

Khomaini Urges: KP000197

Kurds to Expel 'Red' Leadership

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomaini accused Kurdish rebels today of spreading "Communist corruption" and appealed to the Kurdish masses to "oust the Communist devils themselves."

Tensions in troubled Kurdistan, meanwhile, appeared to be easing somewhat.

The official Pars news agency reported that 64 government soldiers held hostage were released by the Kurdish Democratic Party in Mahabad, stronghold of KDP-led rebels in western Iran, and 36 of Khomaini's revolutionary guards were exchanged for an equal number of rebels in the Kurdish town of Paveh, where they had been captured in recent fighting.

At the Kurdish town of Saqqez, retaken by government forces after a battle two weeks ago, garrison commander Col. Ahmad Sepahr was quoted as saying his troops were still encountering some scattered resistance from Kurds in outlying areas.

The 4 million Kurds of western Iran have been pressing the central government in Tehran for autonomy, and hundreds have died in fighting between Kurdish guerrillas and government forces in recent months.

Khomaini's speech was made before a huge crowd of supporters in the holy city of Qom, his headquarters,