

World Briefs

Thailand government promises elections

BANGKOK, Thailand — Military commanders who easily toppled the government of Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan said Sunday they wanted to return the country to democracy and hold elections in six months.

Speaking a day after they took Chatichai captive and imposed martial law, the leaders said they would amend the constitution to prevent the corruption they said had motivated their apparently bloodless coup.

On Sunday, the junta repealed the military censorship it had imposed during the coup and said normal radio and television broadcasts could resume. Only a few soldiers stood guard outside Army Hall where they spoke, and the capital appeared normal in the wake of the coup.

In response to the coup, the State Department suspended \$16.4 million of mostly development aid. "The United States strongly supports constitutional rule and deeply regrets the overthrow of Thailand's democratically elected government."

Albanians rally against Democratic Party

VIENNA, Austria — Anti-democracy demonstrators demanded on Sunday that Albania's Communist government ban the opposition Democratic Party and hang its leaders.

The rally came just hours after the government, seeking to prevent more bloodshed, denied it had asked provincial authorities to organize supporters of the late dictator Enver Hoxha to march on the capital, Tirana.

Many conservative and older Albanians revere Hoxha, the Stalinist founder of Communist Albania.

But pro-democracy crowds, who blame Hoxha for four decades of poverty and repression, last week toppled a giant statue of him as well as other monuments. They also burned his books and portraits.

Democratic Party spokesman Genc Pollo said about 2,000 Hoxha supporters rallied Sunday in the dictator's birthplace of Gjirocastra.

"It's not clear whether these rallies are being organized by Alia or by some (government) bureaucrats," Ruka said by telephone from Tirana.

Three days of strife over Hoxha led to bloodshed Friday. Three people were killed and scores injured when crowds marched on Tirana's military academy, where cadets and officers had vowed to defend a Hoxha bust.

Baltic Republics hold vote on independence

MOSCOW — The Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia held preliminary voting Sunday on ballots seeking further independence from the Soviet Union, the official Soviet news agency said.

Only a few people in the two republics cast ballots early for the referendum on independence. Official balloting is scheduled for March 3. Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has branded the polls unconstitutional.

In Latvia, 1,400 polling stations were opened for people unable to vote in the March 3 non-binding vote on independence, Tass said.

In Estonia, town councils in the three predominantly Russian-speaking towns of Sillamya, Narva and Kokkila-Yarve voted to hold their polling early, although they did not say why.

In a Feb. 9 vote in Lithuania, the region's third independence-minded republic, voters overwhelmingly endorsed their government's 11-month-old declaration of independence.

Soviets voice support for Russian president

MOSCOW — About 100,000 people rallied Sunday in support of Boris N. Yeltsin after he was blasted by Communist Party hard-liners for demanding the resignation of President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The enthusiastic demonstration for Yeltsin, president of the Russian republic, filled a huge square next to the Kremlin in central Moscow. After chanting Yeltsin's name, the crowd turned against the Soviet president, chanting "Gorbachev resign!" and "Gorbachev, go away!" "Red Filth, Hands Off Our Yeltsin!" proclaimed a sign in support of the 60-year-old politician, who was not at the rally.

Other hand-printed signs also reflected public dissatisfaction with the Soviet leader: "Gorbachev, The People Despise You," and "Uncle Gorb, My Granny and I Don't Trust You Any more."

Teachers, parents help children deal with war

By Karen Dietrich
Staff Writer

As tensions in the Persian Gulf escalate, the war is becoming an increasingly common subject for discussion in American elementary schools where children seek information and reassurance from their peers, teachers and counselors.

The war in the Middle East "is more on (children's) minds than a lot of parents realize," said Los Angeles psychologist Robert Butterworth.

"(Children) are playing war more. There's been more fighting in school and more disruptions," he said.

Billie Corder, counselor in the Child Psychiatry Training Program at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, said children of all ages watch television and are very concerned.

"We suggest (parents) limit the time children watch television," Corder said.

Betty Wilson, guidance counselor at Pittsboro Primary School, said most children know about the war from watching television. "The second and third graders talk about it," she said. "I'm amazed at how much they know."

"When children are under stress, and war is just one type of stress, they show disturbances in their sleeping and eating patterns... and regressions from one level of coping they had already reached. For example, some children return to wetting their bed," she said.

