

UN negotiating over trapped Azeris

THE United Nations held emergency talks with Azerbaijan yesterday on how to transfer 27,000 Azeri civilians trapped in an area seized by Armenian forces last week.

"Our main concern is the 27,000 people still trapped," Marie Okabe, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), told Reuters.

She said Patrick Smith, head of a UNHCR delegation set up in Baku last December to help refugees displaced by ethnic fighting, met Azerbaijan's First Deputy Prime Minister Abbas Abbasov to

discuss the crisis.

The humanitarian agency said the civilians were trapped in more than 30 Azeri villages in the area of the western town of Kelbajar, seized by Armenian troops last weekend.

Okabe said a second round of negotiations was expected later yesterday, she added.

Smith met Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Ali Masimov earlier this week.

In Baku, an Azeri defense ministry spokesman said on Tuesday that Armenian troops had swallowed up a tenth of the trans-Caucasian republic's territory in the

STEPHANIE NEBEHAY

GENEVA

10-day offensive.

The intense fighting marks a major escalation in a five-year-old territorial dispute between the former Soviet republics over Nagorno-Karabakh, a largely Armenian-inhabited enclave inside Azerbaijan.

In New York, the UN Security Council expressed serious concern on Tuesday at the invasion of the Kelbajar district and demanded the withdrawal of the Armenian forces.

The UNHCR said yesterday about 200 exhausted refugees had arrived the previous day in Dashkezan, in Azeri-held territory north of the latest corridor to Nagorno-Karabakh. The exodus was down from the 500 to 700 arriving daily earlier this week.

"The heavy snow is making it very difficult to make the journey over the mountains," Okabe said. "People have to first cross the front lines to even get to the escape route."

Survivors have told UNHCR officials, who provided food and treatment for frostbite, that one in four refugees died crossing the

snowbound Mourvdar Pass, according to the spokeswoman.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said yesterday it had delivered thousands of blankets and pairs of shoes to Azeri refugees in the past week.

In a communique, the ICRC called on both parties to spare civilian lives and grant it access to all detainees. So far, its delegates have been able to visit 49 civilians and combatants held by local authorities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

(Reuters)

Pan Am victims' families seek Libya sanctions

RONALD POWERS
WASHINGTON

AFTER years of cautious optimism and bitter disappointment, the families of victims killed in the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 are again hopeful they may see justice done.

The families met with top Clinton administration officials several times during the last few weeks, urging the United States to sponsor UN sanctions that would economically cripple oil-rich Libya for refusing to surrender the alleged attackers.

Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher, in testimony before Congress last week, labeled Libya "an international outlaw" and said it was time for the United States to consider organizing a worldwide oil embargo against the North African country.

A US source at the United Nations, who spoke yesterday on condition of anonymity, said the sanctions were being discussed by UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright and White House officials.

However, according to other UN sources, it appeared unlikely other members of the Security Council were ready to support an oil embargo now.

The most likely outcome when the council votes later this week, one source said, is that current travel restrictions will remain in place with Libya put on notice that its time to cooperate is running out.

The secretary-general of the Arab League, Ahmed Esmat Abdel Maguid, has been meeting with Security Council members in New York this week, telling them his organization is ready to assume diplomatic efforts to assure Libyan compliance with past resolutions.

With much oil going to Europe from Libya and many Europeans working in high-paying oil-field jobs there, observers believe it will be very difficult for the United

States to persuade other nations on the 15-member Security Council to toughen the sanctions.

The United Nations embargoed international air travel to Libya two years ago in an effort to get Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to give up the two suspects wanted in the United States and Britain.

The bombing of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988 killed all the 259 passengers and crew members and left people on the ground. Two reputed Libyan terrorists have been charged with the attack and families of the victims and members of Congress have demanded action against them.

A federal jury, citing lax security by Pan American World Airways last summer found the now-defunct airline responsible for the attack and awarded millions of dollars to the victims' survivors. But Pan Am's insurers have appealed the verdict and it could be years, if ever, before any money is paid.

Meantime, some families say they have lost their homes to bankruptcy, students have been forced out of college and children have grown up without a parent.

"There has been no meaningful compensation to the families," said Paul Hudson of Albany, N.Y., whose 16-year-old daughter died in the bombing. "Widows and orphans, 4 1/2 years later, have received nothing."

The survivors said they also have felt abandoned by officials in Washington, who have shared little information with them.

"This whole thing happened and we've been out there alone, left adrift," said Victoria Cummings of Coral Gables, Fla. "No one helped us. No one came to us and told us what happened. I had to watch television, read the papers like every one else to find out what happened."

(Associated Press)

British, Irish mourn together

WARRINGTON (Reuters) — British and Irish leaders, appalled by the killing of two children by IRA bombs, gathered for a memorial service yesterday amid signs the tragedy may spur peace talks on Northern Ireland.

