

# Kremlin sends 11,000 troops to Azerbaijan

MOSCOW - The Kremlin sent more than 11,000 reinforcements, including Red Army units, to the Caucasus on Tuesday to halt a civil war between Armenians and Azerbaijanis that has killed 56 people.

New clashes were reported, and Tass said 2,000 people armed with anti-aircraft guns and other artillery were massing on hills around Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed district 1,250 miles southeast of Moscow.

In Armenia, "demands are being made to arm citizens and send them to Nagorno-Karabakh," according to the official news agency, and the government newspaper Izvestia reported 16 attacks on weapons depots in 24 hours by Armenians hunting for guns.

In one raid, 3,000 people stormed a police station in Armenia's Artash region and seized 106 automatic weapons, 30 carbines, 27 rifles, more than 3,000 cartridges and a grenade-

launcher, the newspaper said.

"We can't bring ourselves to pronounce it out loud, but what is happening now in Karabakh, in northern Azerbaijan, can unambiguously be termed a civil war," correspondent O. Shapovalov wrote in the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda.

"The madness is continuing," an editor at Armenia's official Armenpress news agency said from Yerevan, the republic's capital.

Gorbachev and the Soviet Presidium declared a state of emergency in the strife-torn mountain area Monday night, empowering the government to deploy units of the Soviet army, navy and KGB to protect lives and guard vital installations such as railroads.

Internal security troops already in the region have been incapable of halting the most protracted ethnic conflict in Gorbachev's nearly five-year tenure as Kremlin leader. Izvestia said Tuesday that the conflict threatens Gorbachev's entire campaign for "perestroika," or economic and social reform.

More than 6,000 additional internal security troops were sent Tuesday to reinforce existing Interior Ministry detachments, Tass said. To assist them, more than 5,000 Red Army soldiers, who traditionally carry heavier weaponry, also were dispatched, Tass said. Soviet media did not say how many

total troops were in the region.

Residents of Yerevan and Baku, Azepital, said by phone they had seen no sign Tuesday night of the reinforcements' arrival.

The Bush administration supported Gorbachev's use of troops in the Caucasus and criticized feuding Azerbaijanis and Armenians for "revisiting old ethnic hatreds."

"We recognize the right of any state to ensure the safety of its citizens, and it looks like that's the primary concern at the moment," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

The Kremlin emergency decree empowers local officials to ban demonstrations and strikes, impose curfews, censor the media, confiscate weapons, disband unofficial organizations and detain people for up to 30 days. Interior Ministry officials said they could not recall such measures being taken in the country since World War II.

Gennady I. Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, denied the decree was a backtracking in Gorbachev's reforms, which have led to greater openness and liberalization of society since he became Soviet leader in March 1985.

"I would not interpret this step as being at odds with glasnost and democracy," Gerasimov said. "On the contrary, the step opposes anarchy."

In a front-page commentary in Izvestia, Albert Plutnik wrote: "Perestroika has to defend itself. And it's not its fault if to defend itself and others, it needs the help of emergency measures."

In Moscow, spokesman Vladimir A. Yanchenkov of the Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police affairs, said the death toll in the Caucasus had risen from 37 to 56 in Azerbaijan and that 156 people had been injured.

Two of the dead were members of law enforcement agencies, he said. Most of the victims were Armenians, the ministry said.

Yanchenkov said authorities had recorded 167 "pogroms," or ethnic attacks, and cases of arson.

In the Shaumyan region of Azerbaijan, fighters took an armored personnel carrier and infantry fighting vehicle and seized soldiers as hostages, Komsomolskaya Pravda said. The armored vehicle crushed a police car in a "barbarian slaughter," the paper said.

Some of the fighters were masquerading as soldiers by wearing their uniforms, it said.

Soviet TV showed Interior Ministry troops firing in the air as they rode in armored personnel carriers through an Azerbaijani village near Nagorno-Karabakh to enforce the emergency decree.



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

# Bank linked to Noriega pleads guilty to money laundering

TAMPA, Fla. - A Luxembourg bank pleaded guilty today in a \$32 million global money-laundering case with links to cocaine traffickers and fallen Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, and agreed to forfeit a record \$14 million.

Under the plea bargain, the two divisions of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International will also receive five years' probation.

The plea did not affect charges against six bank officers - one of whom said he was Noriega's personal

banker - and two Colombians prosecutors say were part of the Medellin cocaine cartel. Their case opened today with pre-trial motions.

But under the plea bargain, BCCI agreed to cooperate in prosecuting the remaining defendants.

The cash forfeiture of \$14 million frozen by the government was the largest ever by a financial institution in the United States, said Dave Runkel, U.S. Justice Department spokesman.

BCCI entered the plea as it was about to go on trial in the first federal

prosecution of a major bank on charges of conspiring to aid drug trafficking through secret accounts.

The more than 30 charges against the two bank entities included tax fraud, failure to report currency transactions over \$10,000 and laundering cocaine profits.

