

World and Nation

Iranian missile hits oil terminal in Kuwait; six reported injured

KUWAIT (AP) — An Iranian Silkworm missile hit Kuwait's offshore supertanker oil terminal Thursday, setting it afire and wounding several people, officials reported. None of the U.S.-flagged tankers the Navy protects was in the area.

It was the third Iranian missile attack in a week on the sheikdom nestled between Iraq and Saudi Arabia at the head of the Persian Gulf.

The Kuwait News Agency quoted officials as saying five people were wounded and one remained hospitalized. Shipping and diplomatic sources said casualties were low because no ships were loading at the Sea Island terminal nine miles offshore and fewer than the usual 20 men were on duty.

Iranian leaders have threatened retaliation for a U.S. Navy artillery attack Monday that destroyed two of Iran's offshore oil platforms. The

shelling was a response to an Iranian missile attack last week that hit one of the reflagged Kuwaiti tankers near the sheikdom's coastal oil facilities.

The missile strike came hours after Iraq reported its second attack in 24 hours on a tanker in Iranian waters. Tehran radio confirmed one of the raids.

London insurers raised their Persian Gulf rates later Thursday to 0.75 percent of the value of a ship's cargo, double the rate before the latest round of attacks on shipping by both sides began in September. Rates have risen steadily since the Iran-Iraq war started in September 1980.

A defense ministry spokesman described the Sea Island attack as "a new Iranian aggression" in a statement carried by the official

news agency. The government lodged a formal protest.

Sheik Salem al-Sabah, the defense minister, said the Chinese-made missile was fired from southern Iraq's Faw Peninsula about 50 miles away, which is occupied by Iran.

He said Kuwaiti forces on a nearby island detected the launch, but he did not reveal whether they tried to shoot the missile down.

In addition to the missile that struck the U.S.-flagged Sea Isle City on Friday, another day earlier hit an American-owned tanker flying the Liberian flag. Both rockets were believed to be Silkworms launched from Faw.

Kuwaiti officials said the fire at Sea Island was put out but gave no details of the damage. Shipping and diplomatic sources said it was "bad."

Pentagon officials in Washington said the missile definitely was a Silkworm and it appeared the damage was extensive.

They said the closest of the two U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in their home waters — the damaged Sea Isle City and the Gas Princess — was 10 miles away.

One official said the Reagan administration was concerned about the latest attack, but no U.S. retaliation was being considered because "our policy is still quite clear: we are there to protect American-flag ships."

The 12th convoy of reflagged tankers and U.S. Navy escort vessels left Kuwait earlier this week. The Pentagon said it sailed through the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf of Oman Thursday.

U.S., Soviets resolve dispute over West German missiles

MOSCOW (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze "basically resolved" a dispute over West German nuclear missiles Thursday in talks both sides described as productive.

The two, holding their third round of negotiations this year, were trying to settle the last sticking points in a treaty to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

But no date was set for a third summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, at which such a treaty could be signed. Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said the subject never came up.

Both sides agreed in principle to the missile accord during Shevardnadze's visit to the United States.

Shultz is to meet with Gorbachev on Friday and review the findings of eight U.S.-Soviet working groups

that have tackled such issues as human rights and chemical warfare.

The dispute over U.S. nuclear warheads on 72 West German missiles appeared settled last month, but was revived by Soviet negotiators in Geneva.

Basically, the Soviets insisted that the warheads, which can be fired only with U.S. permission, be included in a prospective treaty to scrap all U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range missiles.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl had offered to dismantle the missiles after the pact was ratified and to return the warheads to the United States.

A U.S. official, briefing American reporters on condition of anonymity, said the dispute now was "basically resolved" in line with last month's formula.

Referring to Shultz's scheduled meeting Friday with Gorbachev, the

official said, "I don't think this will be a problem by the end of the day."

But he said some other issues still were in the path of a treaty, including whether Soviet inspectors would be permitted to inspect the dismantling of U.S. cruise missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy and Belgium.

Nor would the official predict if a summit date would be set during Shultz's two-day visit.

