

Noriega agents arrest activists prior to rally

PANAMA CITY, Panama — The government arrested 10 people in a crackdown on opposition activists Thursday just prior to a planned rally against Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's military strongman.

Panama's attorney general, Carlos A. Villalaz, said at a news conference that the people arrested had been planning a three-day campaign of violence that he claimed may have included tampering with two locks at the Panama Canal.

Among those arrested by government security agents Thursday was Enrique Marquez, president-elect of the Panama Canal Society of Professional Engineers.

The society issued a statement calling the arrest "one more proof of the constant violation of human rights by the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama."

Villalaz said other arrests were planned. Meanwhile, the U.S. Southern Command on

Thursday urged U.S. servicemen and their dependents in Panama to stay out of public places where demonstrations might occur.

Noriega is the chief of the country's defense forces and the power behind the government.

The crackdown on the apparently renewed activism against his rule came as a U.S. State Department official was reported to be meeting drug-trafficking charges in the United States.

Michael Kozak, an aide to Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, returned to Panama this week for the second time in two weeks, said a source in Washington who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Reagan administration officials reportedly have been seeking more subtle ways to get Noriega to step down after failing to dislodge the general with sweeping economic sanctions. The sanctions have created a severe cash shortage in Panama.

On Thursday, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater suggested the Reagan administration would be satisfied if Noriega resigns as head of the country's military forces. Previously, U.S. officials insisted that Noriega leave Panama.

None of the people arrested Thursday were leaders of the National Civic Crusade, which has organized protests against Noriega since June.

Villalaz had said earlier that the arrest order applied to 35 directors of the Civic Crusade, plus an unspecified number of neighborhood leaders of the planned demonstration.

Villalaz said arrests were made after intelligence agents uncovered an opposition plan that "constituted a movement aimed at carrying out acts of violence" beginning Thursday.

Weapons, documents describing how to make firebombs and documents describing the workings of the Pedro Miguel and Miraflores

locks of the Panama Canal were found during raids Thursday, Villalaz said.

Opposition activists want "to find a formula through which the functioning of the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel locks will be affected," he said.

Agents raided the offices of the Panama Industrial Association, the Panamanian Odontological Association and the National Medical Commission. All three organizations complained the raids were carried out without proper warrants.

Efforts to reach opposition leaders for comment were not immediately successful. Many have been in hiding since their headquarters in a Panama city hotel was raided March 28 after a protest and more than 40 people were arrested.

The Civic Crusade has been unable to attract enough support for a major protest since the March rally was smashed by riot police.

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Strike closes down occupied territories

JERUSALEM — Bakers and street vendors joined a protest strike Thursday that virtually closed down the occupied territories and Arab east Jerusalem. Israeli army gunfire wounded two Palestinians.

The strike coincided with declarations by Israeli authorities that the 5-month-old rebellion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip had begun to ebb.

Underground Palestinian leaders called the strike in a bulletin issued last week, and it appeared to be as widespread as dozens of others since the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied lands began what even the Israelis now call the "intefadah" —

the uprising. Arab reporters said bakers and street vendors, who usually operate during strikes, joined this one in most areas.

In Hebron on the West Bank, about 100 young Palestinians set tires ablaze in front of the municipal building and shouted for the resignation of Mayor Abdel Majid Zir, Arab witnesses said. Zir was appointed by Israel.

A 20-year-old protestor, Raed Shuhke, was wounded by gunfire when Israeli troops dispersed the crowd with tear gas, rubber bullets

and live ammunition, the witnesses said.

Dozens of Arabs blocked the road to Ebween, a village near Ramallah with rocks and burning tires, then threw stones at Israeli soldiers who arrived in three jeeps, a villager reported.

The villager, who would not give his name, said a 23-year-old man was shot. He spoke to a reporter at Ramallah Hospital, where the victim was being treated for a gunshot wound in the right leg.

Army spokesmen confirmed a protestor was wounded in Hebron and

another near Ramallah, but said it was under investigation.

Hundreds of Palestinians have been wounded since the violence began Dec. 8. At least 174 have been killed, and an Israeli soldier and Jewish settler also have been slain.

Israel radio said the army bulldozed an orange grove outside Bethlehem after a jeep skidded off a nearby road on which Palestinians had spread oil.

Soldiers followed footprints from the road to the orange grove, the radio said.

Corrections

In "'Visions for the Future' conference is next month," (DN April 27) the price of the conference was incorrect.

The cost is \$25 with lunch and \$14 without.

In "Hospice volunteers learn from patients," (DN April 25) Jenny Cardwell's quote that the Tabitha Hospice program is not Medicare was incorrect. She said it is not Medical care.

The forum on women's issues, (DN April 28) was at First Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D streets.

Veterans group opposes Fonda visit

A group of Nebraska veterans say they oppose a visit by Jane Fonda to the Grand Island museum that's home to the house where her father was born.

