

Iran reports fall of small Kurdish town

The Sun (1837-1985); Sep 7, 1979; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Baltimore Sun, The (1837-1986)

pg. A6

Doc_Number: KP000107

Iran reports fall of small Kurdish town

Tehran (Reuter)—Government forces captured the Iranian Kurdish town of Sardasht after minor clashes with guerrillas last night, the official Pars news agency reported.

Pars said artillery troops fought the guerrillas for less than 20 minutes before gaining control of the small northwestern border town, which the agency said was the last stronghold of Kurdish rebel forces. It gave no further details of the takeover.

Witnesses in Sardasht, 60 miles from the Iraqi border, said by telephone earlier yesterday that government helicopters strafed suspected guerrilla positions in the town for two hours yesterday afternoon.

Informed sources said 10,000 Kurdish guer-

rillas left the town for the surrounding hills two days ago after being pushed back by government troops. Half the population of 20,000 also moved out because of food shortages.

The sources said the Kurdish rebels controlled all roads into Sardasht, but there were no guerrillas or government forces in the town itself. The only armed forces spokesman available in Tehran yesterday said he was not authorized to comment on the situation in and around Sardasht.

In another development, Islamic revolutionary guard forces issued a 24-hour ultimatum to Kurds in and around the former rebel stronghold of Saqqez to hand in their arms.

The Pars news agency quoted a revolu-

tionary guard spokesman as saying a five-day arms amnesty ran out yesterday with only six weapons collected.

Sadeq Tabatabai, a government spokesman, told the evening newspaper Kayhan yesterday that Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan has invited Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to move his headquarters to Tehran from the holy city of Qom, 90 miles to the south.

Mr. Tabatabai quoted the prime minister as saying: "His presence in Tehran will make him more accessible to the nation and to the government. Therefore Imam [Khomeini] will always be informed of the affairs of the country."

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