

Wednesday, September 5, 1990

## Officials debate Hussein assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The easiest way for the United States to end the Persian Gulf crisis might be to have Iraq's Saddam Hussein removed — and don't think the idea hasn't occurred in Washington.

But assassinating foreign leaders is prohibited by a 14-year-old presidential directive and, say some experts, is far more difficult than it might seem. Saddam came to power via the assassin's route and since then has survived dozens of plots against his life. He's on guard.

Not surprisingly, no one in the executive branch is publicly embracing Sen. Richard Lugar's formula for dealing with the Iraqi president: "It seems to me important that Saddam Hussein must either leave or be removed."

But neither does President Bush walk away

from the concept. Maybe he simply wants to make his antagonist nervous, but Bush doesn't say. "No, that's a violation of American policy and principle."

Three former directors of the Central Intelligence Agency — Richard Helms, William Colby and Stansfield Turner — reject the idea of a U.S.-sponsored assassination.

"When push comes to shove, Americans don't believe in having America assassinate foreign leaders," Helms said. "They want somebody else to pull the trigger."

Colby said Bush clearly hopes the economic squeeze on Iraq will become so severe that within the country "people will get the idea, we've got to get rid of this guy."

Turner said assassinations offend American morality and can backfire.

"I don't think an American could possibly

kill Saddam Hussein and survive, so you'd end up hiring someone else and who knows what they might do," Turner said. "They might kill 5,000 people to get Hussein. It's a very chancy thing."

Assassination is a much discussed topic in Washington because diplomacy seems to have such a scant chance of getting Iraq out of Kuwait and because the full-blown military alternative could result in the deaths of thousands of Americans and Iraqis on the way to its predictable outcome: the defeat of Saddam's outnumbered, outgunned forces.

Lugar, a solid member of the Republican establishment from Indiana, is not speaking for himself alone when he raises the possibility of Saddam's removal.

Lugar said a week ago that Bush's goal of restoring Kuwait's independence is not

enough if Iraq is left with the ability to produce chemical and possibly nuclear weapons.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger makes much the same point.

"If it should be concluded that sanctions are too uncertain and diplomacy unavailing," he has written, "the United States will need to consider a surgical and progressive destruction of Iraq's military assets — especially since an outcome that leaves Saddam Hussein in place and his military machine unimpaired might turn out to be only an interlude between aggressions."

Bush, asked about Lugar's view, said on Thursday that he had "great respect for Dick Lugar" but added that he had not altered his "publicly stated" objectives.

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## At least 40 killed in S. African riot

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Soldiers fired on thousands of angry blacks Tuesday, and rival gangs fought with axes, knives and spears. At least 40 people were killed in the township violence.

President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela visited black townships near Johannesburg to call for a halt in fighting that has killed more than 550 people since Aug. 12.

The government has imposed emergency restrictions and sent elite army units to the townships, but fighting between Zulu followers of the conservative Inkatha movement and other blacks loyal to the ANC raged for a fourth week.

In Sebokeng, a pre-dawn clash killed four people at a migrant workers' hostel, police said.

About 5,000 township residents angered by the killings gathered at the hostel, police said.

When the mob refused to disperse, army troops were called in and a "shooting incident occurred," police Col. Frans Mal-

**"(The troops) took up position, cocked their guns ... All of a sudden there was shooting. Many of the people ran. Some of the people fell."**

— N. Khumalo, South African newspaper reporter

herbe said.

South African newspaper photographer N. Khumalo told the South African Press Association that "people came toward (the soldiers) waving their hands, saying 'peace, we are not fighting.' Some of them even sat down."

The troops "took up position, cocked their guns — I thought maybe they wanted to scare the people," Khumalo was quoted as saying. "All of a sudden there was shooting. Many of the people ran. Some of the people fell."

## Mandela demands impartial inquiry

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — ANC leader Nelson Mandela called Monday for an independent investigation of police partiality following a judge's "scathing attack" on police actions that left five people dead during a March protest.

