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Refugees

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allies among government forces and at least two personnel carriers were set ablaze, Iranian radio reported. The broadcast, monitored in London, also claimed rebels attacked government intelligence posts in the southern cities of Al-Amarah and Karbala, killing some Iraqi troops.

The report could not be independently verified.

In northern Iraq, the initial allied-protected security zone was to have encompassed a 630-square-mile area that stretched 18 miles south and 35 miles east of Zakho. Allied troops were also planning to complete one camp before starting another.

Now, the new zone is envisioned to be about 1,350 square miles and troops will start a second camp before finishing the first.

Army officers said the change of plans came after they realized that not all the Kurds were willing to come to the camp at Zakho, where about 1,000 tents have been set up for refugees.

In addition, the officers said they hoped that expanding the size of the zone would encourage Kurds to come down from the mountains, where many of them live in appalling conditions but are too afraid of Iraqi retribution to leave.

In the easternmost allied push so far, a company of British Royal Marines moved into the Iraqi town of Batufla, about 18 miles east of Zakho, on Saturday night.

When the British troops arrived, a battalion of Iraqi Republican Guard left, officers said.

Soon, U.S. Marines from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit will enter Amadiyah, about 75 miles east of Zakho, where a second camp is planned, said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jim Christophersen, of the 432nd Civil Affairs Company of Green Bay, Wis.

"This will effectively double the size of the security zone," said Christophersen, whose men will manage both camps until the United Nations and humanitarian agencies can take over.

Privately, some officers expressed concern that the expansion, by increasing allied military involvement in Iraq, could raise the possibility of a coalition forces being drawn into a quagmire in Iraq.

"We're hoping to be out of here by the end of May," said Christophersen. But he added: "That may be wishful thinking."

Some refugees have begun to complain that Kurdish resistance fighters, known as Pesh Merga or "those who face death," are stopping refugees who seek to return to their homes.

On a winding road heading to the mountaintop refugee camp at Isikveren, on the Turkish side of the border, dozens of Kurdish families complained that the guerrillas were blocking their return.

Dilbar Mohammed, a 30-year-old Kurd, said he sent his wife and two children home to Zakho two weeks ago on the nine-hour walk on foot from Isikveren. Since then, he has been waiting at a Pesh Merga checkpoint for permission to drive the family car into Zakho.

"Before this time, I wanted to believe in Kurdistan," he said. "But now I just want to be with my family."

At the checkpoint, Pesh Merga guerrillas said they were waiting for orders to let the Kurds return. But Mohammed and others charged that the guerrillas were accepting bribes.

A French army doctor, Col. Jean La Roix, said one group of rebels had set up a checkpoint near a French field hospital and charged passengers a fee to pass through.

"They're running a racket here," he said.

British Royal Marine Lt. Peter Murphy said allied forces were meeting with guerrillas in an effort to convince them that they should allow their people to return home.

A State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was possible the refugees were being held back because the Kurdish leadership did not want to lose control of their people once they came down into the camps.

Also, the official said, rogue elements among the rebels were seizing the opportunity for extortion. Most allied military officers, however, played down that element.

On Sunday, the European Community endorsed a British proposal to send a U.N. police force to Iraq to help convince the Kurdish refugees it is safe to return home.

Bush

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tions had agreed "to monitor the situation closely and to take actions as needed ... with a view to achieving a sound recovery and a growing world economy." Those actions were not spelled out.

Striking a hopeful note, the finance officials said there were "signs of perspective economic recovery and lower inflation in those countries which are in recession."

In at least a bow to U.S. concerns, the joint statement noted "the persistence of high real interest rates and the slowing of economic activity in those countries which until recently had been experiencing strong expansion."

That statement was an apparent reference to Japan and Germany, where growth has slowed from a rapid pace established last year.

The Bush administration has considered a drop in interest rates both in the United States and around the world as critical to boosting demand and getting the country out of a recession.

On the foreign side, the administration is seeking lower rates to boost sales of American goods on overseas markets. Export growth has been one of the few bright spots in the U.S. economy over the past two years.

On Thursday, Bush had said lower interest rates "would be good for the world economy, including our own."

The administration is worried that without cheaper credit, the recessions in the United States, Britain and Canada could worsen into a global downturn.

Such a development occurred in the 1981-82 period when weakness in the United States, which accounts for one-fourth of total world output, was enough to trigger a worldwide downturn.

