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British police arrest 70 miners

United Press International
LONDON — Police clashed with striking coal miners for a third day Wednesday and some strikers angered by miners wanting to return to work hurled bricks at a local union headquarters in central England.

Twelve miners and two policemen were injured in violent incidents around the country. Police arrested more than 70 people, bringing the number of arrests during the 20-week-old walkout to more than 4,700.

The miners walked out March 12 to protest the National Coal Board's plan to close 20 mines and cut 20,000 of the country's 175,000 mining jobs.

In one of the worst incidents in more than four months, police and some 2,000 miners clashed at the Babbington mine in Nottinghamshire, an area in central England bitterly divided between strikers and miners who have continued to work.

At the nearby Babbington county mine union headquarters, strikers angry over dissident miners who wanted to end the walkout threw bricks through the buildings' window and dented cars.

In Derbyshire, also in central England, 2,000 strikers brought traffic to a standstill for half an hour along a 12-mile stretch of the main highway linking London with the northern part of the country.

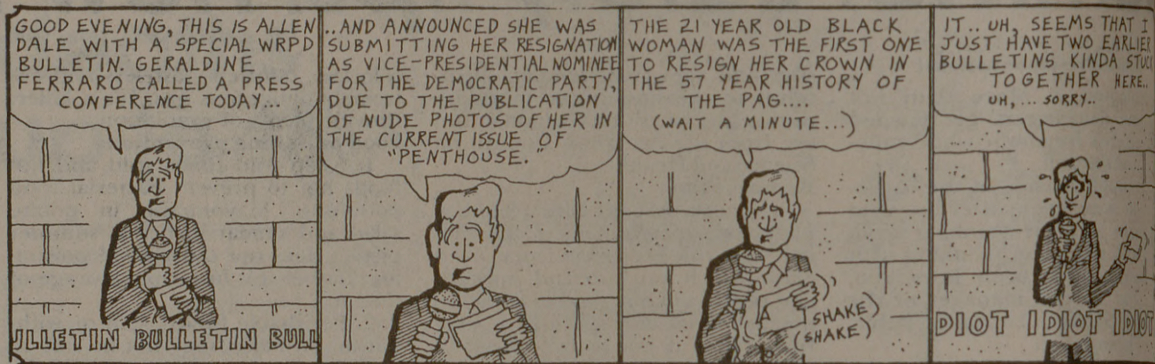
Earlier in the day at a Derbyshire coalmine, 800 miners charged police ranks in a head-on clash that left one officer and six miners injured. Police said they arrested four miners.

Further north, six miners were injured at Scotland's largest mine, Bilston Glen near Edinburgh, where some of the worst clashes have been reported this week.

About three-fourths of the miners, led by the militant leader of the national union, Arthur Scargill, have walked off the job but no nationwide strike vote has ever been taken.

Warped

by Scott McCulloch



Israeli Labor may join Likud

United Press International

TEL AVIV, Israel — The opposition Labor Party Wednesday considered reversing its position and joining the ruling Likud bloc to end a political deadlock caused by indecisive national elections.

Both Likud and Labor, however, continued efforts to win support from the 13 smaller parties and form a government on their own.

Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin came out in support of a government made up of his Likud bloc and Labor, but he declined to say whether it should be headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir or Labor leader Shimon Peres.

"This is a positive idea," Begin said. "I have always advocated a unity government."

Neither group won the 61 seats

needed to form a majority in the 120-member Knesset, or parliament. Nearly final results of the Monday elections gave Labor 45 seats to Likud's 41, with complete results to be announced today.

In a reversal of an earlier stand, Labor spokesmen said they were considering forming a partnership with Likud amid calls for a national unity government from at least three key parties with a total of eight seats. During the campaign, Shamir, 69, had said he supported the alliance but Peres rejected it, calling such a partnership "a government of national paralysis."

A major stumbling block to a Likud-Labor partnership would be the demand from both parties that their leader be named prime minister.

Moshe Shahal, a high-ranking La-

bor official, indicated his party reversing its stand.

"In negotiations on forming an administration, Labor must look at the possibility of forming a broad-based government — you can call it one of national unity — according to the wishes of potential partners who wish to join it," Shahal said.

Although former Defense Minister Ezer Weizman's Yahad party, the National Religious party and the Ometz faction of ex-Finance Minister Yigal Hurvitz favored a national unity government, other parties resisted the idea.

Beilin said Labor faced opposition from the left-wing Mapam faction, its partner in the Labor bloc, which holds six of the 45 seats won by La-

Israel closes unofficial embassy

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israel reluctantly gave in to Lebanese demands Wednesday and closed its unofficial embassy near Beirut, cutting the Jewish state's last formal link with the Lebanese government.

The closing of the liaison office came hours before Christian and Moslem gunmen traded sniper fire southeast of Beirut, and rival Moslem gangs clashed again in the northern port of Tripoli. No casualties were reported.

Lebanese officials said 32 Israelis left the liaison office Tuesday night and flew home aboard two Israeli

helicopters just after midnight. Israeli trucks carried documents and equipment to boats for transport to Israel, the As Safir newspaper said.

The closing cut Israel's last official ties with Lebanon's pro-Syrian government. On March 5, President Amin Gemayel scrapped the May 17, 1983 troop withdrawal agreement, which had been Israel's second peace accord with an Arab neighbor.

Last week, Uri Lubrani, Israel's coordinator for Lebanon, said closing the office could delay the withdrawal of some 10,000 Israeli occu-

pation troops from southern Lebanon.

Israel opened the office during the 1982 invasion of Lebanon and negotiated the May 17 accord in an apparent bid to set up a friendly government in Beirut after the war.

As relations between the two countries soured, Lebanon demanded that the office be closed.

The cancellation of the U.S.-mediated May 17 agreement and the closing of the unofficial embassy were victories for Syrian leader Hafez Assad, the guiding force in Lebanon since the United States withdrew its support in February.

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