

# INTERNATIONAL

Tuesday, October 5, 1993

THE BATTALION

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## Pentagon sends in 'heavy armor' after latest Somali attack kills 12

U.S. helicopter pilot captured, possibly others after fiercest fighting since Gulf War

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon ordered fresh infantry and top-of-the-line tanks to Somalia Monday to bolster U.S. forces after at least 12 Americans were killed, 75 wounded and others feared captured in the fiercest fighting since the mission began.

The casualties, inflicted by the forces of warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid, were the most for the United States in such a short period since the Persian Gulf War. The battle began late Sunday and stretched into Monday.

On Capitol Hill, some lawmakers called for a U.S. withdrawal, but President Clinton insisted American forces would remain until order was restored.

Reinforcements were being sent, he said, because "I'm not satisfied that the folks that are there now have the protection that they need."

Disturbing pictures of dead and captured American soldiers filtered back from Mogadishu. Television footage showed a frightened, wounded soldier being questioned by his captors — prompting a warning from Defense Secretary Les Aspin that he should be treated humanely.

"We will respond forcefully if any harm comes to those who are being detained," Aspin said heatedly. If any U.S. soldiers are mistreated, he said, "the United States will view this very gravely and take appropriate action."

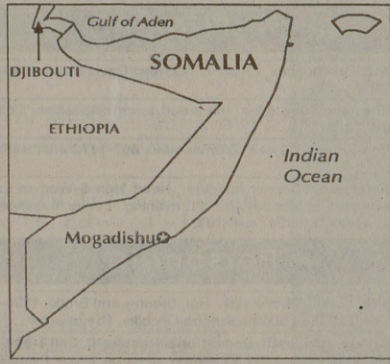
Pentagon officials declined to specify the number it believes are being held.

The captured soldier identified himself as Army Chief Warrant Officer Mike Durant, a Blackhawk helicopter pilot. The Pentagon said his unit was based at Fort Campbell, Ky.

A gruesome photograph showed cheering Somalis dragging by rope the body of an unidentified American through the streets.

Aspin announced at the Pentagon that a mechanized company of Army soldiers with an armored platoon was being dispatched to Mogadishu to reinforce the U.S. force there.

The Army company will be equipped with heavy armor, including four M1-A1 battle tanks and 14 Bradley fighting vehicles, which are armored troop carriers, Aspin said. A company-size unit usually consists of more



Jennifer Petteway/THE BATTALION

than 200 troops.

Aspin said the Pentagon also was sending two AC-130 gunships, replacement helicopters and 200 other troops. He did not say exactly how many more U.S. troops would be in Mogadishu as a result of the deployments he described.

## Professor: Russia was bound for showdown

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

The turbulent uprising and ensuing violence that took place in Russia over the past week was inevitable, said experts in foreign policy Monday at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Betty M. Unterberger, professor of history, said, "Given the split between Yeltsin and Rutskoi, there was bound to be a showdown at some point."

"It is wonderful that Yeltsin has been able to hold his own, it was not his deliberate effort for bloodshed. Yeltsin has handled this in an artful and shrewd way."

Unterberger said it is very gratifying that all of the government military forces and outlying countries stayed behind Yeltsin.

Anthony T. Gadzey, an assistant professor of political science,

said because Yeltsin has been trying to negotiate with members of the old regime, the siege was unavoidable.

"The people are not fighting for ideological warfare but for survival, they are trying to do everything to return to the status quo," he said.

He said other countries have been putting too much pressure on Yeltsin.

"I think Yeltsin needs to slow down the pace of reform so it's not so quick and painful for the people," he said.

Last week, Russian President Boris Yeltsin dissolved parliament, fired vice president Alexander Rutskoi and called for new elections Sept. 21.

In reaction to Yeltsin's decision, Parliament defiantly declared Rutskoi acting president.

Demonstrators took to the

streets of Moscow, divided in support for hard-liner Rutskoi and reformist Yeltsin. In what has been considered the worst political violence in Moscow since the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, thousands of anti-government protesters broke through troops, besieged the Parliament building and attacked Yeltsin supporters.

