

Noriega: U.S. aided in failed coup attempt

PANAMA CITY, Panama -- Troops loyal to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega put down an attempted coup by rebel forces Tuesday, retaking the headquarters of the Panamanian Defense Forces after a six-hour gun battle.

As the fighting sputtered to an end, Noriega met with reporters in the Defense Forces headquarters. He told them, "This incident corresponds to the permanent aggression of U.S. forces against the tranquillity of our country. The proof is that U.S. forces closed access routes to the barracks."

The rebels "surrendered to General Noriega in person," said Defense Forces spokesman Maj. Edgardo Lopez, who was with Noriega.

A communique by loyalists, read over Channel 2 television, said, "The nationalist officers of all ranks and in all the barracks countrywide have confirmed their loyalty to the fatherland... and to our Commander-in-Chief Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega."

Rebel troops seized the headquarters during the morning but failed to capture Noriega. Troops loyal to the general, who commands the Defense Forces and controls the government, launched a counterattack and defeated the insurgents.

The United States, which has been trying to oust Noriega since he was indicted nearly two years ago in Florida on drug charges, denied any involvement in the coup attempt. The uprising was launched by junior Defense Forces officers.

U.S. troops assigned to the Panama Canal Zone took up positions about 600 yards from the headquarters, placed between the fighting at

the compound and U.S. installations at Fort Amador and Quarry Heights. However, a spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command said the American troops took no part in the fighting and were dispatched for security reasons.

Guillermo Ford, an opposition candidate for vice president in the May 7 election, was interviewed in New York on CBS Evening News and asked about the foiled coup.

"I think Noriega's going to get stronger regarding the Panamanian people," Ford said. "He's been holding them hostage for the last two years."

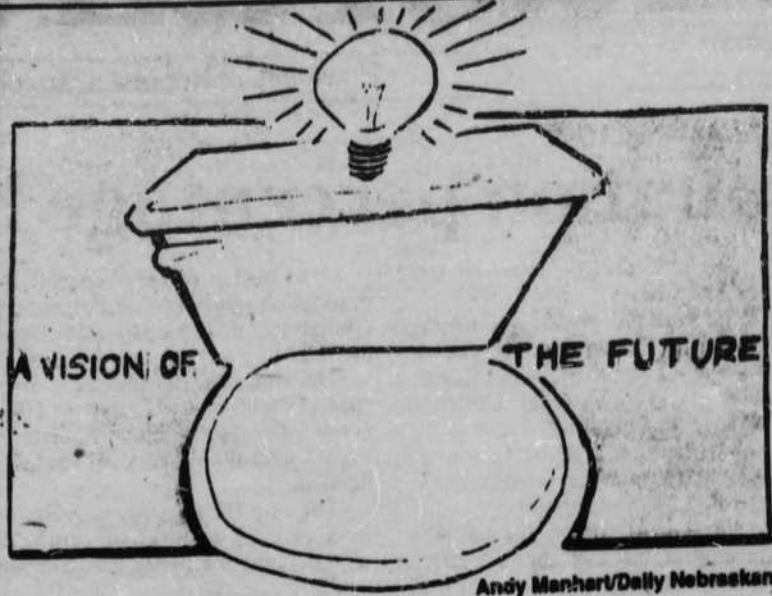
Rebellious troopers seized the headquarters compound in the morning but apparently failed to capture Noriega, and loyal forces counterattacked. After a six-hour gunbattle, the government claimed victory.

"We want to underline that the situation in the country has been duly controlled to guarantee the peace and tranquillity that the state should assure for its citizens," said a statement released by Justice and Interior Minister Olmedo Miranda.

The Justice Department statement declared an 8 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew and said the news media could report only official statements on the revolt.

Firing around the Defense Forces headquarters tapered off in the early afternoon, but reporters were blocked from approaching the compound.

Several ambulances were seen leaving the area, and witnesses said there were some dead and wounded, but the number of casualties was not immediately known.



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

'Smart toilets' to flush in

DENVER -- "Smart toilets" and car radar will usher in the high-tech advances coming in the 1990s, while bad service, loud rock music and Mexican beer will become passe, says "The American Forecaster 1990."

Other trends on the rise for 1990 are New Age radio, portraits commissioned for ego gratification and "wet" beer to serve on the rocks, says Kim Long, author of the yearly book.

"In the 1990s we will see phenomenal advances. A popular phrase some futurists are using is that life has the potential to move forward very rapidly because 80 percent of all the scientists and engineers who have ever lived are alive today," said Long.

"The corollary to that is that 80 percent of all the artists, crackpots and loonies who have ever lived

are alive today. We will see some intriguing things happen in the 1990s," he said, including a wave of bizarre prognostications as the year 2000 approaches.

