

UPDATE

Baghdad may have expelled anti-Iranian political group

WASHINGTON - Iraq, responding to a request from Iran, appears to have expelled members of a major Iranian opposition group, U.S. officials say.

Members of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, the largest group trying to overthrow the clerical government in Tehran, have apparently started leaving Iraq for Paris and other European sites, said the officials who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The move is in keeping with Iraqi attempts to end its economic and diplomatic isolation by courting Iran, a one-time enemy with which it fought a disastrous eight-year war until 1988.

In recent weeks Iraq has ceded many of its war gains, sending back thousands of war prisoners, withdrawing troops from areas it captured in the war, and agreeing to share sovereignty over the strategically important Shatt-al-Arab waterway.

In return, Iraq asked for permission to hook into a major Iranian oil pipeline and circumvent the international naval blockade that's preventing the export of its oil. The Iraqis also asked Iran for food and medicine.

Iraq has sent some truckloads of food, but has not responded to the pipeline request, U.S. officials say.

"We're very watchful of what kind of relations Saddam Hussein is able to establish with Iran," said CIA Director William Webster in an interview this week with The Associated Press. "So far, Iran is in a kind of win-win situation."

Iraq and Iran have restored diplomatic relations and restaffed their embassies in each others' capitals.

"The sense is that with this new understanding between Iran and Iraq, an organization like that (the PMOI) is not welcome there any more," said another administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Iraq's official news agency IRNA reported several times last month that Massoud Rajavi, the PMOI's Baghdad-based leader, had asked his people to leave Iraq and was himself leaving for Germany.

But PMOI representatives in the United States, who used to bombard reporters with phone calls, interview offers and news conferences, have all but disappeared in recent weeks. Repeated calls to their officials have not been returned.

The group did hold a news conference at U.N. headquarters Wednesday to complain about Iran's human rights record, but the officials refused to discuss their relations with Baghdad despite repeated questioning.

Administration officials walk out of negotiations

Party squabbles plague talks

WASHINGTON - Bush administration officials stalked out of deficit-reduction negotiations Sunday, complaining that Democrats were divided over a Republican offer to raise taxes on the wealthy.

The setback in efforts to work out a compromise \$250-billion package of tax increases and spending cuts came late on a weekend in which the two sides seemed to be moving toward each other on ways to boost taxes on the richest Americans.

"We're not going to negotiate with Democrats who can't come to an agreement among themselves," said White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, as he left the Capitol with White House budget chief Richard Darman and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady. "This was a great offer."

Bush administration officials

pushed a plan, first floated late Saturday, to boost the income-tax rate on the richest taxpayers from 28 percent to 31 percent. Sununu said the package also limited deductions available to the highest-income people.

Democrats rejected the proposal and responded with a counteroffer of their own. Throughout Sunday, the two sides offered refinements on their plans at private meetings and in telephone conversations.

But in the late afternoon, Sununu and the others returned to the White House.

"They got caught with their hands in the pockets of the working men and women of this country, and they are still trying to make their way out of it," Sununu said.

He was apparently referring to a

deficit-reduction plan passed by the House — and written by Democrats — that would have delayed inflation adjustments to income-tax brackets and the personal exemption. The proposal, in effect, raised income taxes slightly on everyone who pays the income tax.

Asked if the negotiations were breaking up, Sununu said, "We're always available."

Afterward, Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said Democrats would continue working on their offer and expected to meet with GOP congressional leaders into the evening.

Republicans have been fearful of late that Democrats have made the tax-the-rich battle cry their own barely two weeks from Election Day.

Young Arabian murders Israelis

JERUSALEM - A knife-wielding Arab teen-ager shouting "God is Great!" stalked a quiet Jewish neighborhood Sunday, stabbing three Israelis to death, police said. They said he was seeking revenge for the Temple Mount killings.

One victim managed to shoot and wound the attacker, who was then seized by furious residents, ending the rampage in the Baka area in southern Jerusalem, police said.

Police said they would bar Arabs from traveling into Jerusalem today and would patrol sensitive districts of the city to head off clashes, spokesman Aharon Elchayani said.

The early morning incident inflamed tensions in the city, running high since the killings of at least 19 Palestinians on Oct. 8 at Jerusalem's Temple Mount, when Israeli police fired into a stone-throwing mob.

Two Palestinian factions claimed

responsibility for Sunday's attack, but police said they believed the assailant acted alone. The suspect was identified as Omar Abu Sirhan, a 19-year-old Arab laborer from the village of Ubbadiyah in the occupied West Bank.

Avi Cohen, the officer leading the interrogation, said the attacker apparently chose his victims at random after the idea of revenge attacks "took shape in his mind in the past week." He said Abu Sirhan had no known criminal background.

The slain Israelis were an 18-year-old woman soldier, a 43-year-old garden nursery owner and a 28-year-old member of an elite police anti-terrorism unit, police said. The off-duty police officer managed to shoot the assailant as he was being attacked.

Angry Israeli youths stoned Arab-owned cars on a Jerusalem highway. Shouts of "Death to the Arabs!" resounded in the streets of Baka.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens voiced fears that Arab-Jewish communal violence was reducing prospects of a Mideast peace settlement. He told Israel television's Arabic-language service he feared "a chasm is opening" that will make any reconciliation difficult.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek appealed for calm, saying the attack was "a tough test of people's patience and tolerance."

