

Doomsday from 1-A

couple of days on household canned goods and the water from their hot-water tanks. But, slowly, food and water were running out.

DESPITE FREQUENT radio bulletins, many people did not know to avoid eating exposed food or drinking contaminated water. Surviving supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience stores and warehouses were rapidly looted.

The exodus grew. Joining those first refugees who had no homes or needed medical care, the uninjured fell into step, unable to support themselves in homes or apartments that had no food, electricity, water or sanitation facilities and fearful of fire or renewed attacks. A few, more concerned with their property, stayed on to protect it, often with shotguns or hunting rifles.

Emergency medical stations and refugee centers were set up in schools, churches, and public buildings in the outlying residential areas and towns some distance from the devastation. Few of these emergency buildings had their own electrical generating capacity, and the portable generators brought in could provide only limited service; this limited power-generating ability was constricted even more as gasoline and diesel stocks dwindled.

Although communities were generous with the refugees, food inventories diminished rapidly, as it had proved uneconomical to warehouse significant stocks of food in the United States, and many of the distributors' warehouses were in the blast and fire zone. Although some emergency food supplies were beginning to arrive from outside the damaged area, the number of those needing them was increasing faster. The residents of the surrounding areas — like Land O'Lakes north of Tampa and Tarpon Springs — watched with dismay and growing hostility the oncoming horde of survivors.

They began to hide what little of their food that remained.

The Weckel and Bragg families

The Weckel boy died a few hours after the family left its destroyed home. The family tried to bury him by the side of the road by covering his body with dirt. His father left his own driver's license, encased in plastic, in the boy's pocket, so that he could be identified when found. They shared the same name. Mrs. Weckel was dizzy and sick as they left their son's shallow grave.

The surviving Weckels spent the first night on the beach and the next day were housed in a school in Tarpon Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Bragg spent another night in the bank but it was clear they would have to move. There was no food or water; the toilets were clogged. Mrs. Bragg's heart medicine was nearly gone.

The President is briefed

Three days after the nuclear attack of 1985, the Joint Chiefs of Staff assembled in the President's bunker to give the commander-in-chief the first comprehensive wrap-up on the nature of the Soviet and American attacks and the devastation they created.

"The Soviet attack," the President was told, "had two components, hitting first key military targets and then nonmilitary, or primarily economic and population, targets."

"First, two 1-megaton warheads were delivered on each of our 1,054 land-based missile silos, many of which were fortunately empty by then, while a single 1-megaton weapon hit each of our 46 Strategic Air Command bases and our two missile submarine bases.

"Most of our bombers were already deployed in the air and at sea, however, Soviet missiles also hit each of our five large airlift bases at Dover Air Force Base, Del.; McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.; Travis Air Force Base, Calif.; Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., and McChord Air Force Base, Wash., as well as key command-and-control centers, such as MacDill Air Force Base and the North American Air Defense (NORAD) center in Colorado. We believe this was mainly to prevent any efforts on our part to airlift additional troops and their equipment to Europe. It seems that 1-megaton bombs were used in this portion of the attack, although the Soviet Union has larger warheads that may be used.

"THE SECOND phase of the attack came several hours later. It involved distributing about 500 1-megaton warheads on 70 or so major urban-industrial areas, plus about 250 warheads in the 100-mile range on selected vital industries, such as the iron and steel foundries, primary smelting and refining of nonferrous metals, petroleum refining, critical end-product defense plants, engine and turbine plants and electrical equipment plants.

"This was a devastating attack, since the smallest 100-kiloton weapons were at least five times the size of the Hiroshima bomb and the 1-megaton weapons were 50 times as destructive as the Hiroshima explosion.

"However, this exchange required only about 2,960 Soviet weapons, out of a total arsenal we calculate at 8,300 strategic nuclear weapons. So there are plenty of weapons left on both sides, in the event that the present cease-fire breaks down.

"Our current evaluation is that the U.S. strategic nuclear forces carried out their assigned missions in an exemplary way. Damage to the Soviet strategic rocket forces and long-range aviation has been severe and has probably reduced their offensive capability considerably, at least against the United States, if not China or Europe. Our own operational strategic nuclear forces have some 7,000 warheads and bombs available, not counting tactical nuclear weapons and stockpiled nuclear reserves.

"SOVIET tactical nuclear and conventional forces are also hard hit by the impact of the attack, but they continue to operate, especially along the Chinese border, where Chinese troops have made probing attacks deep into Soviet territory, and along the central front in Europe, where Soviet forces have adopted a defensive posture for the time being. The possibility that the Soviet Union will commit its strategic nuclear missiles to the Chinese theater is regarded as high, if conditions remain stable in Europe.

"Early indications are that Soviet casualties (dead and injured) are on the order of 85 million to 100 million and that industrial capacity has been reduced by at least 40 percent to 50 percent below pre-attack norms. Since the Soviet Gross National Product is about half that of the United States, this represents a severe loss.

"Estimates of U.S. casualties are above 80 million."

The President's briefing was concluded but his work had just begun.

Having suspended *habeas corpus* and placed the nation under martial law before he left Washington, the President now began to rule the nation by decree.

THE SUPERAGENCY set up just after the attack to coordinate disaster operations — the Office of Defense Mobilization — began to assess what its first tasks were.

See DOOMSDAY, 14-A



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Dr. Mark Tang, seventeen years' experience, graduate of Sun Yi Shan Medical College, Canton, China, and director of the Chinese Acupuncture Clinic.

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