Children commonly show unusual fears of separation or changes, Corder said. It's important to encourage all children to talk about their feelings regarding the war and to answer their questions.

"Children have four basic questions," Corder said. "Am I going to be okay? Are my parents going to be safe? Will the war come over here? And, if something happens to my parents, what will become of me?"

Butterworth said one of the problems is that small children don't have geographical sophistication. "They don't know if the war is in the next neighborhood or in the next continent. The five to seven year-olds need to be told that it's not happening down the street," he said.

Most children who have parents or grandparents directly involved in the war are obviously a great deal more worried than others, Corder said.

The biggest problem is that children want a guarantee that their daddies won't get killed, said Jane Scarr, guidance

counselor at Tarawa Terrace II School in Camp LeJeune.

Frank Cleary, superintendent of Ft. Bragg schools said, "Overall our youngsters are doing a fine job...considering that most of (them) have one or more parents deployed...they're coming to school on a regular basis and keeping up with school work and extra-curricular activities with a few exceptions."

Wilson said: "I've been impressed with how much communication goes on (between parents in the Gulf and their children). We have even made videos here to send to parents in Saudi Arabia. This sort of thing didn't happen (in any other war). This contact means a lot to the children."

Most elementary schools take an active role in dealing with children's war anxieties through counseling sessions.

"We have two support groups going. We meet with every child that has a parent or grandparent (in the war)," Wilson said.

"We try to teach conflict resolution without fighting, so it's difficult to justify war, but we do try to encourage the children to support the troops as people," she said.

Cleary said, "Some children need extra support. We work closely with the parents."

Scarr said, "The teachers in some rooms are writing to the dads... (as) a class writing project. We also had a dad who came back (from the Gulf) and spoke to his kids' class."

"(The children) also help each other," Jones said. "They write letters, send pictures, and they come in groups (to talk to me)."

Some school officials feel the war should not be discussed in class unless children bring up specific questions.

"We try to keep everything as it was (before the war started)," said Margaret Jones, guidance counselor at Delalio Elementary School in Ft. Bragg.

Cleary, however, said his staff is using the war as an educational opportunity to teach students about the Middle East. "We don't dwell on (the war)...(but) we do study the history and geography of the (Middle East) area."

Butterworth said educators should definitely address war issues in school. "It's not what children know that hurts them; it's what they don't know. Children make up their own reality based on fantasy...made-up facts are usually more horrible than reality," he said.

Persian Gulf War timetable

- Aug. 2, 1990 Iraq's army overruns Kuwait following Iraqi grievances over oil pricing, Kuwaiti loans to Iraq and Iraqi claims on Kuwaiti territory.
- Aug. 6 U.N. Security Council imposes economic sanctions against Iraq.
- Aug. 7 President Bush orders deployment of U.S. troops in gulf.
- Nov. 29 U.N. Security Council votes 12-2 to give Iraq six weeks to pull its troops out of Kuwait before the United States and its allies are free to launch a military strike. Yemen and Cuba oppose vote; China abstains.
- Jan. 17, 1991 The United States launches air attacks against Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq attacks Israel with SCUD missiles. The coalition pounds Iraq and Kuwait with air strikes.
- Jan. 19 Israel's anti-missile force boosted by additional Patriot missile batteries and U.S. crews. A second Iraqi missile attack causes 29 injuries in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- Jan. 22 Iraq sets some Kuwaiti oil facilities ablaze. Oil prices jump sharply.
- Jan. 23 After more than 12,000 sorties, the allies claim air superiority and focus strikes on the Iraqi ground forces around Kuwait.
- Jan. 25 Allied officials say Iraq sabotaged Kuwait's main supertanker loading pier, dumping millions of gallons of crude oil into the gulf. The exiled government of Kuwait pledges \$13.5 billion to the war effort.
- Jan. 28 More than 80 Iraqi fighter-bombers find refuge in Iran, which says it is impounding the planes until the war ends.
- Jan. 30 First big ground battle fought at the frontier port of Khafji in the northeast corner of Saudi Arabia. Eleven U.S. marines killed, seven by friendly fire. Iraq forced to abandon centralized control of its air defense.
- Feb. 4 Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani makes surprise offer to hold direct talks with Iraq and United States.
- Feb. 6 King Hussein of Jordan tilts sharply toward Iraq, describing war as effort by outsiders to destroy that country and carve up Arab world.
- Feb. 13 Allied warplanes destroy underground facility in Baghdad, and officials say many civilians were killed. The United States calls the target a military command center. U.N. Security Council votes 9-2, with four abstentions, to hold closed formal session on the conflict, the first since the war broke out.
- Feb. 15 Iraq offers a conditional pullout, but Bush dismisses it as a "cruel hoax." Bombing continues.
- Feb. 16 American attack helicopters make first night raids on Iraqi positions, the U.S. Command says. Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov meets with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad.
- Feb. 18 Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz holds three hours of peace talks in Moscow with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.
- Feb. 19 U.S. commanders say they have evidence Iraq plans to use chemical weapons in response to an allied ground assault.
- Feb. 22 Soviet peace plan revealed. Allows Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait within 21 days of a cease-fire. Allies give Iraq until noon Saturday EST to begin a pullout from Kuwait or face an all-out attack. The Iraqis denounce the ultimatum and say they agree to the Soviet peace plan.
- Feb. 23 The United States and its allies launch a large-scale ground assault against Iraqi troops.
- Feb. 24 Allied soldiers stream into Kuwait and reportedly reach the edges of Kuwait's capital. Troops move rapidly in flanking operations in western Iraq. Coalition casualties reported extremely light. Iraqi prisoners of war are 5,500.

