

THE BATTALION

Hamas threaten attacks after Israel fired missile

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Islamic militant group Hamas threatened new attacks Monday after Israel fired a missile into a crowded Gaza street and killed 11 Palestinians. The United States said it was "deeply troubled" by the raid in which three other Palestinians died and 110 were wounded.

Israeli said its troops were searching for Hamas militants when they raided Khan Younis with 40 tanks backed by helicopters shortly after midnight Monday. Most of the dead fell victim to a missile fired into a crowd. The Palestinians said they were civilians. Israel said most were fighters killed in battle.

“Everyone should know that as our people were not safe in Khan Younis, so Israelis will not be safe in Tel Aviv,” said Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader. “We will strike everywhere.”

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher couched U.S. criticism of the operation with a restatement of American support for Israel’s right to self-defense.

“We’re deeply troubled by the reports of Israeli actions in Gaza over the weekend,” he said, while adding: “We’ve always respected Israel’s right to defend itself, including going after armed groups and armed men in some of these areas.”

Javier Solana, the European Union’s visiting foreign policy chief, said he was shocked by the number of casualties.

Board formed to assess dispute draining economy

Taft-Hartley’s role in port disputes

The Taft-Hartley Act would order workers back on the job during an 80-day cooling off period. Since its creation in 1947, it has been invoked 11 times in coast-wide disputes.

Year	Coast	Strike after Injunction
1948	All coasts	Yes
1948	Atlantic	Yes
1953	Atlantic	Yes
1956	Atlantic/Gulf	No
1959	Atlantic/Gulf	No
1961	All coasts	Yes
1962	Atlantic/Gulf	Yes
1962	Pacific	No
1964	Atlantic/Gulf	Yes
1967	Pacific	No
1971	All coasts	No

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hours after talks broke down between West Coast port workers and shipping lines, President Bush took a first step toward ordering longshoremen back onto the job Monday. Bush formed a board of inquiry to determine the impact of a dispute draining up to \$2 billion a day from the U.S. economy.

The board will make a quick assessment of the economic damage and determine whether the two sides are negotiating in good faith. Its formation was required before the president can order an 80-day cooling-off period that would force longshoremen back to work. Bush has not decided whether to take that step, said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

Bush signed an executive order stating that “continuation of this lockout will imperil the national health and safety” and forming the panel, which must report back to the administration by Tuesday.

“Clearly, the longer this goes

on, the longer the parties are incapable of reaching an agreement between themselves, the more damage it’s doing to America’s economy and hurting people who are wholly unrelated to events on the West Coast because they work down the assembly line, they’re down the production line or the shipment line, and that’s not fair,” Fleischer said.

According to Robert Parry, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, the lockout is sapping \$2 billion a day from the economy.

The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping companies and terminal operators, has locked out 10,500 members of the longshoremen’s union, claiming the dockworkers engaged in a slow-down late last month.

The association ordered the lockout until the union agrees to extend a contract that expired July 1. The main issues are pensions and other benefits and whether jobs created by new technology will be unionized.

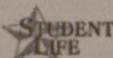
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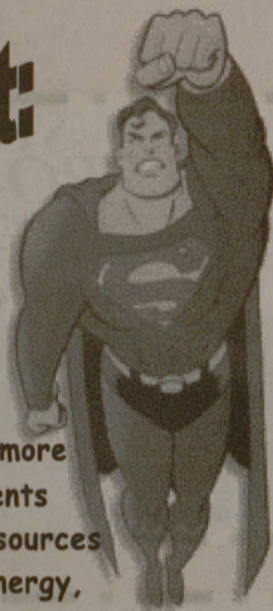
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