

Violence in Armenia spurs emergency rule

From Associated Press reports
MOSCOW — Armenia's parliament put the republic under emergency rule, banned a nationalist paramilitary group and blocked roads around the capital Wednesday after a string of attacks left an Armenian legislator dead.

The central Soviet government was not involved in the decision. A curfew from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. was imposed throughout the republic, and an Interior Ministry officer said troops with armored vehicles were guarding all roads to Yerevan, the capital, allowing passage only by special permit.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan appealed in a radio broadcast for calm. "I assure you that we, the Armenian authorities, are in a position to eliminate the danger posed by this armed organization," Ter-Petrosyan said. "There should be no panicking." Alexander Arzumanyan, a spokesman for the Armenian National Movement, and Raffi Hovannisian, a Yerevan representative of the Armenian Assembly of America, said in telephone interviews the attacks began early Wednesday.

According to their description of events, members of the renegade Armenian National Army attacked a gas station and shot three people.

An Armenian legislator, Viktor Aivazian, was then shot to death as he approached the headquarters of the Armenian National Army to investigate the gas-station incident. Also killed in the shooting was Gehavnik Manukyan, an officer of armed Armenian National Movement troops loyal to the republic's government.

Later Wednesday, members of the Armenian National Army attacked the headquarters of the Armenian Nationalist Movement with automatic weap-

ons, according to the official Tass news agency. Tass said the attack lasted about an hour. No casualties were reported.

Also Wednesday, another member of Armenia's parliament, Rafael Ishkhanian, was run over by a vehicle without plates and was in critical condition, Hovannisian said.

It was unclear if Ishkhanian was hit deliberately. But Hovannisian said the parliament stood for a moment of silence for both Aivazian and Ishkhanian before unanimously adopting the state of emergency.

Parliament also banned the Armenian National Army, which was formed in January and claims to protect Armenians from attacks by armed groups from the neighboring republic of Azerbaijan. However, ANA members have attacked police stations and gasoline depots in Armenia to seize the weapons and fuel they need to fight Azerbaijanis.

Armenia, which is mostly Christian, and Azerbaijan, which is mostly Moslem, have been engaged for more than two years in a bloody dispute for jurisdiction over Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian enclave that lies within Azerbaijan. At least 300 people have been killed in the fighting.

At times, Armenian officials have appeared to tolerate the Armenian National Army, which is believed to have several hundred hard-core fighters and many more sympathizers. But on Wednesday, the republic's leaders formally outlawed the vigilante group.

"The people's patience has run out," Ter-Petrosyan said in his radio address. "They can no longer bear the adventurism of these armed detachments which endanger both the security of our citizens and the formation of our statehood."

Clapton show goes on despite helicopter crash

From Associated Press reports
BONNER SPRINGS, Kan. — Apparently wishing to let his music speak for him, guitar master Eric Clapton performed without mention of blues comrade Stevie Ray Vaughan and other friends killed in a helicopter crash.

He went through the show Tuesday night at Sandstone Amphitheatre seemingly like any other rock 'n' roll performance, although he had been on stage with Vaughan 48 hours earlier in Wisconsin.

Gus Fasone, general manager at Sandstone, said Clapton refused all interviews and demanded that reporters and camera crews be barred from backstage.

"The people around him, it's like they are in shock," Fasone said.

"Backstage, it's like they aren't functioning, they're going through the motions."

Little of that showed to the more than 16,000 fans at the outdoor theater, about 20 miles west of Kansas City, Mo.

"I think (the band) did an extremely brave thing," Fasone said.

The helicopter crashed in dense fog early Monday, a few hours after a blues jam featuring Clapton, Vaughan and guitarist Robert Cray at Alpine Valley Music Theatre near East Troy, Wis.

"When I heard the radio I almost cried," said Mark Petitt, a 25-year-old Kansas City, Mo., man wearing a Stevie Ray Vaughan T-shirt.

Petitt said it was the tradition of rock to play on after the tragic deaths of stars. The others killed were agent Bobby

Brooks of Los Angeles; bodyguard Jeffrey Brown, 42, of East Chicago, Ind.

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Anyone interested should come to the new writers' meeting Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in rooms 208 and 209 of the Student Union. People applying for staff writer positions will be required to write a news story, people interested in copy editing should plan to take a copy editing test and photos-to-be should talk with the photography editors. We'll see you there!

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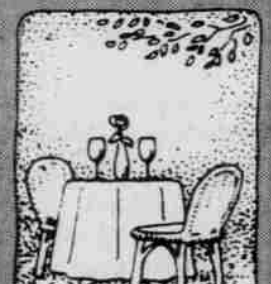
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