

Iraqis accept allied demands for peace

SAFWAN, Iraq - Allied and Iraqi military commanders cleared the way Sunday for a permanent truce in the Persian Gulf war, reaching agreement on the release of prisoners and taking steps to avoid further skirmishes.

"I am very happy to tell you that we agreed on all matters," the Desert Storm commander, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, said after a two-hour meeting in a heavily guarded tent at Safwan air base in southern Iraq.

Schwarzkopf said Iraqi military officers "came to discuss and cooperate with a positive attitude." If such dealings continue, the commander told reporters, "We are well on our way to a lasting peace."

The Iraqi commanders also turned over information on the location of hundreds of thousands of mines Iraq planted in Kuwait and Persian Gulf waters.

For their part, the allies promised to withdraw their forces from the Iraqi territory they hold once a formal cease-fire is signed.

Schwarzkopf refused to predict when that may happen, and he said a second meeting with the Iraqi commanders was possible.

The general did not mention other demands the allies have made —

demands that could conceivably delay a permanent cease-fire and the long-awaited day when the United States begins withdrawing its 530,000 soldiers.

The United Nations spelled out those requirements Saturday night.

Before a formal cease-fire can be adopted, the world body's Security Council said in a new resolution, Iraq must also rescind its annexation of Kuwait and accept liability for war damages in the emirate.

In addition, the Security Council reaffirmed earlier anti-Baghdad measures, including one that imposed worldwide trade sanctions on Iraq.

The latest resolution backs President Bush's position that allied troops remain in Iraq until the cease-fire he declared Thursday becomes permanent.

As the complicated endgame to the war continued, there were new reports of civil unrest in Iraq.

Washington repeatedly has urged Iraq to overthrow Saddam Hussein, but U.S. officials say they don't know whether anti-government protests in Iraq have become widespread or are turning into a popular revolt.

Saddam, meanwhile, began the long process of rebuilding his war-torn

nation and restoring his image as a regional leader to be reckoned with.

Baghdad Radio reported Sunday that he led a meeting on restoration of Iraqi communications, the first report of his activities since Tuesday.

Returning to the offensive, on radio at least, Iraq repeated its call for Saudis to overthrow King Fahd, claiming his government was responsible for the deaths of innocent Iraqis because it hosted the U.S.-led multinational force.

In Washington, Secretary of State James Baker said Sunday that the United States seeks to maintain an "enhanced naval presence" in the Persian Gulf but wants Arab countries to dominate postwar security arrangements.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, a key player in the anti-Iraq coalition led by the United States, went even further.

He ruled out Western involvement in any postwar security arrangement in the gulf. "Arab security will only be Arab, and it will have all the protection needed for this part of the world," he said in a speech in Cairo.

On the battlefield, the allies continued to capture Iraqi tanks, artillery pieces, warplanes and prisoners, the U.S. command said Sunday.

10 foreign POWs released; 6 are Americans, Iraq says

UNITED NATIONS - Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir al-Anbari said Sunday that 10 foreign prisoners of war have been released, including six Americans. He said one of those released was a young woman.

Al-Anbari made the comment to reporters who questioned him as he entered a Security Council meeting that was to consider relaxing the embargo on food and humanitarian aid to Iraq.

He said Iraq had, "already, I believe, released 10 POW's as a gesture of goodwill. Six of them are

American citizens, including one of them the young lady that was captured a few days ago."

Al-Anbari gave no further details. Iraq is known to hold 13 prisoners of war, including nine Americans.

The only known woman POW is Army Spc. Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, 20, of Grand Rapids, Mich. She apparently was captured Jan. 30 after Iraq troops made an incursion into Saudi Arabia at the town of Khafji.

In one engagement, Marine Brig. Gen. Richard Neal said, navy helicopters flew over Faylakah Island off Kuwait on Sunday morning calling through loudspeakers for Iraqi soldiers to surrender and assemble.

Naval forces then went in and took 1,405 POWs, including a brigadier general and 89 other officers, Neal told reporters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

No new allied casualties or significant clashes were reported anywhere in Kuwait or occupied Iraq during the past 24 hours, he said.

Little has been done, meanwhile, to put out the fires Iraq apparently set at 600 Kuwaiti oilfields. Greasy, black smoke continues to hang over portions of Kuwait and southern Iraq, including the site of the Safwan air base meeting.

Manufacturer recalls Sudafed when linked to deaths, illness

SEATTLE - Officials say two deaths and an illness may be linked to cyanide-laden Sudafed decongestant capsules, leading the maker of the product on Sunday to issue a nationwide recall.

"Consumers should avoid taking Sudafed 12-Hour Capsules, and return all Sudafed 12-Hour Capsules to the store from which they purchased the product," said manufacturer Burroughs Wellcome Co. of Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Washington state and federal officials ordered a recall of the capsules from two counties in western Washington late Saturday night. They also urged store owners and consumers throughout the state to check Sudafed boxes and foil packs that contain the pills for

specific code numbers.

No deaths or illness related to Sudafed have been reported in other parts of the country. No arrests have been made.

Last month, a 40-year-old Tacoma woman died of cyanide poisoning and a woman from Tumwater, an Olympia suburb, was treated after becoming seriously ill, reportedly after taking Sudafed capsules laced with cyanide, said Susan Hutchcroft of the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

Burroughs Wellcome said the federal agency had notified it of two deaths within the last 24 hours, including that of a man in Lacey, another Olympia suburb, said company spokeswoman Sharon Haggerty.

