Kurds block allied troop withdrawal

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Allied troops pulling out of northern Iraq were halted Saturday when a crowd of Kurds, fearful of Iraqi reprisals, stormed checkpoints and blocked the withdrawal for three hours.

The 4,000 protesters dispersed after Maj. Gen. Jay M. Garner, head of allied forces in the Kurdish security zone, promised that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces would be prohibited from entering the area vacated by the troops.

"We have told him not to come back in here," Garner told demonstrators who massed on a bridge joining Turkey and Iraq. "And he won't come back here. If he comes, he knows that we, too, will come back here."

Scuffles broke out as the crowd, urging the allies to stay, pushed over barricades set up by U.S. soldiers from the 325th Airborne's 3rd Bn. But tempers quickly cooled and there were no injuries.

The pullout marked the end of a five-month occupation of Saddam's territory by U.S. and other foreign forces following the Persian Gulf War.

Several million Kurds fled to Turkey and Iran following a failed uprising against Saddam's forces during the closing days of the war. The allies have occupied northern Iraq since mid-April on a mission to repatriate the Kurds.

Garner said Kurdish protests would not affect the timetable for withdrawal, announced Friday in Washington.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the coalition's 3,200-member force, including 1,500 U.S. troops, would be out by Monday.

But Williams said the coalition would be ready to move on short notice should Saddam threaten the Kurdish minority within the "security zone" north of the 36th parallel.

The allied force "is willing to respond militarily to Iraqi actions that disturb the peace," Williams said. "An appropriate level of air and ground forces (will remain) in the region to see to it that the conditions, which caused the Kurds and other refugees to flee from their homes, do not recur."

He said the force would contain nearly 3,000 ground troops, bolstered by additional forces manning combat helicopters warplanes from a U.S. aircraft carrier.

Also, allied air forces will conduct reconnaissance flights over northern Iraq "as needed" to ensure that the Kurdish population is not attacked, Williams said.

He said the Iraqis have been informed that any airplanes or helicopters entering the Kurdish security zone will be shot down.

In other developments, a special U.N. envoy paying a visit to Baghdad said Friday that he would recommend the relaxation of U.N. sanctions against Iraq to allow the purchase of essential food and medicine.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan said his team would propose that Iraq be allowed to use its own funds to buy urgently needed supplies.

"Sanctions were not designed to make the people of Iraq suffer in the way they are suffering now," he said. "The problem needs to be addressed, and soon."

Sadruddin said it would be up to the U.N. Sanctions Committee to decide whether to ease sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait last August. He said his team would recommend how to ensure that Iraq would not spend the money on weapons.

The final report and conclusions will be issued in Geneva on Monday and are to be submitted to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Movie on urban saga ignites violence

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The debut of the inner-city drama *Boyz N the Hood* triggered gang-related gunfire and violence that left one moviegoer dead and at least 25 wounded across the nation.

Several theater owners on Saturday promptly pulled the critically praised Columbia Pictures movie from their screens.

The film's 23-year-old writer-director, John Singleton, was said to be enormously concerned that his movie, which encourages peace, had been linked to so much bloodshed and violence, and he called a news conference to vent his feelings.

The violence, similar to that surrounding the March premiere of the film *New Jack City*, could have a profound impact on the future of black-oriented films at a time when a new generation of black directors, like Singleton, are becoming prominent.

"Who will show these movies anymore?" said an executive at Columbia Pictures, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Released by Columbia in about 800 theaters nationwide, *Boyz N the Hood* is set in the gang-plagued neighborhoods of south-central Los Angeles. It stars Cuba Gooding Jr. as a young man trying to avoid the traps of crime and make something of himself.

While the film features some gang violence, its message is pacifistic in tone. The film's final frames carry the plea: "Increase the Peace."

In the Chicago suburb of Riverdale, Ill., a man was fatally shot early Saturday after a midnight showing at a drive-in.

