

International

Botha extends Council seats to blacks, denies equal vote

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President P.W. Botha offered Monday to include blacks on the President's Council, a 60-member body that advises on legislation, but again ruled out a one-man, one-vote system that would give the majority blacks control.

Botha, addressing a congress of his ruling National Party in Port Elizabeth in the eastern Cape province, declared his commitment to a united South Africa that allows for black rights but said any future system must also protect the rights of whites and other minorities.

The President's Council, a kind of upper house of Parliament, was revised last year to include mixed-race and Asian members for the first time, but whites still outnumber members of other races and control the body.

Botha appealed to black leaders to join in negotiations, and he did not repeat past conditions for prospective participants such as renouncing civil disobedience.

The key question is how to include non-white group in a constitutional system built by whites over three centuries, Botha said, adding, "That is, how they can share in a liberated South

Africa. All reasonable South Africans want to see that freedom become their share."

The president offered no specifics, saying details would have to be worked out in negotiations.

"The facts are that we are busy (working) to outgrow apartheid in the discriminatory and negative sense, and have done so in many respects," he said.

More than 750 people have died in the past 13 months in rioting against the system of white domination, called apartheid. All but seven victims have been blacks or people of mixed race.

Earlier today, police said the bodies of three more blacks were found, bringing to eight the number known killed in weekend clashes blamed on black in-fighting in Durban and on the eastern Cape.

In Cape Town, police arrested six mixed-race youths and dispersed 150 more as a group marched to a government office building to demand reforms in schools. Cape Town's 464 mixed-race schools, shut down in early September after rioting there, were scheduled to reopen for the final term today.

Soviets propose new arms control measures in brief, private meeting

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP) — The Soviet Union on Monday proposed what it called sweeping new arms control measures to U.S. negotiators, and the chief Soviet delegate said success at the talks would hinge on the U.S. response.

The Soviets, led by Viktor P. Karpov, presented their proposals at a meeting that lasted

35 minutes. Neither side commented on why the session, requested by the Soviets, was so brief.

A second, extraordinary joint meeting of all six principal negotiators and their aides, also requested by the Soviets, was scheduled for today.

Usually the negotiators meet in subgroups to discuss long-

range, medium-range, or space and defense weapons.

A news blackout was imposed on the substance of the proposals, in keeping with a confidentiality rule both sides have agreed to.

Gunmen kidnap Soviets at west Beirut embassy

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Gunmen in Moslem west Beirut on Monday kidnapped three Soviet diplomats and a doctor working at the Soviet Embassy, an embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman declined to give details, but Beirut radio reports said the Soviets were seized from two embassy cars that later were found abandoned near Beirut airport. Witnesses said one of the cars was intercepted by several gunmen.

They dragged two Soviets out, the witnesses said, fired handguns at their feet, pushed them into a white Mercedes and drove off. The other two Soviets were seized from a second car, police said.

They were the first Soviets known to be kidnapped in Beirut since gunmen started seizing foreigners in January 1984. Thirty-five foreigners have been abducted since then and 14 other foreigners are still missing — six Americans, four Frenchmen, three Britons and an Italian.

Lebanese authorities identified the Soviet diplomats as Second Secretary Valery Kornev, Commerce Attache Oleg Spirin, Cultural Attache Arkady Katakov and embassy physician Nikolai Versky.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The shadowy Islamic Jihad group, which claims that it has kidnapped six Americans, remained silent Monday about a reported plan to produce some of the hostages at a news conference.

A caller claiming to represent the Shiite Moslem fundamentalists told a Western news agency by telephone Sunday that some of the Americans would appear at a news conference. The agency has asked not to be identified.

The caller said in Arabic that after a news conference, the U.S. government "will assume full responsibility for the lives of the hostages." He did not elaborate.

He gave no indication when or where the news conference would be held. There was no way to verify whether the call was authentic.

In Washington, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes refused to say whether the United States has been in direct contact with the kidnappers, saying he would not discuss "how we're dealing with this."

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