

Four more dead from Tibet riots

BEIJING -- Police opened fire on Tibetan protesters who marched through Lhasa and burned Chinese businesses Monday in a second straight day of violence. Four Tibetans were reported killed.

Security forces moved into the city's Tibetan section and pulled people from their homes, taking some away in jeeps, American tourists said. Chinese troops also beat Tibetans, said the travelers, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of police reprisal.

"One boy's face was completely bloodied," said a man from New Orleans. "He was no older than 10. Blood was coming from his ears, his eyes."

The Americans and other tourists were contacted by telephone in the Tibetan capital from Beijing. As they spoke, automatic weapons fire and exploding tear gas canisters crackled in the background. Bonfires burned in the streets, they said.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported one Tibetan was killed and eight others, including two policemen, injured in the violence Monday.

Xinhua had said 10 Tibetans and one Chinese policeman were killed in anti-Chinese demonstrations Sunday. Western travelers quoted Tibetans as saying that many more had died on Sunday and that at least four Tibetans had been slain Monday.

The U.S. State Department on Monday deplored the use of weapons on pro-independence protesters in Tibet and called for a restoration of order.

Police in Lhasa fired from rooftops near the city's main square late Monday afternoon, killing at least two Tibetans, an American tourist quoted Tibetans as saying.

Several hours later, security forces fired on a group of 40 independence activists as they threw rocks at a building near the Jokhang Temple, another tourist said. He quoted Tibetans as saying at least two protesters were killed in that incident.

On Monday morning, thousands of Tibetans flooded the old city, breaking into the small Chinese- and Moslem-run stores that fill the area, pulling out their contents and burning them in bonfires along the main thoroughfare in the city.

The protests began Sunday when 13 Buddhist monks and nuns started marching near the Jokhang, shouting "Independence for Tibet." Police opened fire. A crowd of Tibetans then began ransacking Chinese buildings.

The bloodshed occurred days before the 30th anniversary of a failed Tibetan uprising against the Chinese on March 10. It marks the fourth violent outburst in 18 months against Chinese rule.

Complaints up on rats in London

LONDON -- Wintertime, and the living is easy in the kingdom of *Rattus norvegicus*, the common brown rat which has become uncommonly numerous around Britain.

Complaints about rats are up as much as 70 percent in parts of London, which has had just a touch of slush during a very mild winter. Similar increases have been reported in Bristol, Manchester and other large cities.

"I've never, never known such a year," said Stuart Slater, chief environmental services officer of Babergh District Council northeast of London. "I haven't had a Saturday off since the end of November."

Norman Foster, health officer

for the Mid-Suffolk Council, said he received 1,323 rat complaints last winter. This year, he had matched that total by late December - before winter had officially begun.

Rentokil, one of Britain's largest exterminators, has doubled its sales of poisons this winter, said Peter Bateman, the company's director of public relations.

With the increase in rats, there has been a growing concern about Weil's disease, which is spread by rat urine in water. The ailment used to be seen mostly in miners and sewer workers, but cases have cropped up among water skiers and canoeists.

The reasons for the rat's prosperity are various.

"We've had mild winters before, without having more rats," said Graham Twigg, retired senior lecturer in Zoology at Royal Holloway College at the University of London and author of scholarly books on vermin.

"Certainly in towns, one aspect of it is the lack of good hygiene," said Twigg, who has done research on rats in coal mines and Caribbean canefields.

"It's one of those things, a general lack of attention. This country is pretty scruffy," he said.

Hilary King, spokeswoman for the Institution of Environmental Officers, said decaying Victorian sewage systems in big cities have contributed to the problem. She also blamed the illegal dumping of garbage, and the spread of fast-food restaurants.

Efforts to poison rats have been frustrated by the rich menu of trash and debris, especially from fast-food restaurants, said Angela Moon, environmental health officer for the borough of Lambeth in south London.

"They would rather eat that than our poison," she said.

