

Tension high after Louisiana racial disturbance

SHREVEPORT, La. — Hundreds of angry black people burned stores and rioted in the streets after a white woman fatally shot a black man, and black leaders warned Wednesday against a recurrence of violence.

"We're sitting on a powder keg," said state Rep. Alphonse Jackson, who called for a biracial anti-crime committee.

"People want protection," said Jackson, who is black. "I call on citizens to restore law and order."

His plea followed a meeting of city officials and black leaders to discuss the rioting that persisted nearly five hours, until 3 a.m. Wednesday, and which officials said was related both to drugs and racial problems.

Stores were looted and burned, and

rioters threw rocks and bottles at whites. There were reports of racial slurs and chants of "Hot Biscuit," the restaurant where a white teen-ager killed a black teen-ager on Aug. 4, an incident that set off racial tension in this northwestern Louisiana city of 250,000, the state's second largest after New Orleans.

On Tuesday night, police cordoned off a seven-block area and warned motorists to keep out.

The crowd reached 1,000 people at its peak, said Police Chief Charles Gruber, but other police estimates said the total was 300 to 500 most of the time.

The police chief said his car took a brick through the windshield and gunfire through the back passenger

door, but he was not hurt.

A KTBS-TV news car was burned and a new fire department pumper was attacked with bats and bricks.

No serious injuries were reported, attributed in part to Gruber's decision to let the disturbance run its course. Throughout the incident, police radios crackled with orders to maintain positions and hold fire.

"If Gruber had moved into the area, we would have had a large number of people hurt, so I commend him for it," said Jackson.

"We chose to let it cool off," Gruber said. "We felt our presence would do nothing but accelerate it."

At least four people were reported taken into custody and booked with charges ranging from inciting to riot

to resisting arrest.

The outbreak was triggered by the shooting of a black man, identified as William David McKinney, 20, who lived in the Cedar Grove neighborhood where the rioting took place. He was described by a witness as a bystander caught in gunfire when a drug deal went bad.

A white teen-ager, Tamala C. Vergo, 17, of Greenwood was booked on a charge of second-degree murder, said police Cpl. E.T. Rushing. A second woman was questioned but not charged.

A man who identified himself only as a cousin of McKinney's named Charles, said McKinney was shot at random after a woman trying to buy

cocaine from a group of men was robbed. When they ran with her purse, she "took out her frustration" on McKinney, he said.

The man talked to reporters after being interviewed by detectives.

Officers said people in a convenience store tried to detain the woman until police came, but a crowd of blacks gathered outside and began throwing bricks at the business and all passing motorists who were white.

A witness, Anthony Johnson, said that after police took the women away, the crowd doused the store with lighter fluid, set it afire and went on a rampage. The building, containing the store and a liquor shop, was burned to the ground.

Government admits to killing scores of civilians

RANGOON, Burma — Gen. Saw Maung on Wednesday became the fourth head of government in two months. The government said troops have killed more than 140 civilians since the hard-line officer ousted the civilian president on Sunday.

Demonstrators demanding democracy and a halt to 26 years of authoritarian rule stayed off the streets for a second day during the crackdown.

Troops killed 67 people, wounded 34 and arrested 100 "in the course of the government's law and order restoration work" in Rangoon and three other areas Tuesday and Wednesday, government spokesman Kyaw San told reporters.

Kyaw San said he had no knowledge of a rumored sweep by authorities against student leaders who spearheaded the pro-democracy protests.

The latest tally brought the official death toll since the coup to 144. But some Western diplomats in Rangoon believe at least 400 people have been killed in the Burmese capital alone, many when troops opened fire on largely unarmed protesters Monday.

"At Rangoon General Hospital, there were 200 corpses on Monday night and that was only one hospital," said one diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

State radio said Saw Maung was named prime minister by the nine-

member governing council, appointed the day before and made up primarily of his military cronies. He also holds the defense and foreign affairs portfolios.

The government spokesman listed eight separate incidents in Rangoon during a 20-hour period beginning Tuesday morning in which 57 people died as troops broke up mobs looting government warehouses and a biscuit factory.

Nine more people died when security forces beat back attacks on a local government office in Mudon and a patrol in Mandalay, Kyaw San said.

Pro-democracy demonstrators who have filled Rangoon by the hundreds of thousands in recent weeks stayed off the streets Tuesday and

Wednesday, residents reported.

All major markets remained closed although small food stores and roadside shops were open.

Troops conducted house-to-house searches in the heart of Rangoon on Wednesday after a nighttime attack against City Hall and the main government administration, residents and officials said. No casualties were reported.

