

WORLD & NATION

Saboteurs damage dam that provides power for U.S.S.R.

MOSCOW (AP) — Saboteurs in ethnically torn areas of Abkhazia damaged a dam that provides more than half of Soviet Georgia's electricity, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Armed bands of Abkhazians and Georgians kept shooting at each other for a sixth day in the Black Sea resort region, Soviet media said. Violence spread to Poti in western Georgia, where men seeking firearms attacked a factory and a gun shop.

"The situation is very, very serious," Gizo Grzeledze of the Georgian Foreign Ministry said.

State-run TV showed tourists eating ice cream at an outdoor cafe in Sukhumi, 870 miles south of Moscow, and said clashes had subsided.

About 4,500 Interior Ministry troops were in the region, and a state of emergency was in effect.

Saboteurs "forced the workers of the Inguli Hydroelectric Station to start letting the waters out of the Inguli Reservoir, and they virtually forced a halt in the operation of the power plant," reported the Georgian newspaper *Zarya Vostoka*.

The dam provides more than half of Georgia's electricity, and factories in cities throughout the republic suffered blackouts until power could be patched in from Russia, the newspaper said.

The story did not clearly state how much water was released from the dam. It said the water loss will lead to less electricity and predicted a power shortage in Georgia next winter.

It said the republic's energy supplies already have been restricted by the closure of the nuclear power station in nearby Armenia. The nuclear plant was closed because of fears of earthquakes.

Shooting was reported on highways near Ochamchira and Gudauta, *Zarya Vostoka* said. Tass reported clashes between armed groups in the regions around Gulripsh, Ochamchira and Sukhumi.

The violence has claimed at least 18 lives since it began Saturday in Abkhazia, a 3,320-mile autonomous region in Georgia. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported Thursday that 339 people have been injured, including 30 policemen and seven internal security troops.

"The situation is very, very serious."

— Gizo Grzeledze, Georgian Foreign Ministry

At least 132 people have died in ethnic unrest in the past month in the southern Soviet republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan and Tadjikistan.

Georgians outnumber Abkhazians 240,000 to 90,000 in Abkhazia and both sides claim discrimination by the other. Many Abkhazians demand that it be designated a 16th Soviet republic.

Spreading strikes and ethnic violence have convulsed a dozen areas of the Soviet Union in the past month and may endanger President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reform program by damaging an already shaky economy.

A few trainloads of scarce treasures like soap, meat and shoes may soothe some mining towns, but the government does not pretend there is enough to placate everyone.

Congressmen spray effigy of flag-burner

WASHINGTON (AP) — A publican congressman on Thursday sprayed with water an effigy of a Texas flag-burner, and other members of Congress urged lawmakers to undo the Supreme Court ruling that allows flag burning.

Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., more than a dozen GOP House members, armed with fire extinguishers and a bucket of water, the steps of the Supreme Court where television cameras were gathered to record a runoff flag-burning by Gregory Johnson.

"You're not going to come to Capitol Hill and burn the United States flag," warned Rep. L. Smith, R-Miss.

The flag burning never occurred, so the lawmakers sprayed and doused with water a stuffed dummy they called Johnson. It was held aloft by some anti-flag-burning protesters.

Johnson, whose 1984 flag-burning conviction was thrown out by the Supreme Court last month, held a news conference across the street and said he never intended to burn a flag day.

"I'm not going to fall into a silly trap," he said.

Earlier today, veterans testified in support of congressional action to restore penalties for desecrating the flag. Two of the groups said a constitutional amendment was the only course of action, but one said it also support regular legislation that would work.

"Choose whatever course of action is best for our nation and the flag and you will have the support of the Disabled American Veterans," John Heilman, the Dallas national legislative director, said.

Heilman's openness to a regular statute to address the ruling was at odds with representatives of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who told a House Judiciary subcommittee that nothing but an amendment to the Constitution would be satisfactory.

After four days of hearings, including two days of testimony from legal scholars, the panel remained divided over how to overcome a Supreme Court decision on flag burning.

DC-10 accidents indicate need for redesign of backup system

WASHINGTON (AP) — The crash of a United wide-bodied jet in Sioux City, Iowa, demonstrates a problem already highlighted in two other major DC-10 accidents: the lack of an effective backup when the hydraulic system fails.

Other incidents prior to Wednesday's DC-10 crash, in which 119 people were either dead or missing, have a common thread in the loss of pilot control after a failure that would not ordinarily affect flight controls, such as loss of an engine or a cargo door.

Some of the cases did not cause heavy loss of life, but each has added to concern among government and aviation authorities over design of the DC-10, which the government grounded for more than a month in 1979.