The sewers, at least, have their

defenders.

"There have been a lot of stories around recently, a story which comes up year after year after year, that rat populations are increasing and sewers are decaying. I just say: prove it," said Brigette Daniels, spokeswoman for Thames Water, which is responsible for a thousand miles of sewers in and around London.

If there are more rats about, she said, "we believe they are above-ground rats."

In Bristol, an industrial city in western England, the sewers are taking the blame without dispute.

"The sewers are crumbling because of lack of upkeep, and the rats are finding it increasingly easy to get out," said Peter Archer, Bristol's assistant chief environmental health officer.

"Also, there is a great deal of redevelopment going on, and if the drains are not properly sealed when the old buildings are knocked down the rats can find their way up them and appear, to everyone's horror, on the nice piece of landscaped garden outside the gleaming new office blocks."

"We can control rats in two ways - by blocking up the holes in the sewers so that they cannot get out, and by poisoning them. We want to do both, but the government's spending limits mean that we cannot do either properly," he said.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Muscovites flock for rock from western world

MOSCOW -- Hundreds of enthusiastic young Soviets lined up in a snowstorm outside record stores Monday to buy a new album by two dozen of the West's biggest rock stars, and authorities erected steel barricades and dispatched police to control the crowd.

The hoopla was especially great on Kalinin Prospekt outside the Melodiya store, where British rocker Peter Gabriel and Annie Lennox of Eurythmics autographed copies of "Breakthrough."

A police guard was posted at the door, and a steel barricade was set up on the sidewalk as Soviets wearing traditional Russian fur hats and Western-style ski caps massed.

Melodiya, the name of the state's record company as well as record stores, is notorious for small pressings of popular albums, especially rock, and the initial pressing of 500,000 copies of "Breakthrough" was likely to last just a couple of days - if not hours. Melodiya plans to release 3 million copies, as well as 500,000 cassettes, in this country of 285 million people.

A black market for Western rock recordings thrives in the Soviet Union,

and even Melodiya Director Valery Sukharado admitted to reporters, "I don't know how many (copies) will be released on the black market."

The two-record album, a compilation of songs previously issued in the West by individuals and groups, was produced by Greenpeace, the international environmental group. International release is scheduled April 25.

Some of the rock stars told a news conference they were surprised at how well rock is known in the Soviet Union, where the music was once condemned as "decadent" and kept underground. Now, the sounds of Dire Straits or Soviet pop stars like Black Coffee are heard on once-staid official Radio Moscow.

Jerry Harrison, keyboard player for the Talking Heads, said he and several other Western musicians visited a rock music center Sunday night in Gorky Park and saw Soviet musicians who had made their own instruments.

"That shows how much the kids in the Soviet Union want to play rock music and are interested in it," Harrison said.

Gabriel said he liked several Soviet rock groups and quipped, "This is the best way to conquer the West."

He said he learned during his visit that an album of his had been released in the Soviet Union and "found the fans here very warm, friendly and generous." Gabriel said he would like to perform in the Soviet Union next year if his band is ready.

East - West talk arms issues

VIENNA, Austria -- Foreign ministers from 35 countries met Monday for East-West conventional arms control talks that may bring sweeping reductions in troops and military hardware from the Atlantic to the Urals.

During a three-day conference at Vienna's former Hofburg imperial palace, the ministers also will review prospects for a conference to build confidence and security between East and West bloc nations of Europe.

The ministers were in Vienna in January to wrap up the Helsinki follow-up Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which agreed on the new arms control talks and

Sukharado said Melodiya will donate about \$16 million from record sales to a Moscow-based charity that is working with Greenpeace on environmental problems in the Soviet Union. Peter Bahouth, the executive director of the Greenpeace branch in the United States, said his organization plans to open an office in Moscow.

landmark human rights provisions for the Soviet bloc.

A new man on the scene this time is Secretary of State James A. Baker III, who will meet Tuesday with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard A. Shevardnadze.



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