

World and Nation

Iran claims guards stopped Iraqi assault in Mawat area

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran claimed Wednesday its Revolutionary Guards repulsed an Iraqi assault in the Mawat region of Kurdistan along the northern frontier, killing or wounding 3,000 men.

Iranian rebels based in Iraq said they had withdrawn from Mehran, an Iranian town farther south on the 730-mile border war front, after a three-day offensive in which they reported capturing tanks, missiles and other military hardware worth \$2 billion.

Tehran radio said at least 15 Iraqi tanks were destroyed and ammunition dumps set ablaze Tuesday in the Kurdistan battle. There was no independent confirmation and no comment from Baghdad.

Iraqi forces in recent weeks have driven the Iranians out of territory captured in southern Iraq earlier in the 8-year-old war, and have pressed Iranian forces in the

Kurdistan mountains of northern Iraq for 10 days.

Fighting has increased steadily in the north, where the Iraqis claimed Friday to have recaptured several strategic peaks and the town of Mawat, all seized by Iran last summer.

Tehran radio said Iranian fighter-bombers attacked troop and armor concentrations in the Mawat region on Wednesday, "inflicting heavy losses."

On April 16, Iraq seized the initiative in the stalemated land war with an assault that recaptured the Faw Peninsula in southern Iraq, ending two years of Iranian occupation.

Dispatches from Tehran said the three-pronged assault was carried out by Iraqi regulars supported by fighter-bombers dropping chemical bombs.

Maryland limits dial-a-porn to subscribers

BALTIMORE (AP) — The telephone company is instituting a new exchange for "dial-a-porn" and party-line services that will be available to customers only upon request, in a twist on efforts to keep youngsters from having access to the services.

Industry spokesmen say the new exchange could drive services out of business in Maryland.

"It will infringe on the rights of people who like this entertainment," Jonathon Golan said. The two programs of adult entertainment on 976 lines he operates in Baltimore. "Their rights were violated because (the new service) requires identification."

The Maryland Public Service Commission has approved Chesapeake and Potomac's request to institute the new exchange for adult and conversation-line services, which have been available on 976 numbers.

The new 915 exchange, expected to be implemented by the end of the summer, will be accessible only by customers who notified the company they want to have access to it.

Maryland is the first state to approve the subscription change for dial-a-porn lines, a man said. Sports lines, financial services and other information lines will remain on 976 numbers, he said.

Under the telephone company's plan, a customer wishing to obtain access to the 915 lines would have to sign a consent form. Names of those signing forms would be kept confidential.

Democracy plays role in program

SUMY, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Nadezhda Nuzhnaya will bid her son and husband goodbye Thursday and board a train for Moscow. This month, the woman who paints tea sets for a living is one of the 5,000 most important people in the Soviet Union.

Nuzhnaya, 36, has been chosen to represent her fellow Communist Party members in the northern Ukraine at a national party conference, the first in 47 years, that will pass judgment on a program designed to make Soviet political life more democratic.

"This will be one of the most important events in my life," she said. "But it will also be an important event for every Communist, for every citizen of our country."

Nuzhnaya, whose candidacy was

supported by co-workers in the porcelain factory where she has worked for 19 years, is one of the winners in a Soviet electoral process unlike any in recent memory, but whose choices often seem to differ little from past party elections.

Along with Nuzhnaya, fully half of the Communists chosen to represent the Sumy region in the southeastern Ukraine are party and government bureaucrats whose privileges and perks would be deeply affected if the reforms proposed for the conference are enacted.

In recent weeks, protests over ballot-rigging by party apparatchiks and some of the delegates chosen for the conference has brought Soviet citizens into the streets from the Pacific Ocean island of Sakhalin to the Baltic republic of Estonia.

"By my estimate, 90 to 95 percent of the delegates are of the same type that have attended past party meetings," said a diplomat. "True, the other 5 or 10 percent may give us some fireworks."

Who exactly will attend the conference that convenes Tuesday in the Kremlin is crucial because the more than 5,000 delegates will be asked to vote on proposals that would more firmly separate party from state and limit apparatchiks to two five-year terms in office.

In a May 7 speech, Mikhail S. Gorbachev ordered that there be no attempt, as in the past, to impose quotas from above for "so many workers, so many peasants, so many women, and so on." The sole criterion, the Communist Party chief insisted, was that delegates be "active supporters of perestroika."

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