Prime Minister John Major, on a visit to Northern Ireland before attending the service in the English town of Warrington, urged politicians in the province to resume peace negotiations.

"I think there is a great feeling right across the community that people want a settlement. They want peace and they want an end to the murders," he said.

Major's government hopes that a national sense of outrage may prod recalcitrant political groups in the British-ruled province to resume talks.

Irish President Mary Robinson and Queen Elizabeth's husband Prince Philip were due to lead the mourning for the two boys, aged three and 12, who died when two Irish Republican Army bombs ripped through a Warrington shopping street on March 20.

As dignitaries prepared for the evening service in suburban St Elphin's parish church, about 6,000 townspeople attended a simpler ceremony in the central mall where the bombs went off.

Standing next to mounds of flowers marking the scene, Methodist minister Stephen Kingsnorth said: "Our prayers and hopes must be that in future years, it (the tragedy) will not just be remembered for the lives that were torn apart, but for the beginnings of an Easter movement that brought healing to the scarring hatred of centuries."

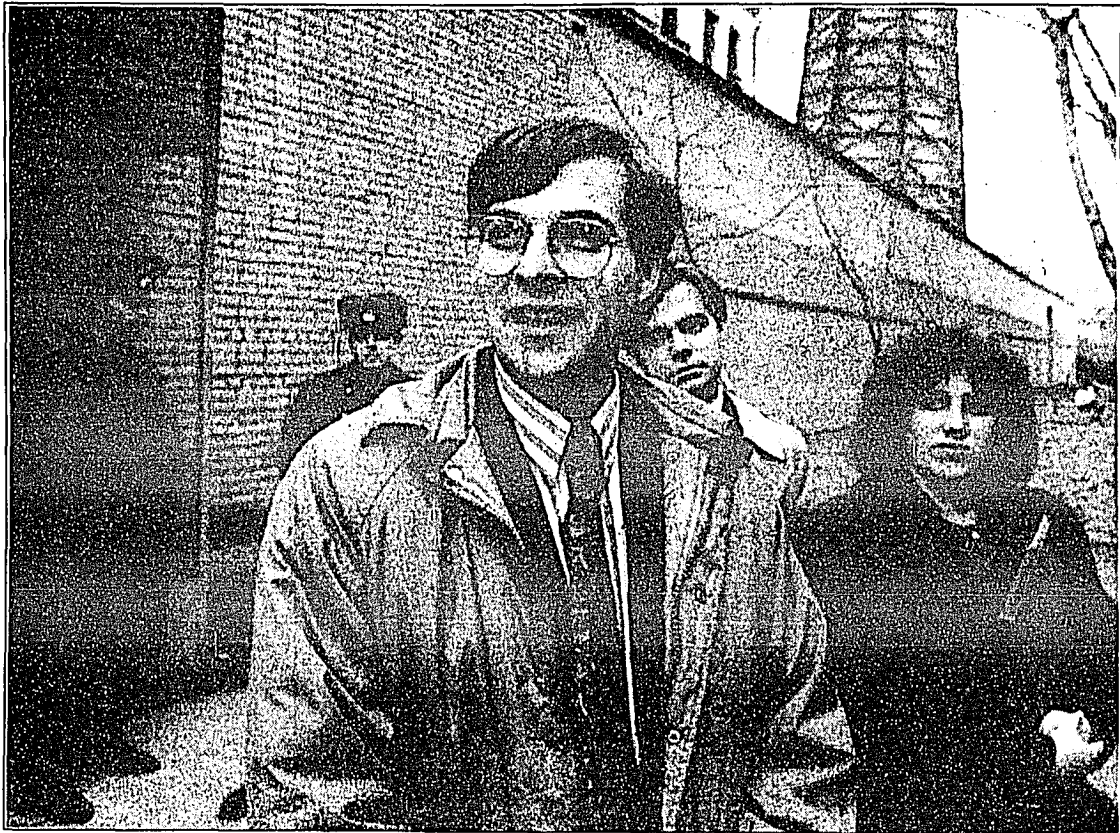
It was a subdued affair. "Most people want to be left alone now, to get over this in their own way," one 53-year-old man said.

British police reported an explosion yesterday near a central London train station, causing some damage but no casualties.

"There has been a small explosion...near St Pancras station," a police spokeswoman said. She said there were no injuries.

She could not confirm whether the explosion was caused by a bomb.

(Reuters)



Journalist Will Englund of 'The Baltimore Sun' stands outside the gates of Moscow's Lefortovo Prison yesterday. (AP)

American reporter questioned by Russian security official

WENDY SLOANE
MOSCOW

SECURITY officials questioned an American reporter yesterday about a story he wrote last year on the Kremlin's chemical weapons program and warned he could be detained if he did not cooperate.

Will Englund of *The Baltimore Sun*, said his lawyer and a US diplomat were barred from the more than one hour session with investigator Viktor Shkarin. He said he was told earlier his attorney would be welcome.

