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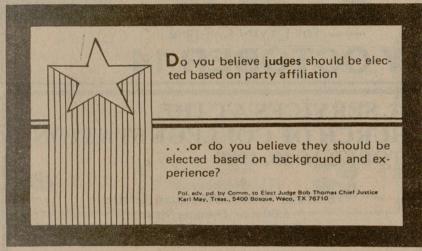
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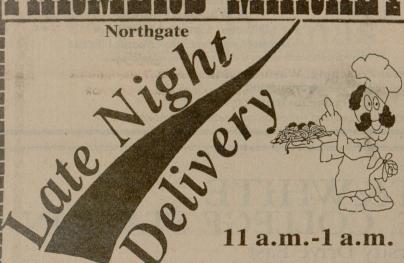
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The Battalion

World/Nation

Violence escalates in Jerusalem

Thursday, October 13, 1988

JERUSALEM (AP) - Soldiers blew the attack, and soldiers sealed the area up four Palestinian homes and sealed five others Wednesday in reprisal for the murder of Arabs who collaborated with Israel. Palestinians hurled a grenade at a troop bus but missed.

Noting an increased use of guns and grenades by Palestinian activists, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin suggested there had been a shift in Palestinian tactics from stones to more sophisticated

'Once they shift from civilian violence to terror, for me (that) is proof that they failed to achieve their goals by what they call the intefadeh," Rabin said.

Intefadeh is the the Arabic word for uprising. But clashes continued between sol-

diers and demonstrators in the occupied

Hospital officials reported four Palestinians wounded, three of whom were injured with plastic bullets.

In the Gaza Strip, sources said a grenade was thrown between a civillian car and a bus carrying soldiers.

There were no injuries as a result of city.

on the foreign debt.

cuts last Friday

social programs.

nomic development.

low 1987's \$8.6 billion figure.

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The plunge in the price of oil,

Mexico's leading export, has forced the government to an-

nounce painful budget cuts, consider an International Monetary Fund contingency loan and renew calls for a better deal

It also highlights a stubborn battle against inflation and an ambitious trade liberalization program meant to diversify

Pemex, the government oil monopoly, said on Oct. 7 that

average spot market prices for Mexican crude had sunk to

about \$9 a barrel and that revenues for this year would fall be-

Last year, oil accounted for 41 percent of total Mexican export revenues and keyed the country's overall \$8.4 billion

Reacting to the drop in oil-based earnings — estimated by one Energy Department official at \$2 billion below official

projections so far this year — President Miguel de la Madrid's

administration announced more than \$200 million in budget

It took pains to assure Mexicans, whose paychecks are worth half what they were in 1982, that the cuts would spare

prices) with some sacrifices," Agustin F. Legorreta, president of the private Business Coordinating Council, said Tuesday.

tion of Mexico's \$104 billion foreign debt. Legorreta said in-

terest payments on the debt are taking funds away from eco-

of an anti-inflation wage and price stabilization program. If the price of oil keeps dropping, however, the government may

actually be forced to add to the debt burden.

The government has been using its foreign reserves to support a 7-month-old peso currency exchange rate freeze as part

Most analysts believe the government when it says inflation

is its No. 1 economic priority and analysts say President-elect

The falling price of oil has spurred new calls for renegotia-

"We can manage the problems (caused by falling oil

Mexico's export earnings and wean it from dependence on oil-

and detained a number of Palestinians, army officials said.

A day earlier, a grenade was thrown at an army jeep, wounding two soldiers in

Rabin, speaking at a Foreign Press Association luncheon, said Wednesday's incident was the third time grenades had been hurled at Israelis in the recent days since fighting began.

Rabin also said a village leader had been shot to death with an assault rifle by PLO enforcers.

He said terror attacks had declined in the occupied lands in the past 10 months, due to the fact that Palestinian activists have been focusing primarily on largescale demonstrations and stone-throwing

But the defense minister said the army had succeeded in stopping big protests and in recent days there had been a upsurge in the use of bullets, bombs and

The army did not identify the group behind the latest grenade attacks in the

Mexico takes action

to prevent inflation

form or another.

