

Gulf War

Iraq vows to tighten blockade of Iraq's main oil terminal

United Press International

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Iraq vowed Monday to tighten its blockade of Iran's main oil terminal in the Persian Gulf until it cuts off the lifeblood of the enemy Islamic regime.

"The Iraqi blockade of Kharg Island and Iranian ports on the Arabian (Persian) Gulf will continue and will be further tightened until the breath and veins of the rulers of Iran are cut," said Al Thawra, the daily newspaper of Iraq's ruling Baath Party.

The Iraqi threat came a day after one of its French-made Super Eten-

dard jets fired an Exocet missile at a 325,000-ton Greek supertanker, which was berthed at a western jetty of Kharg Island, Greek officials said.

The Greek tanker, Alexander the Great, was only slightly damaged and none of its 26 crewmen were injured.

In its first comment on the Iraqi attack on the tanker, Iran confirmed the vessel had been hit "around the island" facility but did not threaten retaliation. Gulf diplomats said, however, Iranian retaliation was likely.

If Iran attempts to launch a human-wave attack against Iraq, Al

Thawra said, "Iraq will be forced to destroy Kharg Island." Western intelligence reports have indicated Iran has some 500,000 troops massed for such an offensive.

The attack shattered a two-week calm in the so-called "tanker war" between Iran and Iraq and was the first against a vessel berthed at Kharg Island. Some 40 neutral ships have been hit by Iran or Iraq in the Gulf this year.

Kharg is Iran's chief oil export outlet, pumping nearly 1.7 million barrels of crude daily into tankers. Iraq has repeatedly threatened to destroy it to stem Iran's oil revenues,

which fund its war effort.

The Iraqi threat dashed the hopes of Gulf governments of a mediated end to the war, which erupted in September 1980 over territorial disputes.

Such hopes had been raised by the June 12 partial cease-fire, which called for both countries to cease attacks on civilians. The truce was mediated by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Iraq charged that Iranian heavy artillery Sunday night lobbed four shells into a residential area of Basra, Iraq's second largest city.

U.S., Nicaragua have first formal talk

United Press International

MANZANILLO, Mexico — Amid tight security and official silence, top U.S. and Nicaraguan officials Monday held the first formal talks between the two nations intended to ease tension in strife-torn Central America.

U.S. Special Envoy Harry Shlaudeman and Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco headed the delegations to the talks, reported Nicaragua's official radio, La Voz de Nicaragua.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Nicaragua said that U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Harry E. Bergold also was attending the meeting that

would last two days if the results were positive.

The spokesman said that the delegations would break off the talks at the end of the day if there was no progress in improving strained relations between Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista government and the Reagan administration.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and the Mexican Foreign Ministry refused to confirm or deny the talks were taking place.

In Washington, the White House also declined to comment. "We have from the start declined to comment on the whereabouts of Shlaudeman's meetings," spokesman Larry

Speakes said. The State Department also refused to comment.

Mexico, which has promoted the talks as a member of the four-nation Contadora Group seeking peace in Central America, was hosting but not participating in the talks.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry originally announced the country would act as a witness to the meeting, but later reversed its earlier statements, apparently because the United States did not want any other participants.

The Mexican government tightened security in the Pacific resort of Manzanillo, located 315 miles west

of Mexico City, news reports and residents said.

Security agents occupied 33 rooms in the Club Santiago, where the delegations were reported to be staying, the hotel manager said.

The meetings were to take place inside the home of the state governor located in the posh Club Santiago residential area that lies 12 miles from Manzanillo, news reports said.

Bergold, who flew to Manzanillo Sunday, told reporters in the Mexico City airport during a stopover that his visit to the resort was "routine."

Nicaragua says CIA helped rebels

United Press International

Nicaragua charged Monday that the CIA was directing the airlift of weapons and ammunition to Nicaraguan rebels fighting against the leftist Sandinista government along the southern border.

In El Salvador, the army pressed its drive on leftist rebel bastions in northeastern Morazan province, where U.S.-supplied A-37 "Dragonfly" warplanes bombed suspected guerrilla positions, a military source said.

Meanwhile in San Salvador, Jesse Jackson met with Roman Catholic Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez before heading to make his

moral appeal for peace to President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

In another diplomatic effort, U.S. Special Envoy Harry Shlaudeman and Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco began talks in the Mexican resort of Manzanillo in an attempt to reduce tensions in Central America.

Nicaraguan Army Capt. Bosco Centeno charged that rebels of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, known as ARDE, were receiving weapons and ammunition flown in by U.S. C-47 and DC-3 planes to five airstrips located a few miles from the Nicaraguan border.

"These are the same planes that have been detected in the northern zone, which are being diverted now

toward the (southern) region with logistics provided by the CIA," Centeno said in comments published in Barricada, the official Sandinista newspaper.

"We do not discard the possibility that they can also be transporting troops from the Nicaraguan Democratic Front," Centeno said.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Front is a separate rebel group fighting in northern Nicaragua that has received \$55 million in U.S. assistance.

Centeno said that spy flights by U-2 and SR-71 U.S. military planes were aiding in airlifting the supplies to the rebels concentrated near the Costa Rican border.

The ARDE rebels are led by Eden Pastora, a hero of Nicaragua's leftist Sandinista revolution turned rebel, who is currently recovering in a Venezuelan hospital after being injured by an assassin's bomb May 30.

Centeno said that the ARDE forces on the southern border are "almost destroyed" by the latest army operation.

