

Thousands of Iraqis protest U.S. sanction vote

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Tens of thousands of Iraqis paraded past the U.S. Embassy on Sunday to denounce a U.S. Senate call for sanctions in response to Iraq's alleged use of poison gas against Kurdish rebels.

"U.S.A., Shame, Shame," the protesters chanted in English as they marched past the embassy. Members of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party exhorted them through loudspeakers.

"We will never forget U.S. evil," read one banner. "No to intervention in our affairs," read another in both Arabic and English.

"Down with the U.S. Knesset," said another banner, referring to close U.S. ties with Israel, whose parliament is called the Knesset.

About 20,000 marchers filed past

the embassy for two hours.

The crowd was orderly, even cheerful, and there was no apparent threat to the embassy. One ranking U.S. diplomat stood on the sidewalk a few feet from the march and watched it move by.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said in a statement Sunday that the U.S. Senate "aims to divert the attention of the international media from the uprising in the occupied territories."

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza strip have been rioting against Israel's military occupation for the past nine months.

Saddam said the fighting with the Kurdish "insurgents" lasted at most two days and no serious battles were involved. He reiterated the charge

that the tens of thousand of Kurds who fled across the Iraqi border to Turkey and Iran were forced by Kurdish rebels, who were seeking publicity for their cause.

Kurdish rebels said that as many as 60,000 Iraqi troops attacked their positions in the northern mountains after the Aug. 20 cease-fire with Iran in the eight-year gulf war. The rebels of the Kurdish Democratic Party said 2,000 Kurdish civilians were killed and 5,000 wounded, many in chemical weapon attacks.

The U.S. Senate voted Friday to demand economic sanctions against Iraq after Secretary of State George Shultz declared that Iraq used chemical weapons, outlawed under a 1925 Geneva treaty, against its northern Kurdish population.

The measure, still before the House, would have to be signed by

President Reagan before taking effect. It was designed to make it difficult for Iraq to obtain international credit to pay off its estimated \$60 billion war debt.

Well before the latest Iraqi assault on the Kurds, a number of United Nations investigations concluded that Iraq — and to a lesser extent, Iran — had engaged in chemical warfare since 1984.

"Let the American Knesset and its masters understand that Iraq is not a country that can be subject to threats. Iraq, which seeks sincere and honorable relations with all, is ready to spit on all insincere approaches," said an

editorial in Al-Thawra, urging Iraqis to take to the streets.

It was not signed, but it carried the tag line often used by President Saddam Hussein himself: "To hell with the villains."

The army newspaper Al-Qadisiyah denounced the Senate vote with banner headlines.

The attacks were the strongest on the United States since the two countries restored relations in 1984. They were severed after the United States supported Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Newspapers in neighboring Kuwait also attacked the Senate vote. Editorials in pro-government papers said the U.S. campaign was inspired by the "Zionist lobby" in the United States.

Karnes backs open markets, Kerrey wants stablized prices for farmers

OMAHA — Increased exports and worldwide elimination of farm subsidies are the keys to strong American agriculture, said U.S. Sen. David Karnes, the Republican candidate for the seat he holds.

But his opponent, Democrat Bob Kerrey, said the United States should work to stabilize prices for farmers.

"We're not going to browbeat the Europeans into changing their philosophy (of helping farmers)," Kerrey said. "We can work with them to reduce subsidies, because that's what we all want, but what are we really trying to do? Just get government out of agriculture?"

Karnes argued in a recent interview that American agriculture produces crops at the lowest cost.

"If we can open up the markets overseas, American agriculture will prosper. Free trade is the answer," Karnes said.

The United States has proposed that the European Economic Community and other countries in the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade group eliminate all farm subsidies in 10 years and turn the world agriculture market into a free market.

The EEC has said it would like to reduce subsidies and lower some trade barriers, but not eliminate them.

Karnes said he opposes unilateral elimination of subsidies.

Karnes also said the 1990 farm bill should include provisions for what he called "modified decoupling," an idea also proposed by Sens. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., and David Boren, D-Okla.

"We can do this unilaterally, move toward free trade and not hurt our farmers," Karnes said.

Modified decoupling would divorce farm subsidies from production requirements, allowing farmers to respond to the marketplace and produce as much of any crop as they want, Karnes said.

Over five years, farm subsidies based on the current set-aside program would be reduced to half of the 1990 level, Karnes said.

"It lets free trade work, while providing a safety net for farmers with no strings attached," Karnes said.