Noting that the verification problems and missile-dismantling schedules are still outstanding, he said, "I'm not prepared to predict they'll be all ironed out by Friday night," when the talks were scheduled to break up.

And yet, assessing four hours of talks between Shultz and Shevardnadze, the official said "the talks were very good today. People are really working at solving problems."

Russian poet earns Nobel Prize in literature

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Poet Joseph Brodsky, who calls his Russian heritage and the freedom he found in America "the best possible combination," won the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday.

Brodsky was exiled from the Soviet Union as a "parasite" in 1972 and is now a U.S. citizen. He was cited by the Swedish Academy for creating poems "imbued with clarity of thought and poetic intensity."

He writes in both his native Russian and in English and his works have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

Brodsky left school at age 15 and once said he was educated at "the University of Gulag." He spent 18 months in a Soviet labor camp chopping wood, hauling manure, breaking stones — and writing poetry.

"I belong to Russian literature but I am an American citizen and I think

it's the best possible combination," Brodsky told the Associated Press Thursday.

At 47, Brodsky is one of the youngest writers to win the literature prize, the world's most prestigious.

He said that in the United States he was "left alone to work in a far more sensible fashion than I was in Russia. I was more free. I still am."

He lives in New York's Greenwich Village and has taught at several American colleges and universities.

Brodsky was informed he had won while eating lunch in a London Chinese restaurant with British novelist John Le Carré. Brodsky said he hoped the award would draw more people into reading Russian poetry. "It's in terrific shape," he said, raising a glass of whisky.

Labor Department fines contractors for building collapse

WASHINGTON — The Labor Department assessed a record \$5.11 million in fines Thursday against contractors for a half-built Bridgeport, Conn., apartment building that collapsed and killed 28 workers in April. A small bracket that bent under heavy pressure triggered the disaster, investigators said.

"We found a serious disregard for basic, fundamental engineering practices," said Assistant Labor Secretary John A. Pendergrass, chief of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Fines for the April 23 collapse of L'Ambiance Plaza, the worst U.S. construction accident of the decade, are nearly double the previous OSHA record fine.

OSHA and the National Bureau of Standards said builders failed to conduct stress-analysis tests to discover if the lifting brackets, steel pieces about 4 inches by 12 inches, could hold up a stack of concrete floors being inched into position.

Pendergrass said the "unacceptable design deficiencies" easily could have been detected with "rudimentary engineering analysis."

OSHA, which waited for the technical report from the standards bureau before issuing fines, cited Textstar Construction Corp. of San Antonio with 238 instances of alleged willful violations for using lifting brackets that did not meet federal standards. The bureau requires that they be able to hold 2½ times the anticipated load.

The company was fined \$2.52 million. TPMI-Macomber, the primary contractor and project manager, was cited for identical willful violations because it was contractually responsible for overall health and safety at the site. OSHA officials said.

The enterprise, a joint venture of TPM International of Darien, Conn., and B.H. Macomber of Boston, was fined \$2.48 million.

The balance of the penalties was assessed against Lift Frame Builders of Elmsford, N.Y., \$104,000; Fairfield Testing Labs of Stamford, Conn., \$10,000; and Preforce Corp. of New York City, \$1,000.

Spokesmen for the two major contractors declined immediate comment, saying they have not had time to receive and review the documents.

Arnold Bai, an attorney for Lift Frame, vowed to appeal the fine, saying the company disagrees with much of the report.

Donald Emmanuel Jr., 25, son of a victim, said after learning of the fines, said, "We're angry and someone has got to pay for taking 28 lives."

Textstar, responsible for lifting the floors, had problems with the brackets twice before at L'Ambiance and at a Stamford, Conn., project, Pendergrass said. But he said company officials failed to take action.

The plate, part of a steel collar embedded in the concrete slabs, holds metal rods attached to hydraulic jacks atop steel columns. Under the lift-slab method, the jacks hoist stacks of 320-ton concrete floors into position, with the plates holding the rods in place.

Charles Culver, the standards bureau's chief investigator for L'Ambiance, said the building should not have collapsed, but that inadequate engineering throughout the structure made other parts unable to hold the extra weight.

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