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Khomeini, after meeting negotiators, reportedly plans ultimatum for Kurds

Tehran (AP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who plans to spend 15 days in seclusion to recover from "excessive fatigue," met with his special negotiating team for Kurdistan yesterday and resolved to give the rebellious Kurds an ultimatum, according to the official news agency Pars.

One government policeman was killed in a confrontation with a group of insurgents in Mahabad in the tense western region of Kurdistan, Pars said.

Kurdish Democratic Party chief Abfulrahman Qassemloou, best-known among the Kurdish political leaders, appeared ready for compromise in an interview published in the daily Tehran newspaper *Kayahn* when he urged the Kurdish people "not to be deceived by extreme left-wing groups in the region." He did not specify which groups.

Kurdish spiritual leader Sheikh Ezzeddin Hosseini, a long-standing advocate of autonomy, also appeared to take a conciliatory stance after the incident outside Mahabad. Pars reported that Sheikh Hosseini expressed "deep regret" over the incident.

Ayatollah Khomeini, who canceled all appointments beginning this Saturday, asked that demonstrations planned from that day on be canceled as well.

Fighting and violent demonstrations have escalated steadily in Iran's prov-

inces, where ethnic and religious minorities have been agitating sporadically against the central government for months.

Kurdish cities were the scene last summer and fall of bloody battles between government forces and Kurdish rebels asserting their long-standing demand for greater autonomy.

A member of Ayatollah Khomeini's special negotiating team to the Kurds, Hashem Sabaghian, said after conferring with the revolutionary leader in Qom that the regime had prepared an ultimatum on the autonomy issue.

"This is the last chance for political groups and religious leaders to get together with the people of Kurdistan," Mr. Sabaghian told Pars.

Negotiations between the Kurds and the government broke down late last year when the Khomeini government balked at bargaining with two leftist organizations on the Kurdish side, the Fedayeen Khalq and Kumelh.

Mr. Sabaghian told Pars that Ayatollah Khomeini had stressed during their meeting, "I don't want even one innocent person to be killed" in further fighting in Kurdistan.

A confrontation between insurgents and regional police outside the Kurdish stronghold of Mahabad left one policeman dead, according to the official news

agency Pars, quoting Jamshid Haggou, governor general of West Azerbaijan province. The city is in that province, but is overwhelmingly Kurdish.

A government column withdrawing from the city was ambushed by insurgents, who disarmed 120 of the security forces. One government soldier was reported seriously injured.

The column "had to withdraw from Mahabad when it was faced by a group of protesting students and people opposing their presence in the city," Mr. Haggou was quoted as saying. The column was replacing another contingent, on regular rotation, he said, when it was attacked.

At the same time, Pars said, four soldiers were killed and three others hurt when a truck collided head on with a troop truck stopped on the road by insurgents.

In Sanandaj, chief city of Kurdistan, dissidents continued their seven-day-old sit-in to protest the continued presence of revolutionary guards in their city. The guards were formed after Ayatollah Khomeini came to power last February and serve as his principal security force.

Meanwhile, revolutionary guards in Ayatollah Khomeini's headquarters city of Qom searched "suspicious-looking cars" entering the city on the eve of a national holy day. The guards said thousands of pilgrims from the troubled Azerbaijan region flocked to Qom, which is also the home of Azerbaijani religious leader Ayatollah Mohammad Kazem Shariat-Madari.

In Tabriz, capital of East Azerbaijan province, tens of thousands of people marched for the fifth straight day in support of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, a native of Tabriz.

State radio and television, in a nationwide broadcast last night, played a tape recording of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari reiterating his appeal for an end to clashes between his supporters and Khomeini backers.