Some Israeli politicians demanded broader powers for troops and police to fire on attackers. They also said the off-duty policeman should have immediately shot the assailant dead. Instead, the officer fired his pistol in the air, then shot the attacker in the legs.

"If someone attacks with intent to kill, he should be killed on the spot," Agriculture Minister Raphael Eitan said.

Daylong depression program may catch on

QUINCY, Mass. - June recently lost a relative, and her sorrow would not abate. Then she read an article about a hospital's daylong program on depression, and found herself among 150 neighbors in need of help.

Douglas G. Jacobs of Quincy Psychiatric Associates said his unusual session, which he hopes will be a model for programs nationwide, provided potent evidence of the wide reach of depression.

In fact, three of the people who came to the free session held earlier this month at Quincy City Hospital were immediately hospitalized because "they were in the midst of a suicidal crisis."

Jacobs was concerned but not surprised. He said statistics show fewer than 30 percent of depressed people ever get help. Although most people who do seek counseling can recover in six to nine months, the recovery

period involves severe bouts of stress and disruption at home and work.

Fifteen percent don't recover; they commit suicide, Jacobs said.

"At any time, 7 1/2 (million) to 10 million people suffer from depression," Jacobs said. "Many depressions go unrecognized, and the ultimate loss is suicide. We're trying to



encourage people to identify depression in themselves."

Jacobs, a psychologist who specializes in suicide research, has been on the Harvard Medical School faculty for 12 years. He developed the idea of the one-day program at the hospital as a way to familiarize people with the symptoms of depression and

to encourage treatment.

"This is not a substitute for a psychiatric evaluation. This is to learn about depression, to learn about the signs and symptoms," Jacobs said. "I'm going to propose this to be conducted statewide and perhaps nationally. That will take a lot of planning."

About 15 participants in the session contacted him or another mental health professional for follow-up treatment, and in all, "at least 50 percent could have benefited from treatment," Jacobs said.

Mental health professionals say doctors need to be more familiar with the symptoms of depression, which often manifests itself physically.

Many have depressed patients and don't know it, said Melvin Sabshin, medical director for the American Psychiatric Association in Washington.

"A lot of people who have depres-

sion start with physical symptoms," said Sabshin. "Loss of sleep, physical problems of other kinds — fatigue, general lack of energy, headaches, gastric problems. They suffer from sexual problems, too."

Jacobs called the APA for some guidance on the program, and the national organization couldn't name a similar endeavor.

"The program that (Jacobs) had in Quincy was excellent," Sabshin said last week. "It could be a prototype that we could consider for a program on a national basis."

The one-day session in this city just south of Boston consisted of three, two-hour sessions including a half-hour lecture by Jacobs, a videotape of depressed people discussing their condition, informational literature, and a questionnaire. Each participant also got a brief session with a counselor.

Spreading AIDS virus may be illegal

WASHINGTON - An increasing number of states now have laws that make it a crime to knowingly expose another person to the AIDS virus.

Since 1986, 22 states have passed laws making it illegal to engage in conduct that could transmit the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, believed to cause acquired immune deficiency syndrome, according to the AIDS Policy Center at George Washington University.

"The idea of trying to prosecute somebody for attempted transmission of HIV is increasingly, almost alarmingly, common," said Lawrence O. Gostin, director of the U.S. Public Health Service and a professor at the Harvard University School of Public Health.

But, he said, "when somebody is

actually having sex with somebody, I think the risk is significant enough that prosecutors are well within their rights to prosecute."

While the number of AIDS-related prosecutions nationwide is not known, the military seems to be having the best success with such cases, the experts say.

Last week the Supreme Court rejected without comment an appeal by Nathaniel Johnson Jr., an Air Force sergeant who was convicted in a military court of aggravated assault because he had homosexual relations at McChord Air Force Base, Wash., while knowingly infected with the virus.

The Air Force Court of Military Review said at least six previous courts-martial had been convened based on AIDS-related assaults. Such conduct, it said, "can be analogized to attempt-

ing to put poison in the drink of a victim."

Johnson was dishonorably discharged and sentenced to six years in prison. But the outcomes in civilian courts so far have tended to be different, Gostin said.

"It is enormously problematical to try to reach into the bedroom and create a criminal prosecution around it, and the only ones who have been successful in doing that are the military," Gostin said.

Part of the reason is because most civilian cases involve biting, spitting or splashing blood rather than intercourse.

"Most of the cases of (infected) men sleeping with people are military cases," said Gostin, who is also executive director of the American Society of Law and Medicine.

Aoun supporter killed by gunmen in Beirut suburb

BAABDA, Lebanon - Gunmen burst into the home of a top supporter of Christian Gen. Michel Aoun on Sunday and shot the supporter, his wife and two sons to death, police said. Only an 11-month-old girl survived.

The daybreak massacre of Dany Chamoun and his family in their suburban Beirut apartment came a week after a Syrian and Lebanese government troops crushed Aoun's mutiny in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the slayings, which were branded by Christian and Moslem leaders alike as an attempt to block a plan to end the 15-year-old civil war.

Chamoun, a Maronite Catholic and the son of late President Camille Chamoun, was one of the most outspoken critics of President Elias Hrawi and Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

He also was at odds with Christian warlord Samir Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces militia fought a four-month war with Aoun's troops early this year for mastery of the Christian hinterland.

Aoun himself took refuge a week ago in the French Embassy. France has granted him asylum, but the Lebanese government insists he stay and stand trial for alleged crimes including the theft of \$75 million from the state treasury.

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