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From Wire Services

Saqqez, Iran—Transport helicopters shuttled several hundred fresh government troops into the besieged military garrison in this rebel-held city in western Iran yesterday. Kurdish insurgents said they captured six government tanks from militiamen moving toward Saqqez from the south.

Rebels brought one of the captured tanks with them to the city and moved it into position not far from the military compound as American-made Cobra helicopter gunships swooped low, spraying the area with machine-gun fire and rockets. The other five tanks were positioned outside town to bolster defenses.

In Tehran, the official news agency Pars reported government troops had recaptured Saqqez, but telephone lines were down and independent confirmation was not possible. Two hours before the Pars report was issued, an observer said only that fighting continued at the compound and helicopter gunships were firing rockets in several areas of the town.

The state radio said earlier that Kurds had placed women and children on a bridge leading to Saqqez, forcing an advancing army column to hold its fire. It gave no further details. At that time, correspondents in Saqqez reported the town firmly under Kurdish control and said no troops had been seen in or on the outskirts of Saqqez or near the bridge.

The tough Kurdish fighters, in their tasseled headbands and baggy pants, took cover from the rockets in the rubble of devastated buildings. Most of the Kurds, who seek autonomy for Kurdistan province, a mountainous northwestern region where they number about 5 million, brandished new Russian-made Kalashnikov automatic rifles and Iranian G-3's. Others carried weapons of World War II vintage.

Abdulrahman Qassemlou, a Kurdish leader, told reporters in Mahabad that Kurds were prepared to negotiate with the government if four conditions were met.

He said the conditions were: The suspension of further

troop reinforcements in the Kurdish region; the release of Kurdish political prisoners; the freeing of all Kurdish hostages; and an end to executions of Kurds alleged to have taken part in the fighting.

Mr. Qassemlou said if these conditions were not met the Kurds would continue fighting.

Mahabad was completely in Kurdish hands and the guerrillas were armed with Soviet-made Kalashnikov, American M-16 and Czechoslovak-made Berne automatic rifles.

At dusk, the rebels in Saqqez began moving up heavier weapons including recoilless rifles, apparently in preparation for a major assault on the garrison occupied by about 500 regular government troops and revolutionary guards.

The Kurds said they captured the six tanks intact about 25 miles south of here after they ambushed about 400 regular troops and revolutionary militiamen marching on Saqqez to relieve the military compound's defenders.

The Iranian Kurds are part of an ethnic group with large populations in Turkey, Iraq and Syria that they claim totals 16 million. They are mostly Sunni Muslims, a majority in the world of Islam, but a minority in this country, where Shiites are predominant.

As the fighting eased briefly, it became apparent that a large concentration of government troops—more than 25 miles south of Saqqez—was unable to break through the Kurdish defense perimeter encompassing roads, hills and rugged terrain.

The Kurds, though short of arms, have managed to keep the Army troops bottled up.

Another column of government forces headed toward Mahabad north of here for what could become another major confrontation. Mahabad is the Kurds' major stronghold, and headquarters of the Kurdish Democratic party.

Before Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi went into exile in January, he kept strong military forces in Kurdistan to suppress the Kurds' ancient aspirations for freedom and a nation of their own. After the revolution and the collapse of the army, Kurdish nationalism flared again but the goal was self-rule, not independence.

Last week, Kurds seized the city of Paveh, in Kurdistan, and held it for five days until army troops and revolutionary guardsmen drove them out.

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