

Demands met

Officials: Iraq will honor all U.N. gulf resolutions

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq late Wednesday promised the United Nations it will honor all the Security Council resolutions on the gulf war, as demanded by the United States and its allies, diplomats said.

They said the latest letter addressed to the Security Council and Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made clear that Baghdad will honor all the resolutions.

Yemen's Ambassador Abdalla Saleh Ashtal, who saw the original letter in Arabic, said, "It had in it the acceptance of Iraq of resolutions of the Security Council pertaining to the gulf crisis."

"It is what the Security Council wants, of course, on the condition that there be a cease-fire. But now it's been overtaken by events," al-Ashtal said.

Cuban Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon also confirmed the account.

CNN said the letter was signed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and quoted it as saying: "The government of Iraq agrees to fully comply with U.N. resolution 660 and to all the other Security Council resolutions."

There was no official confirma-

tion from Baghdad that Iraq had accepted the resolutions.

Al-Ashtal said the Security Council would meet this morning to discuss the gulf war.

The council earlier had rejected a conditional peace offer from Iraq and told Baghdad it must agree to all 12 U.N. resolutions prior to any cease-fire.

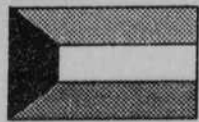
Iraq's ambassador had said his government accepted council resolutions guaranteeing Kuwait's sovereignty and would accept liability for war damages — but only if a cease-fire were declared and an economic embargo lifted.

President Bush said the allies would cease fire if Iraq agreed to their demands, including compliance with the 12 resolutions.

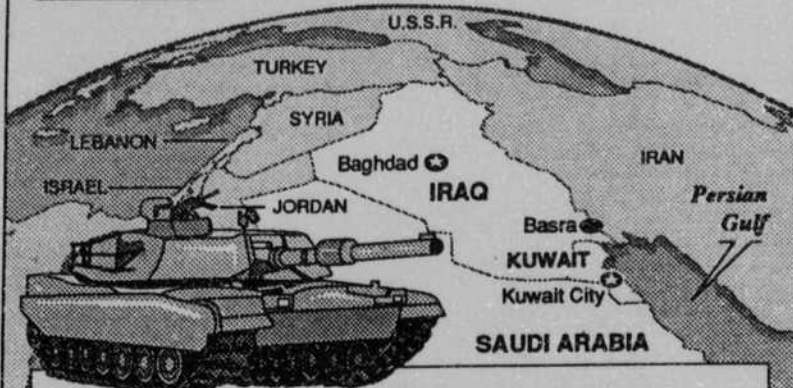
As news of Iraq's decision to comply with the U.N. resolution's broke, the hour for a cease-fire, 8 a.m. in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, arrived.

U.S. military sources said an hour before the deadline that all allied offensive land, sea and air actions — including the relentless bombing of Baghdad — would stop at the cease-fire deadline.

Gulf War Roundup Wednesday, Feb. 27



In Kuwait City: The Kuwaiti flag flew over the capital for the first time in six months Wednesday as machine-gun-toting civilians took control of the city. Joyous Kuwaitis cheered "Thank you, America."



On the Battlefield:

- Hundreds of tanks of the U.S. 1st and 3rd Armored Divisions and 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment clashed with a Republican Guard division in a key showdown in the U.S.-British push to drive the Iraqi army's beleaguered remnants into the Basra corner.
- Troops of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division stood less than 100 miles from Baghdad, in the deepest penetration yet of Iraq. The top U.S. commander disavowed any intention of marching on the Iraqi capital, however.
- The continuing battle in Iraq's Southern Desert was the biggest armored engagement since World War II.
- At a briefing, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf gave an overview of the Gulf War so far, and updated the American casualty count: 79 killed, including 28 in the ground campaign, and 213 wounded.

As of 7 p.m. EST

Kuwaiti flag flies over capital city

KUWAIT CITY — The Kuwaiti flag flew over the capital for the first time in six months Wednesday, as machine-gun-toting civilians took control of the city and allied forces encircled it.

Thousands of Kuwaitis emerged from hiding to stage euphoric celebrations in their war-ravaged capital.

The celebration of freedom from Iraqi occupation began at first light and by midday included children biking in the streets, past schools that had been converted to Iraqi barracks, couples strolling the shoreline holding hands and an endless staccato of machine-gun fire into the skies.

Fewer than 100 Iraqis were said to be hiding by day's end, potential snipers being searched out by the armed civilians.

