

## Amnesty cites abuses in record 135 countries

LONDON — Amnesty International on Wednesday accused a record 135 nations of human rights abuses ranging from the jailing of draft evaders in Western Europe to the massacre of unarmed civilians in Iraq and Sudan.

The international human rights group said the list of offenders in its annual survey was the longest it has published since its establishment in 1961.

Amnesty, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977, recorded abuses last year in more than 80 percent of the 159 U.N. member states. But it said it was encouraged by the merger of more than 1,000 human rights groups in recent years and the proliferation of laws to protect prisoners' rights.

"In at least half the countries of the world, people are locked away for speaking their minds, often after trials that are no more than a sham," the 278-page report said.

"In at least a third of the world's nations, men, women and even children are tortured. In scores of countries, governments pursue their goals by kidnapping and murdering their own citizens."

It added: "More than ever before in world history, governments are exposed to the glare of international publicity — the greatest weapon we have."

The report cited the United States, where 25 prisoners were put to death last year, for executing John Brogdon, a man diagnosed as mentally retarded, and Edward Earl Johnson, despite "substantial doubts" about his guilt. Amnesty opposes the death penalty.

In China, more than 200 convicted criminals were put to death, but that represented "only a fraction of the total number of death sentences and executions," it said.

The report said at least 760 political prisoners were executed in 39 countries in 1987 but estimated the number probably was much higher because of secret executions.

It said governments used a variety of methods to deflect criticism, including death squads in Latin America.

Among other alleged abuses were reports that Sudanese forces massacred hundreds of unarmed Dinka tribespeople; the summary execution by Iraq of hundreds of unarmed Kurds; the disappearance of hundreds of Peruvian farmers seized by government forces; and court-ordered executions in China, South Africa and Iran.

The report alleged politically motivated killings by pro-government assassins in Brazil, El Salvador and the Philippines, and arbitrary arrests, torture and killings in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Uganda.

In Western Europe, Spain was cited for allegedly torturing Basque separatist prisoners, Britain for failing to publish a police inquiry into the killings of six unarmed Irish Republican Army guerrillas in 1982, and France, Italy, Austria, Greece, Malta, Norway and Switzerland for jailing draft objectors.

In Israel, the report said, a court permitted the secret service to use "a moderate measure of physical pressure" in interrogating suspects.

The Soviet Union released 259 prisoners, most of them prisoners of conscience, but nearly 200 were pardoned under secret decrees that falsely implied they were criminals and "hid the fact that they had been unjustly imprisoned in the first place," the report said.

Another 300 Soviet prisoners of conscience were held in prisons, in exile or in psychiatric hospitals, it said.

## Bentsen, Quayle polish lines for tonight's debate

Vice presidential nominees Dan Quayle and Lloyd Bentsen polished their debate lines Tuesday in preparation for their 90 minutes in the campaign spotlight. At the top of the tickets, George Bush said he wanted to inspire affluent youths "to help our poor," while Michael Dukakis said the GOP offers only "slogans and symbols."

Republican Quayle and Democrat Bentsen were flying to Omaha, the site of Wednesday night's debate.

"We're ready," Quayle said during a tour of the Bush-Quayle campaign headquarters.

A new poll released Tuesday suggested that the debate would give Quayle a chance to overcome some of the negative images about him that

are driving undecided voters away from Bush.

The CBS News-New York Times poll of 1,034 probable voters found 48 percent support for the Bush-Quayle ticket and 46 percent for the Dukakis-Bentsen ticket. But when voters were asked about their presidential preference only, the support for Dukakis slipped to 43 percent.

The poll, conducted Saturday through Monday, had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

"We are very, very proud of you," Republican campaign chairman James A. Baker III told Quayle. "We are very, very proud of the job you're doing for this campaign, and we are

very, very proud of the job we know you're going to do tomorrow in Omaha."

When asked what tactics he'd use against Bentsen, Quayle said, "My debate strategy? Tune in tomorrow night."

"Feeling good," said Bentsen, while walking from a practice studio to his hotel in Austin, Texas.

Spokesman Mike McCurry said Bentsen was working on "the best way of making a point memorable or punchy."

Dukakis campaign manager Susan Estrich, who was in Austin helping Bentsen, said, "We're not teaching him new positions on issues. . . . I think that's what the Quayle people

have to do."

Bush was in Sacramento, Calif., and he outlined his plan for a quasi-public foundation called Youth in Service to America to encourage young people to volunteer in community activities.

"I want our affluent to help our poor," he said. "I want the young men and women of our tree-lined suburbs to get on a bus, or the subway, or the metro, and go into the cities where the want is."

The Republican presidential nominee described his proposal as an alternative to massive federal spending.

He said years of federal programs designed to help the poor had proven

that "we can't buy our way out."

Dukakis spoke at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., and attacked what he called Bush's "record of failure."

