



AP photo

Black day

Black smoke darkens the noon sky Friday over Khafji, Saudi Arabia, near the Kuwaiti border as huge fires from burning Kuwaiti oil facilities

obliterate the sun. U.S. President George Bush says Iraqi president Saddam Hussein is executing a scorched earth policy.

Heavy smoke fills sky as Kuwait oil wells burn

By MIKE TRICKEY
Southam News

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — More than 15 per cent of Kuwait's oil fields are belching thick black smoke as a result of Iraq's new "scorched earth" policy, according to U.S. military reports.

Marine Brig.-Gen. Richard Neal said Friday 145 of Kuwait's 950 oil wells are burning, two-thirds of them torched since Thursday night.

Meanwhile, in an ugly reminder of the Vietnam War, the U.S. Marines admitted they are using napalm on petroleum-filled trenches that Iraq has erected as barriers in Kuwait.

Central Command spokesmen said napalm is being used only to ignite the oil-filled ditches and will not be used against people as it was in Vietnam.

Confirming President George

Bush's charge Friday that Iraq is trying to destroy Kuwait's oil production system, Neal said at least 100 Kuwaiti oil wells had been set on fire in the last day. Another 40 to 50 wells are said to have been burning intermittently since the war began.

"I wouldn't even dare speculate on what his (Saddam Hussein's) motivation is for the destruction of the Kuwaiti oil fields," said Neal.

"There now seems to be an orchestrated, systematic destruction of the oil-producing capability of Kuwait — much more than what we had before, and unfortunately, probably what we thought might occur if in fact he felt really threatened and may have been entertaining ideas of withdrawal."

Kuwait's government-in-exile in Taif, Saudi Arabia had no comment on the burning oil wells or Bush's ultimatum giving Iraq until noon

today to pull out of Kuwait.

Neal said the heavy smoke was not affecting air operations, which included 1,000 flights over Kuwait Friday. However, British spokesmen said their pilots were somewhat hampered by the oily smoke.

Neal, who has been one of the least hawkish military spokesmen on the question of a ground war, said again Friday that even one wounded soldier is too many, but made clear U.S. forces are ready to execute any action ordered by Bush.

And he warned Iraq that the aerial bombardment of its country, which has included about 2,700 sorties a day, is a small portion of what can be delivered by coalition forces.

"That was just the tip of the iceberg."

Border buying will cost jobs

KITCHENER, Ont. (CP) — Cross-border shopping will drain \$2.2 billion and at least 14,000 jobs from the Ontario economy this year, twice as much as previously estimated, a study for the provincial Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology suggests.

A telephone survey of 2,170 Ontario residents, conducted in seven border cities and four non-border cities, asked how often they had shopped in the United States in April, what they bought and how much they spent.

It found cross-border shopping could have twice the \$1-billion impact the NDP government previously estimated would be drained from the provincial economy this year if shoppers continued to flock to the U.S. to buy cheaper gas, food and clothes.

Data collected from the border cities showed 31 per cent of respondents had shopped in the U.S. in April, spending an average \$86 a trip.

BRADSHAW—Mrs. Nellie; at the County of Bruce General Hospital, Walkerton on Monday, February 25th, 1991. Nellie (Trowbridge) Bradshaw of Brucelea Haven, Walkerton in her 86th year. Beloved mother of Williard Bradshaw and his wife Beverley of Langley, B.C., Leonard and his wife Doreen of Guelph, Allan and his wife Eleanor of RR2 Walkerton, Marie Kenney of Huron Park, Ontario, Muriel and her husband Fred Trowsdale of Lindsay. Also survived by nineteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, daughter-in-law Margaret Bradshaw of Toronto and a sister Bessie (Mrs. Clifford Harron) of Owen Sound. Predeceased by her husband James Bradshaw, son Lloyd and son-in-law John Kenney. There will be no funeral home visitation. Interment Woodlawn Cemetery, Guelph. A memorial service will be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses on Saturday, March 2nd, at 2:00pm. Memorial donations to the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses Halton Hills would be appreciated. Mighton Funeral Home, 123 10th Street, Hanover assisted with the arrangements.

MOSCOW — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was overthrown today in a bloodless pre-dawn coup by hardline Communists backed by the army.

The country's new leadership, headed by former vice-president Gennady Yanayev, immediately declared a six-month state of emergency "in some parts of the Soviet Union."

It pledged to take "the most decisive measures to prevent the country from sliding into a national catastrophe."

A spokesman for Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin said Gorbachev is under arrest at his vacation home in the Crimea.

There was no immediate confirmation of that report.