However, Japan and Germany, the countries with the second and third largest economies respectively, are still enjoying strong growth and they argued that cuts in interest rates would make inflation worse by boosting demand.

After the White House meeting, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said that while Bush had urged lower rates, "there were no reproaches of the Germans" for their position.

"Bush did discuss interest rates, but he also recognized that this was one element of a larger number of fundamentals," Waigel told reporters. For the administration, a sense of urgency was added to the Group of Seven discussions by a government report Friday showing that the U.S. recession deepened significantly during the first three months of the year. The economy, as measured by the gross national product, shrank at a worse-than-expected annual rate of 2.8 percent.

The GNP report showed widespread weakness in everything from consumer spending to business investment, analysts said.

Truth

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"In looking at consumer research, we felt something was going on below the surface," Patterson said in an interview. "For instance, you ask people why they buy a certain luxury car, and they check off 'Resale Value' or 'Engineering.' That's baloney. ... If you want to know people's darkest secrets, they're not going to tell you."

So Kim designed a survey to get people to unburden themselves of their feelings about personal and moral issues in near total anonymity.

Traditional polling methods were deemed insufficient. "The idea of 200 names and a telephone and you've got a poll is ridiculous," Patterson said.

During one week late last fall, more than 2,000 people selected at random gathered at 50 sites around the nation.

They were paid $5 or $10, and spent about 90 minutes writing answers to 1,800 questions. They completed the forms in privacy and dropped them unsigned into a locked box.

"We tried to replicate the ritual of the confessional or the voting booth," Kim said.

The poll has a margin of error of 2 percent to 4 percent.

"The Day America Told the Truth" is troubling on several fronts.

Marriage: Nearly 50 percent say there is no reason ever to get married, 31 percent of married people are having or have had an affair, and 47 percent aren't sure they would marry the same person if they had it to do over again.

Community: Seventy-two percent don't know their next-door neighbor. Seven in 10 say there are no American heroes.

Crime: Six in 10 say they've been victims of major crimes. One in seven carries a gun or has one in his or her car. Two-thirds favor capital punishment; a third would volunteer to throw the electric chair switch. And 7 percent say that for $2 million they would commit murder.

North Casper

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conducted in 1987, seven parts per billion (ppb) of the contaminant were found in the trailer court well. In September 1989 a second sampling showed TCE at 12.1 ppb, and in December 1989, 14 ppb were detected.

EPA's maximum allowable level for TCE in drinking water is five ppb. Abell said. TCE is known to cause liver and kidney cancer in laboratory animals.

James LaVelle, a toxicologist at EPA, said people drinking water with TCE levels at 14 ppb would be taking "pretty small risk."

LaVelle also said that most of the information regarding the effects of TCE comes from animal studies and he did not know what types of symptoms humans would experience from long-term, low-level exposure.

When asked Thursday if he had been notified of contamination of any kind in the water well at Riverside Trailer Court, manager Steve Schauss said, "a while back," but would not specify what contaminant he was told was present.

"We haven't had the problem of contamination that they have had (to the east) from the old dry cleaners because groundwater flows from west to east and we're on the upstream side," Schauss said.

He refused to comment further on the contamination in the well.

On Thursday, the EPA confirmed that Schauss, who is required by EPA to routinely test the well, has detected TCE there annually since 1987.

EPA's Abell said that an agency draft report stating that perchlorethene has been detected in the well at the trailer court is inaccurate. The report also inaccurately states that the EPA has "routinely" tested the well in the past, Abell said.

"All the data I have here shows there has never been (perchlorethene) detected in that water system," she said.

Abell said that she does not know why the information in the report is wrong. However, she did say that the report was written by a contractor for the EPA.

The trailer park is considered to be running its own water system, with one well serving 60 residences, Abell said.

No action was taken previously on the high levels because monitoring requirements for smaller water systems in Wyoming did not come into effect until January 1991, she said.

Perchlorethene was first discovered in north Casper in 1989 as the result of a survey the city was conducting for potential contamination.

People can be exposed to the chemical either through water consumption or inhalation of vapors.

"When the level is over the maximum contaminant level, that is when the (owner of) the water system needs to take action," Abell said.

Abell said Schauss is required to complete quarterly monitoring and also publish a public notice announcing the violation.

Abell said that Schauss has published the notice in the Star-Tribune and also indicated to the EPA that the notice was circulated to the residents of the trailer court.