U.S. District Judge W. Terrell Hodges did not immediately set a sentencing date. He imposed a gag order to prevent parties in the case from talking to the news media, and bank officials and attorneys refused

comment on the agreement.

During a two-year sting called Operation C-Chase, customs agents posed as money launderers and penetrated powerful Colombian syndicates, authorities said.

According to the indictment, agents contacted BCCI representatives in 1987 and opened accounts at different branches. BCCI officials were to receive drug money and put it in certificates of deposit in the branches, agents said.

The branches used reportedly in-

cluded locations in France, Panama, Uruguay, the Bahamas, Luxembourg and England.

Customs agents claimed the money was intended mainly for Colombian drug traffickers. Investigators said bank officials would create a loan at a branch, permit the agents to withdraw the funds, then repay the loan with the CDs.

The bank divisions and nine of the bank's officers were indicted in 1988. Noriega is not mentioned in the indictment.

# Supreme Court to hear 2 child abuse cases

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to decide whether people accused of child abuse have the right to at least one face-to-face confrontation with their young accusers.

The justices, in two cases of enormous importance for child-abuse prosecutions nationwide, said they will consider reinstating the child-molesting conviction of a Maryland day-care center owner and an Idaho woman's child-abuse conviction.

Decisions in the two cases are expected by July.

Stating that the Constitution's Sixth Amendment requires a face-to-face confrontation, the justices in 1988 struck down an Iowa man's sexual-assault conviction because two 13-year-old girls were allowed to testify while protected by a large screen placed

in the courtroom between them and the defendant.

The Sixth Amendment, in part, says, "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right . . . to be confronted with the witnesses against him."

The 1988 decision appeared to leave unanswered whether there may be exceptions to the face-to-face requirement.

Maryland's highest court threw out Sandra A. Craig's conviction, saying her 7-year-old accuser and three other young witnesses wrongly were allowed to testify against her over closed-circuit television.

But the state court stopped short of invalidating the Maryland law that allows young children to testify by closed-circuit television, outside the presence of the defendant, in such

cases. About half the states have similar laws.

In the appeal acted on Tuesday, Maryland Attorney General J. Joseph Curran Jr. said the state court ruling in Craig's case "struck an untrue balance between a defendant's constitutional right . . . and the compelling governmental interest of safeguarding the physical and psychological well-being of a child."

In its ruling last July, the Maryland Court of Appeals said Craig is entitled to a new trial on charges that she sexually molested a girl who attended her Howard County day-care center for two years before it was closed in 1986.

Craig had been sentenced to 10 years in prison for her 1987 conviction on those charges.

She also faces trial on charges

stemming from the alleged molestation of 12 other children who attended the day-care center in Clarksville, Md.

At the 1987 trial, four children were allowed to testify outside the courtroom with only a prosecutor and one of Craig's lawyers present. Craig and her other lawyer remained in the courtroom, where they could watch the testimony over a closed-circuit television.

In the Idaho case, the issue is whether a defendant's right to confrontation was violated by the testimony of a pediatrician who had examined a 2-year-old girl allegedly abused by her father.

Laura Lee Wright and Robert Giles were convicted in Idaho of lewd conduct committed on Wright's two daughters, who were then 5 and 2.

Wright was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but the state Supreme Court threw out her conviction last June 13 and ordered a new trial.

The state court ruled that the trial judge wrongly had allowed a pediatrician who had examined the 2-year-old girl to testify about what she told him. The girl did not testify at the trial, and therefore could not be cross-examined by Wright's lawyer.

The state court said the pediatrician's testimony "lacks particularized guarantees of trustworthiness and, in fact, is fraught with the dangers of unreliability which the (Sixth Amendment) is designed to highlight and obviate."

The cases are Maryland vs. Craig, 89-478, and Idaho vs. Wright, 89-260.

# Court to review pro-environmentalist ruling challenged by Bush, Department of Interior

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court said Tuesday it will consider limiting the power of environmentalists to prevent the opening up of federal lands to commercial development.

The court voted to review a pro-environmentalist ruling challenged by the Bush administration.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here ruled last June that the National Wildlife Federation may sue the Interior Department over its plans to change the status of some 180 million acres of public land in Western states and Alaska - more than one-fourth of the

nation's public lands.

The federation said it is suing to "protect federal lands against unwise or premature disposition and development," including millions of acres to be opened up to mining and mineral leasing.

The move to reclassify the land for development and other uses was made by the Reagan administration in 1985, following a policy instituted by then-Secretary James G. Watt in 1981.

The wildlife federation said the Reagan administration violated federal law by opening the land to development without following procedures

in the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

The appeals court said the federation has legal standing to sue because affidavits show some of its 4.5 million members use some of the land for recreation. The appeals court overruled a federal judge who had thrown out the suit.

The Bush administration said the appeals court permitted a wholesale challenge to the Interior Department's reclassification based on a vague allegation it will jeopardize use of a tiny portion of the land by wildlife federation members.

## Daily Nebraskan

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