease-fire. The contras want the talks to include political issues.

In New York, the eight-nation Contadora, made up of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, as well as its support group, formed by Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Peru, issued a statement condemning the sending of American troops to Honduras.

Contadora has been trying to negotiate an end to the contra war in Nicaragua and leftist guerilla wars in El Salvador and Guatemala for the past six years.

# British soldiers shot in Belfast disobeyed orders, official says

From Associated Press reports

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Two British soldiers who were killed in a brutal attack by an angry mob ignored orders to stay away from an Irish Republican Army (IRA) funeral procession, the British army said Sunday.

All soldiers in the British-ruled province were told the funeral was taking place on Saturday and had been warned to steer clear, an army spokesman said.

"The two corporals should not have been where they were, and we are interested in examining how that came about," said the spokesman, speaking anonymously in keeping with British custom.

Cpl. Derek Wood, 24, and Capt. David Howes, 23, were fatally shot in Belfast Saturday after funeral mourners dragged them from their unmarked car, beat them unconscious, stripped them naked and shot them.

The outlawed IRA claimed responsibility for the deaths.

More than 2,630 people have died in 19 years of sectarian strife in Northern Ireland, where the mainly Catholic IRA is fighting to drive the British out of the province and unite the predominantly Protestant province with the overwhelmingly Catholic Irish Republic.

Protestant militants reject unity with the Irish Republic.

**Merriment becomes mayhem**

PORT ARANSAS, Texas — Hundreds of partying young people rioted on a Gulf Coast beach during the night before police moved in with tear gas and helicopters, and authorities dragged the ocean for a car that sped off a nearby ferry dock and sank early Sunday.

"What you have down there is

## News in Brief

a tremendous amount of intoxication going on. All it takes sometimes is for someone to bump into someone else. The crowd just turned into a riot," said Jim Kaelin, an officer with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

At least four people were stabbed and two law officers were injured in the midnight beach melee, police said.

The mayhem began when a motorist hit a girl on the beach at this Gulf Coast vacation spot on Mustang Island, offshore from Corpus Christi, and tried to leave the scene.

**Motorists fear escaped lioness**

CATSKILL, N.Y. — Carol Pittas thought it was a little strange when a passing motorist asked if the lion on the hill was real. But after a few more passers-by asked the same question, Pittas and her fellow Rip Van Winkle Bridge toll collectors thought twice.

Sure enough, a full-grown, 200-pound adult lioness was resting just 25 feet from the entrance to the upstate Hudson River bridge Friday night.

It seems the lioness was an escaped pet from a nearby river estate. The owners were on vacation and somehow the lioness broke free and found its way to the bridge approach, State Trooper Ron Levin said.

"It wasn't too friendly," Levin said. "And it got really upset when it was shot (with a tranquilizing gun)."

The lioness was held at the Catskill Game Farm until the feline's owner picked it up late Saturday afternoon.

# Israeli soldier killed in Occupied West Bank

From Associated Press reports

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank — A gunman opened fire at close range Sunday on a reserve soldier standing guard near a Palestinian refugee camp, marking the first Israeli army fatality in four months of unrest in the occupied lands.

The army's chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron, said the shooting could augur greater use of guns by Palestinian activists. He stopped short of saying it signaled a major change in the tactics of protesters, who have mainly hurled stones and bottles at Israel's occupation forces.

"I don't think we can yet see this as a shift to an armed struggle," he said.

But Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin indicated stronger action would be taken to quell Palestinian uprisings.

"To the extent that extremist

Palestinian terrorist elements try to combine terrorist acts with the civilian disturbances, we will have to adjust our operations and take harsher measures to cope with both," he said.

The army identified the slain soldier as Sgt. Moshe Katz, 28, from the northern port city of Haifa.

He was shot two or three times in the head at close range while guarding a government building facing the small Beit Jibrin Palestinian refugee camp in the biblical city, the military said.

Troops immediately sealed off the road, the main tourist route from Jerusalem to the city's Manger Square, the site of Christ's birth. They also slapped a curfew on the refugee camp and "rounded up everyone who was in the area" for questioning, an army spokesman said.

Shortly after the killing, a dozen

Israeli soldiers guarded about 100 Palestinians in front of shops. Soldiers led them away in small groups for questioning.

Rabin and Shomron rushed to the scene.

"It's a painful day, but we are determined to go on to make sure security will prevail in Israel and the territories," Rabin said later at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, the most sacred site in Judaism.

He told a group of supporters that the protests in the occupied territories had the same goal as the Arab wars against Israel: "The purpose is through the use of force to get rid of us."

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said the situation in the territories "will be aggravated" by the shooting. But he blamed the frustration of Arab protesters on Israel's occupation of lands captured in the 1967 Middle

East war.

Freij said that the army had used welding torches during the two previous days to seal 20 shops that were following hours mandated by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). He said souvenir shops on Manger Square had been shuttered for six days because of conflicting army and PLO demands.

In Gaza City, troops closed the main vegetable market for three hours after firing tear gas to disperse Arab youths who blocked a main street and hurled stones at troops, Arab reporters said.

Israelis have been using economic pressure in addition to military force in trying to quell the unrest. They have cut international telephone lines and blocked fuel shipments.

PLO chief Yasser Arafat has said throughout the unrest that he ordered his followers to forego the use of guns against Israeli forces. The army has reported only scattered cases of Arabs shooting at soldiers or civilians.

Israeli troops have killed 103 Palestinians since Dec. 8, according to United Nations figures.

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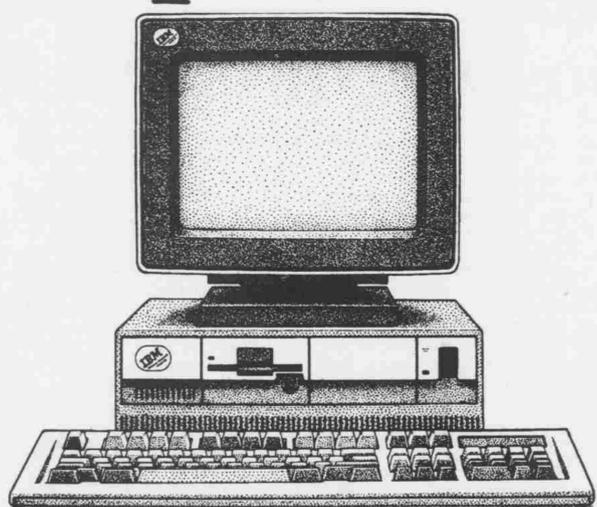
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**For the Record**

In the March 17 story "(Morocco) Club lowers membership fee to attract student clientele," Chris Riley was identified as a native of Winston-Salem. Riley is from Salisbury. The DTH regrets the error.

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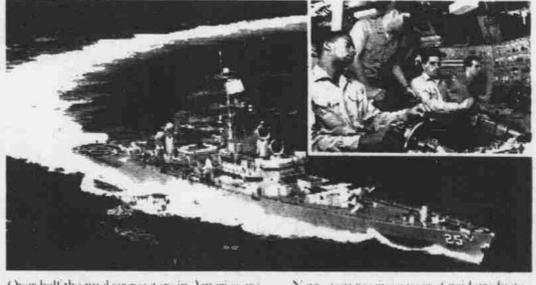
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