Long, 40, is a Denver free-lance author who began writing the Forecaster in 1983 and claims an 80 percent accuracy rate.

His predictions sometimes are based on his research into Japanese product development.

"Smart toilets" are made by a Japanese company to measure recent hospital outpatients' blood pressure, pulse, urine, temperature and body weight. Results are displayed on a built-in monitor. Long predicts gadget lovers will pay the \$3,000 to have a conversation piece.

Long said car radar systems will gauge other vehicles' speeds and may incorporate automatic braking.

E. Germany restricts Czechoslovakia trips

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia -- East Germany issued an order Tuesday banning free travel to Czechoslovakia but agreed that at least 10,000 of its citizens already in Prague could emigrate to the West.

East German leader Erich Honecker accused West Germany of "insolently breaking promises" by letting the East Germans into its embassies in Prague and Warsaw.

"They believe in West Germany that they can destabilize East Germany with a broad-based attack, but it will not work," he said in his first major speech since returning to work after a long convalescence from gall-bladder surgery. ADN, the official East German news agency, carried his remarks.

Rudolf Seiters, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, said East German refugees would begin leaving Prague for West Germany by train Tuesday evening. He said the East German decision would allow an estimated 4,700 refugees in the embassy and about 6,000 mulling outside to travel west.

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MTV'S ROCK N' JOCK DIAMOND DERBY

OUR GAME
 IN JANUARY OF 1990 MTV IS FIELDING TWO TEAMS IN LOS ANGELES FOR A SEVEN-RING CELEBRITY SOFTBALL GAME WITH MAJOR LEAGUE ROCK STARS AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STARS AND YOU COULD BE THE STAR OF THE SHOW.

YOUR GAME
 BEHIND THE SCENES YOU WILL BE SEEING TWO TEAMS TO FACE THE "ROCK N' JOCK" PLAYERS. ONE FROM THE WINNING TEAM WILL BE CHOSEN AT RANDOM TO WIN ALL EXPENSE PAID TRIP TO LOS ANGELES TO MEET WITH JERRY BRONDO AND BOBBY BEARS AND BE AN ALL-STAR RECEIVER LIMITED EDITION MTV ROCK N' JOCK DIAMOND DERBY JERSEY.

TO PLAY
 A. PARTICIPATE IN AN MTV ROCK N' JOCK DIAMOND DERBY CONTEST.
 B. TWO TEAMS WILL BE DRAWN AT RANDOM TO PLAY EACH OTHER ON OCTOBER 12, 1989 AT 7:30 PM.
 C. BEING A STUDENT ORGANIZER AT AN MTV LPC (Local Events) IS AN ELIGIBLE PLACE TO WIN.

LET YOUR TEAM SHINE UPON THE FARM AND WIN TO PLAYERS WHO ARE BRING IT TO THE MTV ROCK N' JOCK DIAMOND DERBY TO WIN YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY.

MTV TELEVISION

(Official Rules) 1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. 2. To enter fill out the MTV provided roster ballot that will be provided to you by MTV College Representative on your campus or campus newspaper. This roster ballot will include your name, address, age, phone number and the University you are enrolled in. Each representative will randomly select two softball teams from all roster ballots and newspaper ad ballots received to play a game on each campus. Odds of the teams being selected will be determined by MTV. All Events will take place on October 12, 1989 at all participating campuses. (Dates selected by MTV) 3. The date roster and newspaper ad ballots must be received by will vary according to each campus and teams will be chosen on different dates to be determined by MTV. All Events will take place on October 12, 1989 at all participating campuses. (Dates selected by MTV) 4. There will be 20 Grand Prizes. 1 prize winner from each of the participating campuses, who will win an all-expense-paid trip to MTV's Rock N' Jock Diamond Derby in Los Angeles in January of 1990. (Total Value of each Grand Prize \$1,500). This includes round-trip airfare from airport nearest winner's home to Los Angeles (approximately \$1,200) and hotel accommodations (selected by MTV) for 3 days and 2 nights (Approximate Retail Value \$150 per room). Winner responsible for all incidental expenses, including ground transportation, meals and spending, with the exception of transportation to and from the softball game which will be provided by MTV. The twenty (20) participating schools are: University of Nebraska, University of Texas, University of Wisconsin, University of Georgia, University of Miami, William Paterson College, Hofstra University, Indiana University, Michigan State University, University of Southern California, University of Akron, Auburn University, Cornell University, North Carolina State University, University of Maryland/College Park, University of Missouri, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, University of Pennsylvania, University of Rhode Island, University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee, University of Virginia, Wake Forest University, and West Virginia University.