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# Lincoln Journal Star

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Monday, Nov. 7, 1983  
Weather: Old king cool  
Tonight: 20% chance showers  
Tuesday: Golden  
Tuesday: High 53° Low 44°

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galore  
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## Marines fired upon in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — U.S. Marines were fired upon Monday as heavy fighting broke out between Lebanese troops and Muslim militiamen in southern Beirut.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said that one Marine was slightly injured by a mortar round that hit U.S. positions near Beirut airport.

Marine positions also were hit by light arms and rocket-propelled grenades. The Marines, who went into top alert, shot back with M-16 automatic weapons and M-48 machine guns.

"We are taking small arms fire and RPGs," said a Marine spokesman, Maj. Robert Jordan. "We've returned small arms fire. There is intense fighting all around us."

The airport was closed at 6:30 p.m. after 10 artillery shells and mortars crashed on the western runway as five planes were preparing to take off, security source said.

### Sniper fire

The main gate of the Marine compound, half a mile from the airport terminal building, came under sniper fire as the area where a building was destroyed by a car bomb two weeks ago, killing more than 200 U.S. servicemen.

The fighting in the southern suburbs involved Lebanese troops and Muslim State militiamen.

Fighting also broke out in the Beirut Mountains south of the capital, with the army-held town of Souk El-Gharb com-

ing under attack, probably by Druse Muslim militiamen, security sources said.

In Damascus, political sources said Syria mobilized its reservists Monday, fearing that a reported U.S. buildup off the coast of Lebanon presaged an American invasion in the Middle East.

State-run Damascus radio said in commentary that the United States was bringing more ships to the Middle East in preparation for a Grenada-type military operation.

At least 39 American warships and 30 war jets are due in the eastern Mediterranean this week, including the aircraft carriers USS John F. Kennedy and USS Independence with their battle groups.

Some of the ships are carrying U.S. Marines, who would replace peacekeeping troops.

### Arafat under siege

In northern Lebanon, Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels fired rockets and artillery at Yasser Arafat's forces in their last remaining stronghold in the country, state-run Beirut radio said.

A spokesman for Arafat said he was leading his forces against the Palestinians rebel drive on the Badawi refugee camp in northern Lebanon. Other reports said he had fled to the nearby city of Tripoli.

Beirut radio said Sunday that more than 400 people have been killed or wounded since Palestinian rebels

backed by Syria assaulted the Arafat stronghold north of Tripoli five days ago. The extent of Monday's casualties was unknown.

The Beirut radio correspondent in Tripoli described the attack on Arafat's forces as "unprecedented," with artillery and rockets shelling the exposed Badawi camp on the city's northern outskirts at a rate of 50 per minute.

Arafat's 5,000 men and an estimated 22,000 civilian refugees in the camp are besieged by 15,000 Syrian, Libyan and Palestinian Liberation Organization dissident forces, Arafat's aides said.

On Sunday, Palestinian rebels led by Col. Saad Mounir overran the Nahar el Barid refugee camp, another Arafat stronghold eight miles north of Badawi. The rebels then turned on Badawi, attacking from three sides: south on the coastal highway, west from Mount Turbul and north from the outskirts of Tripoli.

Rebel gunners on Mount Turbul rained shells on the camp, lighting up the sky with incandescent flares. Hundreds of terrified people fled on foot and in cars through the streets of Tripoli as artillery explosions reverberated through the city.

"Arafat's gang is putting up resistance but Arafat himself has escaped to Tripoli," said Mahmoud Labadi, a spokesman for the rebels who demands a return to military confrontation and no peace accords with Israel.

"Our main objective is finishing off the Arafat gangs from the refugee camps, but we will not go after him in Tripoli," said Labadi, in Damascus, once a close associate of the PLO leader.

Arafat's aides denied he retreated to Tripoli. Lebanon's second largest city, 42 miles north of Beirut, insisting he would stay in Badawi to fight the "hordes of Syrians, Libyans and breakaway Palestinians."

### Envoy dispatched

Saudi King Fahd urgently dispatched a special envoy to meet with Syrian President Hafez Assad, apparently to head off what loomed as Arafat's final hour as the PLO's undisputed leader of 14 years.

But Assad, in an earlier meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti in Damascus, appeared to rebuff pleas for an end to the fighting.

"Syria did its best to help the Palestinian brethren resolve their differences," Assad told Andreotti, according to Damascus radio. "But a well-known party among them escalated and complicated the problem."

"We distinguish between the Palestinian case and personal status. The Palestinian cause is not totally dependent on one person," he said.

American officials say a grave discovery in Damascus revealed the body of Prime Minister Marjorie Bishop and others killed in the ship that prompted the U.S.-led invasion.

State Department official John Stetsman said in Washington that tens of thousands of the bodies were found Sunday. He said department personnel in Grenada did not specify how many bodies were in the grave, but other reports indicated more than 100 bodies had been found.

Bishop and a number of key supporters were killed Oct. 18 after a confrontation with soldiers loyal to the hardline Marxist leaders of the coup. Several witnesses have said Bishop and the others were executed.

Governor General Sir Paul Scoon, recognized by U.S. officials as Grenada's acting head of government, is expected to announce Monday or Tuesday the fate of Gen. Hudson Austin and for-

Fund, like insurance, for 'isolated losses'

## Commonwealth failure 'catastrophic' for NDIGC

By L. Kent Wiegman

The Nebraska Depository Institution Guaranty Corp. set up to insure deposits in the state's industrial banks, was hit with the worst possible catastrophe — the failure of its largest member — at a time when it was struggling to get under way, according to Doug Allard, a NDIGC board member.