Saw Maung, 59, is known as a loyal follower of strongman Ne Win, who seized power in 1962 and instituted a repressive, military-backed system that turned resource-rich Burma into one of the world's poorest nations.

After Ne Win resigned in late July,

the government was led for 17 days by former military officer Sein Lwin, who was succeeded by civilian President Maung Maung.

Maung Maung gave in to opposition demands to hold elections and allow a multiparty system. The sticking point was the opposition demand for an interim government to ensure a fair vote. Maung Maung was removed in Saw Maung's coup.

Although Saw Maung also has promised multiparty elections, he has shown no signs of establishing an interim government.

Many observers believe Ne Win remains the supreme power in Burma and are skeptical about the promise of elections.

British TV: Bush knew about money laundering four years before charges

LONDON — Vice President George Bush complained five years ago to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega about alleged laundering of drug money in Panama, according to a British television documentary screened Wednesday.

Two of Noriega's former senior aides, interviewed on Thames Television's "This Week" program, also said Noriega has tape recordings which could threaten Bush's presidential campaign.

Bush has said the Reagan administration took action as soon as it learned of narcotics and other federal charges against Noriega in indictments issued in Florida last February.

U.S. actions included economic sanctions to force Noriega to resign as head of the Defense Forces, a post which makes him Panama's de facto ruler. Noriega has denied any wrong-

doing and refused to resign.

"We have learned that as early as 1983 ... George Bush sat down with Gen. Noriega to complain about the laundering of drug money in Panama," reporter Julian Manyon said on the program.

"One of the vice president's concerns, according to Panamanians who were there, was an estimated \$3 billion of drug profits that had already been laundered through Panama," Manyon said.

Noriega was shown on the documentary saying he never met Bush.

In Washington, Bush spokesman Steve Hart on Wednesday said the vice president, during a stopover in Panama in 1983, met with Panama's then-President Ricardo de la Espriella and other officials, including Noriega, but did not speak of any allegations against the general.

Little progress expected in new round of talks

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials expect little progress in arms control talks Thursday between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and President Reagan, in large part because the administration and Congress cannot agree on what strategic weapons to deploy in the future.

"We certainly know we can't reach the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty this year," Assistant Secretary of State Rozanna Ridgway told a congressional panel Tuesday.

The U.S. presidential election makes it hard to hammer out the incredibly complex details of a START agreement during Reagan's remaining five months in office, particularly the inspection regimes needed to verify proposed 30 percent to 50 percent cuts in strategic weapons systems.

Besides the devilish details, however, the United States has reached an impasse in its own arms control planning that will complicate efforts to conclude an arms control treaty, an agreement that would govern the deployment of strategic forces for decades.

Shevardnadze, who was arriving Wednesday afternoon, was to meet Thursday with Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and Vice President George Bush.

The talks, say U.S. officials, will concentrate mainly on the non-arms aspects of the administration's four-point agenda: bilateral relations, human rights and multilateral issues such as the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and Cuban troops from Angola.

Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev made little progress on arms control at the summit in Moscow, and progress will probably be slow in the next administration, according to many observers in the



administration and on Capitol Hill.

The large key stumbling blocks are the Star Wars program to develop land and space-based anti-missile weapons, the development and deployment of mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), and whether to consider launching cruise missiles (SLCMs).

The Soviets oppose a START deal without a U.S. commitment that Star Wars research will not break the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty for a set period of time, probably eight to 10 years.

The Soviets also want the United States to agree to a limit on nuclear-tipped submarine-launched cruise missiles, above the overall 6,000-warhead limit agreed upon in the proposed START treaty.

On the third major issue, the United States is pressing for a ban on all ground-launched mobile ICBMs, which would require the

Soviets to dismantle their already deployed SS-20 and SS-25 mobile missiles.

The United States has not decided whether or how to deploy a mobile missile. The administration and Congress are sparring on whether to develop a 10-warhead rail-mobile ICBM, similar to the Soviet SS-24, or a single-warhead road-mobile Midseamar, similar to the Soviet SS-25.

Reagan vetoed Congress defense authorization bill for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 in part because it provided only \$4 billion for Star Wars versus the administration request of \$4.2 billion, and because Congress insisted that Star Wars tests not violate the ABM pact.

The potential conflict between the ABM treaty and Star Wars, formally known as the Strategic Defense Initiative or SDI, has dominated public discussion of arms control for years.

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The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE (except holidays); weekly during the summer session. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1783 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tom Macy, 475-9868. Subscription price is \$35 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68568-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE. ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1988 DAILY NEBRASKAN