**Fighting worsens as troops near Baghdad**

Near Kazbarla, Iraq (Apr. 2) — American infantry troops fought off a shock attack by Iraqis, leaving 150 casualties, and British forces battled for control of Basra, an oil-rich delta city.

U.S. Defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in Washington, and between 150 and 200 Iraqis were killed Tuesday in the battle near Najiya, less than 100 miles south of Baghdad. The officials said there were no immediate reports of American casualties. Iraqis launched an attack on a day of cool weather — a day that a war veteran said had enough hours to wait for the U.S. to drive Iraqi forces toward the Persian Gulf.

Despite the adverse weather in some parts of Iraq, U.S.-led forces battled in the northern part of the country and briefly knocked government television off the air in Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city. Details of the situation inside the southern city of Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, were sketchy as well.

British journalists reported that residents were staging protests against pro-Saddam forces and fighting in the city. They said that residents were firing mortars at them.

Britain’s Ministry of Defence said it had found a T-55 tank on the compound, although none has yet been used in the 6-day-old war — or even found by the invading troops.

The war worsened as troops near Baghdad were killed. Some elements of the U.S. 3rd Infantry Division were reported killed.

Several helicopter pilots were killed by mortar fire.

Iraqis — either Republican Guard or paratroopers — were reported to be firing mortars at them.

The British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

The British forces reported that residents were staging cleaning campaigns in the city of Ur, near Karbala, with only the Medina armored division of Iraq’s Republican Guard battling. The officials said repairs at a war-damaged water-pumping station serving the city were needed. Some of the 7th Cavalry’s equipment was damaged in the attack, the official said.

The government of Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said on Monday to obey international law and take part.

Senators want woman in top Air Force Academy position

**In Brief**

Putin said he had asked the Russian Federation “on behalf of the Russian leadership to appeal to Iraq with an offer to comply with the international community’s wishes.”

A senior Russian diplomat said the Russian president “will continue to do all that is needed to stabilize the situation in Iraq and ensure the security of the United Nations’ forces.”

Russia wanted to see the aluminum company, but the U.S. forces said it was needed to protect its troops from the Iraqis.

Two of 22 U.S. Army paratroopers died in the attack, the British ministry said.

The British forces said the British ministry had found a T-55 tank on the compound.

The U.S. forces said there were no immediate reports of American casualties.

A senior military official said the U.S. troops had hacked down on a sandwich, less than 10 miles north of Baghdad, when Iraqi — other Republican Guard or paratroopers — were reported firing mortars at them.

British forces staged a raid on a suburb of the city.

The British ministry said the British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

Details of the situation inside the southern city of Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, were sketchy as well.

British journalists reported that residents were staging protests against pro-Saddam forces and fighting in the city. They said that residents were firing mortars at them.

The British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

The British forces reported that residents were staging cleaning campaigns in the city of Ur, near Karbala, with only the Medina armored division of Iraq’s Republican Guard battling. The officials said repairs at a war-damaged water-pumping station serving the city were needed. Some of the 7th Cavalry’s equipment was damaged in the attack, the official said.

The government of Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said on Monday to obey international law and take part.

Senators want woman in top Air Force Academy position

**In Brief**

Putin said he had asked the Russian Federation “on behalf of the Russian leadership to appeal to Iraq with an offer to comply with the international community’s wishes.”

A senior Russian diplomat said the Russian president “will continue to do all that is needed to stabilize the situation in Iraq and ensure the security of the United Nations’ forces.”

Russia wanted to see the aluminum company, but the U.S. forces said it was needed to protect its troops from the Iraqis.

Two of 22 U.S. Army paratroopers died in the attack, the British ministry said.

The U.S. forces said there were no immediate reports of American casualties.

A senior military official said the U.S. troops had hacked down on a sandwich, less than 10 miles north of Baghdad, when Iraqi — other Republican Guard or paratroopers — were reported firing mortars at them.

British forces staged a raid on a suburb of the city.

The British ministry said the British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

Details of the situation inside the southern city of Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, were sketchy as well.

British journalists reported that residents were staging protests against pro-Saddam forces and fighting in the city. They said that residents were firing mortars at them.

The British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

The British forces reported that residents were staging cleaning campaigns in the city of Ur, near Karbala, with only the Medina armored division of Iraq’s Republican Guard battling. The officials said repairs at a war-damaged water-pumping station serving the city were needed. Some of the 7th Cavalry’s equipment was damaged in the attack, the official said.

The government of Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said on Monday to obey international law and take part.

Senators want woman in top Air Force Academy position

**In Brief**

Putin said he had asked the Russian Federation “on behalf of the Russian leadership to appeal to Iraq with an offer to comply with the international community’s wishes.”

A senior Russian diplomat said the Russian president “will continue to do all that is needed to stabilize the situation in Iraq and ensure the security of the United Nations’ forces.”

Russia wanted to see the aluminum company, but the U.S. forces said it was needed to protect its troops from the Iraqis.

Two of 22 U.S. Army paratroopers died in the attack, the British ministry said.

The U.S. forces said there were no immediate reports of American casualties.

A senior military official said the U.S. troops had hacked down on a sandwich, less than 10 miles north of Baghdad, when Iraqi — other Republican Guard or paratroopers — were reported firing mortars at them.

British forces staged a raid on a suburb of the city.

The British ministry said the British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

Details of the situation inside the southern city of Basra, Iraq’s second-largest city, were sketchy as well.

British journalists reported that residents were staging protests against pro-Saddam forces and fighting in the city. They said that residents were firing mortars at them.

The British Field Marshal Lord Guthrie said he was meeting with Russian President Putin.

The British forces reported that residents were staging cleaning campaigns in the city of Ur, near Karbala, with only the Medina armored division of Iraq’s Republican Guard battling. The officials said repairs at a war-damaged water-pumping station serving the city were needed. Some of the 7th Cavalry’s equipment was damaged in the attack, the official said.

The government of Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal said on Monday to obey international law and take part.