

Battalion Classifieds

World and Nation

Armenians claim paratroopers open fire on airport protesters

MOSCOW (AP) — Armenian activists said Wednesday that Soviet Army paratroopers fired on protesters trying to shut down Yerevan's airport and killed up to five people. A Soviet official denied there had been any clashes or deaths.

"The rumors that an Armenian was killed are groundless," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perilyev told a news conference.

But Perilyev and the activists agreed that some 2,000 people had tried to shut down Zvartnots Airport, and that troops quashed what the activists said was a political protest in the southern republic related to a simmering territorial dispute.

Since February, Yerevan has been the scene of extensive demonstrations by Armenians demanding annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Armenian region of neighboring Azerbaijan.

Until now, the protests reportedly have been peaceful.

The Communist Party daily Pravda said planes were allowed to land but that demonstrators

"grossly disrupted order" and prevented them from taking off again. Hundreds of passengers were stranded, it said.

The evening television news program "Vremya" said 3,000 people took part in the protest, and that 60 flights were grounded along with 14,000 passengers.

Perilyev told the Tass news agency that more than 400 people swarmed into the airport's terminal, while another 1,500 gathered outside.

He said the demonstrators impeded the sale of tickets and the collection of luggage, ventured onto the landing strip, stopped passengers from entering the terminal, and paralyzed the work of the airport dispatcher.

For an hour, internal security troops with bullhorns ordered the protesters to leave, then intervened to evict them.

"They were forced out, but there were no clashes or fights," Perilyev said.

Protesters then began hurling

rocks and bottles, and 36 people "had to seek medical assistance," Perilyev said.

The government daily Izvestia said the demonstrators demanded that the airport staff shut down operations.

"An intervention by the forces of order became necessary," the paper said. "Unfortunately, in the clashes that ensued, some violators of law and order suffered, as well as several policemen." It gave no further details.

Armenian activists in Moscow, however, said witnesses had telephoned them from Yerevan to say that army troops carrying machine guns and backed by tanks had begun firing without warning on the protesters.

"All of a sudden, they started shooting," artist Kuryun G. Nagapetyan told about 50 people who gathered for an evening rally outside Moscow's red-brick Armenian church.

"They were carrying clubs, policemen in the West, and the people right and left."

Three students were killed — officers shot them with pistols, gapeyants said. He said 37 other people reportedly were hospitalized.

Alexei Mananikov, an editor of the unofficial Moscow journal, said Khachik Kazaryan, 22, killed in a confrontation between protesters and soldiers at the port.

He said sources in Yerevan told him that as many as 40 people had been wounded by soldiers trying to reopen the airport.

Lev G. Gambaryan, another man who lives in Moscow, the rally that reports from Yerevan on Wednesday indicated had a 6-year-old child, age 6 and 10, had also been shot. He said he did not know whether the two reported deaths were new or among the three previously reported.

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Soviets prepare to launch first of two probes to Mars

MOSCOW (AP) — Space officials from more than a dozen countries converged on a Central Asian steppe Wednesday for the launch of the first of two probes to Mars' potato-shaped moon, Phobos.

The Soviet Union says the mission will help prepare for manned flight to the red planet.

Soviet media said final preparations were being made at the Baikonur launch site in Kazakhstan for the launch Thursday of Phobos I, a joint East-West project to study Phobos and Mars itself.

Phobos II, the second satellite, is scheduled to blast off July 12.

Soviet television late Tuesday showed the silver-white probe and its 60-yard-tall Soviet-made Proton rocket being moved into place.

The satellites will enter Mars' gravity in January, and begin a three-month remote study of the surface and atmosphere of Mars. After that, scientists said, they will draw closer to Phobos and drop descent

vehicles carrying laser, ionic and radar equipment to help determine the internal structure and composition of the moon.

The probes are expected to be sent to Phobos in about April of next year, according to Roald Sagdeyev, director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences' Space Research Institute.

Soviet space scientists said Phobos is an important step toward a manned flight to Mars, which they hope can take place in the early 21st century. Officials including Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev have proposed that the United States take part in the mission.

"First, it is necessary to draw up a more accurate map of the Mars surface in order to choose a place for the future landing," said Vyacheslav Balebanov, a deputy to Sagdeyev.

"Then, it is necessary to study the climate and soil characteristics and find out whether oxygen should be taken from Earth, or whether it can be gotten directly on the planet. The

study of Mars renewed under the Phobos program should provide answers to those questions," he said in an interview with the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya, published Thursday.

The Soviet news agency Tass said the Phobos television system will provide color photographs and a memory unit will permit transmission of up to 1,100 pictures to Earth.

Soviet space officials said the launch itself will cost about \$65 million and that the total cost of the project was about \$480 million.

Also participating in the project are Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany, Ireland, Poland, Finland, France, West Germany, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Sweden, the United States and the European Space Agency.

Many of those countries have provided equipment for experiments to be conducted by Phobos.

Bizarre theories follow Gulf plane crash

WASHINGTON (AP) — The unanswered questions remaining about the Iranian Airbus destroyed by an American missile have given rise to some bizarre theories about the downing of the plane.

Those television images of bloated bodies floating in the Persian Gulf fuel speculation but no answers.

On television, the bodies appeared to be nude and to be so bloated as to suggest they were in the water for some time. How come?

How did the Iranians have a television camera in place to capture what Iranian television said were shots of the plane at the moment it was hit? (To the viewer, the plane was a mere dot on the screen and the pictures were too grainy to lead to that conclusion.)