The situation was resolved Monday when Rutskoi, Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and hundreds of parliament members surrendered. Rutskoi and Khasbulatov gave up after being promised government protection.

As for the future of Russia, Unterberger said the fighting is not over.

"I think it will be several days before there is a mop-up," she said.

## Russia

Continued from Page 1

He struck back just after dawn Monday with the assault on the parliament building.

"All that was and still is going on in Moscow — was an armed revolt planned in advance," he said on nationwide television.

"It was organized by Communists seeking revenge, by fascist leaders and some of the former lawmakers. ... There can be no forgiveness, because they lifted their hand against peaceful people" in Sunday's rioting.

Authorities had no firm figures on casualties from the 10-hour battle at the White House, but soldiers stacked dozens of bodies outside the building.

Russian television reported that Sunday's battle at the TV complex alone left 62 dead and 400 wounded.

Yeltsin at first told Russians and the world he would not to use force to break the deadlock with the Soviet-era parliament reforms. He changed course after the hard-liners rioted Sunday and tried to seize the television center.

The army struck the White House with deliberate and overwhelming force at 7 a.m. At least 10 heavy battle tanks, seven light tanks and 25 armored personnel carriers fired on the building while paratroopers and commandos stormed into the lower floors.

Papers floated out of windows shattered by explosions, and flames and thick clouds of black smoke soon gushed from several parts of the building.

The heavy boom of the tank attack could be heard throughout central Moscow, and many residents stayed home to watch live television reports on the assault. Hundreds of others rushed to the scene for a first-hand glimpse or scoop up battle souvenirs.

Soldiers and civilian medical personnel dragged dead and wounded away from parliament while machine guns blasted from a neighboring hotel and apartment house.

A U.S. Marine was hit in the neck by a sniper bullet at the American Embassy, across the street from the White House. He was in stable condition after surgery. About 400 embassy employees took shelter underground.

## INDIA EARTHQUAKE

### Toddler survives four days in rubble

The Associated Press

KILLARI, India — Soldiers digging for the body of a toddler in the rubble of her home found her alive Monday, four days after she was buried by the earthquake that leveled her village.

Eighteen-month-old Priyanka Javalge was found under a cot buried by heavy stones from the house that crashed down around her. The frail, wide-eyed little girl was conscious but dehydrated.

"By all logical thinking, she should have died," said Lt. Col. Anuj Kumar Ghosh, an army doctor who treated her. "It is nothing but a miracle."

Unofficial estimates of the death toll from Thursday's earthquake in southwest India range as high as 30,000. Authorities say they have identified 10,000 victims so far.

"We do not have a final figure yet," Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said Monday, after touring quake-stricken villages. "I hope to God it is not what is being reported."

The earthquake destroyed all but a few buildings in Manglur, the village where Priyanka's family lived. Her parents escaped with cuts and bruises.

On the night of the quake, Priyanka was lying on the floor, and apparently rolled under the cot where her parents were sleeping.

She was trapped there until her father, Venkat Javalge, returned to the village from the hospital on Monday. The 30-year-old farmer asked soldiers to help him look for his daughter's body in the wreckage of his home.

"I didn't know whether to believe it or not when the soldiers said Priyanka is alive," said her 30-year-old father, Venkat Javalge, who is a farmer.

Troops rushed Priyanka to an army infirmary in Killari, five miles away, where doctors gave her oxygen.

"We felt great," said Lt. Col. Vinod Aurora, after pronouncing the toddler in stable condition. "It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We may never see such a miracle in our careers again."

Javalge, his eyes brimming with tears, clutched Priyanka to his chest and mumbled, "Thank you, doctor sahib," as an army jeep carried father and daughter to a hospital for further care.

Three babies were found alive amid wreckage on Saturday, two days after the earthquake.

Prime Minister Rao toured the quake region Monday and was besieged by survivors demanding new houses. "Please make arrangements for our housing," said Niralya Bhosle, who lost his brother and sister-in-law in the earthquake. "We are all sleeping in the open now."

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