

# Soldiers fire on blacks

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Soldiers fired on thousands of angry blacks Tuesday and rival gangs fought with axes, knives and spears. At least 40 people were killed in the township violence.

President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela visited black townships near Johannesburg to call for a halt in fighting that has killed more than 550 people since Aug. 12.

The government has imposed emergency restrictions and sent elite army units to the townships, but fighting between Zulu followers of the conservative Inkatha movement and other blacks loyal to the ANC raged for a fourth week.

In Sebokeng, a pre-dawn clash killed four people at a migrant workers' hostel, police said. The victims were believed to be township residents abducted by hostel dwellers.

About 5,000 township residents angered by the killings gathered at the hostel, police said.

When the mob refused to disperse, army troops were called in and a "shooting incident occurred," said police Col. Frans Malherbe. "The bodies of 11 persons were found after the mob dispersed."

South African newspaper photographer N. Khumalo told the South African Press Association that "people came toward (the soldiers) waving

their hands, saying 'peace, we are not fighting.' Some of them even sat down."

The troops "took up position, cocked their guns -- I thought maybe they wanted to scare the people," Khumalo was quoted as saying. "All of a sudden there was shooting. Many of the people ran. Some of the people fell."

The shooting marked the first time soldiers have been involved in a clash that has resulted in a loss of lives since they were deployed last month in the townships.

In March, police opened fire on black demonstrators in Sebokeng, killing at least five and wounding more than 150. A judicial inquiry criticized police for the killings, saying gunfire was unjustified.

Malherbe said both police and military were investigating Tuesday's shooting.

A later police report Tuesday put the Sebokeng death toll at 36, with the other killings occurring in sporadic clashes near the hostel and adjacent areas. Police said more than 150 people were arrested.

Police also reported three deaths in Vosloorus and one in Katlehong in overnight street clashes. Both townships are southeast of Johannesburg.

Rival factions continued to skirmish Tuesday in Vosloorus with axes, spears and other crude weapons. Po-

lice fired tear gas and shotguns to keep the groups apart.

Mandela visited Sebokeng on Tuesday afternoon and said he was "outraged" after viewing bodies at a mortuary.

The ANC deputy president repeated his accusation that police fueled the violence by siding with Inkatha fighters. But he also said police arrested more than 100 Inkatha supporters, including youth leader Themba Khoza.

On Monday, Mandela called for an independent investigation of police actions in the townships similar to the one that followed the Sebokeng shootings in March.

De Klerk has ordered Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok to investigate the charges of police bias. He and other officials have said some individuals may have acted improperly.

De Klerk made his first visit as president to the Soweto township southwest of Johannesburg, where more than 100 people were killed in factional fighting this month.

Youths mobbed the president and shouted "Viva, de Klerk!" At one stop, he visited a migrant worker hostel where recent battles have occurred.

De Klerk later told a news conference conditions in the hostels were "unacceptable" and that the government would spend millions of dollars for housing and education in the townships.

# Typhoon kills 88 in China

BEIJING - At least 88 people have died in two coastal provinces that were battered by Typhoon Abe, an official report said Tuesday.

Abe, which landed Friday in south Zhejiang province, rampaged through Shanghai, China's most populous city, then headed back out to sea Monday afternoon, the China Daily reported.

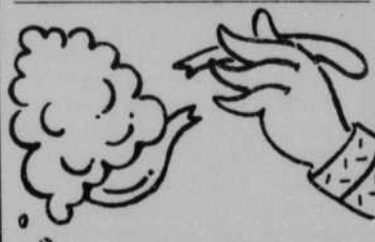
The death toll in Zhejiang now stands at 65, with 839 injured, 660,000

stranded by floods and 40,000 left homeless, the report said.

Half the province's land area and one-fourth of its population -- about 10 million people -- were affected by Typhoon Abe. It was reported to be the worst typhoon to hit the province in 34 years.

In neighboring Jiangsu province, 23 people died and hundreds were injured, mostly by collapsing buildings, the paper said.

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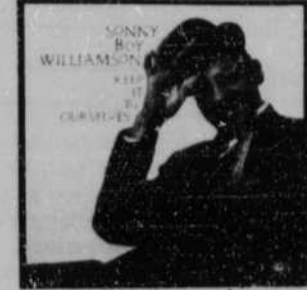
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