When Commonwealth Savings Co. of Lincoln failed last week, the NDIGC failed along with it, leaving depositors wondering what happened to the NDIGC's promise to guarantee accounts up to \$50,000.

"The thing that was not anticipated was that the largest member would go insolvent," said Allard, president of Commerce Savings of Lincoln. "This is the kind of catastrophic thing that you don't think is going to happen."

Each member of the NDIGC contributed 1 percent of its deposits to the fund, and a higher percentage than was contributed to most similar funds, Allard said.

"It (the 1 percent contribution) was basically an amount that was perceived to be adequate to do the job," Allard said. The NDIGC, like all insurance programs, was set up to cover the "isolated loss," not massive failures, he said.

The fund had done so job in three other cases where deposits were protected, Allard said. Allard declined to list the three institutions where the NDIGC took action, saying he didn't want to cause any additional trouble for these institutions.

The payments in those three cases depleted the NDIGC fund from about \$1 million to about \$2 million, he said.

The thing that really hampered NDIGC was its draws on fund assets in fairly rapid fire fashion, Allard said. "The thing that went wrong with NDIGC was it drew and paid its losses case so quickly, there was no time to rebound from those losses."

### Buyer not found

The \$2 million left in the fund likely would have covered any losses had a buyer for Commonwealth been found, but is badly lacking "when you've got the whole \$9 million problem (Commonwealth's reported liabilities) starting you in the face," he said.

Nebraska also attempted to participate in a "crisis-guarantee" program with other states that have similar guaranty corporations for their industrial banks, Allard said. That effort, however, was never completed.

### Set up in 1977

The NDIGC, which was supervised by the NDIC on page 4

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## News front on protecting Nebraska deposits

His call for a special legislative session having been rejected, Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh said Monday that he intends to have his Banking Committee investigate the insolvency of Commonwealth Savings Co. of Lincoln and the financial health of similar state-chartered financial institutions.

The Nebraska Depository Institution Guaranty Corp. was hit with the worst possible catastrophe — the failure of its largest member — just when it was struggling to get under way, University of Nebraska Regent James Moylan is executive director of the corporation.

Lincoln legislators say they are reserving judgment on the state Banking Department's performance in handling the insolvency of Commonwealth Savings Co.

Lincoln developer Newt Coppel has filed suit against his father, S.E. Coppel, alleging the elder Coppel failed in his duties as trustee of Newt Coppel's \$3.5 million property holdings.

Governance responsibility by periods

Governor of Banking, Finance, and Commerce

Members

Total institutions reviewed

No. of institutions reviewed

Employees

\*Brennan replaced Swartz

DeCamp: We'll probe Commonwealth, more

His call for a special legislative session having been rejected, Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh said Monday he intends to have his legislative committee investigate the insolvency of Commonwealth Savings Co. of Lincoln and the financial health of similar state-chartered financial institutions.

DeCamp, chairman of the Legislature's Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, outlined in a letter to Gov. Bob Kerrey several issues to be probed in his committee investigation among them:

The financial status of certain financial institutions "whose condition I feel could result in situations similar or identical to that of Commonwealth."

The actions of Kerrey and the state Banking and Finance Department in monitoring the Nebraska Depository Institution Guaranty Corp. in possibly suppressing public information regarding the weakened financial state of Commonwealth and in the administration's general enforcement of state banking laws.

The possibility of "improper complicity by any members of the press in suppressing information from the public" in the Commonwealth matter.

The adequacy of LSLB, a bill passed by the 1980 Legislature, which broadened the authority of the Banking Department in approving the takeover of failing financial institutions by stronger institutions.

DeCamp asked Kerrey to make him

DeCamp, a member of the Legislature since 1980, succeeded Sen. John Murphy of South Sioux City as chairman of the Banking Committee in 1977.

DeCamp proceeded to provide leadership on many banking bills.

Early on, DeCamp said, he was worried about issues of consumer protection in the state Banking and Insurance departments, whose operations are closely protected by statutory confidentiality. He said he also was concerned about the lack of insurance for ac-

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A Japanese youngster, member of a far-right-wing political group, wears a cap carrying a slogan of welcome for President Ronald Reagan, who begins a state visit to Japan on Wednesday.

## 90,000 police mobilized for Reagan's Japan visit

TOKYO (UPI) — Police fearing possible action by radical leftist groups during President Reagan's visit this week began Monday to mobilize a force of 90,000 police officers to guard against violence during his four-day stay.

A police spokesman said the security alert would be the largest since 1975 when a record 104,000 policemen were mobilized to maintain security during the Tokyo summit of seven Western democracies.

The action will cost the government \$1.3 million, officials said.

A police spokesman said the security force would be deployed in shifts with 2,000 police officers on Tokyo streets around the clock.

### Special units

The Metropolitan Police Department said 8,000 officers, including specially trained bodyguards, riot squads and plainclothesmen, will be on duty around the clock during Reagan's stay.

Reagan, accompanied by his wife, Nancy, and an entourage of 100, is secretary of State George Shultz, is to arrive in Tokyo Wednesday on his first

trip to Japan as president.

Some 1,500 police officers will be deployed around the airport while 27 ships began Monday to mobilize a force of 90,000 police officers to guard against violence during his four-day stay.

The radicals charge the visit will result in a virtual military alliance between the United States and Japan, which could drag the island nation into a confrontation involving the two superpowers.

Police said they have seized maps and documents indicating the radicals planned "guerrilla attacks" on the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo and military facilities to protect the president's visit.

The materials were seized in raids on hideouts of a radical group known as the Chukago-ha (Middle Core Faction), which has organized a series of protests against the visit in recent weeks.

Chukago-ha is a splinter group of the

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