

Italian troops in Beirut attacked, three wounded

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon—A rocket barrage wounded three Italian peace-keeping troops Thursday and Lebanese army troops battled Moslem gunmen in mopping up operations to end four days of fierce fighting in the Lebanese capital.

An Italian spokesman said 12 rockets struck an Italian position in west Beirut at 9 a.m. (3 a.m. EDT), wounding three Italian soldiers. Two U.S. Marines and five French soldiers in the peacekeeping force were killed this week.

Rocket-propelled grenade explosions and automatic rifle fire were heard throughout Beirut as Lebanese army soldiers assaulted Moslem gunmen resisting a massive government offensive to restore order in the capital.

Foreign journalists who toured the city with the Lebanese army said resistance appeared to center in Burj Barajneh where Palestinian refugees and Shiites live and where some of the heaviest fighting raged over the weekend.

Gunmen also were holding out in the Moussaytbeh and Hayal Lijja sectors—a stronghold of the Shiite militia, Amal.

The widespread damage left by mortar, artillery and rockets that rained down on the city suggested the casualty toll could be far higher than police reports of 90 killed and 300 wounded.

In a special news bulletin, the Phalangist Voice of Lebanon said 40 Christian men, women and children were slaughtered Thursday morning by "socialists," its term for Druze Moslems.

"These elements massacred with knives some 40 adults and

children, including the priest Jirjes Rai," the report said. Two people survived the attacks, the radio said.

A Lebanese army spokesman was unable to confirm the report, but a spokesman for the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia said killings occurred in the town of Bmariam, 12 miles east of Beirut in Syrian-occupied territory.

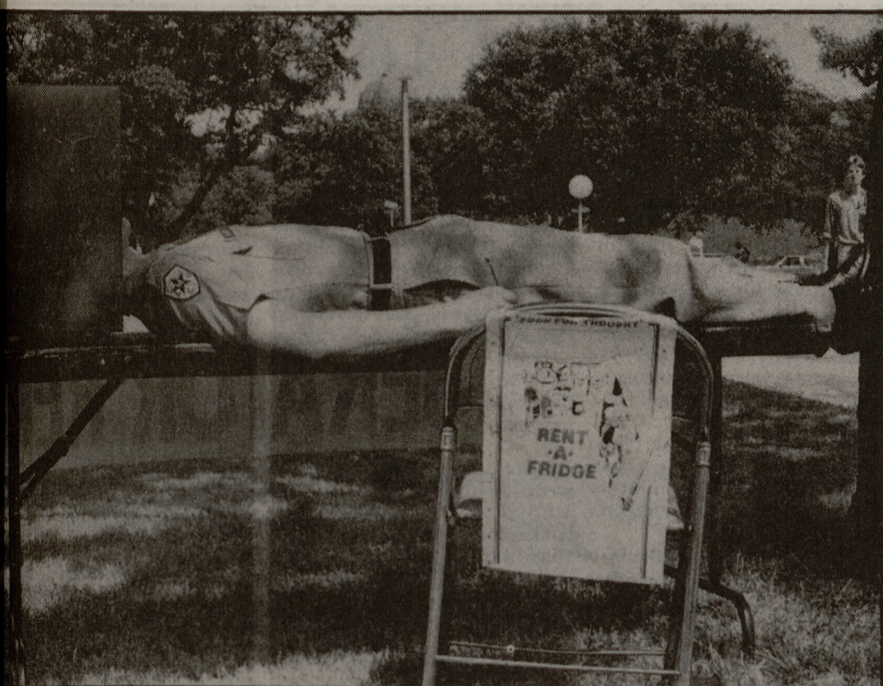
He said an unidentified survivor reached the village of Korvet Chahwan, but could give no other information.

After four days of heavy shelling and street fighting, Beirut was relatively quiet Thursday with the army mopping up after

some 10,000 army troops went into west Beirut Wednesday in a major offensive against the Moslem militias.

The army offensive, ordered by President Amin Gemayel, had been hindered by persistent shelling by Moslem gunmen from the Syrian-occupied Upper Metn and Israeli-occupied Shouf Mountains east of Beirut.

