

Kurds threaten 1-for-1 executions

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From Wire Services

Tehran, Iran—The leaders of Iran's Kurdish rebellion yesterday threatened to execute an Islamic revolutionary guard prisoner for every rebel Kurd shot by firing squads.

A communique issued by the secretariat of the Central Committee of the banned Kurdish Democratic party (KDP) followed an announcement by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini yesterday that he had offered the Kurds the equivalent of \$75 million while warning their rebel leaders they would be harshly punished if they did not accept his Islamic republic.

The Kurds' statement said:

"Up until now the KDP has released 311 revolutionary guards who were arrested and foreign correspondents, governors and the heads of town revolutionary councils have observed this. We have been kind.

"Now we have arrested many guards and if the executions [of Kurds] continue the KDP will execute one revolutionary guard for each Kurd executed."

So far, 29 Kurdish rebels are officially acknowledged to have been executed following the fighting in the west of Iran.

A spokesman for the ayatollah, Iran's unofficial head of state, said that no communique had been received from the KDP and therefore no comment could be made.

In an eight-point statement broadcast by the state radio, Ayatollah Khomeini, the 79-year-old religious leader, said he had ordered the chairman of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Hassan Nazih, to put a day's oil revenue at the disposal of the western province of Kurdistan within the next week.

At normal export levels, this would be worth

\$75 million.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting was reported in Kurdistan, where rebels, battling for political autonomy, accused Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic regime of trying to "annihilate the Kurdish masses."

The state radio reported 86 persons dead, including 11 government troops, in the last two days of a renewed Kurdish revolt in the mountainous Kurdistan province in northwest Iran.

Rebel leaders equated the policies of the revolutionary government with those of ousted Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

"The only difference [in the two governments] is that during the Pahlavi regime, they did not kill innocent people so ruthlessly," said Karim Hesami, an official of the Kurdish Democratic party.

"The religious leaders should understand that they cannot silence the masses with their forces," Mr. Hesami said in a statement read over the telephone from Mahabad, which Kurds declared their capital in a rebellion against the shah in 1946.

The shah suppressed the uprising, jailed its leaders, and maintained subsequent control of Kurdistan with a strong military presence.

Ayatollah Khomeini, whose forces overthrew the shah's regime in February, outlawed the Kurdish political party Sunday when he mobilized the Army against the rebellion, and declared its leaders responsible for the fighting in which about 1,000 have died since March.

The Kurdish rebels are seeking some measure of autonomy for their four-million member Iranian community, located primarily in the northwestern part of the country.

Mr. Hasemi said the rebels would retaliate against Ayatollah Khomeini's revolutionary guards for the execution of 11 Kurds Saturday and 18 Tuesday.

"For every Kurd executed, we will punish one revolutionary guard captured by our forces," he said, but did not specify how they would be punished.

He also said the Kurdish party would ask Ayatollah Khomeini to recall Ayatollah Sadegh Khalkali, head of the Islamic court in Paveh, for "committing atrocious acts against the Kurdish people."

The heaviest fighting yesterday took place near the provincial capital of Sanandaj, where 60 Kurds and 10 revolutionary guards were killed.

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