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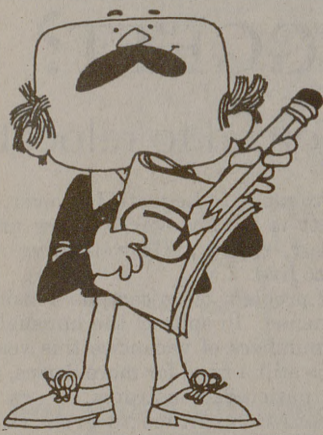
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# Mubarak predicts tougher Afghanistan

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak predicted Wednesday that Gaza and the West Bank could turn into "a new, tougher Afghanistan" unless international aid quickly reaches the autonomous Palestinian territories.

In an interview with The Associated Press and APTV, Mubarak said the violence could spread to Europe if the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank "don't start feeling the results of peace."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Tuesday only about 6 percent of the \$690 million promised by donors for the year starting in May had been received.

Mubarak said the \$2.2 billion in aid pledged overall to the Palestinians, including \$500 million from the United States over five years, is "nonsense when you compare it with the money spent" in the Middle East in nearly 50 years of warfare.

Israel and Egypt are perennially the largest recipients of U.S. foreign aid. This year's pledge was \$3 billion for Israel and \$2.1 billion for Egypt.

But the Republicans are taking over Con-

gress and Sen. Jesse Helms, incoming chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has always voted against foreign aid bills.

In other comments, Mubarak said it is not yet time to lift U.N. sanctions on Iraq and that most Arab leaders do not trust Iraqi

Ittihadia Palace, Mubarak blamed bureaucracy by Western donor nations for the delay in aid to the Palestinians.

He said that if lack of aid prevents development in the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip and West Bank, "it will be a failure to the whole (peace) process in the Middle East."

"Terrorism will be violent. It will be tough. Palestine will be a new, tougher Afghanistan," he said. "The whole area, including the Europeans, the Arabs, everyone will be affected."

Mubarak said President Hafez Assad of Syria "wants to conclude a peace agreement" but that Assad must lay the groundwork for peace.

"I hope something could be concluded before June next year," he said, "before the campaigns for the elections in Israel and the United States."

In discussing Iraq, Mubarak said the Iraqi people were the main victims of economic sanctions, but said sanctions should remain in effect until Iraq implements a U.N. Security Council demands that green out of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

**"Terrorism will be violent. It will be tough. Palestine will be a new, tougher Afghanistan. The whole area, including the Europeans, the Arabs, everyone will be affected."**

*Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak*

President Saddam Hussein.

He expressed hope that peace between Israel and Syria will be reached by June, and said so-called Islamic fundamentalists "have no idea about" Islam and use it as an excuse for common crime.

Mubarak said delays in aid to Palestinians made the West Bank and Gaza "fertile ground for Hamas and the Jihad."

Speaking in an ornate reception room of

# Vatican pressures Aristide to leave priesthood

Haitian president presumed to have left because of recent friction with church

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the slum priest whose fiery championship of the poor often pitted him against dictators and his Roman Catholic superiors, is leaving the priesthood.

The Vatican, long at odds with the populist priest, pressured Aristide to resign, a church source said Wednesday. Two government officials, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed Aristide would leave the priesthood.

There was no immediate comment by Aristide or specific reason given for his departure.

He spent the day meeting with Haitian business leaders and Oscar Arias Sanchez, the former president of Costa Rica who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987.

At a news conference, Arias urged Haitians to follow his country's model and abolish the army, which has been blamed for

condoning thousands of political killings in the last three years.

"I believe that the abolition of the Haitian army is an idea whose time has come," Arias said. Costa Rica, the most stable country in Central America, disbanded its armed forces in 1948.

Aristide's withdrawal from the priesthood is not likely to hurt his support among Haiti's poor, many of whom associated the conservative church hierarchy with the old military regime.

Aristide spokesman Yvon Neptune acknowledged there had recently been friction with the church.

"The Catholic hierarchy... was uncomfortable with the president being a lay authority and at the same time a priest who should be working for the Holy See," Neptune said.

The Salesian order expelled Aristide in 1988, saying his lib-

eration theology teachings were inciting class war. The Vatican never formally defrocked him, but sources say Aristide is now being pressured by Rome to relinquish his collar.

Aristide, who swept U.N.-supervised elections four years ago, returned to Haiti on Oct. 15 after three years in exile following a September 1991 military coup. Thousands of U.S. soldiers came to the Caribbean nation to help restore his government.

The church official, who requested anonymity, said Aristide would send a letter of resignation to the Vatican, but he did not say when. Aristide decided it would be better for predominantly Catholic Haiti if he resigned because the Vatican is so influential, the official said.

Years ago, Aristide attacked the Catholic hierarchy in Haiti as part of the privileged class that misruled it, calling the bishops "Macoutes" in a reference to the former Duvalier family dynasty's deadly militia.

Aristide has appeared more

moderate since returning to Haiti, repeatedly calling for unity and reconciliation.

Although Aristide's priestly mystique has gained him support, some of his backers said they would not be troubled by his resignation.

"Aristide is a statesman. The most important dimension of the man today is not the religious, is the political," said Gerard Pierre-Charles, a leader of the grass-roots Lavalas political group loyal to Aristide.

Meanwhile, the death toll from Tropical Storm Gordon, which lashed Haiti with heavy rains and flooding early Monday, continued to rise.

Tropic FM reported 114 dead in Leogane, about 20 miles west of the capital, Port-au-Prince. Radio Signal FM reported 400 dead overall, although government officials said they had no overall count because of poor communications.



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