The county veterans Service Officers Association unanimously passed a resolution at their recent meeting, saying that Miss Fonda "betrayed her country by visiting Hanoi" during the Vietnam War. The 90-some members of the group said they opposed her participation in any ceremony in

Nebraska.


Jack Learned, director of the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer in Grand Island, said he had asked Miss Fonda, her brother Peter, and other family members to come to the museum for a "family day," perhaps on May 17, the late Henry Fonda's birthday.

However, the Fondas each have commitments and Learned said he doesn't know when or if they will come to Grand Island.

Learned said he wanted the family members to become acquainted with the museum and how the museum was administering the family's \$50,000 endowment maintaining the cottage where Fonda was born.

Joseph Ballweg, Adams County veterans service officer, introduced the resolution to oppose Fonda's visit to the statewide organization.

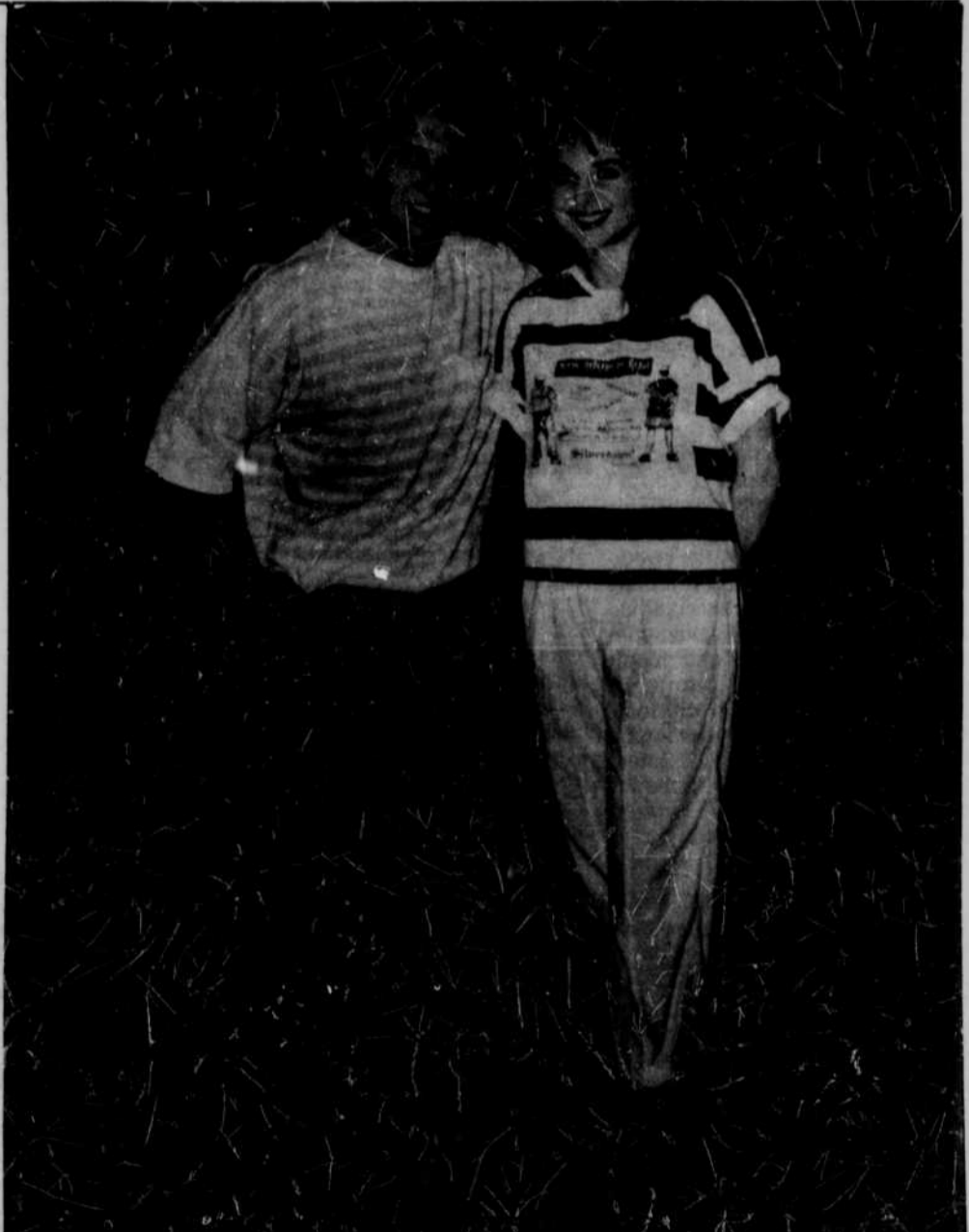
"I happen to be a Vietnam veteran. ... I didn't care for what she did," he said.

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