



Riots

"For three consecutive days, riots have disrupted the usually peaceful Island of Botha. The streets erupted with uncontrolled violence following the Government's announcement of its austerity program in which salaries would be cut and basic food prices hiked by at least 15%. Extensive looting and property damage has been reported throughout the capital, Peace Town.

"Initial estimates have put the death toll at 123 persons including at least 12 children and 20 law enforcement personnel. Police were taken completely by surprise at the severity of the violent outbreak. Although the situation is now somewhat under control, the Prime Minister in his national emergency address today indicated that schools and businesses would remain closed until the end of the month. Peace-keeping troops from neighboring countries are expected to arrive on the island by the end of the week by which time the state of emergency should be relaxed."



School Bus Accident

"Yesterday afternoon on East Park Road, during a bout of heavy rain, a bus carrying 30 school children collided with two cars and overturned just feet from the Boulevard Bridge. Loud screams could be heard coming from the bus and there was blood everywhere. Scores of people gathered quickly at the scene making it very difficult for emergency response personnel to function.

"Three of the children travelling on the bus and the bus-driver were pronounced dead at the scene of the accident and six of the children were seriously injured and had to be admitted to the nearby Lakes Field Hospital. Twelve other children suffered only minor injuries and were treated and discharged. The others escaped injury but were understandably very distressed.

"The three occupants of one car escaped with only minor injuries but both occupants of the second car had to be cut free by fire service personnel. The driver of this car was pronounced dead on his way to the hospital. His wife, the passenger in the car, is now stable but in critical condition in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Lakes Field Hospital having suffered major head and chest injuries."