

# World & Nation

Tuesday, April 30, 1991

The Battalion

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## De Klerk fears civil war

### Continued violence 'polarizes' country, president says

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President F.W. de Klerk said Monday violence in black townships could lead the country to civil war, and he made an emotional appeal for black leaders to join him for peace talks.

As de Klerk spoke to Parliament in Cape Town, police searched townships outside Johannesburg for more victims of weekend clashes that killed at least 43 people. Two more people died in Natal Province.

"We can't go on like this," de Klerk said. "This approach and culture of violence leads to polarization which may land us in a civil war."

He criticized the African National Congress, the main black opposition group, for giving him a May 9 deadline to curb vio-

lence but welcomed the ANC's "cry for peace."

"It is also a cry from my heart," he said. "Therefore, I renew my invitation to the ANC to discussions with the government."

De Klerk asked ANC leader Nelson Mandela and the leader of the rival Inkatha Freedom Party, Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to meet with him immediately to discuss the violence. Most township unrest pits supporters of the ANC against Inkatha backers.

De Klerk also repeated his appeals for political, church and academic leaders to participate in a May 24-25 peace summit. "We need a massive effort by all the various leaders of our society. The time has come for them to speak up in public."

The ANC has denounced the peace summit as a government ploy to win international support and divert attention from other issues, and it says it will not attend. Inkatha plans to take part.

De Klerk did not address the ANC's Tuesday deadline for the government to free political prisoners. The two sides agreed in August that political prisoners should be released by April 30.

The ANC Youth League said thousands "continued to languish" behind bars Monday night. It threatened sit-ins, pickets and demonstrations across the country to press its demands.

The government insists it is adhering to terms of the August agreement.

On Saturday, the ANC ac-

cused security forces of siding with Inkatha in township unrest and said the deadline was firm. It also said it had evidence of an organized campaign to eliminate ANC leaders in the days leading up to May 9.

Buthelezi made his own allegations Monday of a plot against Inkatha leaders. He also said he was warned the ANC planned to kidnap and kill two of his children.

Neither side gave specifics on where their evidence came from.

In the Johannesburg townships of Soweto and Alexandra, 43 people died over the weekend, police said Monday.

Twenty-two people were slain in Soweto after a funeral Sunday for an Inkatha member, and 21 died in various clashes in Alexandra.

## 'Straight-out bandits'

### Allies demand Kurdish guerrillas to stop extortion of money at refugee checkpoints

ZAKHO, Iraq (AP) — Allied forces have demanded that Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas stop extorting money from Kurdish refugees and allow them to return to their homes, senior U.S. officers said Monday.

Since Allied forces entered northern Iraq, some of the Kurdish guerrillas, known as pesh marga, have blocked the refugees' return out of fear for their safety. Others have used the opportunity to charge tolls, stopping the refugees at checkpoints and demanding payment for passing through.

Col. Jim Jones, the highest-ranking U.S. Marine Corps officer in northern Iraq, said U.S. patrols have been sent to some of the more notorious checkpoints "to tell them to knock that stuff off."

"It's immoral and it's got to stop," Jones said. "They're straight-out bandits."

The Kurdish rebels agreed to the demands, U.S. officials said.

In southern Iraq, the U.S. Army airlifted more refugees to Saudi Arabia, in an operation that is a prelude to the U.S. troops' own departure. The airlift is expected to take about a week.

In wide-ranging interviews on the huge Allied effort in the north to aid the Kurds, senior American commanders also said the military hopes to clear the Turkish border of primitive refugee camps by June 1. By then, water will be in short supply in the hills.

About 800,000 Kurds arrived at the Turkish border this month, fleeing Saddam Hussein's postwar crackdown on their rebellion. Allied military officials are building camps for them in northern Iraq.

The first Kurdish family arrived Monday in the camp built outside Zakho. They joined 576 Kurdish men already there.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jay Garner, who commands the

military operation in northern Iraq, said he expected refugees to start arriving in large numbers in the next few days.

U.S., French, Dutch and British officials met Monday with about a dozen Iraqi Kurdish rebel leaders to tell them to stop preventing the refugees from returning home.

After the meeting, the most senior of the Kurdish leaders, who goes by the name of General Ali, was taken to one checkpoint by a U.S. helicopter. He told his men to let Kurdish refugees pass by.

In addition, the officers said Allied forces told Kurdish guerrillas that they will not tolerate violence either in the camps or in cities within the Allied security zone in northern Iraq.

The United Nations said Monday it was sending a convoy carrying personnel and supplies to Zakho on Tuesday, in a first step toward assuming control of the Allied camps.

## Former presidents endorse Brady Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Presidents Carter and Ford have endorsed a bill pending in Congress requiring a seven-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns, a supporter of the measure said Sunday.



Jimmy Carter

"Every living past president has endorsed the Brady Bill," Rep. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

Former Presidents Reagan and Nixon previously said they supported the measure, named for former White House press secretary Jim Brady, who was permanently disabled during an attempt to assassinate Reagan 10 years ago.

Schumer's office released copies of nearly identical letters from Carter and Ford. Ford's letter was dated April 18 and Carter's April 26. They differed only in minor details of wording.

Both said: "I know the waiting period legislation has been modified and refined over the years as legitimate concerns have been raised, and that (the Brady measure) reflects the years of serious debate and discussion accorded the bill."

The bill is expected to be debated in the House during the week beginning May 6.

"It's neck and neck," Schumer said. "I would predict if the vote were held today, it would win or lose by no more than four votes. It's that close."

## Hardware problems hinder shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The astronauts aboard Discovery observed eerie waves of light above the horizon in a "Star Wars" experiment Monday, and ground controllers struggled to fix data recorders needed for other tests.

Six experiments were canceled as a result of the recorder trouble, and the Defense Department expected to lose more data if the problem is not resolved by the end of the eight-day flight.

NASA flight directors and Pentagon officials insisted the mission would not be harmed by the loss of what they termed "secondary experiments." Nonetheless, there was disappointment.

"From our view, everything is important," said Air Force Capt. Marty Hauser, a Pentagon spokesman.

The seven astronauts tried four times to activate the two recorders before turning their attention to instruments unaffected by the failure. Engineers

on the ground continued to work on the problem.

Three of five scientific instruments that constitute one of Discovery's primary payloads — valued altogether at \$160 million — are hampered by the recorder problem. The instrument considered most important by the military has its own recorders, which successfully collected data Monday on atmospheric light, or aurora.

At one point, the astronauts beamed down black-and-white television images of light rippling off the atmosphere as they flew over the Pacific Ocean near Australia. Later, they sent back a videotaped scene of a halo shimmering for thousands of miles along the horizon with the constellation Orion in the background. "Pretty spectacular," Mission Control's Kathy Thornton said.

The crew also took pictures of a rapid-fire sequence of steering jet blasts, which they captured on film with ultraviolet cameras.

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