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World Beat

International

Violence continues

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A Tamil rebel leader offered to negotiate a surrender as Indian troops fought their way toward the main rebel headquarters in downtown Jaffna, Sri Lankan officials said Monday.

It is the first time Indian troops reached the center of Jaffna in their 10-day-old offensive to dislodge the strongest Tamil militia, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, from the city 180 miles north of Colombo.

The Tigers' second-in-command, Gopalaraja Mahendrarajah, sent a message expressing willingness to meet India's demand for unconditional surrender, said a Sri Lankan military official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said Mahendrarajah's note was sent to Indian headquarters at Palali north of Jaffna and to the Sri Lankan army. It said Tamils want a truce for Deepavali, the Hindu festival of lights on Wednesday, the official said.

An official at the Indian High Commission, or embassy, said she knew of no such offer but the report was being checked.

India sent troops to its island neighbor to enforce an Indian-brokered peace pact aimed at ending the four-year Tamil war in which more than 6,000 people, mostly Sinhalese, have been killed.

National

Goetz gets time

NEW YORK (AP) — Subway gunman Bernhard Goetz was sentenced Monday to six months in jail, ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment and fined \$5,000 by a judge who rejected recommendations that he be allowed to go free.

Goetz, who shot four youths on a subway nearly three years ago, stood impassively as acting state Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Crane sentenced him on the single gun possession count on which he was convicted.

The crime carries a maximum penalty of seven years in prison, though first-time offenders like Goetz rarely go to jail.

Goetz also was sentenced to five years of probation and 280 hours of community service at New York University Medical Center.

"A non-jail sentence for Mr.

Goetz would invite others to violate the gun law," Crane said. "Whether you agree with the law or not, it is the law and it was the law on Dec. 22, 1984, and it remains the law."

Asked if he wished to say anything before the judge pronounced sentence, Goetz said, "No. I have nothing to say."

After the sentence was passed, Goetz stood silent, showing no emotion.

Crane said Goetz could choose his psychiatrist. In its pre-sentencing memo, the Probation Department had suggested "intensive supervision coupled with indefinite psychiatric intervention," but no jail time.

Market plunges

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market plunged out of control Monday in a selling panic that rivaled the Great Crash of 1929, pushing the Dow Jones average down more than 500 points, draining more than \$500 billion from the value of stocks and sending shock waves around the world.

"Whether today was a financial meltdown or not... I wouldn't want to be around for one worse than this," said John Phelan, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow's plunge to 1,738.74 left it 22.6 percent below Friday's level, a one-day loss far larger than the 12.8 percent drop on Oct. 28, 1929, known as Black Monday, or Oct. 29, 1929, when it fell an additional 11.7 percent.

The Dow average's worst percentage decline ever was on Dec. 12, 1914, early in World War I, when it lost 24.4 percent of its value.

The market fed on itself in wave after wave of selling in the busiest trading day ever on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow industrials fell 508.32 points to 1,738.74, according to a preliminary reading, a loss of nearly 1,000 points since the market's peak Aug. 25.

The latest decline left the Dow industrial average about 36 percent below its peak of 2,722.42 on Aug. 25 and at its lowest point since April 1986.

The collapse of prices caused long-term damage to the health of stock exchanges and probably destroyed some of the confidence that underpins the growth of the world economy, analysts said.

"We're having extreme panic

in the marketplace. It's like Armageddon," said Alfred E. Goldman, director of market analysis for A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis.

Analysts were reluctant to compare Monday's plunge with the stock market crash that helped set off the Depression of the 1930s, but they said there were fears in the market that a possible recession in the United States could snowball into a worldwide downturn.

"In a nutshell, this thing could go further. There's a domino effect here," said Leonard Grimaldi, executive vice president of Amivest Corp. in New York.

"This is a dangerous day to say the least, and we are not alarmists here," Grimaldi said.

Earlier Monday, panic selling gripped stock exchanges in Tokyo, Hong Kong, London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and other financial centers, with records set for one-day losses.

The rout was all the more stunning because there did not seem to be any major news event that caused it. A selling trend that picked up speed in the middle of last week simply gained unstoppable momentum and turned into a frenzy.

Underlying the market's decline were continued fears over inflation, rising interest rates and a weakening dollar.

Defazio complains

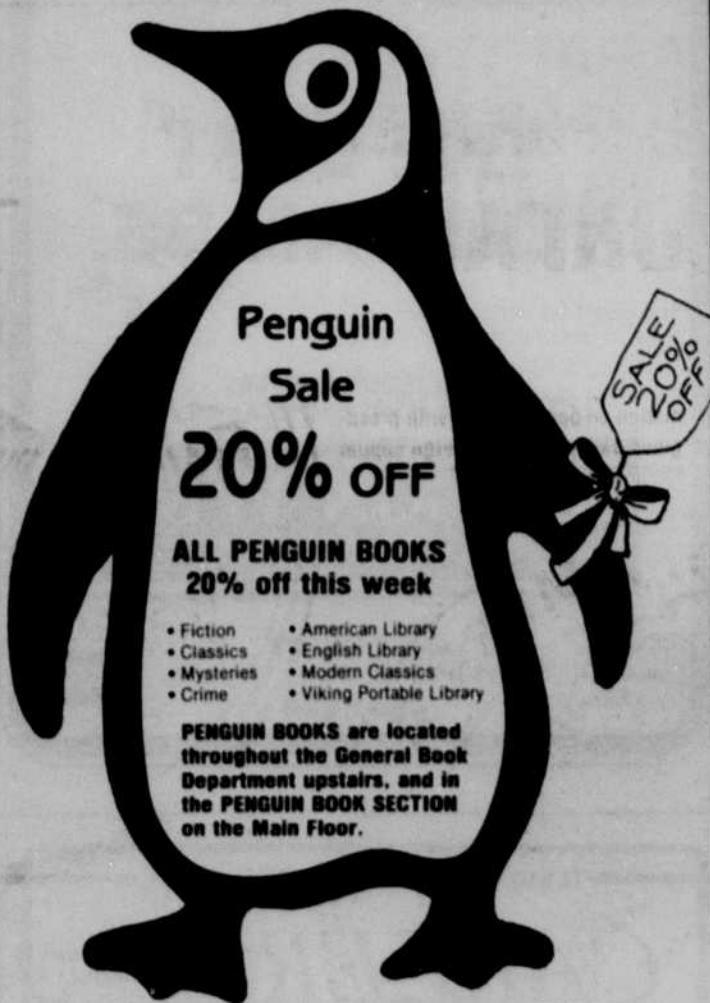
WASHINGTON (AP) — Northwest congressmen said today the U.S. raid on an Iranian oil-drilling platform in the Persian Gulf was an "appropriate" response to Iranian missile attacks, but several also warned the action might have moved the United States one step closer to a war in the gulf.

The attack, carried out by four U.S. destroyers in retaliation for a missile attack on a U.S.-flagged tanker, may also intensify congressional debate about whether to invoke the War Powers Act, Northwest congressmen said.

Lowry, along with Rep. Peter Defazio, D-Ore., were two of the original sponsors of a federal court lawsuit in Washington, D.C., aimed at forcing the president to comply with the War Powers Act. A hearing is scheduled Nov. 10.

"This is one more escalation and where we are headed is confrontation — a war with Iran," said Defazio. "We have nothing to lead us to believe otherwise. We have given up any pretense of neutrality."

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