Two Marines and five French soldiers were among the 90 dead and 300 wounded since Shiite Moslem militiamen, joined by Druze and Sunni Moslem fighters, began the uprising Sunday in a bid to win more influence in the government.



Keeping a Cool Head staff photo by Guy Hood

Tim Miller, a freshman electrical engineering major from Beaumont, uses his head to rent refrigerators Wednesday. Student Government will rent refrigerators through Friday.

County under investigation

Vote-buying charges made

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE—The prosecution is attempting to show Duval County's locally operated welfare system was used to buy votes and perpetuate the administration of County Judge Roberto Uresti.

Uresti himself is not a defendant, but seven of his campaign managers, including his wife Olga, are on trial on federal vote-buying charges in U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela's court.

County Commissioner Filemon Saenz and the six women allegedly drummed up votes during the campaign for Uresti on May 1, 1982. Democratic primary by promising poor and elderly people vouchers for food, clothing, medical expenditures and funerals. The vouchers passed as cash and were redeemed by the Duval County auditor.

The welfare system is a remnant of the decades of reign by Duval's George B. Brown, whose political reign was marked with numerous allegations of election fraud, including the famous "Box 13" incident in 1948 in which Lyndon B. Johnson defeated Coke Stevenson by only 87 votes discovered at the poll run by Parr supporters. The narrow victory won Johnson, later to become President of the United States, the nickname "Landslide Lyndon."

Wednesday Wolfe called five more witnesses who testified that Uresti's backers saw to it that they got immediate issuance of vouchers up to \$70 after they agreed to vote for Uresti, Saenz and the faction's other candidates.

Uresti defeated Frank Garcia by 133 votes out of more than 6,000 cast. Supporters of both men have been among 31 people indicted, 22 of whom already have been convicted or pleaded guilty.

Wolfe has sought to establish a pattern of vote buying by the Uresti faction before resting his case. Defense attorneys have confined themselves so far to cross-examining government

witnesses, attempting to link them with the Garcia faction and to show the jurors that those who received welfare payments actually were qualified for them because they were extremely poor.

Unemployed roughneck Manuel Arredondo and his wife, Jose; Sisters Diana Leal and Zelma Pena; Angelo Solis, 69; and Rafaela Torres, 70, all told the jury Wednesday they were approached by Uresti backers and offered vouchers for their votes.

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Alicia victims to receive aid

United Press International
HOUSTON—Residents of the southeast Texas counties devastated by Hurricane Alicia will be eligible for grants financed by \$9.67 million in federal relief funds, state and federal officials have announced.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency Thursday announced almost \$22.5 million in federal funds will be made available to help local governments and individuals recover from storm losses.

FEMA regional director Jerry Stephens and Gov. Mark White signed a federal-state operations agreement in Austin Thursday committing the funds. The money includes \$12.75 million for public works projects including debris removal and the \$9.67 million to be used by the state's Department of Human Resources to provide grants to individuals and families, Stephens said.

Lauren Chernow, a spokeswoman for the Division of Emergency Management, said the \$9.67 million will be used to make maximum \$5,000 grants available to residents of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery and San Antonio counties.

She said the grants will be made to cover victims' "serious needs and necessary expenses resulting from the disaster."

The federal funding will finance 75 percent of the cost of repair to public facilities and the grant program.

Hurricane Alicia slammed into the upper Texas Gulf Coast Aug. 18. Damage estimates exceed \$1 billion.

Stephens said \$11 million of the federal money would be earmarked for repairs of publicly-owned facilities and debris cleanup in Harris, Galveston, Chambers and Brazoria counties.

"Local governments should begin receiving federal funding assistance from the state by the middle of this month," Stephens said.

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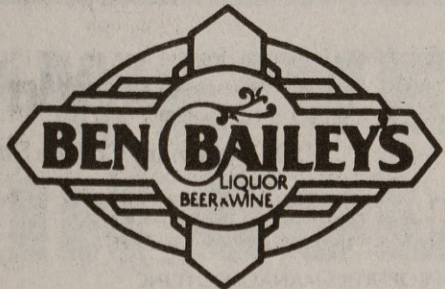
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