McDonnell Douglas spokesman David Eastman said Thursday the out-of-production DC-10 is "as fit as any other" airliner and has flown 745 million passengers safely more than 7 billion miles. Eastman declined to comment on the Sioux City crash, except to say the manufacturer was cooperating in the federal investigation to determine cause.

Although investigators were

looking at explosive failure of the plane's tail engine as the initial incident in the crash of United Flight 232 in Sioux City, they also were concerned about apparent collapse of the plane's hydraulic systems as its pilot was attempting an emergency landing on a Denver-Philadelphia flight.

The hydraulic systems link the pilot with wing flaps, tail elevators, rudders, brakes, and other devices that guide the airliner in takeoff, during flight, in landing and on the runway.

Federal Aviation Administration authorities said the DC-10's pilot first reported "uncontained engine failure," which means parts shot out of the engine, possibly damaging other systems and causing what the pilot later described as "complete hydraulic failure."

In 1974, loss of a cargo door caused decompression in a Turkish Airlines DC-10 over France. The plane's floor buckled, snapping hydraulic cables, and the airliner went out of control, killing 346 people. Previous incidents in the United States and Canada had pointed to a cargo door problem, but it and other problems were not corrected until

after the Turkish crash.

On May 25, 1979, in Chicago, the engine of an American Airlines DC-10 broke loose and catapulted over the wing during takeoff, breaking hydraulic cables and causing a crash that killed 275 people. Investigators blamed faulty maintenance but also recommended design corrections.

Eastman said he knew of only one design change that had occurred in the DC-10 since the Chicago crash, involving instrumentation that would warn the pilot when wing slats were improperly positioned.

The two incidents and the latest crash point to serious problems with design of the DC-10, said John Galpault of the Aviation Safety Institute, a nonprofit group that pushes for safer planes.

Tests show AIDS virus affects more blood cells than scientists believed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sensitive new test shows that AIDS patients develop a reservoir of at least 1,000 times more diseased blood cells than previously believed, according to researchers at the National Institutes of Health.

Steven M. Schnittman, a researcher at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a part of the NIH, said the study showed that in patients with AIDS, the virus infects up to 1 percent — one of every 100 — of a type of blood cell called the T4 lymphocyte.

Previous studies, which made indirect measurements of the rate of infection, had determined that only one in every 10,000 to 100,000 of the T4 lymphocytes were infected with the virus in a patient with active AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"The quantity of the virus (found in the study) was a lot higher than previously expected," Schnittman in an interview. "There are more cells infected, a greater proportion, than we knew before."

Schnittman said the PCR studies will enable scientists to plot the level of AIDS infection as a patient progresses from a point of showing no symptoms to where the disease becomes life-threatening.

In this way, he said, researchers could measure precisely the effects of drugs being tested to control or kill the AIDS virus.

A research report authored by Schnittman and eight other scientists is to be published Friday in the journal *Science*.

The PCR survey, which was developed only about a year ago, he said, is an important new tool to help sci-

entists understand the life cycle of the highly complex AIDS virus, perhaps find a weak point where the killer disease could be attacked with drugs.

Patients infected with the HIV virus can sometimes go years without developing the active AIDS disease. Scientists don't yet understand why the virus has such a long period of inactivity in some people.

AIDS is a contagious disease that attacks immune cells in the body and renders them unable to resist disease.

Eastern threat to sell routes attracts carrier

MIAMI (AP) — A threat to bankrupt Eastern Airlines to sell its Latin American routes and a portion of its Miami operation has attracted interest from at least one major carrier, but representatives of striking pilots say there are many obstacles to the deal.

Air Line Pilots Association spokesman Hank Weber on Thursday said any sale of international routes would have to go through a series of reviews by U.S. Bankruptcy Court and by federal transportation officials.

Recently, U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner said he will take a close look at any sale of foreign routes to another U.S. carrier.

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Federal Reserve shifts to avoid recession risk. WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Alan Greenspan said Thursday the Federal Reserve has shifted its emphasis from fighting inflation to avoiding a recession, a signal that the central bank likely will continue to cautiously push down interest rates. "Recent developments suggest that the balance of risks may have shifted somewhat away from greater inflation," Greenspan told the House Banking subcommittee on domestic monetary policy. "What we seek to avoid is an unnecessary and destructive recession." Greenspan, in his semiannual report to Congress, confirmed that after a year-long campaign of trying to curb inflationary pressures by nudging up interest rates, the central bank has reversed course in response to widespread evidence of economic softness. He said he did not see signs of a recession "at the moment," but conceded that "some day, some event will end the extraordinary string of economic advances that has prevailed since late 1982." He added that he did not want a mistake by the Federal Reserve to be the cause. The central bank chairman would not respond directly when asked by panel members whether interest rates would continue to decline, but he indicated he did not soon foresee another shift in policy.

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