Just west of the city, Marines defeated the Iraqis in a major battle at Kuwait International Airport, ending the last organized Iraqi resistance in Kuwait, allied officials said.

The exiled emir, Sheik Jaber al Sabah, planned to return to the city by week's end, perhaps as early as Thursday, Kuwaiti resistance leaders said.

As Kuwaitis paraded throughout Kuwait City and the towns to the south, they ripped from walls pictures of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. One elderly man spat at a Saddam poster before pulling it from a wall and setting it afire. A poster showing Sheik Jaber walking alongside Crown Prince Saad Abdullah was in its place.

Scores of buildings were scarred by fire; many, including the capital's main electricity plant, still were burning or smoldering.

A thick, at times choking, smoke wafted in the air, the ugly byproduct of dozens of oil fires set by retreating Iraqis. The fires still burned, some sending bright orange flames more than 100 feet in the air.

"Thank all the Americans for saving our country," said Sabekah Abul, an Egyptian who lives in Kuwait and weathered the more than six months of occupation. "Kuwait is free again."

11 Pennsylvania reservists killed by Scud

GREENSBURG, Pa. — Eleven soldiers from Pennsylvania Reserve units, two of them the first U.S. women reported killed in the Gulf war, were among the victims of the Iraqi missile attack on barracks in Saudi Arabia, relatives and U.S. Army officials said Wednesday.

Ten of the victims were members of the 14th Quartermaster Detachment, a water purification unit based in Greensburg, Maj. Gen. James Baylor

said. One belonged to the 326th Quartermaster Detachment, based in New Castle, he said.

The 14th had left the United States just a week and a day before the Scud missile hit Monday near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. All together, 28 Americans died and 100 were wounded, the Army said. The toll was higher than all the other Scud attacks on Israel, Saudi Arabia and other sites combined, according to official casualty

figures.

All 11 bodies were flown Tuesday to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, said Baylor, commander of the 99th Army Reserve Command of Oakdale, a Pittsburgh suburb.

Flags at the Greensburg center and at a high school across the street were flown at half-staff. Gov. Robert Casey declared a statewide week of mourning to honor those killed and said all state flags will fly at half-staff.

Reformers accuse Communists of plotting coup in Lithuania

MOSCOW — An investigation by pro-reform military officers on Wednesday accused eight Communist Party leaders of plotting a coup attempt in Lithuania, and said President Mikhail Gorbachev must have known about the plan.

The officers concluded that Soviet troops were responsible for the deaths of 15 people during an attack last month on the television station in Lithuania's capital of Vilnius. Their report was published in the liberal weekly Moscow News.

The report by the officers, who call themselves Shchit, or Shield, rejected the military's claim that troops were fired on by demonstrators.

It also rejected a claim by Soviet Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov that the troops were only ordered "to maintain order," rather than help the shadowy National Salvation Committee seize power during the pre-dawn clash on Jan. 13.

"The participation of Soviet military in the government coup was planned beforehand, coordinated and approved in the center (Moscow)," said the report. "The president cannot have not known about the planned action."

The report offered no evidence for its conclusion that Gorbachev knew about the action in advance.

The tank attack on Lithuanian civilians surrounding the television facility was witnessed by dozens of foreign correspondents and drew outrage around the world.

Gorbachev has maintained he did not know about the military action until the next morning. He has been criticized for creating a climate that

made such a military response possible.

The criticism likely will grow with publication of the inquiry by five mid-rank officers of the pro-reform soldiers' organization, which is despised by hard-liners in the high command.

The report named eight top Communist officials as the "nucleus" of the National Salvation Committee. Among those was Gen. Vladimir Uskhopchik, the Vilnius garrison commander who led the tank attack on the television tower.

According to witnesses, the nationalist committee's claim to have seized power in Lithuania was broadcast from the advancing tanks.

The report also named Lithuanian Communist Party chief Mikolas Burokys; ideology chief Juozas Jermalavicius; Maj. Gen. Algimantas

das Naudzhunas, a party secretary; Col. Valery Shurupov, a party consultant; Vilnius party leader Valentin Lazutka; second secretary Valentin Khadunkin; and the party secretary of a military radio factory, who was identified only as Dostal.

Jermalavicius acted as the spokesman for the group during the attack, but said he was not a member. On Wednesday, Jermalavicius again denied that he or any of the others named in the report were members of the committee.

The committee was composed of "people who had never been involved in politics until swept by the recent wave," Jermalavicius said in an interview. "They are naive people who felt they had to do something to save their country."

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