

## World and Nation

# South Yemen rivals both claiming victory

Associated Press

Rival Marxist factions fought in South Yemen's capital on Tuesday and both sides claimed victory, but diplomats in the Red Sea area said it was impossible to tell who was winning the power struggle that began more than a week ago.

Diplomats in San'a, capital of neighboring North Yemen, said that country and the Soviet Union were trying to arrange a cease-fire.

South Yemen, a small Arab nation on the Arabian Peninsula's southwestern tip, is allied with the Soviet Union and provides it with two strategic military bases.

The diplomats said many fighters supporting President Ali Nasser Mohammed were believed holed up in the crater of an extinct volcano on the outskirts of Aden, a position easy to defend because of difficult access.

Civilians evacuated from Aden described the seaside capital as a "city of death," its streets full of bloated bodies and burned-out tanks.

Rebels led by Abdul-Fattah Ismail and Ali Antar appeared to be gaining ground both in Aden and the provinces, the diplomats reported.

Ismail is a hardline former president who opposed Mohammed's recent overtures to the West, and An-

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tar is vice chairman of the ruling presidium.

The battle began with an attempt to assassinate President Mohammed on Jan. 13.

The diplomats said he now was operating from his hometown in Abyan Province east of Aden.

Mohammed made a brief visit to Ethiopia, another Marxist ally of the Kremlin, last weekend and the official radio there claimed his side was winning.

On Monday night the Ethiopian radio read a statement attributed to Mohammed saying that, except for Aden, the country was under the "legitimate control of the Yemen Socialist Party and government."

Rebels began broadcasting Sunday night on the frequencies used by South Yemen's government radio.

The radio is said to operate from a rebel stronghold in Lahaj, 32 miles north of Aden.

Arab and Western diplomats in North Yemen, who said they were in close touch with developments across the border, described the picture as too confused to assess with certainty.

Rear Adm. John Garnier, captain of the British royal yacht Britannia, which has been evacuating foreigners, said Tuesday that he saw fighting around the Soviet Embassy near the beach at Khormaksar, Aden's embassy row.

"The Soviet Embassy was actually pinned down by rifle fire while we were talking to them (the embassy personnel)," he told the British Broadcasting Corp. in a ship-to-shore radio interview.

The Britannia, on its third rescue trip, was forced to stand off the port, waiting for the fighting to abate.

It and other ships from Britain, France and the Soviet Union have taken thousands of stranded foreigners from South Yemen to Djibouti, a tiny enclave on the African coast 150 miles across the Gulf of Aden.

## 'Gangs using legal businesses for fronts'

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Motorcycle gangs have turned to legal businesses such as supermarkets and hotels to launder illegal profits and provide income when their drug and prostitution operations are busted, federal officials said Tuesday.

"We're not so concerned with those businesses — it's how they got the money to get into those businesses," said Les Smith, a U.S. Marshal service inspector specializing in motorcycle gangs.

Smith and U.S. Attorney Helen Eversberg on Tuesday opened a two-day, closed-door session at which some 200 Texas law enforcement officials are being told how to deal with motorcycle gangs.

Eversberg said the expansion into

legal business has not changed the character of gangs such as the Corpus Christi-based Bandidos.

"They're still pretty rough people," she said at a news conference.

In addition to hiding illegal profits, the businesses provide income to the gangs when "the heat is on" their illegal businesses, she said.

Smith said the business ventures include hotels, supermarkets, airplane services and fishing boats.

The conference will help local law enforcement officials understand "the lifestyles and modus operandi of motorcycle clubs and gangs," according to Eversberg, the chief federal prosecutor for the Western District of Texas.

"The gangs are our form of organized crime," she said. "We don't

have La Cosa Nostra, but this is organized crime."

Smith, who works in Washington, concentrates on tracking down fugitives harbored by gangs — a task he said is made quite difficult by the closely-knit clubs.

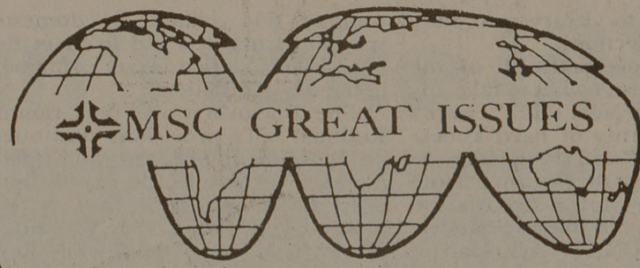
"It's somewhat of a fraternity, and they hide their own," he said. "I don't know if we have fugitives in this area, but I wouldn't doubt it."

"Once you look at one member, you've looked almost at all of them," he said, adding that a quick haircut and shave can successfully hide a fugitive biker.

A motorcycle gang is not "a total criminal organization," Smith said, but "I have not found any who hamper any of their members from conducting illegal activities."