The EPA has not received a sample from the well this year, but Abell said that it is possible that the data are still being processed in the lab. Until the results of the site investigation study are completed, Abell said there is no accurate way of knowing where the contamination is coming from.

John Hawley of the New York State Department of Health agreed with LaVelle that most of the evidence that PCE causes adverse health affects is the result of animal studies. Hawley said that these studies use higher levels of exposure than are usually present with people.

"The human data are very scarce," he said. In addition, a toxicological profile of the chemical conducted in 1988 by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry says that there are no data that would indicate adverse reproductive or developmental effects, Hawley said.

DEQ

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Ohio, Collins said.

A spokesman for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said this week that Def-Tec was required to get permits in that state, and that the company had not been cited for any EPA violations.

DEQ is still in the process of reviewing the application for a permit, Collins said, and could decide if the company needs a permit or not by the mid-May target by which Def-Tec hopes to begin manufacturing.

If DEQ decides no permit is required, Def-Tec may begin operations, Collins said.

If a permit is necessary, however, then DEQ will have to advertise the proposed permit and allow a 30-day public comment period before the permit can be granted and Def-Tec can begin manufacturing.

"At this point in time there's probably a fifty-fifty chance" that the company can begin manufacturing on schedule, Collins said. "And that's only a 'guesstimate' on my part," he added.

Def-Tec's English said that during the course of moving a company, there are bound to be irritations and delays. Def-Tec's major customers were forewarned of the move, and some have stockpiled, English added, so waiting a month for public comment on the permit will not be as painful for the company as it might have been.

But if the company does have to wait the 30 days, "we'll be working 24 hours a day for a while after that," he said.

Finding enough employees apparently won't be a problem for the company. English said over 200 people have walked into the office looking for work since the firm made its formal relocation announcement Monday.

He added that he will begin hiring the first wave of assemblers at the company — about 40 people — next week.

Wallop

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tification procedure. The new procedure would allow construction of a pipeline to begin as quickly as 60 days after application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Uneem said.

"This is particularly important for small lines, spurs and compressor stations, which can take up to a year or longer to get approval under existing law," he said.

John Sharp, director of congressional affairs for the Natural Gas Supply Association, said the gas provisions combined would be a boon to small gas producers in states like Wyoming.

"Today there is no requirement that says an interstate pipeline must interconnect," he said. "This would allow smaller producers to get together, pool their resources and build pipelines from remote producing areas and have the right to connect to interstate lines, thereby enhancing their ability to market their product and giving them greater bargaining power."

Ed Rothschild, energy policy director for Citizens Action, a national consumer organization, said the natural gas provisions are good for gas suppliers but potentially detrimental to consumers.

Rothschild said the bill does not provide a remedy for cases in which an existing interstate pipeline is already carrying full capacity.

Conceivably, he said, existing service could deteriorate under the proposed regulations if a small pipeline demanded access to an interstate pipeline that was full.

"You need to have a review process to look at that," he said.

Rothschild also said the provisions in the Johnston/Wallop bill could increase rates for so-called captive customers — the individuals and small businesses who use gas.

Rothschild said the bill would allow pipeline operators more freedom to shift fixed costs to captive customers and offer more competitive rates to large industrial customers.

The system would make gas more competitive in the industrial market, he said, at the expense of residential customers and small businesses.

Uneem said the committee also agreed to a provision that would expedite the environmental review process for gas pipelines under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The provision would give FERC primary authority over environmental reviews, he said, and permit the commission to set time limits on reviews by other agencies.

Uneem said the provision also would authorize FERC to compile a list of qualified private contractors that pipeline operators could hire to conduct environmental assessments.

Such a system, he said, would save tax dollars and expedite environmental reviews without compromising environmental safeguards.

Spokesmen for the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council said they had not had an opportunity to review the final language approved by the committee this week but that they are wary of aspects of the proposal affecting NEPA review.

"My understanding is that it would provide carte blanche to certain types of pipelines with very little review under NEPA," said Dan Lashof, a spokesman for the NRDC. "We're not averse to measures that appropriately promote increased use of natural gas. We see it as a promising transition fuel. On the other hand, that's not an excuse for reducing public scrutiny of specific projects under NEPA."

Lashof said Johnston and Wallop have accelerated the committee's consideration of the energy bill to a point where members are agreeing to provisions in conceptual form without reading final language. He predicted that the bill would face tough going on the floor of the Senate.