Michael Booth, 23, of Chicago was pronounced dead at a hospital after being shot at the Halsted Twin Outdoor Theater. Police said they had made no arrests.

Five people were wounded in or near an 18-theater complex in Universal City, just north of Hollywood. The Cineplex Odeon complex canceled future showings of the film.

In Sacramento, Calif., a 19-year-old woman was shot six times in the chest and shoulder when two young men opened fire on deputies trying to break up fights outside the theater, authorities said. She was listed in good condition. An 18-year-old man was arrested for investigation of attempted murder of a law officer.

In Pinole, Calif., a 20-year-old man was in serious condition after being shot several times in the back.

In Upland, 40 miles east of Los Angeles, four people were shot in what may have been a fight between two rival gangs.

Two of the wounded, including a 16-year-old girl, were hospitalized in fair condition. The theater canceled future showings.

Two people in nearby Chino were wounded, one seriously, while standing in line to watch the movie.

In other parts of the country, three teens in Tuscaloosa, Ala., were shot in a gang fight at a theater. Two were in serious condition.

And in Minneapolis, a shot was fired in a downtown theater and part of the crowd spilled out into the street, police said. A vehicle drove by and multiple shots were fired. At least four people were wounded, two critically; a fifth was injured trying to flee and a sixth suffered minor injuries.

A 16-year-old boy in Akron, Ohio, was shot in the stomach Friday evening outside a theater.

Elsewhere in Ohio, 13 people were arrested at a theater in Lorain after a disturbance there.

In North Las Vegas, two people were shot at a drive-in theater showing the film, police said: No arrests were reported.

The scene at Universal City became chaotic when gunfire broke out seconds after the lights dimmed at the *Boyz N the Hood* screening. Five people were wounded.

"People were stampeding," said moviegoer Sally Dorsey. "People were running into the bathroom."

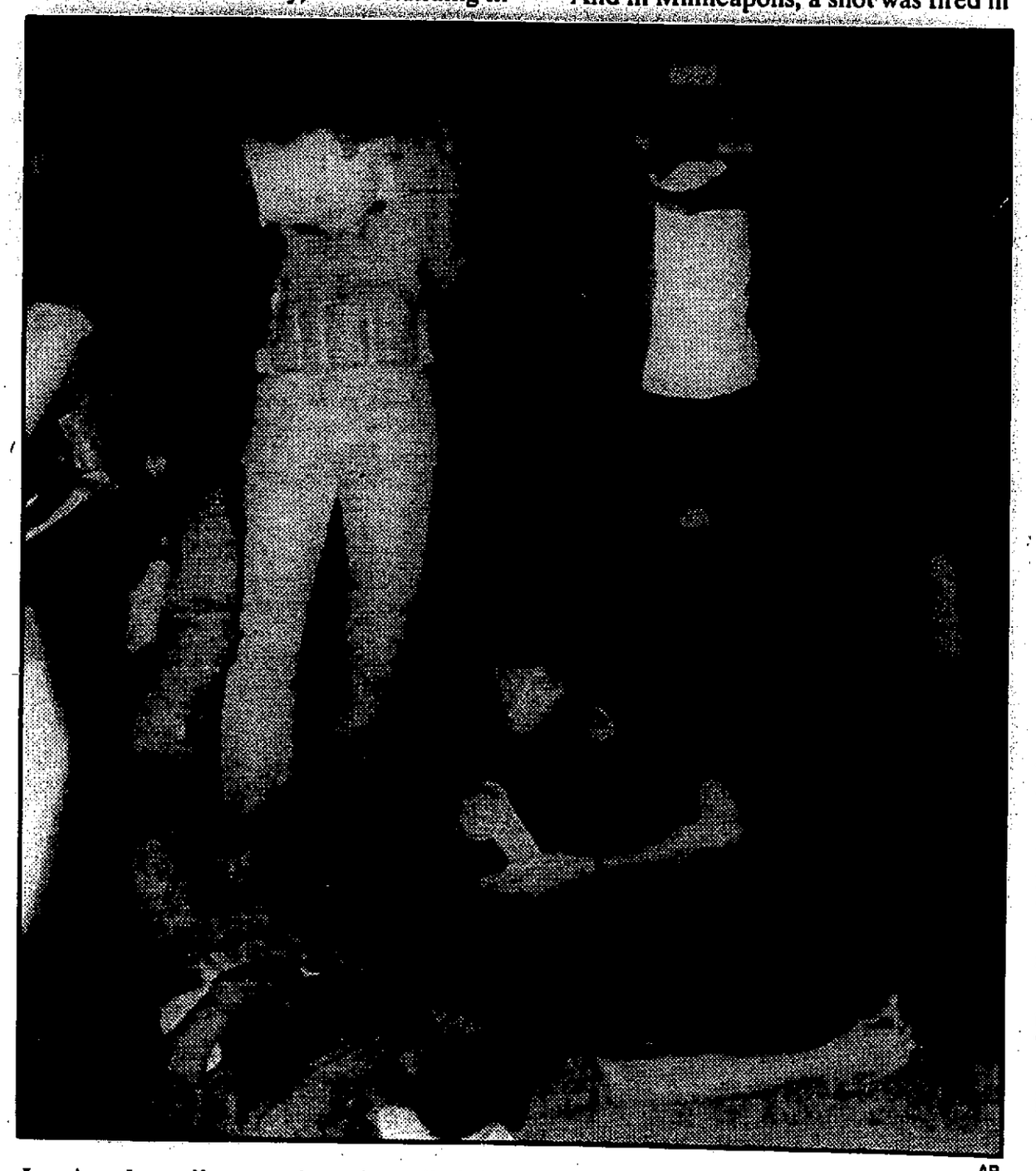
All movies at the complex were shut down after the shootings. The theater later canceled all showings of *Boyz N the Hood*, said Los Angeles County sheriff's Sgt. Larry Lincoln. At least two other Southern California theaters also pulled the film.