Arab journalists in the Gaza Strip said rumors circulated that the attacks were the work of Islamic militants.

Palestinian sources said Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization was not involved, and prominent Palestinians said they were not aware of any change in PLO policy.

'I don't think a few such cases signals any change in policy. But whoever is behind such acts is definitely not on the same track as the PLO," said Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian human rights activ-

PLO leaders have said Palestinian protesters had access to weapons, although they had been instructed not to use them in confrontations with Israelis.

The restraint has won international sympthy for the Palestinians

The embargo on terror is an essential ingredient for any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue after Israel's Nov. 1 general elec-

Rabin said he believed the use of bullets by Palestinians may be an effort to prod PLO leaders into taking a stand politically on negotiations with Israel.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari will try to maintain the fight. Salinas

"The danger of hyperinflation is so big that the effort should continue," Jacobo Zaidenweber, president of the Mex-

ico-United States Chamber of Commerce, said in a recent in-

terview. "It could take between one and three years in one

Under terms of a 1987 foreign debt rescheduling agreement

with the IMF, Mexico has the option to draw up to \$1.2 bil-

lion in contingency loans if the price of crude drops below the

Reserves, which reached a high of \$16 billion in April, dropped to an estimated \$12 billion in July as the government

The government has resisted fresh calls to devalue and give

Mexican entrepreneurs a new export advantage that could help offset the shrinking trade surplus. A devaluation would gener-

ate new inflationary pressures; the anti-inflation plan has, offi-

cially, reduced annualized inflation from a record 159.2 per-

has stressed the importance of non-oil exports to make up for

Through June, Mexico's first-semester merchandise trade surplus totalled \$2.4 billion, well below 1987's \$4.76 billion,

according to the Center for Private Sector Economic Studies.

But non-petroleum exports, at \$7.1 billion, were up 20 per-

However, the surplus was hurt when merchandise imports surged by 53 percent between January and June to \$8.3 billion. That was encouraged by trade liberalization aimed at

forcing domestic industry to become competitive and lower

On Monday, Tomas Rodriguez Weber, director general of

Capital Goods and Petrochemical Industries affairs at the

Commerce Department, reiterated the government's position

that manufactures exports are the best way to compensate for

Although resisting the calls to devalue, the administration

propped up the peso against the dollar.

cent in 1987 to about 45 percent this year

the shortfall in oil revenues

the weak oil sector.

cent over the same period in 1987.

But many of the recent casual coincided with stepped-up and the introduction of plastich

Since the beginning of then Palesitinans have been killed an wounded.

The overall death toll stants since the uprising began Dec. 8.

Ten suspected Arab collabate Israeli authorities have been ki

last December. This figure includes three was stabbed to death in recent webs lus, about 30 miles north of lens

Soldiers blew up four houses city of Nablus, a low-income hood with narrow winding street sealed by the army.

Reaganma call session for Contra

WASHINGTON (AP)-P Reagan intends to call Cong to Washington for a speal a later this year if he judges had ragua's Sandinista governs seeking to mop up the remain anti-government Contra a sources said Wednesday.

Reagan plans to annound tent in a statement later the well-placed sources, who say on condition of anonymity, at If the president decides to would ask Congress for quit to release \$16.5 million in

aid for the Contras now stor Honduran warehouses. The precise forum and Reagan's statement have no

cided, the sources said. But they said it was int

a strong signal to the leftish tas that "Reagan ain" town," as one source said town be watching development at

Under a Pentagon mone Reagan signed earlier this procedure is established for

congressional consideration of request for military aid forthe. The Contras have been U.S. military support since to when it was ended in defense. forts to forge a long-tem between the two sides. The rebels now are recei

\$27 million in humanitarian the Pentagon appropriations
Under the law, Reagand

ger an expedited vote on the piled weaponry if he certifies gress that two of three condit • That the Soviet Union

to funnel unacceptable lev tary hardware to the Sandin • That the leftist Sand

ernment is violating tems • That they launch an unpr attack on the rebels.

Administration officials that the first two of those on already exist. One source familiar with the

House planning said, "Thep will say if anything approx third (condition) occurs, 1 Congress back into session.

