

# Iran troops sweep into Kurd town; grenades fired into U.S. Embassy

Tehran, **Iran** (AP)—Government troops swept into the western Iranian town of Paveh yesterday to drive out Kurdish rebels fighting for home rule separate from the Islamic revolutionary regime, officials said.

In Tehran, meanwhile, mysterious attackers fired several rifle-propelled grenades at the consulate building of the United States Embassy complex. American officials said there were no injuries in the explosions.

A government spokesman, Sadegh Tabatabai, said in a state radio broadcast that government forces had broken into Paveh, in restive Kurdistan province 300 miles west of Tehran, the capital.

"The rebels are now on the run, and we are pursuing them," he said.

The announcement of swift government action followed a warning from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran's Islamic leader, that if the troops did not speedily recapture Paveh, he would "deal with them [the troops] in a revolutionary way."

There was no confirmation from **Kurdish** sources that government forces had entered the town or succeeded in dislodging the Kurdish insurgents.

Members of the four million-member Kurdish minority recently intensified their long struggle to win autonomy from the central government in **Iran** with a series of violent confrontations.

Mr. Tabatabai said at least 18 government soldiers were killed and 40 wounded in the operation. That raised the official

death toll among government forces to 58 since fighting broke out in Paveh Tuesday night.

He said a tank column from Kermanshah was ready to move into the Paveh area, 25 miles from the Iraqi border. "From Kermanshah barracks we are also sending armed forces units to Paveh, and in addition two columns of tanks are advancing towards Paveh from Orumiye in the north," he said.

In a national radio broadcast, Ayatollah Khomeini, who masterminded the February revolution that overthrew the regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, said:

"I, as supreme commander of the armed forces, direct the chief of staff to order state police units and the Army to the Paveh area with full battle gear. . . . Until further notice I will hold the armed forces responsible for the atrocious deaths, and if they disobey my command, I will deal with them in a revolutionary way."

His word is law, and his threat to deal with the military in a "revolutionary way" appeared to be a warning he might use revolutionary firing squads against any who disobeyed him. Those firing squads have executed more than 400 persons convicted by his Islamic courts since the February revolution.

The Kurds attacked Paveh Tuesday, easily overpowering 200 troops sent there as an occupying force. On Thursday and Friday, the Army tried to send reinforce-

ments there but said Kurds controlled approach routes and mountain passes in the area. The Air Force said yesterday it had dispatched fresh troops in full battle gear from Tehran to Kermanshah aboard three C-130 transport planes.

Mr. Tabatabai said Deputy Prime Minister Mostapha Chamran, earlier reported trapped with a handful of defenders in a besieged government compound, was directing military operations in Paveh. Mr. Chamran was dispatched from Tehran in an attempt to negotiate a settlement with Kurdish leaders.

Demonstrations were held in Tehran to support the government action in Paveh. Hundreds of young people gathered in front of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan's office, some chanting: "Death to the counter-revolutionaries!" and "Send us to Paveh!"

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Friday night's attack on the U.S. Embassy complex.

The blasts caused some damage in the visa section of the U.S. consulate, adjacent to the embassy, but no injuries, an American spokesman said. The Iranian government sent additional guards to maintain security at the embassy after the explosions, he said.

One week ago, revolutionary guards who had been on duty at the compound had a tense confrontation with their replacements—government security men—and fired their weapons into the air before being persuaded to leave.