"The matter is too important to be given to the police, the very culprit, to investigate," Mandela told a news conference in Soweto.

He and other black leaders have accused police of aiding Zulu backers of the conservative Inkatha movement in township battles with Xhosa and other African National Congress supporters.

Police found 25 bodies over the weekend after clashes erupted following several days of relative quiet. The fighting in the townships near Johannesburg has killed at least 540 people since Aug. 12.

Gangs armed with spears, axes and knives fought in Tokoza and Tembisa townships, and a minibus filled with armed men shot down residents in the townships, police said. Security forces said

they were unable to stop the killings.

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

Authorities reinforced police and soldiers patrolling the townships. Elite army battalions were moved into Johannesburg late last month to help police.

President F.W. de Klerk called Sunday for an investigation of alleged police bias in the recent township violence. De Klerk said he told Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok to conduct "an urgent and in-depth investigation" into charges made by black political and church leaders.

De Klerk and police have repeatedly denied the charges of anti-ANC bias, saying individual police may have acted improperly but that the force as a whole was impartial.

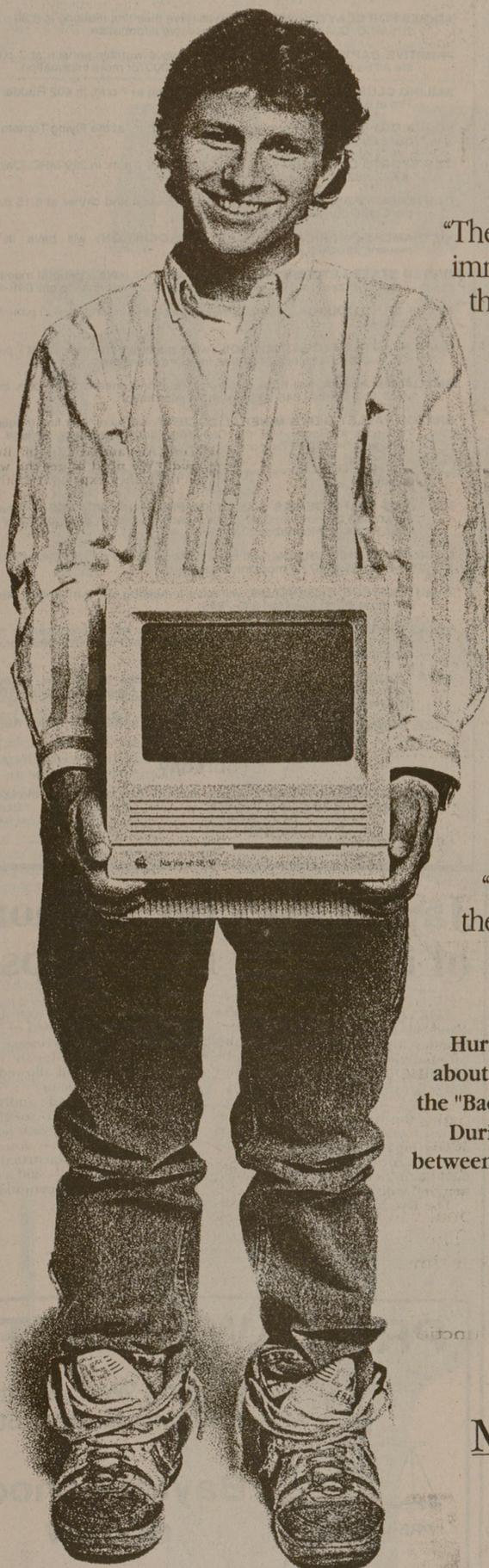
On Saturday, a government inquiry sharply criticized police for firing on demonstrators in the Sebokeng township last March. Five blacks were killed and 156 wounded by gunfire.

Mandela said the Sebokeng report showed the government lacked control over police.

"I think its findings are a very scathing attack on the training of the police," he said. He called for a similar judicial inquiry of police actions in the townships during the recent fighting.

**"The matter is too important to be given to the police, the very culprit, to investigate."**

— Nelson Mandela, ANC leader



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