In the fighting in El Salvador, the army killed 10 rebels in the latest fighting in a counter-insurgency drive against guerrilla positions in Morazan province north of the Torola River, about 75 miles northeast of San Salvador, said Col. Herson Napoleon Calito.

Supreme Court decides for EPA

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration won a key victory Monday at the Supreme Court in a protracted battle with environmentalists over relaxing some national air pollution regulations.

The justices, ruling 6-0, struck down a decision that the Environmental Protection Agency violated the Clean Air Act when it tried to change emissions rules primarily affecting the nation's steel and petrochemical plants.

The controversy involves a major regulatory shift that was one of a series of a dozen or more changes in air quality rules the EPA implemented in response to President Reagan's campaign to reduce pollution-control costs for industry.

The ruling affects federal regulation of such major air pollutants as sulfur dioxide, identified as a cause of acid rain; ozone and nitrogen oxides, which cause smog, and soot and dust, which are linked to respiratory illnesses.

The EPA and the oil and steel industries had challenged a ruling by a federal appeals court in Washington invalidating the EPA policy defining a pollution source as an entire plant rather than a specific part of a plant.

Writing for the court, Justice John Paul Stevens said the agency's treatment of all pollution-

emitting devices at a plant "as though they were enclosed within a single 'bubble'" is a reasonable interpretation of the law.

Congress tried to strike a balance between "the economic interest in permitting capital improvements to continue and the environmental interest in improving air quality," he said.

While the Carter administration applied a stricter definition, the Reagan administration's EPA has also adopted "a reasonable policy choice," Stevens concluded.

Three justices — Thurgood Marshall, William Rehnquist and Sandra Day O'Connor — did not take part in deciding the case. Justice O'Connor's family owned stock in one company involved.

In other action Monday, the court:

- Ruled 7-2 that federal labor laws protect illegal aliens from being fired for union activities and that an employer who called federal agents seeking to have such workers deported was guilty of an unfair labor practice.

- Unanimously ruled that public defenders are not immune from lawsuits by disgruntled clients.

- Ruled 8-0 that people involved in class action suits can file individual lawsuits to pursue disputes not contained in the matter representing the class.

Court refuses to hear political asylum case

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — A Supreme Court ruling Monday ended a 7-year struggle by Mexican socialist Hector Marroquin to gain political asylum in the United States.

The high court in Washington refused to review the case of Marroquin, 30, who asked for asylum in 1977 when he was detained by Immigration and Naturalization Service officials at Eagle Pass, Texas.

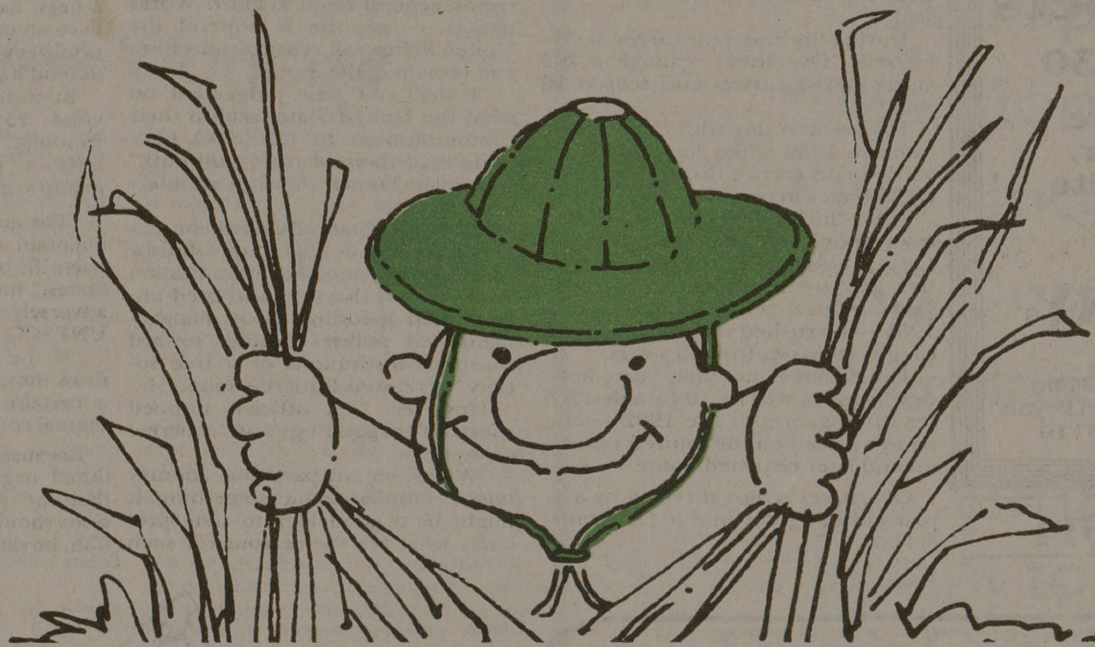
Marroquin has maintained that he would be persecuted in Mexico for his political activities in the 1960s.

INS officials in San Antonio and

Houston said Friday they did not know Marroquin's whereabouts and that his case file had been transferred to different cities during the seven years the case was pending.

District INS Director Richard Casillas said in San Antonio that the long litigation "just illustrates how defenseless this country is to the aliens."

Marroquin, 30, fled to the United States in April 1974 and took up residence in Houston, where he said he worked in the Barbary Coast bar using the name Robert Zamora.



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