

World and Nation

Aquino says she'll call people to defend rule

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino warned "self-appointed messiahs" in the military on Sunday that she will call people into the streets if needed to defend her rule.

It was her strongest statement yet on persistent coup rumors and came during a televised speech on the eve of her four-day visit to Japan.

Aquino said she ordered the military to "repel any attacks against our units or centers of government as well as any threat to the security of our people" while she is gone.

Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, the chief of staff, put the military on maximum alert. Guards increased security at the Defense Ministry and at armed forces headquarters at suburban Camp Aguinaldo.

The *Manila Chronicle* newspaper meanwhile said a threat continued from officers linked to Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile who were disenchanted with Aquino's government and its peace policy toward communist rebels.

Bayan, an umbrella organization of labor, professional and other groups, on Sunday threatened a nationwide general strike if a coup occurs. Bayan claims 1 million members and led street protests against President Ferdinand E. Marcos before a military-civilian revolt ousted Marcos in February and he fled into Hawaiian exile.

At a downtown rally Sunday attended by about 15,000 government supporters, Aquino's brother-in-law, Agapito Aquino, called for diligence against any attempted takeover of state radio and television by the president's foes.

In her speech, at a dentists' convention, Aquino, 53, vowed to spare no means to defend "my contract with my people and my commitment to God."

She promised to prevent the destruction of the armed forces by "a few misguided elements" and said a soldier's duty was to "fight the enemies of government and not fight

the very government it is ordained to serve."

"If it should be necessary, I shall once more ask you to take to the streets," she said, alluding to the popular revolt that overthrew Marcos.

Coup rumors grew last week with publication in *Business Day* newspaper of a reported plan, code-named "God Save The Queen," to take over the government, dump "inept and left-leaning" ministers and keep Aquino as a figurehead.

"These rumors, fueled by a few self-appointed messiahs, are an insult to the integrity of the majority of the new armed forces of the Philippines," Aquino said in her speech. "I shall oppose any attempt from any quarter to dictate to my government."

Philippine newspapers credited Ramos with heading off the coup.

But the *Manila Chronicle* said the threat would persist until Aquino toughens her stand against the communists and fires several ministers.

Missing Israeli under arrest

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel revealed Sunday that Mordechai Vanunu, a former nuclear technician who allegedly leaked state atomic secrets, is in detention and will be tried. But it denied that secret agents kidnapped Vanunu in England to bring him to justice.

The brief government communique ended weeks of speculation about Vanunu's whereabouts. He disappeared in London nearly six weeks ago, after the *Sunday Times* of London published photographs and information he reportedly supplied an Israeli nuclear weapons plant.

A senior government official said the 32-year-old Israeli could be tried for treason, a crime punishable by death. The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

The communique, read to reporters by Cabinet secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, appeared designed to prevent damage to Israel's ties with Britain and ease pressure on the government from the news media and Parliament. But it left many questions unanswered, including how or when Vanunu got from London to Israel.

The statement said, "All rumors as if he was kidnapped on British soil are baseless."

In London, the *Observer* newspaper reported Sunday that then-Prime Minister Shimon Peres called Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain Sept. 23 to warn her that Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, planned to kidnap Vanunu and request that British security agents not interfere.

Thatcher told Parliament on Friday that neither she nor any members of her staff had been in contact with Israeli officials about Vanunu.

Khomeini, 86, says Iran's revolution won't die with him

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's ailing, 86-year-old spiritual leader, said Sunday his death would not end the country's Islamic revolution. He apparently was trying to defuse a power struggle within the clergy-led regime.

"Our enemies must understand that the Islamic Republic . . . has been stabilized and is not dependent on any person, but on the people and the armed forces," Khomeini said in a speech to military men at his residence in Jamaran, north of Tehran. The speech was carried by Tehran radio and was monitored in Nicosia.

Widespread reports said Khomeini, who had a heart attack in 1980, recently suffered one or two more attacks. Rumors that he is in declining health are common, but this time people in power seem to be taking the reports seriously.

The reports come at a time when academic, diplomatic and business sources say a struggle for survival is under way in Iran's leadership, nearly eight years after uprisings inspired by Khomeini ended the reign of the late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

"Every day there are rumors . . . that so-and-so is on his deathbed," Khomeini said. "So let it be."

"Of course, death comes to everyone, and to me too. They (Iran's enemies) should not rejoice."

"This is something that happens and you will see that, God willing, the Islamic Republic will remain, whether or not I stay."

The struggle for power in Iran is not a simple affair between right and left or moderates and hard-liners. Numerous groups are involved, and some switch sides frequently.

Ahmad Madani, who was defense minister in the early days of the revolution and now lives in exile in Paris, said of the groups, "They say one thing in the morning and another thing in the evening."

Iran specialists say at least two hardline groups of clergymen are pitted against each other, each claiming to speak for Islam and the revolution.

The hard-liners include such uncompromising figures as Seyyed Mohammad Musavi Khomeiniha, 45, who was in charge of militants who occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran for 444 days in 1979-80 and held 52 Americans hostage.

Other hard-liners are Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, head of the Assembly of Experts which rules on appointments to government posts, and Khomeini's son, Ahmad.

Safa Haeri, a Paris-based Iranian journalist, said, "Ahmad is very ambitious and feels intimidated by his father, who has reduced him to a secretary." There are reports that Ahmad, with the help of such hardline friends as Information Minister M o h a m m a d M o h a m m a d i Reyshahri, arranged for the arrest of rival hard-liner Mehdi Hashemi, an aide to Ayatollah Hussein-Ali Montazeri, Khomeini's designated successor and trusted friend.

One Iranian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it may have been announced last week that former U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane recently visited Tehran.


The U.S. government has not confirmed or denied the visit, which reports linked to efforts to free American hostages in Lebanon.

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