Reaction

the negotiation process more strongly," Weissner said. "During the past couple of days, Iraq was willing to compromise and probably some settlement could have been reached. I think ultimately the United States will push Iraq out of Kuwait, but the question is, what kind of solution will be brought in?"

Sarah Cagle, a senior English major from Winston Salem, questioned the coincidence of timing with regard to publicity surrounding cruel acts committed by Hussein and the onset of U.S. military maneuvers.

Cagle noted the coincidence of Friday's media attention directed to Hussein's alleged roundup and execution of Kuwaiti citizens and the subsequent start of the ground war the next day.

"I think the fact that Saddam Hussein

has engaged in cruel acts has helped the U.S. cause," Cagle said.

Such alleged acts by Hussein make it more acceptable in Americans' minds for the United States to take any kind of action necessary against Iraq, Cagle said.

Other students support Bush's decision to move into ground warfare.

"I think Bush has done what he needed to do so far," said Patrick Thomas, a freshman from Cary. "Hussein is a madman, and he needs to be stopped. If we backed out now, it would be very foolish."

Loflin said he agreed with Bush's initial decision to send troops into the Middle East.

"I agree with us being over there, and if I had to go (to war), I would because I reap the benefits of this country," Loflin said.

Mary Exum, a sophomore English major from Raleigh, said she thought Bush was justified in his decision.

"I think we have a good offensive strategy, and I would not protest our moving in with ground troops," Exum said.

The accuracy of media reports is questionable, according to several students who feel the press reports are censored not just for military tactical secrecy, but for U.S. propaganda purposes as well.

"They are censoring attitudes, not just military secrets," said Mike Griencisen, a 25-year-old biology

graduate student.

Undeniably, there are attempts on the part of the United States to make the Iraqis appear non-human enemies, said Dorte Bernhardt, a 27-year-old chemical engineering major from Germany.

Cantrell said it is sad for the Iraqi soldiers because they were fighting for seemingly ambiguous reasons. Their leader, Hussein, one day appears ready to withdraw and compromise, and the next day he refuses to budge, she said.

"I cannot express the degree of sadness I feel because our government isn't giving Iraq time to work it out."

One 43-year-old undergraduate who served in Vietnam will begin holding discussion sessions at the Columbia Street Bakery & Coffeehouse for people to gather and talk about the war.

Allan Krall said that while he was there, he never knew why he was in Vietnam. He said he was skeptical of this war.

"I don't have a solution myself, but it's time to start publicly questioning what's going on," Krall said.

The discussions will begin March 3, sometime between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m.

War

"So far we're delighted with the progress of the campaign," Schwarzkopf said. "They are moving north at great speed."

He said only one Marine unit encountered an Iraqi counterattack. Artillery, anti-tank weapons and air cover were called in and successfully repulsed the attack.

Saddam Hussein, in a radio broadcast, urged his soldiers to kill "with all your might."

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