

Lebanese fighting artillery

Palestinians roust loyalists

United Press International  
Dissident Palestinian guerrillas fought artillery and mortar battles Tuesday with Yasser Arafat's troops in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, rousting Arafat loyalists from two towns near the Syrian border.

Fighting broke out minutes after the Revolutionary Council of Al Fatah — the mainline guerrilla group of the Palestine Liberation Organization — condemned the PLO mutiny after an all-night meeting in Damascus, Syria.

Lebanese police said machine gun battles broke out between the rebels and Arafat loyalists in the Syrian-controlled half of the Bekaa Valley early Tuesday and quickly escalated into pitched artillery and mortar duels.

"Mediation efforts to end the mutiny within Fatah have reached a dead end and heavy fighting is now under way in the Bekaa valley," said Al Fatah's deputy commander Khalil al Wazir, better known by his nom'd guerre Abu Jihad. Abu Jihad said the Revolutionary Council has given the Al Fatah Central Committee "total freedom to take the appropriate measures to settle the matter." He did not elaborate.

Lebanese police officials said the fighting between Arafat's followers and opponents was

hardest around the Bekaa Valley towns of Majd al Anjar, Sweiri, Taanayel and Taalbaya — close to the highway leading to Damascus. Syrian troops and tanks deployed around the towns, but did not intervene to stop the fighting, Lebanese police said.

State-run Beirut radio said Arafat's opponents had gained the upper hand, forcing their rivals away from the main Damascus highway.

Majd al Anjar and Sweiri are three miles from the Syrian frontier just off the main highway, while Taanayel and Taalbaya are nine miles farther inland. During the weekend, Arafat loyalists clashed with dissident factions in the Bekaa Valley in pitched battles that left 13 guerrillas dead. On Sunday, one of Arafat's top aides, Abu Ziad, was wounded when fighting broke out at a PLO training base out of Damascus — the first time the PLO mutiny had spread to Syria.

Dissidents accuse Arafat of growing "soft" on Israeli and have called for stepped up military activity against Israeli troops in Lebanon.

In a bid to quash the revolt, Arafat called a meeting of his top guerrilla commanders and Tuesday won the endorsement of Al Fatah's 73-member Re-

volutionary Council.

The Revolutionary Council said it "condemned the anti-Arafat movement, and decided to set up smaller committees to look into possible reforms within Al Fatah."

On Monday, seven Syrian soldiers were killed in an ambush on a military convoy near Tripoli, sparking a new round of street fighting Monday in Lebanon's second largest city be-

tween rival Moslem militiamen.

Syrian troops sealed off Tripoli, a port city 42 miles north of Beirut, after the Monday ambush by closing roads leading to the city.

The violence in Tripoli, pitting pro-Syrian Alawite Moslem militiamen against anti-Syrian Sunni Moslem gunmen, broke out Monday night and gained intensity into early Tuesday.



Painting for pay staff photo by Brenda Davidson

Donald Pieprzica, a senior agricultural engineering major from San Antonio, earns extra money during the summer working for the United States Department of Agriculture. Donald is painting tool boxes which will be installed in department pickup trucks.

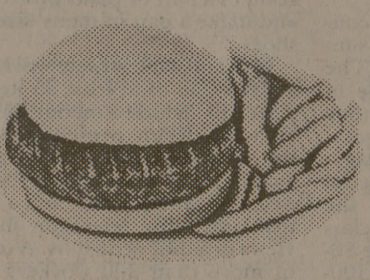
Quints born in Maryland

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A Maryland woman, 27, with an unemployed husband gave birth Tuesday to quintuplets — four boys and one girl — and both mother and infants were doing well, a brother-in-law said.

Pam Pisser, of Olney, Md., gave birth to the babies about 4 p.m. by Caesarean section at George Washington University hospital, Leigh Pisser said. He and Mrs. Pisser and her husband, Daniel, just celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary June 18.

Hospital officials would not confirm reports of the birth, but a spokeswoman said there might be some comment later in the day. WRC-TV reported the babies were not due until August. Pisser said his sister-in-law, who works for the Food and Drug Administration, knew in advance that she would have a multiple birth and 40 doctors worked on the case.

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