

making the news

From Associated Press Reports

IRAN — Army troops and revolutionary guards have sealed off the western Iranian town of Mahabad to block reinforcements and supplies from reaching autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels fighting inside Mahabad, Tehran Radio reported Monday.

The broadcast, monitored in London, quoted a correspondent who spoke with Interior Minister Mohammed Hashem Sabbaghian.

But British newspapers said house-to-house fighting raged through the weekend in Mahabad, 300 miles west of Tehran, and 74 persons were killed or injured.

Radio Tehran quoted Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as saying the Kurdish people of western Iran should purge their villages and towns of rebels who have been fighting his Islamic government since its forces ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi eight months ago.

WASHINGTON — The CIA should lower its profile and stop issuing nonclassified reports, former CIA Director Richard Helms, disagreeing with his successors, told Congress Monday.

"This organization was never established to have contact with the public," said Helms, who served from 1966-1973.

Helms told a House intelligence subcommittee he thinks the CIA made a mistake in publicly issuing several analyses of world energy supplies and certain other works. "I have no doubts that the Russians read these reports avidly," Helms said.

The testimony put Helms in direct odds with current CIA officials, and with his immediate successor, William Colby, who headed the agency from 1973-1976.

"Attempts to conceal what cannot be concealed are not only self-defeating, they are injurious," Colby told the subcommittee.

WASHINGTON — The economy will enter a recession, Treasury Secretary William Miller said Monday, but he expects that it will be moderate.

In remarks to the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce at Springfield, Mass., Miller said the government's strategy of slowing the economy "without triggering a major recession has been working rather well."

But he said the 60 percent increase in oil prices decreed by oil-exporting nations last summer had made a mild downturn unavoidable.

"We will have a recession, but in my view, it will be a moderate recession," he said, but "it will not be a repeat of 1974-1975" when there was a severe economic downturn.

TOPSHAM, Maine — Enforcement of Maine's billboard ban began Monday after years of court battles. An eight-man highway crew used a torch and a backhoe to knock down ads for a pick-up truck and a new brand of cigarettes.

Lady Bird Johnson was a strong advocate of highway beautification during her husband's years in the White House, and she is generally credited with the nationwide ban on billboards along federally financed interstate routes.

But Maine's ban, like the tough law in Vermont, is much broader and will eliminate around 3,000 existing billboards. Signs will be taken down if they can be seen from any highway, but an advertiser can keep his sign if it is on his own property.

WASHINGTON — The federal government took Sears Roebuck & Co. to court in five cities Monday on charges that the world's largest retailer practiced illegal job discrimination against women and minorities across the United States.

A nationwide suit filed in federal court in Chicago accused Sears of job discrimination against women in the 48 contiguous states in violation of the Civil Rights and Equal Pay acts.

The suits, brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, are among the largest employment discrimination cases ever launched by the government and likely will be the biggest job bias suit to be fought in court.

Political dissident trial begins

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Six human-rights activists went on trial under heavy police guard Monday, and dissidents said 37 of the defendants' supporters were detained by police in and around the courthouse.

Those taken into custody included a defendant's wife, expelled from the courtroom and seized after she began taking notes on the trial. All but 10 of the 37 detained were released after the first day of the trial ended following 11 hours of testimony, dissident sources reported. They did not give the names of the 10 apparently still held.

It is the biggest Czechoslovak

political trial in seven years. The six, including playwright Vaclav Havel, 43, and government critic Petr Uhl, 38, were accused of being founding members of a group formed in 1978 to aid other dissidents.

Czechoslovak authorities charge the group was illegal and that its members aided U.S.-guided propaganda campaigns against the country. If convicted, they could be jailed for 10 years.

Dissident sources said the defendants challenged the evidence against them. Four pleaded innocent, while Uhl and one woman defendant contended the charges were irrelevant and refused to answer questions.

The trial's opening drew about 100 supporters to a dimly lit hallway near the courtroom, a larger crowd than had appeared at dissident trials recently.

Prague authorities barred all but family members from the courtroom and later barred reporters, diplomatic observers and supporters of the defendants from the building itself.

Police refused to say why entry to the dusty yellow city court complex was being forbidden. The building area, foreign reporters, and supporters had been put under close police surveillance by Monday afternoon.

Uhl's wife, Anna Sabatova, was taken into custody after she protested an order that she and others stop taking notes in the court, dissidents said.

She was later seen trying to leave an anteroom near the entrance to the court building, struggling to free herself from two policemen holding her arms and pulling her back.

Members of a small group of supporters who stood across the street from the building said they saw police put Dr. Jitka Schanilova into a car and take her away. Dr. Schanilova is the wife of a signer of the Charter 77 human rights manifesto. The signers support adherence to the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accords.

The whereabouts of both women was unknown and it was not known if either had been charged formally.

Dissident sources said pleas of innocent were made Monday morning by former television commentator Jiri Dienstbier, 42; former Charter 77 spokesman Vaclav Benda, 33; and Dana Nemcova, 45, leader of Roman Catholic dissident faction and mother of seven children.

Ota Bednarova, 54, a former journalist, declined to enter a plea or answer questions, as she had during earlier questioning, dissidents said.

West Bank land seizure illegal, Israeli court rules

JERUSALEM (AP) — The Israeli Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, ruled Monday that the government had illegally seized private Arab land for a Jewish settlement and ordered that the hilltop outpost in the West Bank be abandoned.

The rulings, the first in which an Israeli court found a settlement in the occupied territories to be illegal, came just a day after Moshe Dayan resigned as foreign minister in a deep-seated dispute over the settlement policies of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government and its tough line on Palestinian autonomy.

The developments dealt a one-two punch to Begin's ruling coalition, and hopeful speculation raced through Arab capitals Monday that they might foreshadow major changes in Israel.

The government will face several motions of no-confidence in the Israeli Parliament on Tuesday. But it is expected to survive them, and Begin will probably reject the opposition Labor Party's call for new elections.

The five-judge Supreme Court ordered that the settlement at Elon Moreh, near the Arab-populated town of Nablus in the West Bank of the Jordan River, be dismantled within 30 days.

The 50 or so ultra-nationalists who have settled there indicated Monday they would resist efforts to remove them.

The court, acting on an appeal by 17 Arabs whose land

was expropriated for the settlement, ruled that the site was chosen by Begin's government under pressure from right-wing settlers and rejected the argument that it was needed for security reasons.

In Cairo, Egypt's top peace negotiator, Butros Ghali, called the court decision "a positive step" and predicted it would encourage West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians to end their boycott and join the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli talks on autonomy for the two occupied territories.

West Bank Palestinian leaders also applauded the ruling but said all Jewish settlements should be removed.

Nablus Mayor Bassam Shaka noted that the ruling appeared to apply only to Elon Moreh and said he feared it would be interpreted as giving legitimacy to all other West Bank settlements not built on private land. There are 52 other settlements, inhabited by approximately 12,000 Jews.

DAVID HUME KENNERLY

Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist
and
Official White House photographer

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