

Students and police clash at May Day rally

SEOUL, South Korea -- Students and workers fought riot police with firebombs and rocks in downtown Seoul Sunday after troopers blocked a rally called by labor and dissident groups to mark May Day. More than 1,300 people were arrested.

The clashes were the first major protests on Seoul's streets since late last year, and they sent terrified pedestrians running for cover.

In scattered clashes, bands of protesters battled the 20,000 riot police deployed to block the rally, called on the eve of the international labor holiday.

Police officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, reported

dozens of injuries.

In Inchon, west of Seoul, and in southeastern Kwangju, protesters also fought police.

Police fired warning shots into the air in Sungnam on Seoul's southern outskirts when about 200 workers and students tried to firebomb a police station, police said. Five officers were injured.

Radical students, dissidents and workers are mounting violent protests to demand the overthrow of the government. They also want higher wages, better working conditions and a share in South Korea's growing economic prosperity. Most South

Korean workers earn subsistence wages for long working weeks.

President Roh Tae-woo's government has warned it may take emergency steps to halt strikes, which have cost more than \$3 billion in lost production this year. Government leaders are worried that labor unrest could cripple the economy and foment political unrest.

Police had no overall figures on the number of protesters in Seoul, but it appeared below 10,000. Rally organizers had claimed that 100,000 people would take part, but police blocked off outlying towns near Seoul and prevented workers from leav-

ing for the capital.

Riot police guarded bus and train stations in Seoul to turn back people arriving for the rally. They also blocked off the meeting site.

The worst fighting raged for about four hours around Yonsei University, when about 2,000 students and workers tried to march past 5,000 riot police surrounding the campus.

Protesters, many armed with clubs and iron pipes, marched to the beat of drums and gongs.

Police in armored vans opened fire with multiple tear gas launchers before the marchers reached the main gate. Students charged out of the

campus and pelted police with hundreds of firebombs and rocks.

The police vans fired volley after volley at the charging protesters and police repeatedly charged to drive the attackers back. Thick white clouds of choking gas cloaked the campus.

In the crowded main shopping district, hundreds of protesters briefly clashed with police blocking the rally site. They tore up paving stones to use as ammunition as passers-by fled.

Police seized dozens of protesters in the downtown clashes, beating and kicking many as they were taken away.

Navy plans to reduce weapon stockpile

WASHINGTON -- The Navy has decided to retire three short-range nuclear weapons that account for 5 percent of the total stockpile of U.S. warheads, Navy officials said Sunday.

By 1991, the Navy will retire the ASROC nuclear depth charge, the SUBROC missile and the Terrier missile, a total of 1,100 warheads, according to Navy officers and documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.

The weapons originally were intended to provide a nuclear deterrent against attacks on surface ships by Soviet warships and submarines. But Navy strategists now believe they can protect U.S. ships from other ships by other means and see a greater threat from Backfire and Badger bombers based on the Soviet mainland.

The decision to unilaterally discard the weapons was contained in documents obtained by an independent analyst, William Arkin. It was first reported in Sunday editions of The New York Times and confirmed Sunday by Navy officers who spoke on condition they not be further identified.

It was not clear why the Bush administration chose to take such a major step without public announcement and apparently has not sought to include the weapons in negotiations with the Soviet Union.

The decision was prompted by the realization that the United States has more aircraft carriers and large surface vessels than the Soviet Union, and that such ships are vulnerable to nuclear attack, said Navy officers.

"There is a recognition that if there is a nuclear war at sea, we have got more to lose than the Russians," the Times quoted Vice Admiral Henry C. Mustin, who retired last year after serving as deputy chief of Naval Operations.

"The concept of a nuclear war at sea is a concept whose time has passed," Mustin said in the published report.

Arkin said another reason for the decision appears to be a shift in emphasis by the Navy from short-range weapons to nuclear-tipped Tomahawk cruise missiles. The Tomahawk can fly below enemy radar and strike targets, such as bomber airfields on the Soviet mainland, at ranges up to 1,300 miles.

The Soviet Union has been insisting that the United States agree

to limit or ban submarine-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles, but under the Reagan administration the Navy balked. The issue is being considered as part of a strategic review being conducted by the Bush Administration, to be completed by May 10.

The decision to retire the short-range nuclear weapons will not affect strategic ballistic missiles stationed aboard Navy nuclear submarines that form a key part of the U.S. nuclear triad, land, air and sea-based weapons intended to deter a large-scale attack, said Navy officers.

The weapons that are being retired constitute part of the American nuclear arsenal that has received little public attention in the media or on Capitol Hill, compared to the extensive discussions that

have occurred on the cruise and ballistic systems.

The ASROC nuclear depth charge, carried aboard U.S. destroyers, cruisers and frigates involved in anti-submarine warfare, has a range of up to 6.2 miles.

The SUBROC missile is carried by attack submarines, and is designed to fly at supersonic speeds, then drop a nuclear charge against enemy submarines.

The Terrier anti-aircraft missile, which entered service in 1962, is fired from surface warships and has a range of up to 21.7 miles, according to Janes Fighting Ships, an independently published military handbook.

It was not clear whether or how much money the Defense Department will save by retiring the short-range weapons.

Soviet police nab members of underground groups

MOSCOW -- Police grabbed leaders of underground political groups who defied a government warning Sunday and gathered to sell copies of their illegal magazines on a crowded pedestrian mall.

Leaders of the Democratic Union, Express-Chronicle, Free Migration, Debate, and Trust groups were hauled away and detained after ignoring police calls to disperse.

"Down with the fascists!" one man yelled at police as they grabbed the activists.

In their publications and in telephone calls to Western reporters, the groups declared Sunday a "samizdat holiday." "Samizdat" is Russian for self-published and is used to describe underground newspapers and magazines.

Exhibitors perched atop concrete planters outside the Vakhtangov theater on busy Arbat Street, silently holding makeshift bulletin boards bearing copies of their publications.

Thousands of onlookers strolled along the pedestrian street in the 70 degree weather and peeked at the publications. The most sensational of the newspapers was a copy of the Communist Party daily Pravda that had pasted to it cartoons lampooning Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin. One cartoon portrayed Lenin as a devil.

A policeman announced through a megaphone that the gathering was not sanctioned, and he ordered exhibitors to disperse. About 15 minutes later, officers moved in.

Asked why the exhibit was broken up, a senior police officer pointed to a Soviet flag flying nearby and indicated the gathering was not in keeping with the spirit of the May Day holiday.

The exhibitors regularly sell their propaganda separately and usually are not bothered by police.

The Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee criticized the so-called informal political groups and said Tuesday that samizdat was intolerable.

"How can we put up with it? The purpose is to deprive the people of the immunity in the face of ideological subversion, to infect our people with some sort of ideological AIDS," said Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, the party chief of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Several other Central Committee speakers condemned the Democratic Union, which bills itself as an alternative political party. They called for a crackdown on it and other informal groups.

The Democratic Union, formed in May, said it seeks multiparty elections, independent trade unions, a new constitution and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe.

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