"Mr. Bush was given five important missions by this administration and he failed every one," said the Democratic presidential nominee. "And that was before they asked him to pick a running mate in this election."

Dukakis listed the five assignments as resolving trade problems with Japan, heading an anti-terrorism panel, leading the war on drugs, investigating problems in the banking industry and heading a task force on regulatory reform.

## Group urges new boycott of Nestle Co.

WASHINGTON — The people who engineered a seven-year boycott against the Nestle company to fight the promotion of infant formula in Third World nations called on Tuesday for a renewal of the protest on an even larger scale.

Douglas A. Johnson, chairman of Action for Corporate Accountability, called for a resumption of the boycott at a news conference, arguing that Nestle has failed to live up to the agreements it signed in 1984 that ended the original action.

This time, said Johnson, the group is expanding the boycott to American Home Products, which it said is the second largest distributor of infant formula in developing nations.

While urging an across-the-board boycott of the two companies' products, protest leaders are asking their followers to focus on two products from each company: Nestle's *Tru-Taste Instant Coffee* and *Carnation Coffee-mate Non-Dairy Creamer*, and American Home Products' *Anacin* and *Advil* across-the-counter pain relievers.

Action for Corporate Accountability accused both companies of violating at least the spirit — and by Johnson's interpretation, also the letter — of the World Health Organization and UNICEF Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

The code — which Nestle agreed to as a condition of ending the earlier protest — permits donations or sales of formula for distribution to infants needing breast milk substitutes, and says the formula may not be used for sales promotion.

At issue is whether the formula distributors effectively cause the babies to become hooked on for-



Andy Marshert/Daily Nebraskan

mula within days of birth by making their product available for free at hospitals and other facilities.

Johnson's group, based in Minneapolis, says it is immoral for manufacturers to encourage the formula's use in powdered form in Third World countries where most mothers don't have the money, education or sanitary facilities to mix it properly.

The group says that thousands of Third World babies drink from bottles filled with drastically understrength formula that does not give them the nutrients they need or infects them with germs.

Boycott leaders said the companies' actions have undercut the premise that mothers' milk is best, especially for Third World babies. Representatives of both firms denied the assertion.

Illness often occurs when the mothers take their babies home, Dr. R.K. Anand, a pediatrician from Bombay, India, said at the news conference.

"In the hands of a poor, the feeding bottle often becomes a passport to death for the young child," said Anand.

The physician said that bottle feeding kills large numbers of babies in India and other developing countries.

"Even poor mothers can produce enough breastmilk for their babies for at least the first four months of life," he said.

Janice Mantell, executive director of Action for Corporate Accountability, estimated that about \$6 billion in infant formula is sold worldwide each year, half of it in developing countries. She said Nestle has 40 percent to 50 percent of that \$3 billion market and American Home Products about 20 percent.

A Washington spokesman for Nestle, Chad Jackson, insisted that the company is in "total compliance" with national and international codes. He also denied that the company is dumping infant formula in foreign hospitals and said it never gives the product directly to mothers.

Carol Emerling, a spokeswoman for American Home Products, said, "This whole activity is based on allegations that we violate the WHO code — and we flat out deny it."

## Nuclear plant accidents unreported for 28 years

WASHINGTON — Serious mishaps over 28 years at a government plant in South Carolina that produces materials for nuclear weapons were kept secret for national security reasons and not reported to Washington, federal officials said Tuesday.

But the situation is changing, in part due to pressure from Congress, they said.

One senior Energy Department official has compared the attitude toward safety at the Savannah River facility near Aiken, S.C., to that which led to the explosion of the shuttle Challenger on Jan. 28, 1986.

"There has always been a mind set, a culture, that we are doing work that is important for national security and perhaps that may override any obligation toward public accountability," Will Callicott, a spokesman for the Department of Energy, said Tuesday.

E.I. du Pont Nemours & Co. runs the Savannah River facility under contract for the energy department. The plant, which has five reactors, produces plutonium and tritium, which are used in making nuclear weapons.

According to a 1985 memoran-

dum, 30 "reactor incidents of the greatest significance" occurred there and were not disclosed to the public.

One of the most serious was the melting in November 1970 of a rod used to start an atomic chain reaction, causing radioactive contamination of an adjacent room. It took 900 people three months to clean up the contamination, according to the memo, which does not specify whether radioactivity escaped from the facility.

Energy Department officials said on Friday that they had not been informed of the incidents, but on Monday senior department spokesman C. Anson Franklin said those statements were incorrect and that the incidents had been reported to the department's regional office in Aiken.

He said that the information apparently had not been relayed to headquarters from the regional office.

The reactors at Savannah River were closed after the most recent incident, in August, and had been scheduled to reopen on Tuesday. But Energy Department officials assured members of Congress last week that production would not resume until safety was assured, possibly after 30 to 45 days.

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