

Khomeini offers oil revenue to Kurds

From Reuter and UPI
in Tehran

Iran's unofficial Head of State, Ayatollah Khomeini, yesterday offered the Kurdish minority the equivalent of a day's oil earnings, and warned their rebel leaders they would be harshly punished if they did not accept the path of Islam.

In a statement broadcast by the State Radio, he said he had ordered the chairman of the National Iranian Oil Company, Hassan Nazh, to put a day's oil revenue at the disposal of the western province of Kurdistan within the next week. At normal export levels this would be worth £33 millions.

Khomeini said: "I tell the Kurds that all the Iranian masses are the same. There is no difference between the nationalities." But he warned members of the Kurdish Democratic Party that they must "join Islam" or face harsh treatment from the authorities.

In the Kurdish stronghold of Mahabad, KDP supporters yesterday deployed tanks and anti-aircraft batteries after Iranian Air Force F-4 Phantom fighters blasted rebel tank positions on Iran's western frontier with Iraq, indicating intensive fighting.

The renewed flare-up has claimed almost 90 lives, and the banned Kurdish Democratic Party, 31 of whose members have been executed since Sunday, sent a letter to the Government threatening that its 30,000 members would launch a war unless Revolutionary Guards withdrew from the Kurdish region, but the KDP said it did not object to the Army's presence.

It gave no reason for demanding the withdrawal of the Guards, who have fought the main battles with the Kurds since the February revolution.

The Bamdad newspaper said Kurdish rebels were controlling Mahabad, the Kurd's main political centre, and several other areas, under the Kurdish religious leader, Sheikh Ezzeddin Hosseini, denounced by Ayatollah Khomeini.

"counter-revolutionary" Kurds controlled areas outside the main Kurdish towns.

"The Army and gendarmerie still have a low morale, have only made a show of intervention, and it is only the people and the brave brothers of the Revolutionary Guards who are involved in various revolutionary operations," the Mujahideen said. The army was "still faced with disobedience and insubordination."

Reports reaching Tehran indicated that Government forces killed 75 Kurdish insurgents and lost 14 of their own men. The State Radio said Revolutionary Guards killed 60 Kurdish rebels in fighting which erupted on Tuesday near Divan Darreh, a small Kurdish town about 300 miles west of Tehran.

Four Revolutionary Guards were reported killed in other sporadic incidents in Kurdistan, press reports said. A police official told the Kayhan newspaper that 15 Kurds were killed in clashes with police along the border with Iraq. He said the Kurds were among several groups of rebels who fled the cities and took shelter in border areas and had attacked border posts.

In the northern town of Behshahr, a woman convicted of adultery was executed yesterday because she was married, but her lover got off with a flogging of 100 lashes because he was single, the official Pars news agency reported.

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Article - Untitled Article

The Islamic Revolutionary
Mujahideen organisation of mili-
tant Moslem militiamen
warned members security had
not been restored and ited