ABC-Post poll: Bush ahead with solid lead

poll released Wednesday of nearly 10,000 likely voters rated George Bush to be solidly ahead in the race for the presidency, saying he held a huge lead in error of plus or minus three percentage the contest for electoral votes.

Although polls of the nation as a whole indicate a close race between Bush and Michael Dukakis, the ABC News-Washington Post survey of the standings in each state — where the elec-tion actually is decided — put Bush firmly ahead.

ABC reported that Bush led solidly in 21 states with a total of 220 electoral votes — just 50 short of the total needed to win. Dukakis was firmly ahead in only three states with 30 electoral votes.

With the election nearly a month off, voter sentiments can change. But the ABC-Post poll, the only public survey of its size this year, was the first recent poll to indicate a significant advantage for ei-

through Monday among 9,778 likely voters in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. ABC said it had a margin of

ABC and the Post also conducted a standard national survey that put the race at 51 percent for Bush to 45 percent to Dukakis. A CBS News-New York Times poll Wednesday had nearly the same result: 50-45.

That second ABC-Post poll was conducted Oct. 5 through Tuesday among 1,187 likely voters nationwide; The CBS-Times poll was done Oct. 8 through Monday among 1,009 probable voters. Both had four-point margins of

Such national polls measure popular sentiment across the nation as a whole. But in the election each state gives its electoral votes to the winner in that state, so the state-by-state standings are more relevant to the outcome. Such polls are

each state requires a far larger sample than surveying the nation as a whole.

The CBS-Times poll found increasing doubt about the qualifications of the Republican vice presidential nominee, Sen. Dan Quayle, to serve as president and it indicated the concern was keeping the race a close one in terms of the popular contest nationally.

qualifications for the presidency, his worst rating in that survey. He was seen as qualified by only 30 percent, while twice as many — 63 percent — said they would worry about him serving as presi-

Quayle's presence appeared to help Dukakis: Asked if they could vote only for president, without considering the running mate, support for Dukakis dipped from 45 percent to 41 percent. Bush's support remained at 50 percent.

Congress approves base closings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation Wednesday, which authorizes the Pentagon to close unneeded military bases for a savings of up to \$5 billion a year.

The Senate approved the bill 82-7 and the House followed shortly afterward with a 370-31 vote which sent the measure to President Reagan. He is expected

The Defense Department estimates that between \$2 billion and \$5 billion a year can be saved if it is permitted to pare down the list of 3,800 U.S. military

"We are addressing one of the great sacred cows in this country and in this Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas,

The bill sets up a complicated baseclosing procedure which essentially cuts through the thicket of laws enacted by Congress in the past decade to thwart Pentagon efforts to shut down bases.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, said, "We know we cannot afford excess bases that we don't need, we all also understand the reality and the sensitivity of the communities in America that are so dependent, in some cases, on these bases 1990.

in the Congress.

The bill endorses a Pentagon-appointed commission, which has been meeting for months trying to put together a list of bases to be closed. The current panel will include 12 members by the

The panel will make its recommenda-tions by Dec. 31 and Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci will then have until Jan. 15 - five days before he leaves office — to either accept or reject the entire list. He will not be able to change the

No base closures would begin before

Group say hurts elder

AUSTIN (AP) — A consum By a 2-1 margin, probable voters in the CBS-Times poll doubted Quayle's getting ripped-off by "Methods". care policies and called for strictions on the industry. The Consumers Union

thers filed a petition with the of Insurance seeking more re Medicare supplement police called Medigap policies.

Charlotte Flynn, of the Gr said the elderly are often vi unscrupulous insurance age them worthless policies, or p duplicate coverage.

The board must take of situation and adopt rules so nies writing worthless p agents who prey on the vult the elderly will have no cho the Medigap business," in and we know that reflects itself here board building.

> A 1986 congressional report that \$3 billion of the \$12billion the elderly nationwide for ance is wasted on unnecess lent policies. Texas cons more than \$500 million in [medicare supplement insural in 1986.

Carol Barger, of the Union, said the state insuran ceived about 2,500 complete gap policies last year, but h ance board has done little to

industry.