Besides the theaters where people were injured, several other incidents were reported at the film's first showings.

Dozens stormed a Racine, Wis., theater lobby after about 200 people sneaked into a side door and managers canceled the Friday showing, said police Capt. Richard Klofanda. No serious injuries and no arrests were reported.

Gunfire was also reported near theaters in West Springfield, Mass., and Texas City, Texas.

Fifty officers were called to a theater in Joliet, Ill., when a fight erupted there.



Los Angeles police examine a juvenile injured at the screening of *Boyz N the Hood*. AP

IRAQ

From Page 1

vent an earlier nuclear inspection team from examining uranium enrichment equipment. Washington then threatened military action if Iraq did not disclose all its holdings.

On July 7, Iraq provided a second list detailing where its nuclear equipment was stored, buried or destroyed, Perricos said.

He said "the list that we are requesting now is a list of facilities for development or research, manufacturing and even use."

That would be a combination of the first two lists, but would be expanded to include sites the United Nations had discovered through inspections and intelligence operations.

The Security Council on Monday will hear an assessment by U.N. officials of Iraq's clandestine nuclear program.

Iraq has said it had three secret programs to enrich uranium but insists they were for peaceful purposes and research only, not for bomb-making.

Airman, his wife, child, found dead

SPANGDAHLEM AB, Germany — An Air Force staff sergeant, his wife and child were found dead early Saturday in their military quarters, according to the Air Force.

The deaths are under investigation, according to an Air Force news release, which gave no information on the circumstances surrounding their deaths.

The Air Force said no further information would be released until Monday.

Names of the staff sergeant, who was assigned to the 52nd Tac Fighter Wing, and his wife and child were being withheld pending notification of their families.

European Stars And Stripes, Darmstadt, Hesse, DE

July 14, 1991, Page 10

https://newspaperarchive.com/european-stars-and-stripes-jul-14-1991-p-10/

NEWSPAPERARCHIVE®