No American official has publicly suggested that Iran's revolutionary government deliberately sent civilians on Iran Air flight 655 to their death, but terrorism expert Robert Kupperman said he had heard "a few people in the Pentagon" ad-

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vance such theories.

"I don't give much credence to it personally," said Kupperman, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank. "I don't believe that anybody is going to be able to prove that this has been a set-up."

Neil C. Livingstone, a conservative expert on terrorism, said there are "some real strange questions" about the incident, citing television footage provided by the Iranians.

"It's very hard to explain why someone would be taking pictures of a plane flying in the gulf," Livingstone said.

Dr. Charles Ruehle, the former commander of the Armed Forces Institute of Medical Pathology, said finding floating, bloated bodies within a short time would not be unusual after a crash into warm, salty water.

The gulf's sea surface temperature averages about 89 degrees Fahr-

enheit and the salinity is higher than in the Atlantic Ocean off the Florida coast.

Ruehle said he was puzzled by why the bodies appeared to be nude. "In my experience, there has been nothing that would explain that," he said.

The experts, however, all said there is not enough available information to evaluate exactly what happened.

Gary Sick, a Columbia University professor and a National Security Council aide under President Carter, said he began to hear people suggest "within hours" of Sunday's attack that the Airbus had taunted the Navy warship Vincennes on purpose.

"It is an easy explanation that takes the United States off the hook for having shot the plane down," Sick said. At present, the evidence does not justify that conclusion, he said.

Hopefuls

(Continued from page 1)
lease the names of those interviewed.

Presidential candidate Dr. George Pincus, dean of the Newark College of Engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, said the lack of openness by the Board is not surprising, but perhaps not entirely right either.

"I feel that this interviewing process is of great interest to people of many constituencies — students, alumni, faculty and government — and I'm surprised that the list of candidates has not been narrowed," he said. "Usually as the process goes on, there is a narrowing of the list to get to the candidates who are actually being considered. That does not seem to be the case here."

"In many cases though, a lot of people would not participate if their interest was known."
The list includes the names of five A&M administrators; however, only Dr. William Mobley, executive dep-

uty chancellor, and Dr. Robert Walker, vice president for development, were available for comment Wednesday. Mobley offered no comment and referred all questions regarding to his candidacy to Pres-

nal Walker said he has heard nothing from the committee and also directed other inquiries to Presnal. Two of the other three A&M candidates, Dr. Duwayne M. Anderson, associate provost for research and graduate studies, and Dr. Donald McDonald, provost and vice president for academic affairs, were out of town and unable to be reached. A&M Deputy Chancellor Eddie J. Davis couldn't be reached Thursday through Wednesday.

The other four "no comment" responses came from Dr. C. Roland Haden, vice president for academic affairs at Arizona State University; Dr. James M. Howell, chief economist for the Bank of Boston; Dr. Robert J. Kuhne, chairman of the Department of Management and General Business at Hofstra University in New York; and Dr. Simon Si-

monian, professor in the department of surgery at Hahnemann University in Pennsylvania.

Unavailable for comment was former A&M associate professor of economics James C. Miller III, director of the federal Office of Management and Budget, who was earlier rumored to be a "leading candidate" for the position in the "Washington Whispers" section of the March 25 issue of U.S. News and World Report.

A March Battalion story reported that these rumors could not be confirmed. Miller, who was a part of A&M's faculty from 1972 to 1974, is still on the list of candidates released by the Board.

Other candidates not reached were Dr. William H. Hinton, chancellor for Houston Baptist University; Dr. James Meindl, provost for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York; Dr. Jack Weihaupt of the department of geography, geology and physics at the University of Col-

Firms seek suspension of Perot contract

WASHINGTON (AP) — federal hearing examiner is considering recommending suspension of a contract between the billionaire H. Ross Perot and the U.S. Postal Service, an official said Wednesday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the examiner is expected to recommend that the contract be suspended.

Catherine Hyatt, the hearing examiner, declined to comment on the matter. In Dallas, Perot spokesman Sharon Holman did not immediately return a telephone call from the Associated Press on Wednesday.

Perot and Postal Service officials, at a hearing Tuesday, refused to comply with requests to provide documents or have individuals testify before the board of the GSA official said.

Postal officials acknowledged that they declined to cooperate with the agency, arguing that it lacks jurisdiction over the hearing.

Suspension of the Perot contract was sought by Electronic Data Systems Corp., Perot's former company which is now a part of General Motors, and by Planning Research Corp. of Millersville, Va.

Those firms argued that the Postal Service should have solicited competitive bids before awarding the contract to Perot.

The contract is in two parts. The first is a \$500,000 agreement calling for Perot to analyze postal operations and recommend ways to save money. It was announced June 2 and immediately drew criticism from a variety of sources.

After the first 90-day period there was to be a second part which Perot would be paid a percentage of any savings the service realized from implementing recommendations.

The Senate, meanwhile, has requested the General Accounting Office to investigate terms of deal.

Dr. William E. "Bud" Davis, who served as the Oregon State School of Higher Education, said, "I see my resume back in March. I haven't heard anything from since. As far as I know, the Board hasn't contacted me. I've been removed from consideration for the position."

Retired Lt. Gen. Willard W. now executive director of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the United States, also sent in his resume as requested but has not heard anything from the Board in the past three months.

Comment from eight of the candidates was unavailable because they were out of town and could not be reached the past two weeks.