Soviet crackdown

Latvia forms home guard, boosts defense

RIGA, U.S.S.R. (AP) - Latvia's parliament voted Monday to form a volunteer home guard and authori-ties bolstered defenses at public buildings after Soviet commandos staged a pre-dawn assault that killed re people and wounded 10.

told a news conference in Moscow that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbathey may declare presidential rule in Latvia after meetings with leaders of the Baltic republics.

Supporters of Latvia's pro-independence government reinforced oncrete barricades that protect the immediately.





President Bush (left) urged Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev (right) to resist the use of violence in Latvia.

Parliamentarian Anatoly Denisov front of the parliament in Riga, the capital. They propped sandbags in front of the building's windows.

Parliament, meeting in emergency session, approved a decree calling on the government to establish a self-defense unit of draft-age volunteers. The decree takes effect

would resemble the ragtag group that holed up in the parliament building of the neighboring Baltic republic of Lithuania following a Jan. 13 assault on a broadcast station there. Fourteen people were killed in that attack.

U.S. officials have been critical of the crackdown in the Baltics. Speaking to reporters in Washington, President Bush said Monday, "I would again appeal to the Soviet leaders to resist using force.'

The United States has never recognized the forcible incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia into the Soviet Union in 1940. The Baltic republics were independent states

between the two world wars. The Kremlin has been pressuring the Baltics to nullify the independence declarations passed last year by their democratically elected parliaments. Pro-Soviet factions in the republics have urged direct rule by

Gorbachev abandons democracy, Yeltsin says

ing democracy, and called for an inrior ministers for the military crackdown in the Baltic republics.

the Kremlin had veered from its peaceful course in favor of "violence"

More deaths occurred Sunday night in Riga, capital of neighboring to replace constitutional organs, Yeltsin said.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Military analysts say

allied air attacks must still take out Iraqi roads,

supply depots, communications links, missiles

and anti-aircraft sites before a land war can be

And that may not happen until February,

against Saddam Hussein's entrenched forces.

Gorbachev has amassed so much power, he said, "you can't speak

Yeltsin spoke one day after participants opposing Gorbachev chanted "resign" in the largest political rally in Moscow in at least a year. Many accused Gorbachev, the 1990 Nobel

Latvia, when elite Soviet interior ministry troops attacked the repub-lic's Interior Ministry building, kill-ing five people and wounding 10. Yeltsin and Gorbachev have clashed frequently on economic is-

sues, but in recent days the Russian leader has expanded his criticism to

U.S. planes provide cover for rescuers saving pilot

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — In a daring dash into enemy territory, a U.S. Air Force rescue mission plucked a downed Navy pilot from the Iraqi desert Monday and flew him back to safety, military officials said.

Air Force search-and-rescue helicopter picked up the A-6 "Intruder" pilot shortly after two A-10 ground support bombers strafed an Iraqi army truck headed straight toward the air-

man, Air Force officers said.
"We could not allow him (the we could not allow him (the truck) to be there," said Capt. Randy Goff, one of the A-10 "Warthog" pilots. "We couldn't take the risk."

Military officials did not release the identity of the rescued

They said he ejected into a featureless expanse of the desert af-ter being hit by ground fire while taking part in the bombing of

Iraq.
Goff, 26, from Jackson, Ohio, and Capt. Paul Johnson, 32, of Dresden, Tenn., members of the 354th Tactical Fighter Wing from Myrtle Beach, S.C., spent more than eight hours in the air, refueling four times as they located the Navy pilot around midday

and talked to him over the radio. A plan was formed to bring in the rescue helicopter.

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MOSCOW (AP) — Russian president Boris Yeltsin accused Mikhail Gorbachev on Monday of abandonvestigation of the defense and inte-

Yeltsin, a frequent Gorbachev

waged with minimal losses.

about any democracy.

Analyst calls overland attack 'loser' "At the present time, I would say there are probably some of the most formidable defenses that you could ever run into anywhere," Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf III, the U.S. field com-

mander in the Persian Gulf, said Sunday. Dr. William Taylor, a senior military analyst with the private Center for Strategic and Inter-national Studies, said, "I'm assuming we won't take on a suicidal mission pitting our weaknesses While not predicting when a ground campaign will begin, the U.S. military acknowledges it can be launched only after extensive air strikes against their strength. Attacking overland is a

Iraq has the fourth largest army in the world, with 545,000 troops deeply entrenched across the rugged Kuwaiti and southern Iraqi land-

"After the Soviets, fighting Iraq has always been the worst case scenario," said one military

Taylor's center has estimated that a 20-day land campaign would produce 20,000 allied casualties, including 4,000 deaths.

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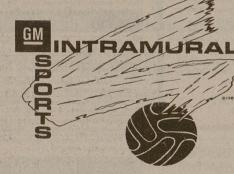
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