

World and Nation

Shiites withdraw from refugee camps in Palestine to put end to 3-year siege

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Shiite Moslem militiamen withdrew Wednesday from all positions ringing Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, ending a nearly 3-year-old siege.

Syrian troops immediately rolled into buffer zones around the Chatilla and Bourj el-Barajneh shantytowns to enforce the newly established peace between guerrillas of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization and militiamen of Leb-

anese Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal.

Reporters saw Amal irregulars pull away in trucks and jeeps from sandbagged positions and earthmounds surrounding the two camps, home for an estimated 30,000 refugees.

The move came to enforce a decision declared by Berri on Saturday to lift the military blockade in what he called a unilateral initiative to end the so-called "camps war" that had

killed more than 1,600 people and wounded 3,600 by Lebanese police count.

Berri said his move was a gift to the "heroic people" who have been holding massive protests against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Shiite withdrawal brought the two Beirut refugee camps under the direct control of the Syrian army, which deployed a 7,500-strong contingent in the Moslem sec-

tor of the Lebanese capital last year to curb militia fighting.

Amal besieged the camps in Beirut in May 1985 to prevent Arafat from rebuilding the power base he lost in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Amal relaxed a food blockade of the Chatilla and Bourj el-Barajneh last April, but its militiamen continued to ring the Beirut shantytowns, preventing men from leaving the area at the present time.

Sandinista government lifts state of emergency, disbands tribunals

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — The leftist Sandinista government formally lifted the state of emergency Tuesday and disbanded its system of revolutionary "people's courts," Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto announced.

Nicaragua was required to take the measures to fulfill a Central American peace plan signed by five of the region's presidents Aug. 7.

In Washington, President Reagan authorized the CIA to resume air-drops of weapons to Nicaragua's Contra rebels. They were suspended because of a Central American summit in Costa Rica last week.

In Miami, Contra leaders announced Tuesday they are willing to accept Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega's offer to hold direct talks but said they are wary about Ortega's motives.

D'Escoto told a group of diplomats during a briefing at the Foreign Ministry that the nearly 6-year-old state of emergency and the tribunal system formally were abolished by presidential decree.

The foreign minister said Ortega lifted the state of emergency Saturday, at the conclusion of the Central American summit, and the presidential decree formalized the move.

Asked if the government was taking the measures only to influence the U.S. Congress to reject more Contra aid, the foreign minister said: "Of course we are. We want to stop the war. The continuation of funding for the Contras means more war, more death, more destruction. Yes, we want to stop it."

The rebels are operating on a short-term grant of non-military aid approved before Congress left for its holiday recess. The money, which includes funds to pay for CIA air-drops of previously stockpiled weapons and ammunition, is expected to last through next month. Reagan

has said he will ask for more aid and Congress is expected to act on the request in February.

The Defense Ministry has said the Contras receive air drops about four times a month. That total, it says, went up to about 40 during the October cease-fire declared unilaterally by the government.

The Sandinista government created the tribunal system in late 1979 to try people for crimes committed "against the people of Nicaragua" during the dictatorship of President Anastasio Somoza Debayle, who was overthrown nine years ago.

Israeli officials consider using curfews to halt riots against upcoming elections

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel said Wednesday it might use curfews for the first time to quell riots in Arab east Jerusalem, where a police jeep stoned by children ran down a protester and crashed, injuring two officers.

Increasing numbers of Jerusalem's Arabs have been caught up in the nationalist fervor generated by six weeks of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, in which Israeli gunfire has killed at least 36 Palestinians.

In northern Israel, soldiers killed three Palestinians who infiltrated from Lebanon with gre-

nades and automatic rifles in an apparent attempt to raid a civilian settlement, the army said. An Israeli soldier was reported wounded.

U.N. officials in the Gaza Strip reported at least seven Arabs hospitalized with beating injuries. On Tuesday, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he was ordering soldiers to answer protesters with beatings rather than bullets.

Israel's unofficial election campaign began with an attack by Labor Party leaders on the right-wing Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak

Shamir, with which Labor shares power in a fractious coalition.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Labor Party leader, said Likud was ignoring a chance for peace by refusing concessions to the Arabs, and told party supporters: "The present government is nearing its end, thank God."

Elections are due in November, but Peres wants them moved up. Shamir said that would present Arabs with "the image of a country waging internal war."

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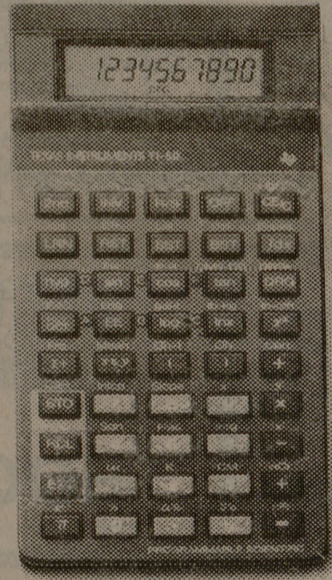
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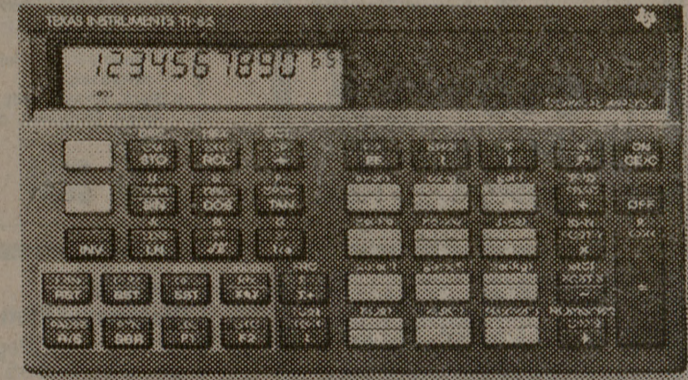
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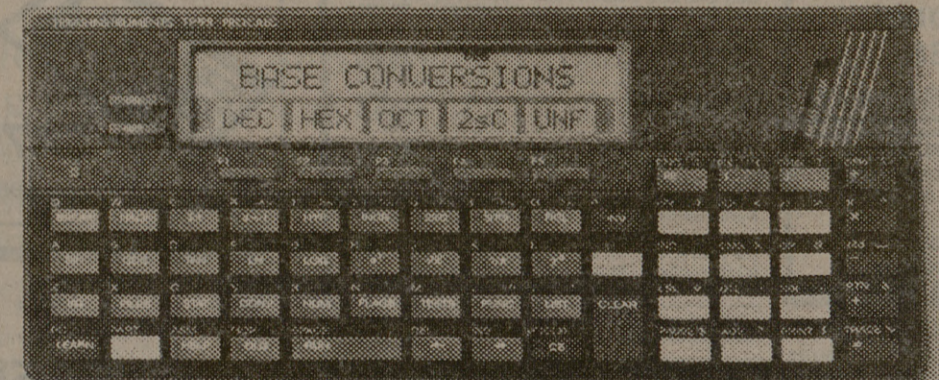
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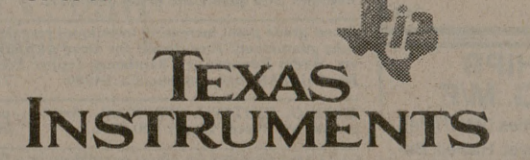
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