

Lebanon clash threatens talks

TYRE, Lebanon — Israel reportedly moved more tanks into its buffer zone in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, while its warplanes and artillery hit guerrilla positions to avenge attacks by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah that killed six Israelis.

The fighting, which has left at least 13 people dead and 35 wounded in Israel and Lebanon this week, threatened to undermine the seventh round of Arab-Israeli peace talk underway in Washington.

Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim fundamentalist group that wants to derail the talks, claimed responsibility for the bombing Sunday in the Israeli buffer zone. The blast killed five Israeli soldiers and wounded five.

"We must be ready and deployed to respond in the necessary manner if Hezbollah continues in its attempts to attack," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said after a guerrilla rocket killed a teen-ager in northern Israel before dawn Tuesday.

Coupled with a wave of Palestinian attacks on Jews, the fighting in Lebanon is arousing Israeli pub-

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— Rabin Israeli Prime Minister

lic opinion and hampering Rabin's efforts to prepare his people to make concessions required for peace with the Arabs.

Hezbollah, which said it was mobilizing its 3,500 hardcore fighters, clamored Tuesday for Lebanon to withdraw from the talks.

The Beirut government ignored the demand but said it would lodge a complaint with the U.N. Security Council over the "ferocious Israeli aggressions."

Israel radio said an unspecified number of tanks moved into the buffer zone Tuesday to reinforce troops that patrol the area. Israel's army radio carried a similar report

and said there were "large numbers of troops deployed along the border" with Lebanon.

Timur Goksel, a spokesman for the U.N. monitoring force in southern Lebanon, said U.N. observers had not detected any unusual military moves.

Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, commander of Israel's northern forces, said at a news conference that Israeli tanks had not moved north of the security zone. He refused to discuss whether more tanks were sent into the zone.

Israeli planes, helicopters, gunboats and howitzers struck at numerous suspected guerrilla targets in Lebanon on Monday.

On Tuesday, Israeli warplanes staged two separate raids in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley apparently in response to the pre-dawn Katyusha rocket attack that killed a Ukrainian teen-ager and wounded five people in the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmonch.

Police said Israeli gunners intermittently shelled villages in southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa Valley with 155mm howitzers, causing hundreds of people to flee to safer areas.

Economic growth boosts Bush bid to catch Clinton

President Bush seized on news of stronger-than-expected economic growth Tuesday as a welcome tonic for his ailing campaign. Bill Clinton sped through the South, telling supporters who seemed ready to begin celebrating, "One more week."

The third man in the race, independent candidate Ross Perot, stayed out of sight after two days of appearances in which he accused the Republicans of plotting "dirty tricks" against him and his family.

"It's crazy," Bush said of Perot's allegation that Republicans were planning to disrupt his daughter's wedding. "A little bizarre," the president said of Perot's spending tens of millions of dollars on campaign ads.

Clinton was glad to take the high road, denouncing "all this name calling and stuff."

In Augusta, Ga., and then again in Tampa, Fla., he gave his dramatic version of political appointees at the State Department going through his records late at night, then declared, to cheers and laughter:

"I bet it's the only time those three political hacks have worked till 10 o'clock at night the whole time Bush has been president."

Perot's running mate, former Vietnam prisoner of war James Stockdale, said in an interview with The Idaho Statesman in Boise that anti-war demonstrations by young Americans such as Clinton hurt the war effort, costing thousands of American lives and prolonging the captivity of POWs.

Vice President Dan Quayle joined a Bloomington, Ill., crowd in laughingly tossing around waffles symbolizing GOP charges about Clinton's changeability. He had a tougher moment earlier, in an interview with CBS' "This Morning," when he asserted, "We have been pushing the idea that George Bush is going to make matters much, much worse."

The government reported that economic growth jumped to an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the quarter end-

ing Sept. 30. The growth surprised most private forecasters and was nearly double the weak 1.5 percent rate in the April-June quarter.

"It's going to be very hard for the nay-sayers and the pessimists, who can only win by convincing people how bad things are, to refute the fact that this is very encouraging for America," the president said.

"If you think I'm happy, you're right," said Bush.

Just seven days from the election, Bush tried to play catch-up in Iowa, Kentucky and Ohio. He was running behind in all three states.

"If you think I'm happy, you're right."

— Bush

Clinton campaigned from Georgia to Florida to Louisiana.

"If we carry Florida, it is over," Clinton shouted to the cheering crowd in Tampa.

Running mate Al Gore campaigned in Wisconsin and Michigan, serenaded in Racine, Wis., by a crowd chanting, "One more week."

Bush gave television interviews aboard Air Force One to local channels, and lined up a series of morning and evening appearances on network television programs throughout the week.

"There's a sea change in the country, and I feel it," Bush said. "Everybody traveling with us feels it... There's something happening out there."

Even while predicting victory, Bush looked ahead to his life after he leaves the White House.

"I'm going to get big in the grandchild business. I'm going to get big in the golf business," he said on NBC's "Today" program. "If I want to be out on a boat whether there's a war on or something else, I know what I'm doing and forget about it all."

"But that's going to be five years from now, not one," he said.

Advanced U.S. exports aided Iraqis in 'supergun' effort, lawmakers say

Senator criticizes slow investigation

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Senate Banking Committee accused the Bush administration Tuesday of "putting out false information" on U.S. export of advanced technology to Iraq before the Gulf War.

Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., also criticized the Justice Department for what he called a delay in investigating possible criminal wrongdoing by administration officials.

"It appears on the face of it that laws were broken; the people that did it have to be identified," said Riegle, who was the only committee member present. "The delay cannot go on

indefinitely here... If this Justice Department and attorney general don't do it, then another one will."

Before they were submitted to Congress, documents pertaining to export licenses for Iraq were improperly altered by Commerce Department employees to disguise their military potential, the department's inspector general has found.

Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, House Banking Committee chairman who has investigated U.S.-Iraq ties for two years, testified that the Bush administration helped the Iraqis build a nuclear "supergun," by approving export licenses in 1989 for related technology.

Gonzalez said the Commerce Department granted an export license in 1989 to Space Research Corp. of Maryland for a computer used to de-

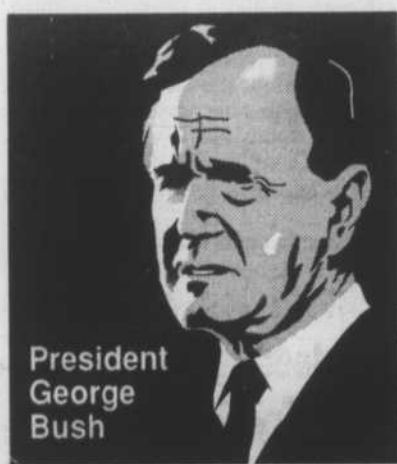
sign a projectile for the long-range cannon designed to deliver nuclear weapons. At the time, Gonzalez said, the State Department knew Space Research was engaged in numerous military projects in Iraq.

"Not surprisingly, the State Department misled the public about export licenses approved for Space Research Corp.," Gonzalez said.

Riegle was bolstered in his assertions by testimony from several nuclear technology experts who disputed recent statements by President Bush and top administration officials that U.S. technology was not used in Iraq's nuclear weapons program.

Bush had said in the final presidential debate that "there hasn't been one single scintilla of evidence that there's any U.S. technology involved in it."

President faces high hurdles in final campaign week



President George Bush

Brian Shillito/DN

WASHINGTON — Americans' economic worries and desire for change are proving stiff obstacles to a comeback for President Bush, who is making late progress in a handful of traditional Republican states, but in others has stalled or even slipped.

In two states, Washington and New York, the incumbent president has even slipped below 20 percent in some recent overnight tracking polls, according to pollsters in both parties who are not involved in the presidential campaign.



They predicted Bush ultimately

would fare better in those states, but said the numbers underscore the president's troubles in the final days before the election. Several pollsters interviewed Tuesday said Bush's standing is remarkably stagnant in national surveys because so many voters are convinced he is not the best choice to run the economy.

"The feeling was that he wasn't paying as much attention as they wanted him to pay to the central thing — which is jobs and the economy," said Andrew Kohut, director of surveys for Times Mirror Center for The People & The Press, which re-pollled 1,200 voters 10 days apart this month and found no movement toward Bush. "The economy is the key issue and

President Bush has not focused to the voters' satisfaction sufficient attention to answering the question, 'How is the second term going to be different and better?'" said pollster Lee Miringoff of New York's Marist Institute.

One alarming sign for Bush: pollsters in New England say Clinton has stretched a tiny lead over Bush in New Hampshire to double digits in recent days. New Hampshire last supported a Democrat for president in 1964.

Also, pollsters trying to gauge the impact of Ross Perot's unsubstantiated allegations of a Republican smear campaign say there was movement away from Perot in Monday night polling in Wisconsin and Michigan,

with Clinton the beneficiary.

Interviews Tuesday with a dozen pollsters across the country and recent national survey data offered ample evidence of the obstacles Bush faces in generating a last-week comeback. Even with good economic news Tuesday, pollsters said, it likely is too late for Bush to repair his image on the issue of most concern to voters.

Bush on Monday delivered a speech in which he detailed second-term priorities, but it was overshadowed by Perot's vitriolic defense of his conduct.

"It didn't get quite as much coverage as it might have without this bizarre series of events," said Bush strategist Charles Black.

Canadian 'no' vote snubs leaders

MONTREAL — Canadians discovered a new unity Tuesday. East and west, French and English came together — not over constitutional reforms but in rejecting the path chosen for them by the country's political elite.

The results of Monday's referendum was a sharp rebuff to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, provincial premiers and aboriginal leaders. Voters in French-speaking Quebec rejected the reform accord, but it also lost in five other provinces and one territory.

The constitutional changes would have recognized Quebec as a "distinct society," reformed the Senate and the House of Commons to give western states more representation, and recognized the rights of Indians and Inuit to govern themselves.

Canadians combined to vote the measure down 54.4 percent to 42.4 percent. Canada was left no closer to a consensus on dealing with the cultural and regional differences that have been straining the federation for years.

Separatists in Quebec were cheered, hoping the results would re-

juvenate their independence campaign and give them a boost in provincial elections that must be held by 1994. The province's rejection did not translate into support for independence, because many opponents of secession also voted "no."

The reform package originally was designed to meet Quebec's complaints about threats to its cultural identity in a predominantly English-speaking nation. It gradually was expanded to meet demands for giving more power to less populous provinces and aboriginal peoples.

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