

## LATE NEWS

MOGADISHU, Somalia, July 19 (UPI) — The Somali government Monday summoned the Soviet ambassador in an official protest over Soviet involvement in the Horn of Africa conflict as anti-government rebels claimed a major victory in fight for control of the main north-south highway. Radio Kulmis, the voice of the anti-Somali Democratic Somali Salvation Front said in its nightly broadcast from Ethiopia that its forces killed 380 Somali soldiers in two 12-hour battles for control of the Belet Huen Highway, the main army supply route and the only tarred road linking Mogadishu with the Ogaden border region.

Hojj. Khosroshahi Responds to U.N. Rights Group:

### Our People Have Decided To Be Free, Independent and Islamic

GENEVA, July 19 (Reuter) — Iran today criticized a United Nations committee reviewing its human rights record, and describing as insignificant the number of people executed since the Islamic Revolution.

Tehran's ambassador to the Vatican, angrily responding to tough questions put to him last week by the U.N. Human Rights Committee, accused the 18-member body of wilfully twisting the facts about the situation in his country.

"What on earth gives you the right to ask us any questions?" Hojjatolislam Seyyed Hadi Khosroshahi, a cleric, asked the committee.

"Our people have decided to remain free, independent and Islamic and not be fooled by the imperialist myth of human rights," the head of a six-man Iranian delegation said.

As for mass executions committee members asked about, he dismissed the dead as murderers and other corrupt elements whose number was insignificant compared with the 150,000 who, he said, were killed during the French Revolution.

"If it were not for Islamic clemency and tolerance, how many agents of the former regime would have been executed?" he asked the committee, which periodically reviews application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"If our people — after offering

70,000 martyrs and 100,000 crippled (in the Islamic Revolution) — were the avenging type, they would have made rivers run with blood."

Hojjatoleslam Khosroshahi directed his strongest criticism at Waleed Sadi of Jordan who opened the surprisingly frank session last Thursday with blunt questions about reported torture and mass executions in Iran.

"Sadi set the scene and the others followed in throwing all these unjustified and baseless accusations at us," he said, adding attacks on Jordan's stand towards the Palestinians which led to an acrimonious exchange with Mr. Sadi.

He also questioned the value of U.N. human rights inquiries when the former shah's sister often headed the Iranian delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission and once chaired its plenary meeting.

The ambassador then praised the Soviet and East German committee members whose questions centered on the Iranian legal system rather than other issues.

He said that only these two delegates seemed to understand Iran's revolutionary situation.

Andreas Mavrommittis of Cyprus, chairman of the committee since its inception in 1976, reminded the Iranian delegation of a failure to provide a long-awaited report on its application of human rights guaranteed under international law.

Iran, which had long promised the committee a report to replace the one submitted by the former shah's government just before the revolution, handed in a four-page statement and said a detailed report would follow in future.

Hojjatoleslam Khosroshahi today also attacked British media for covering the opening session on Thursday and reprinting Mr. Sadi's questions which, he said, made the session more like an inquiry than the dialogue it was supposed to be.

"The BBC, the Guardian and other imperialist sources quoted the gentleman from Jordan and attacked us and said the Iranians were being tried," he said.

"If the questioning takes the form of an inquiry, it is no surprise the imperialist media takes this up."

Hojjatoleslam Khosroshahi also discussed what he called the "ridiculous Baha'i problem" after committee members asked him about the religious minority that says Tehran is persecuting its leadership.

He said about 70 members of the Baha'i faith were executed because they had worked closely with the former shah and Israel.

The real question to ask, he said, was: "Why out of 70,000 have only 70 been executed?"

He said the Baha'i community, the only minority faith in Iran not recognized by the new Islamic constitution, numbered only 70,000.