

Embargo causes Haitians to flee



PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The four gunmen

stopped Michel Cadet's vegetable truck before dawn Monday, pumped him full of bullets, then took his wallet, watch and car radio.

Evert Cadet, who was in the passenger seat when his 26-year-old cousin was killed, laughed bitterly when asked if he would call the police.

"The zenglendo (army-tolerated hoodlums) did it," said Cadet, who had quickly surrendered his wallet and watch to the four men with automatic weapons.

He smoked the stub of a cigarette as he looked over the body of his cousin, one of three young men found slain on the streets of Port-au-Prince Monday.

President Clinton says military-backed repression is the main reason thousands of Haitians have fled their homeland since the United States liberalized its refugee policy on June 16.

More than 8,300 Haitians have been intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard in the past 11

days, including 960 by mid-afternoon Monday. "It has been an intense pace," Coast Guard spokeswoman Toni Long-Gay told The Associated Press.

Critics say the exodus was set off by Clinton's new policy, which permits Haitian boat people to make a case for political asylum, and by intensified economic sanctions to pressure military coup leaders to give up power.

"Whole communities are terrorized," said Anne Fuller, of the New York-based National Coalition for Haitian Refugees. "Under these circumstances people are desperate to leave."

She places blame directly on the military and its allies.

"There's only one sector that has automatic weapons," she told The Associated Press in an interview Monday.

Just two blocks away from Cadet's body, a corpse without a face slowed morning traffic on the seaside road. One vendor stared at the body for a full minute as she balance a tub full of Colgate toothpaste on her head.

Parents hustled children past the body, trying to shield their eyes.

Onlookers said the body was

dumped in the La Saline neighborhood and then run over intentionally. People placed tree branches on both sides of the body so it wouldn't be run over again.

Two miles away in the Chemin de Dalles neighborhood the body of another young man lay on the veranda of a cement home, blood dripping from the back of his head.

A U.N. human rights mission says 30 political killings occurred in June and the number of abductions rose. Eighty percent of those abducted never reappear, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

He said a U.N. team was investigating army crackdowns in the Les Cayes area on the southern coast, a stronghold for exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Up to 3,000 political killings have occurred since Aristide was deposed in September 1991.

In the southwestern town of Jeremie the daily atmosphere is filled with the terror of residents by army-backed militias, according to a report Monday by the Christian Peacemaker Teams, a Chicago-based Mennonite group with a human rights monitoring post in Jeremie.

President vetoes legal abortion bill in Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — President Lech Walesa vetoed a bill on Monday that would relax Poland's strict anti-abortion law and let women end pregnancy because of financial or family hardship.

"No economic reasons can legalize an attempt against human life, and especially not the personal conditions of a woman because it is impossible to assess them objectively," Walesa, an observant Roman Catholic, said in a letter to the speaker of parliament.

The present law, approved last year, allows for abortions only when the woman's life or health is in danger, if the pregnancy results from rape or incest or when the fetus is irreparably damaged. Doctors who perform abortions in any other cases face up to two years in prison.

It was not immediately known when parliament will act on Walesa's veto.

Political experts doubt that pro-abortion lawmakers can muster a two-thirds majority to override the veto. Only one of the two leftist coalition parties unanimously supports the bill.

The bill, proposed by a group of women legislators, was approved by the lower house June 10 and cleared the upper house in a narrow vote Thursday.

Walesa said it violates the fundamental right to life. Earlier, he said the bill allows for murders.

Last week Walesa said he may "abdicate" for one day to avoid signing the bill if his veto is overturned.

The law replaces Communist-era regulations that permitted abortions virtually on demand.

The Catholic church vehemently campaigns against terminating pregnancies.

Greeted with gunfire and fanfare, Arafat returns to rule his homeland

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — All day Monday, delegations streamed into the beachfront hotel where Yasser Arafat holds court.

Delegations from diverse backgrounds, from uprising victims in wheelchairs to Bedouins in long robes and even Arabs with Israeli passports, brought Arafat a common plea: help solve Palestinians' problems.

When Arafat crossed into Palestinian-run territory on Friday after 27 years in exile, he stepped on the shaky ground occupied by most political leaders. One moment he's surrounded by admirers, the next he's confronted by critics.

A top Palestinian leader said Arafat plans to move permanently to the newly autonomous areas on Saturday. Then the real test of his leadership would begin.

For Arafat to succeed in Gaza and Jericho he must rapidly address the many troubles there. People clamor for jobs. There is no money to repair crumbling towns. Some Muslim fundamentalists call Arafat weak for compromising with Israel and unprepared for the mundane chores of paying bills and filling potholes.

The chorus of filling potholes and questions has somewhat muted his reception in Palestinian-led territory. Instead of making grand declarations to uncritical crowds, he's been forced to concentrate immediately on the difficulties ahead.

The main topics he's pressed include unity with all

Palestinian groups, opening the tap of promised Western aid and gaining the return of funds withheld from Palestinian workers by Israel's economy and social security.

At the same time, he's honored those killed and injured in the six-year uprising against Israeli rule and insisted the Palestinians would someday hoist their flag over Jerusalem as their capital.

"I want all the people everywhere to talk about unity and nothing else," he said after meeting several dozen Arab village leaders at the Palestine Hotel. "I'm not letting people criticize and try to undermine the unity."

"I am very worried about the peace," he said earlier.

His guards also are worried about attacks. A man was arrested Monday outside the hotel after he threw a bottle and ran. It was not immediately known what was in the bottle.

Israeli media reported Monday that an Arab also was detained during Arafat's welcoming speech Friday for a suspected assassination attempt. The reports, citing Moshe Shlonsky, head of the army radio network, did not give other details or indicate whether it referred to a Palestinian photographer who was taken into custody when guards mistook his camera for a gun.

Security and secrecy are at their highest level for Arafat's planned trip Tuesday to Jericho for the swearing-in of the Palestinian National Authority, which will lead the areas until elections are held, possibly in the fall.

Palestinian police commanders, concerned about attempts on Arafat's life, said they prepared two landing sites for his Egyptian Air Force helicopter and two alternate sites from which he could deliver his address. Israeli officers will help protect Arafat in the first real test of a security cooperation pact.

Tens of thousands of people are expected to greet Arafat in Jericho, the seat of the self-rule authority in the West Bank. But they will have to contend with taunts and possible roadblocks planned by Jewish settlers.

Arafat could soon be a familiar figure in Jericho and Gaza.

The Palestinian planning minister, Nabil Shaath, said Arafat plans to return for good to Palestinian-run territory after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Paris later this week. Arafat will arrive back in Gaza on Saturday, he said.

"He will be back here for good," he said. "I mean this is it. He considers going to Paris now a visit from his base."

There was some good economic news for Palestinians. Israel's finance minister, Avraham Shochat, promised that Israel would return around \$1 million in income taxes and customs.

"We will honor the agreement to the last penny," he said.

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