

Cease-Fire Brings Peace To Kurdish City In Iran

The Washington Post (1974-Current file); Mar 24, 1979;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post (1877-1994)

pg. A12

Doc_Number: KP000274

Cease-Fire Brings Peace To Kurdish City In Iran

SANANDAJ, Iran, March 23 (AP)—A cease-fire between Kurdish tribesmen and government troops restored peace to this strife-torn western city today after the Kurds gained promises of at least limited autonomy from the Tehran administration.

In downtown Sanandaj, several hundred men loaded their bags and weapons aboard vehicles for the journey back to their villages. Loudspeakers blared messages of appreciation from the people of Sanandaj for their help.

The cease-fire went into effect Wednesday night after almost four days of fighting claimed about 200 lives and wounded hundreds. Many victims were women and children wounded by army mortar barrages and by machine-gun strafing by military helicopter gunships.

Religious and government officials from Tehran reportedly had worked out an agreement with local Kurdish tribesmen granting the Kurds a "semi-autonomous" status. But Kurdish officials said it had been "simply proposed" by Interior Minister Seyyed Javadi and was not yet agreed to.

Javadi and Ayatollah Mahmoud Taleghani, Tehran's Shiite Moslem leader, met with Kurdish officials but it was not disclosed whether Sheik Ezzedin Hosseini—acknowledged political and religious leader of the Kurds, who are Sunni Moslems—was at the meetings. Hosseini was in Sanandaj yesterday and was hailed by thousands of Kurds at an open-air rally.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.