No survivors reported in Colorado jet crash

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - A United Airlines jetliner with 25 people on board crashed in flames as it approached the Colorado Springs airport Sunday morning, and there were apparently no survivors, authorities said.

United Flight 585 en route from Denver crashed at 9:55 a.m. four to five miles south of the airport, the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington said. There were 20 passengers on board and a crew of five.

The FAA and the airline both said all aboard apparently were killed. The plane narrowly missed houses and apartment buildings; at least one person on the ground was injured.

"There does not appear to be" any survivors, said Dick Meyer, of the FAA's public information office in Seattle. Chicago-based United said in a statement that "at this time there are no reports of survivors" aboard the Boeing 737-200.

"All obviously are presumed dead," said Sgt. Dean Kelsey, of the El Paso County Sheriff's office. However, he said he would not confirm that until search efforts had been exhausted.

Meyer said there was no communication from the pilot to the airport control tower indicating any problem before the crash.

A witness, Army Command Sgt. Maj. Leo Martinez, said that the plane

banked sharply, veered and then crashed virtually nose first.

"I watched and it went vertically into the ground," he said. "There was a huge fireball, black smoke and orange flame."

He said there was "nothing — just debris, very small debris. You can see tires burning. I don't think there's a part larger than a suitcase. You can't see any wings . . . or anything."

Sheriff's Lt. Bill Mistretta said the plane crashed in an unincorporated residential area called Widefield. The plane crashed in a park surrounded by houses and apartment buildings.

"It's a long and narrow park," Martinez said. "If he (the pilot) did this on purpose, no one in Iraq and Saudi Arabia could have done a better job of flying. It is the only place he could have taken it in."

Another witness, Bill Ferguson, likened the plane's descent to "a dive-bombing mission."

Ed Arangio, administrator at Memorial Hospital, said a 12-year-old girl who was in the doorway of her house suffered a head injury when she was blown backward by the force of the crash. She was in good condition, he said.

The weather was clear but there were high, gusty winds in the area at the time of the crash, Mistretta said.

Latvians and Estonians vote on independence from Soviets

RIGA, U.S.S.R. - Latvians and Estonians voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union Sunday, officials said, after counting more than three-quarters of the ballots.

In Latvia, nearly complete vote totals showed 77 percent voted in favor of separation and 21 percent against, officials said.

In Estonia, 90 percent of rural residents and 77.8 percent of city voters opted for independence, officials said. They could not give an overall figure immediately.

The balloting came less than a month after residents of the third Baltic republic, Lithuania, overwhelmingly voted in favor of independence, and two weeks before President Mikhail

Gorbachev's nationwide referendum on holding the Soviet Union and its 15 republics together.

"We have dreamed all our lives about independence. Our fathers lived in a free Latvia," said Zinaigur Radjabova, 49. The three Baltic republics were free for 20 years before being forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

Radjabova said she voted "yes" on the ballot that asked the question: "Do you support the democratic and independent statehood of the republic of Latvia?"

Latvian President Anatolijs Gorbunovs, casting his ballot in a candy factory, predicted 70 percent of the turnout would vote for independence

for the republic.

While Gorbunovs described Sunday an historic day for Latvian independence, the vote is little more than a public opinion poll, carrying no legal weight.

It does, however, represent a strong challenge to Gorbachev, who has branded illegal last year's independence declarations by the Baltic republics. The Latvian parliament declared independence May 4.

It also serves to pre-empt Gorbachev's March 17 referendum, which is designed to test the national will in preserving the entire Soviet Union. The Baltics as well as Armenia, Georgia and Moldavia have said they won't participate.

3 killed Navy plane crashes

GLENVIEW, Ill. - A Navy plane crashed in a residential neighborhood a half-mile south of the Glenview Naval Air Station in this Chicago suburb on Sunday, killing its three-person crew, officials said.

Eyewitnesses said the pilot appeared to take heroic actions in order to miss houses and apparently went down with the craft, which crashed in an open area at 11:45 a.m.

Three people died in the crash, none of them on the ground, said WBBM-AM and WGN-AM radio stations in Chicago, citing information supplied by the Navy.

Bob Jensen, a spokesman at the naval station, declined to confirm that number. He said the crash is being investigated.

The plane landed on its head in an

open area, said one witness who identified himself only as Russ to WBBM.

"It rolled over a house and then went straight down," he said. Glenview Fire Department spokesman Pete Loeblich said he had no further information, but units from the nearby naval station and local firefighters were on the scene.

Lt. Cmdr. Edward Lundquist, a Defense Department spokesman in Washington, said the plane was a T39 Sabreliner. He said it's like a jet that's "used for VIP travel" and it's powered by two turbojet engines.

He said there were no passengers aboard the plane when it crashed.

The crew consisted of a pilot and co-pilot, both naval officers, and an enlisted crew chief.

A United Boeing 737 jet crashed south of the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport

Colorado Springs

WYO. NEB. UTAH KAN. N.M. TEXAS

150 miles

Boeing 737-200

Length: 100 ft. 2 in.
Wingspan: 93 ft. 0 in.
Engines: Two turbofans mounted under wings
Range: About 2,500 miles
Passengers: 120-130
Built by: Boeing Commercial Airplane Group
Introduced: 1988

Source: Jane's All the World's Aircraft

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Divisions Editor Photo Chief Connie Sneehan William Lauer

Publications Board Chairman Bill Vobejda 436-9993
Professional Adviser Don Walton 473-7301

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