Kerrey said he favors staying with the basics outlined in the 1985 farm bill, which is designed to gradually reduce subsidies.

"We've got a drought that's driven the price up, inventory is going down," he said. "We're in a position now that if we don't do something crazy, this budding recovery can bloom."

"The danger of decoupling is that five years down the line and government is out of agriculture, American farmers will then be competing against the European government," Kerrey said.

American agriculture needs more than a sound farm bill, Kerrey said. It also needs rural development, aid for the economies of developing countries so they can afford American products, conservation and reasonable rates of interest and inflation, he said.

Gunmen stage massacre during church service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Men armed with guns and machetes burst into the church of a militant Roman Catholic priest Sunday and killed at least three parishioners, wounded 60 and burned down the building, witnesses and news reports said.

Police stood near the church but none came to the rescue, witnesses said. After the attack, gangs of men roamed the streets and stoned the offices of two groups opposed to the military regime of Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy.

The Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, an outspoken opponent of the military government, had just begun a 9 a.m. (9 a.m. EDT) Mass when a group of men began throwing rocks at the church, panicking hundreds inside who rushed for the doors, said a foreign journalist attending the service.

"Suddenly the doors at the back of the church burst open and 20 to

30 men with machetes, huge sticks and guns came in. They were dressed in civilian clothes," said the journalist, who contacted The Associated Press in New York by telephone.

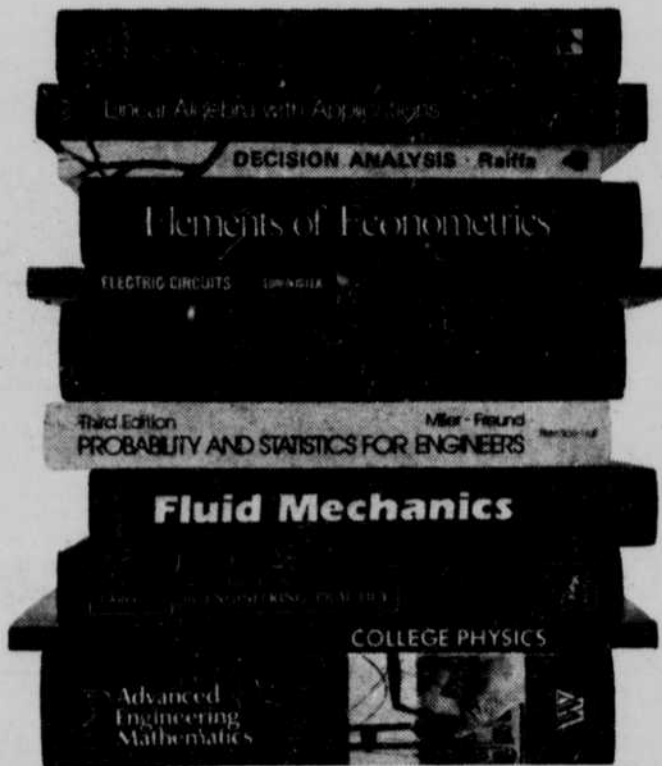
"They started shooting people, beating them, and stabbing and slashing them," the reporter said. "They stabbed a woman who was pregnant."

The journalist, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at least three parishioners were killed. Parishioners surrounded and protected Aristide, who was uninjured.

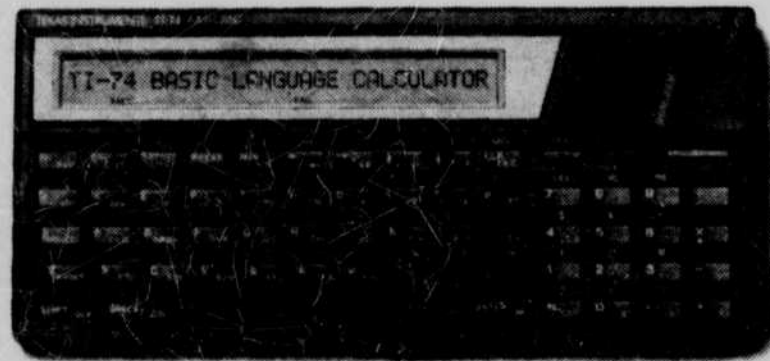
Radio Haiti-Inter reported 60 people suffering from gunshot wounds and machete slashes were being treated at the public general hospital.

Aristide is one of the most popular opposition leaders in Haiti. There have been several attempts on his life blamed on forces loyal to the government.

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