Khomeini offers oil revenue to Kurds

From Reuters 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 Neshat, 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 million.

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 Iran, 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 Kurdistan rebels were controlling Mahabad, the Kurd's main political centre, and several other areas, under the Kurdish religious leader, Sheikh Ezzodin Hosseini, denounced by Ayatollah Khomeini.
The Islamic Revolutionary
Mujahideen organisation of mili-
tant Moslem militiamen
warned members security had
not been restored and