Marty Hayden, a lobbyist for the Sierra Club, said Johnston and Wallop have "stepped on a lot of toes, grabbing jurisdiction away from other committees, such as Environment, Commerce and Finance."

"I don't expect those other committee chairmen to go for it," he said. "When the bill clears the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, there will be a lot of jurisdictional claims by other committees."

Rob Wallace, a Wallop staffer who has become the minority staff director for the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said the bill does contain some measures that fall partially under the jurisdiction of other committees, such as alternative fuel requirements, fuel economy standards, and oil development in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge. Wallace rejected the claim that the energy committee had usurped authority, and said the committee is simply asserting its jurisdiction where appropriate.

But Wallace said Senate rules would not permit those committees to sit on the bill indefinitely after the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has referred it to the floor for a vote. He said other committees would either have 30 days to consider those issues or seek to change the bill on the floor by proposing amendments.

Wallace said Wallop and Johnston are likely to try to negotiate jurisdictional agreements with other committee chairmen in an effort to maintain momentum for their legislation.

Wallace said he thinks the bill could be ready for a floor vote by mid-summer.

Coyotes

Continued from A1

Roseberry said. He added that his agency has not allowed M-44 devices in the past, and is proceeding with its EA on the assumption that litigation will follow, depending on the decision that emerges on its use in the Worland District.

The annual plan that generated so much controversy was written by Larry Dickerson, Worland District supervisor for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, ADC, in Worland.

Dickerson said the controversial spring-loaded M44, which uses a "fetid scent" bait to lure mainly coyotes in winter months is "the most selective and humane" method of coyote control, a problem he was attempting to resolve with his proposal.

He said that in 1990, coyotes were documented as the killers of 212 lambs, several calves and a number of chickens and ducks, all either located on BLM grazing lands or on adjacent farms in the Worland District.

The livestock lost were owned by 62 different stockmen, according to Dickerson.

In return, a total of 267 coyotes were destroyed on the district in 1990, Dickerson said.

The Worland District of BLM includes 3 million acres, 1 million of which are served by the ADC, Dickerson said.

Roseberry said that some of the 700 respondents were concerned about the use of poisons on public lands, as well as the possibility of misuse of the substances.

Of the 700 EA respondents, about 50 were spokesmen for environmental groups, while others appeared to be writing form letters targeting the same issues. Three-fourths of the letters came from Wyoming.

"Total numbers make no difference," according to Roseberry, who said the BLM will evaluate letters searching for new issues or valid errors in environmental analysis.

He said the M44 issue has generated so much controversy that the EA "is likely to be litigated" by one or more of the environmental groups.

"This is precedent-setting for the United States," according to Roseberry, who said the ADC "may be one of the most controversial issues the BLM will be dealing with this year."

Dickerson said that Big Horn Basin residents sent "a lot more letters pro-M44 than against," adding that the ADC "used the tool (M44) in most of the 17 Western states on BLM land."

He said the controversial cyanide device "is just another tool," to be used at the discretion of trappers, under the guidelines of 28, Environmental Protection Administration regulations.

Bill Rightmire of Casper, state ADC director, said the issue "has been inflamed greatly." He believes his agency's proposal "doesn't indicate a war or a new, greater attack on coyotes."

He said that the ADC has never had 700 responses to an annual plan before, but "the environmental scrutiny continues to increase," while his bottom line is protecting livestock.

"Killing coyotes isn't what we're all about — it's protecting livestock," Rightmire said.

He said that the agriculture industry is vital to the state's economy, a point echoed by Carolyn Paseneaux of Casper, executive director of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, who said that agriculture brings $1.4 billion to the state annually, dollars that are respent in Wyoming more than those generated by oil or other industries, and the needs of agriculture should be addressed.

Kirk Koepsel, associate regional representative of the Sierra Club in Wyoming, counered that predators are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem, and must be recognized as such, and protected.

He said ranchers should look to non-lethal methods of predator control, such as using sheep dogs, rather than resorting to poisons.

Further, it should be proven that predators are responsible for deaths of domestic animals before they are destroyed, and stockmen should have exhausted all other means of control, before poisons are used, Koepsel said.

He said that President Bush and the Office of Management and Budget recently proposed a 40 percent cut in ADC funds, noting that it was counterproductive to enhance some wildlife through federal programs and at the same time destroy other species.

"It (M44) shouldn't be on our public lands — there are a lot of other options," Koepsel said.

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