

WORLD AND NATION

Funky Winkerbean

by Tom Batiuk

Druse leader prepares for new fighting

Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Druse warlord Walid Jumblatt vowed Sunday to "wring the necks" of Christian militia mutineers within President Amin Gemayel's Phalange Party and urged his followers to rearm for a possible new round in Lebanon's civil war.

State-run Beirut radio said Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance runs over the northern fringes of Lebanon's Christian heartland, where Syria moved troops and armor to support Gemayel against insurgents within his own community.

Police said government troops fought a 15-minute shootout with rebel Christian militiamen manning a checkpoint at the mid-city museum crossing between Beirut's Moslem and Christian sectors Sunday evening. No casualties were reported.

Police said they had no word on what set off the clash on the sixth day of the rebellion led by Samir Geagea, a pro-Israel militant whose militia seized control of most of the Christian hinterland north of Beirut on Tuesday.

The rebels have complained that Gemayel was giving too many concessions to the Moslems in Syrian-mediated negotiations on political reforms aimed at ending Lebanon's nearly 10-year civil war. They demanded a militant stance and a representation in future talks.

Israeli officials in Jerusalem signaled that despite a longtime alliance with Lebanon's Christians, Israel will not intervene to protect the anti-Gemayel rebels against any Syrian crackdown.

The rebel command later said it has no links with Israel, does not intend to overthrow Gemayel and wants direct negotiations for a charter of Moslem-Christian "peaceful coexistence" with Jumblatt and Nabih Berri, his Shiite Moslem ally. Both Jumblatt and Berri, head of Amal, the Shiite militia, are members of Lebanon's national coalition Cabinet.

The announcement was made at a news conference by Karim Pakradouni, one of eight "emergency committee" members who serve as the collective leadership of the rebellion.

Pakradouni said he was in telephone contact with Syrian Vice President Abdul-Halim Khaddam and that "the outcome of our talks is good."

In response to a question, he said he did not expect Syrian troops to attack rebel-held areas.

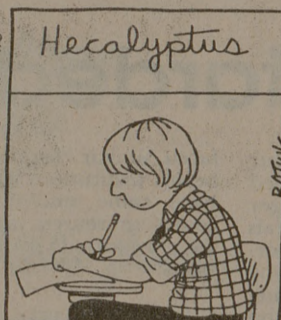
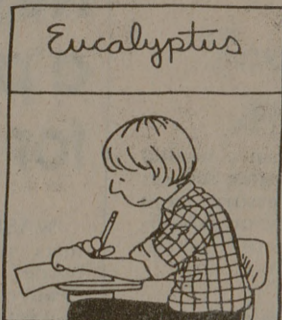
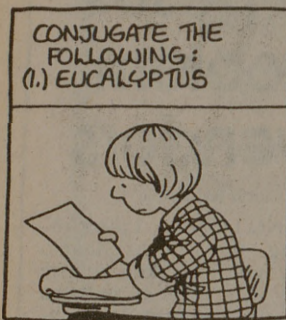
Pakradouni said the rebellion's "uppermost objective" was the speedy election of a "National Christian Council" to serve as a parliament for the Christian zone.

Earlier, Jumblatt accused the Christian rebels of planning to partition Lebanon into sectarian ministates.

"We shall wring the necks of those Christian pretenders," he vowed at a rally in his Chouf Mountain hometown of Moukhtara, southeast of Beirut. "This is the only answer to the new conspiracy. We shall rearm, refortify and achieve victory."

Jumblatt has accused Gemayel of reneging on pledges to introduce reforms giving Moslems an equal share of power with the Christians.

The Syrians reconciled the two leaders four days before Geagea's revolt, which undercut Gemayel's image as the Christian side's representative and imperiled Syria's peacemaking efforts.



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Damage in the millions

Twister causes fatalities

Associated Press

VENICE, Fla. — A tornado roared through a residential area before dawn Sunday, causing millions of dollars in damage to dozens of homes and businesses and killing at least two people and injuring about 40 others, authorities said.

"We heard people screaming less than a block away," said resident Russell Leblanc, 59. "The devastation is about total. It's unbelievable."

Damage is going to be in the millions, Sarasota County Sheriff's Lt. Bill Stookey told Associated Press Radio. "We have approximately 24 homes totally destroyed, an additional 85 to 90 homes affected, not to mention businesses," he said.

Authorities conducted house-to-house and helicopter searches in the area south of Venice, in southwestern Florida south of St. Petersburg, for more possible victims, said Terry Garrett, a Sarasota County sheriff's deputy.

An aerial view showed the tornado cut a narrow seven-block-long swath, downing trees and power lines and splintering houses.

Some houses had no walls left standing. Debris floated in swimming pools and a nearby canal and uprooted pine trees were scattered like discarded Christmas trees.

Hardest hit was the Jacaranda Shopping Plaza, where the roof caved in, said Stookey.

He said two deaths had been confirmed, including a man in a home and a woman sleeping in a camper in the shopping center parking lot. He said 41 people had been injured.

Dozens of people in a half-mile area around the shopping plaza where the twister touched down at about 4:30 a.m. were evacuated in school buses and emergency vehicles to a Red Cross shelter, Stookey said.

Bob Anderson, assistant director of the Sarasota County Disaster Preparedness, said the twister was spotted in two areas — the Venice airport and the intracoastal waterway — before touching down at the shopping center.

The area was cordoned off except for recovery and rescue workers, Stookey said.

The severe weather was part of a

series of strong thunderstorms that developed along a cold front moving across central and southern Florida, said forecaster Paul Fike at the National Severe Storms Center in Kansas City, Mo.

Forecaster Chuck Eggleton in Tampa said the tornado also was reported to have touched down in Fort Ogden, about 30 miles east of Venice.

In Fort Ogden the tornado caused some damage to trees and power lines, Fike said. "Damage was also reported to the roofs of three homes with some windows blown out, but no injuries are reported," he said.

Stookey identified one of the dead people as Jaqub Sieniawski, 66.

"His house was destroyed. The roof caved in," he said.

The name of the second victim, a 65-year-old Ohio woman, was being withheld until relatives could be notified, Stookey said. He said the woman's husband suffered head cuts and was taken to Venice Hospital.

Close Senate vote predicted on \$1.5 billion MX missile plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Both sides are predicting extremely close votes this week when the Senate decides whether to approve \$1.5 billion to build and install 21 additional MX missiles that supporters say are needed to strengthen the U.S. bargaining position in the arms control talks in Geneva.

In the midst of heavy lobbying by opponents and proponents, an Associated Press count shows 42 definite or leaning votes both for and against the MX, whose critics say it would never survive a first strike by the Soviet intercontinental missile force. The House also is scheduled for a similar vote.

One key indicator is to come today when the Republican-controlled Senate Armed Services Committee votes on the MX.

Committee chairman Barry Goldwater of Arizona said earlier this year that he has decided the flaws built into the MX could never be corrected, and so he would vote to kill it.

More recently, Goldwater has been echoing the argument of the Reagan administration that denying funding for the missile as the arms talks get under way would encourage the Soviet Union to refuse any serious proposals for mutual reduction of the nuclear arsenals held by both countries.

Goldwater's final decision could influence several wavering Republicans, including Daniel Evans of Washington, Paula Hawkins of Florida and Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire, who is a member of the armed services panel.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a supporter of the plan to build 21 new MX's, estimated that the pro-MX forces are ahead in the House, but that the undecided vote is so large "the MX could lose."

On NBC's "Meet The Press," Aspin said that even if Reagan gets his new batch of missiles this time, Congress is unlikely to be so generous with a request for additional MX missiles expected later this year.

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