

Beirut militias agree to limit territory fights

United Press International
BEIRUT — Rival Moslem and Christian militias agreed Monday to refrain from grabbing territory vacated by departing French peace-keepers, and France was reported ready to deploy cease-fire observers in Beirut.

Earlier in the day, Jumblatt handed captured Mourabitoun positions to police and the Lebanese army's 6th Brigade, which had remained neutral in the February fighting between the Druze and the army.

The French Defense Ministry has announced the 1,250 French troops in Beirut will pull out by Saturday — about a month after American, Italian and British forces departed because of the virtual collapse of the Lebanese army.

Druze and Shiite Moslem fighters, who together drove the army out of Moslem West Beirut Feb. 6, last week smashed a militia called the Mourabitoun made up of fighters from the Sunni branch of Islam.

The French troops hold positions along the Green Line and are responsible for keeping open the only road now linking the Christian and Moslem sectors of Beirut.

The attacks on the Mourabitoun came amid charges that it was swelling its ranks with Palestinian guerrillas, who were chased of Beirut after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

Meeting under French protection in a building on the Green Line, a committee of four men representing Lebanon's main warring factions agreed the rival groups would refrain from grabbing land being vacated by the French.

A return of Palestinian guerrillas to Beirut would be likely to invite new Israeli attacks.

Beirut Radio said the committee agreed Lebanon's Internal Security Forces, a paramilitary police unit, would take up the French positions so that the road between East and West Beirut can remain open.

The independent International News Agency quoted diplomatic sources saying 40 observers would be in position in Beirut Wednesday.

But despite signs of progress, new fighting broke out along the Green Line dividing Christian east Beirut from the Moslem west.

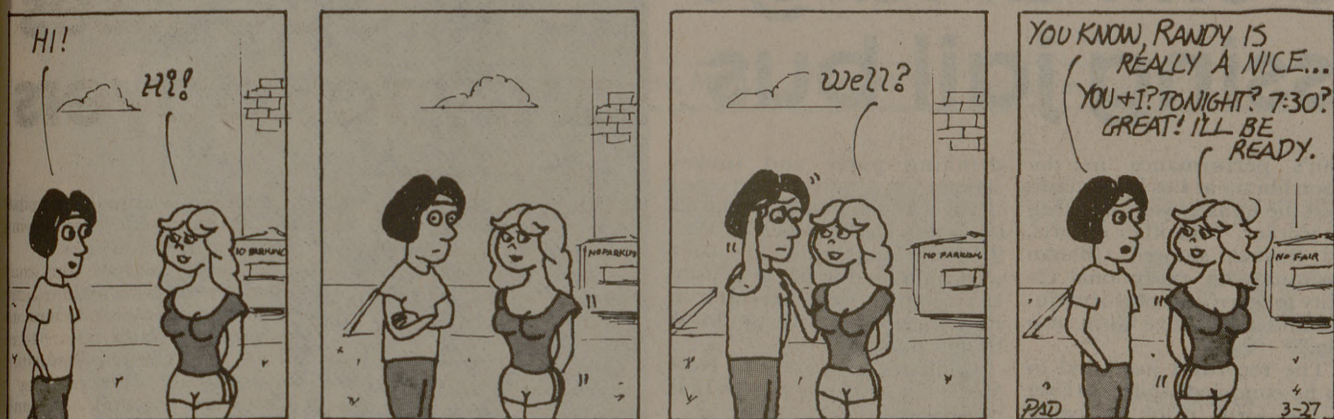
Shells falling into residential neighborhoods killed at least five people and wounded 17, security sources said. At one point, Lebanese army tanks positioned near Christian fighters in east Beirut fired at Moslem militiamen, the rightist Voice of Lebanon radio station said.

In another development, a caller claiming to represent the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) organization said the group threatened to "liquidate" Druze Moslem leader Walid Jumblatt.

Islamic Jihad is the same group that claimed responsibility for the Oct. 1983 suicide truck bombings that killed 241 American servicemen and 58 French peace-keeping troops.

In a call to the Beirut bureau of a foreign news agency, the caller accused Jumblatt of being "a famous Israeli agent" who was serving Israel's interests in Beirut and demanded he pull his militiamen out of West Beirut.

by Paul Dirmeyer



864th Brigade lands in Honduras for U.S.-led military maneuvers

United Press International
THE first of 1,000 fresh U.S. troops arrived in Honduras Monday to take part in another round of U.S.-led military maneuvers called Grenadier I, a U.S. military official said.

In Nicaragua, the Sandinista army said U.S.-funded rebels had killed 30 government troops in a three-day attack on a northern town.

Col. James Strachan, spokesman for the U.S. military presence in Honduras, said 100 to 200 troops of the 864th Brigade are arriving in the northern town of San Pedro Sula from Fort Louis, Wash.

Strachan said the maneuvers, which will begin April 1 and

end June 30, will involve 1,000 U.S. troops in the construction of two airstrips and counter-insurgency exercises.

The rest are expected to arrive by the end of the week to join 1,700 U.S. servicemen already in Honduras carrying out reconnaissance missions.

Strachan said the maneuvers are to train the Honduran army and "demonstrate the interest the United States has in this part of Central America."

Honduran military sources have not specified how many Hondurans will participate.

Strachan told United Press International he had no information about the reported participation of Panamanian and

Salvadoran troops.

Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of Panama's National Defense Force, said in El Salvador last week that 250 Panamanian troops would participate in Grenadier I along with an undetermined number of Salvadoran troops.

On Sunday, some 750 Honduran troops and 250 U.S. troops of the 82nd Airborne Division based in Fort Bragg, S.C., staged a mock invasion of Honduras in an operation coded "Lightning I."

Also in Honduras, the Popular Liberation Movement, a guerrilla group that was last heard from more than a year ago, claimed responsibility for

Repentant spy receives award

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan bestowed the nation's highest civilian award Monday on Whitaker Chambers, a repentant Communist spy who helped to inspire Reagan's own conversion to political conservatism.

Chambers, who died in 1961, and 13 other luminaries were honored at the White House as recipients of the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom.

For Reagan, the ceremony held a special poignancy because the recipients included actor James Cagney, a longtime Hollywood friend and onetime mentor.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker, who is retiring from the Senate this year, also was among the medal winners.

Posthumous awards were given to assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and baseball great Jackie Robinson, the first black in professional sports.

secret State Department documents to be passed on to the Soviets.

Hiss eventually was convicted of perjury — for lying about his espionage activities — and sent to jail. He repeatedly has appealed his conviction. His latest appeal to the Supreme Court was rejected just last fall.

Reagan said Chambers, a senior editor of Time magazine when he appeared before the

House Un-American Activities Committee in 1948, "stood alone against the brooding terrors of our age."

"Consummate intellectual, writer of moving, majestic prose and witness to the truth, he became the focus of a momentous controversy in American history that symbolized our country's epic struggle between freedom and totalitarianism,"

Reagan said — "a controversy in which the solitary figure of Whitaker Chambers personified the mystery of human redemption in the face of evil and suffering."

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