"I can only conclude that they brought me here under completely false pretenses, as I of course would not agree at all to going in there by myself," Englund, 40, told reporters after the questioning. Officials did allow his interpreter to assist him during the questioning.

Alexei Kandaurov, a spokesman for the Russian Security Ministry, said under Russian law a lawyer did not need to be present during the questioning. Kandaurov said Englund was summoned for further questioning today.

"If he refuses to appear tomorrow, we will take measures with the help of the police to make him show up," Kandaurov said. "A policeman will come to his home, ask him to get in the car, and take him to the questioning."

He said Englund asked for 24 hours to consult with lawyers after realizing his attorney would be

barred from the questioning. There was no indication Englund faced criminal charges.

Diplomats at the US Embassy in Moscow declined to comment on the case.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday: "Our embassy in Moscow has expressed our concern about the case to the Russian Foreign Ministry."

Englund, who has been based in Moscow since June 1991, was summoned last week to discuss the Sept. 16 story. It was based partly on information from a Russian scientist, Vil Mirzayanov, who has

been charged with disclosing state secrets.

Mirzayanov was one of two authors who said in an article in the *Moscow News* last fall that Russia had tested powerful binary chemical weapons in apparent violation of a previous agreement to destroy such weapons.

The Security Ministry announced Oct. 22 that it had arrested Mirzayanov.

"This is a clear and to my mind outrageous attempt at harassment of a journalist, and intimidation of sources here in Russia," Englund said. "It goes without saying that I am extremely upset and outraged at what has happened today."

G. Jefferson Price III, the *Sun's* foreign editor, said newspaper executives were disturbed by the summons. "Our hope is that the investigators do not attempt to obtain from Mr. Englund information which would compromise him or the confidentiality of his sources," Price said.

Englund was questioned in Lefortovo Prison, one of the most notorious detention facilities run by the KGB Soviet secret police.

Englund said he was questioned in a "simple, rather shabby waiting room" that had a portrait of KGB founder Felix Dzerzhinsky on one wall. He said several other people were in the room while he was being questioned.

Englund said the questioner, Shkarin, told him he was brought in to "give a statement in the case against Vil Mirzayanov."

He also said Shkarin threatened to send the police after him if he did not cooperate.

"I don't know the reason why they're pushing it. It could be that they're trying to harass journalists, it could be they're trying to create an incident," Englund said. (Associated Press)

Files show horrors of Paraguayan dictatorship

ASUNCION

MARTIN Almada's is one of the most pitiable stories in the recently-unearthed secret police records that Paraguayans call the "horror files."

The former schoolteacher was arrested on Nov. 25, 1974. His "crime?" He asked the government of then-president Gen. Alfredo Stroessner to raise teachers' salaries, and he belonged to a dissident wing of the ruling Colorado Party.

Almada, now 55, said he was tortured for 10 days, and every night police phoned his wife and played tapes of his screams. Finally, they sent home his bloodied clothes and told her to collect his body.

She had a heart attack and died. "No doctor would attend to her because they were afraid to," said Almada, who was released and fled to exile in France.

Almada returned home following the February 1989 coup that toppled Stroessner. He filed a lawsuit demanding Stroessner's extradition from Brazil and trial on charges of torture and murder, but had little evidence.

Until now, Last December, Almada was tipped off that records police insisted had disappeared after the coup were at a substation in suburban Lambare.

Three days before Christmas, he showed up with a judge, a congressman and a TV camera crew. "No one really thought we were going to find what we did. I certainly didn't," said congressman Francisco de Vargas.

What they found was a room crammed with personal identity cards, thick files on political parties, photographs and police statements from perhaps several thousand people who were arrested

throughout the 1954-89 Stroessner regime, and piles of books and cassettes.

The records are of the Department of Investigations, which cracked down on Stroessner's political opponents, real or imagined; and the Technical Office of the Interior Ministry, the regime's anti-communist section.

They document what Paraguayans have long known: the Stroessner regime kidnapped, tortured and executed people it considered subversive.

Judge Benitez Riera relied on the files during the trial of the former head of the Department of Investigations, Pastor Coronel, for his role in the death of an alleged subversive named Maribeth Schaefer Prono.

There was enough other evidence to convict Coronel last year. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Judge Augustin Fernandez also is cataloguing the files. "The No. 1 value is to support the idea that there is no impunity, that people who commit crimes must be punished," he said.

Fernandez is now prosecuting Coronel's replacement, Santiago Flores Torres, for lying about the Almada case. Flores Torres had claimed the secret police archives did not exist.

Only a small part of the files have been examined so far. They deal mostly with Paraguayans, but there are international aspects.

The files document cooperation in the 1960s and 1970s between the military regimes of Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay to kidnap alleged subversives in one or the other country, and send them home. That program was called "Operation Condor."

(Associated Press)

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