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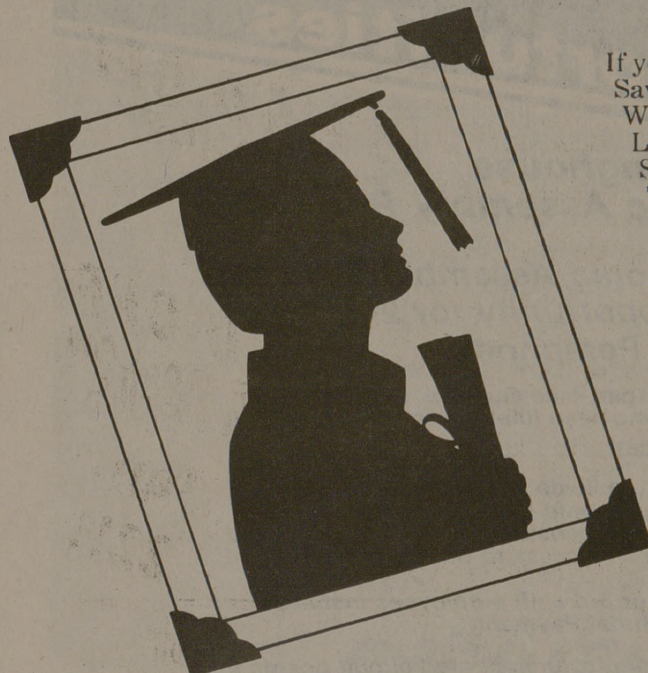
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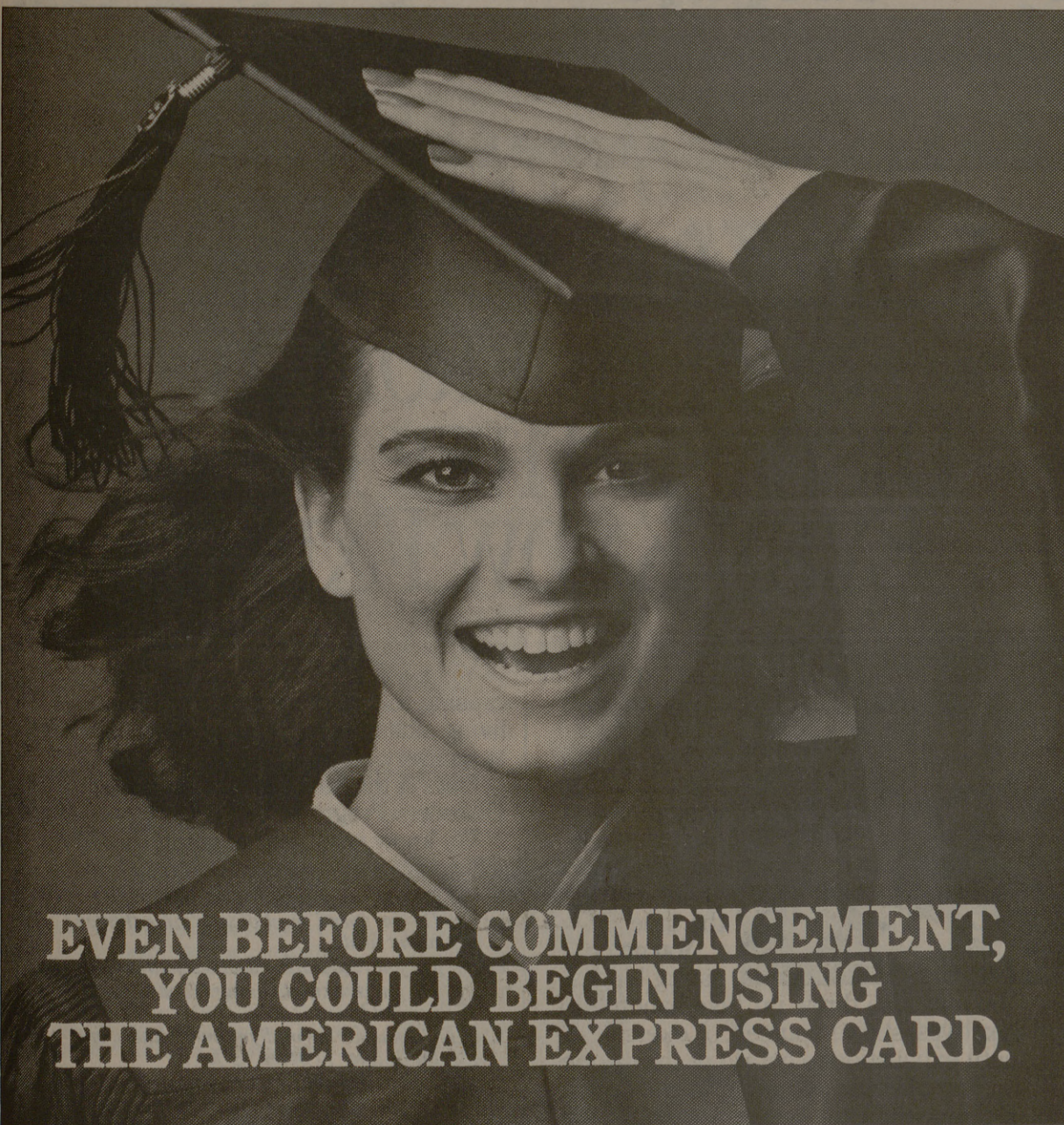
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