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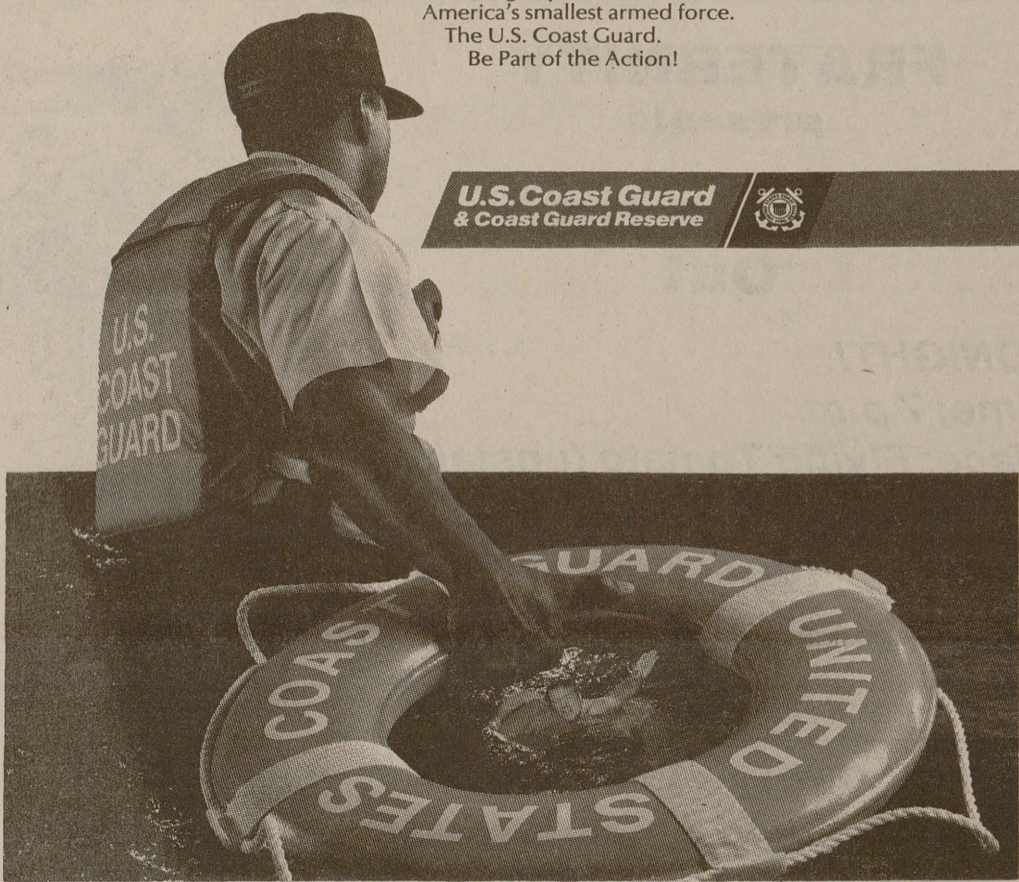
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WORLD & NATION

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Tuesday, September 4, 1990

Iraqis balk at possibility of freeing more hostages

Associated Press

Baghdad balked Monday at allowing more airlifts of foreign hostages, and Western governments expressed fears that Saddam Hussein's government did not intend to fulfill its promise to free remaining women and children captives.

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the month-old Persian Gulf crisis appeared to have bogged down as well. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was meeting Monday with Jordan's King Hussein in Paris after returning empty-handed from talks with Iraq's foreign minister.

President Bush was returning to Washington from his vacation home in Maine, with only a few days to prepare for his summit with Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev. The two are to meet Sunday in Helsinki, Finland to discuss the crisis set off by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

In advance of the superpower summit, the foreign ministers of the European Community nations planned to meet in Rome. Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman Giovanni Castellana told reporters Monday the 12-member EC would be considering Bush's request for financial support for the U.S.-led deployment of forces to the gulf region.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III is expected Friday in Saudi Arabia for talks with Kuwaiti government-in-exile officials, which likely will center on the same subject — the cost of the military operation.

In the occupied emirate, diplomats at 30 embassies continued to defy Iraqi orders to close their doors and get out. The diplomats have refused to do so because they could be seen as implying recognition of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait.

The 10-day-old standoff was taking its toll. East Germany says its envoy was grabbed by Iraqi authorities and taken to Baghdad when he ventured out of his embassy. The missions are ringed by troops, with power and telephone service cut off. The envoys and their citizens under their protection are running out of food and water and sweltering in 120-degree temperatures.

The punishing Mideast climate also increased the misery of thousands of refugees, mostly Arabs and Asians, who flooded across the border into Jordan.

At a refugee camp at Shaalan, 24 miles east of the Jordanian border post at Ruweishid, a slum city of desperate Asian refugees has sprung up. Jordanian authorities will not process their entry until the refugee governments guarantee rapid repatriation.

"It's like a piece of sandpaper from horizon to horizon, with scorpions and snakes," said Jim Nuttal, coordinator for Save the Children who has been working with the refugees. "They desperately need tents, transportation, food, water and medical care."

During the weekend, hundreds of foreigners — some of whom had been detained at key installations as human shields against potential attack — made their way out aboard three separate flights from Baghdad to the Iraqi capital.

Congressmen topple in budget balancing act

Economist says government needs credit limit

NEW YORK (AP) — Congress is a bit like a person in possession of a credit card on which the issuing bank somehow forgot to put a limit, economist William Dunkelberg said.

"Credit limits on bank cards are there to protect you from bankruptcy," he said. "While you, perhaps, are sensible enough not to spend yourself into the poorhouse, not everyone is."

Congress, he lamented, seems to be in the latter category. It talks about cutting the budget deficit, he said, but it has already raised spending plans 11 percent beyond the president's proposals.

Dunkelberg is an economist but said the budget deficit is almost solely a political issue. Everyone understands the need for government to live within its income, but then politics obliterates reason, he said.

History demonstrates that America needs to put a cap on federal spending, just as certainly as those

caps are needed on credit cards, he said. Congress chooses to raise taxes instead of cutting spending.

Whenever taxes are raised, he continued, you may be sure that spending also will be raised. And when spending is raised, just as certainly you can expect taxes to be raised.

But the elected-official alibi that government needs more money because of inflation is not so, Dunkelberg said. He explained:

If the tax rate is 10 percent and you earn a dollar, the government gets 10 cents. If inflation raises your salary by 10 percent, you will get \$1.10 and the government will get 11 cents, or 10 percent more.

However, he said, government spending keeps growing as a percent of total income, and that requires higher tax rates — or lots of new taxes. That's what has been happening, he said.

Persian Gulf tops list of summit subjects

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President Bush is returning to Washington for a hectic few days of preparation before his third summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

As aides scrambled to work out logistics and prepare an agenda for the hastily called summit, Bush was concluding a three-week vacation in Maine that he took under the cloud of the Persian Gulf crisis.

He returns to Washington two days after announcing that he would meet with the Soviet leader in Helsinki next Sunday.

Bush spent Sunday hosting his longtime friend, evangelist Billy Graham, at his seaside vacation home. The pair went to two churches for morning services.

"These are rather trying times and right now I would suggest we get our strength from being one nation under God," Bush told the congregation at the First Congregational Church.

Officials said Bush's one-day summit with Gorbachev will likely entail about five hours of talks, focusing on the Persian Gulf crisis. They said the two men would also discuss conventional arms reduction talks between the two nations and regional issues, including Cambodia and Afghanistan.

The president said he was pleased with Soviet cooperation on a number of global issues.

"I think it is important at this juncture that we discuss issues not just as they relate to Europe and try to update where we can on these arms negotiations, but also to discuss the Middle East," the president said.

On the Persian Gulf, one official said of the two superpowers: "We're comparing notes. We would be explaining where we think the situation is, where we would go."

Side meetings between aides are not planned for this summit, the official said, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

South African police forces continue fight

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Security forces were reinforced in black townships today after new factional fighting left at least 25 people dead and a newspaper office bombed.

Police said gangs armed with spears, axes and knives clashed during the weekend in Tokom and Tembisa townships near Johannesburg. Armed men in a minibus shot down residents in the townships on Sunday, the said.

Zulus, who had been attacked, abducted several people and took them to a hostel where they were beaten and killed, police said.

Security forces said they were unable to stop the killings.

"What can you do," one police officer said, who declined to be named. "We're always too late."

Police officials said riot police units and army troops were being sent to beef up security forces in the townships. Elite army battalions were moved into Johannesburg late last month to help police try to end unrest.

The weekend clashes in Johannesburg's townships raised the death toll since Aug. 12 to at least 540, police officials said. The violence came after a week of relative peace.

The fighting appeared to be an attempt to rekindle savage factional battles between Zulus, who are mostly loyal to the conservative Inkatha movement, and Xhosa and other blacks linked to the African National Congress, police said.

Police said they did not know who started the fighting.

Two bombs rocked the office late Sunday of Beeld, a leading pro-government Afrikaans newspaper. A car was damaged and windows shattered, but there were no injuries.

Police said no group claimed responsibility for the attack, but the bombs were made from commercial dynamite. Pro-apartheid right-wing whites have used dynamite in a recent series of bombings to protest government attempts to end white minority rule.

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by
Maurine McLean
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For more information contact:
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