German Tourists Wounded in Egypt

Islamic extremists found with automatic weapons Thursday on a bus full of German tourists in southern Egypt, injuring seven people and raising the stakes in an increasingly audacious and violent chal- lenge to the government.

Five Germans were wounded, one seriously, in the assault, which occurred about 20 miles southeast of Luxor, near the city of Aswan, 300 miles south of Cairo, on its way to Luxor to the Red Sea, a German tourist resort town. The first gunfire, which wounded one of whom was captured, was the Egyptians who doctor and a passerby, according to the Egyptian Interior Ministry.

The second attack came three weeks after a similar ambush that left one British tourist dead. Together, they mark an ominous new trend of attacks by Islamic extremists against foreign tourists, a more by the militants to disrupt the government by crim- pinging tourism, a key source of foreign revenue.

The militants campaign, which has killed more than 70 people this year, is presenting President Hosni Mubarak with his most seri- ous challenge to the government.

Barr, who has expressed his dislike for the independent counsel law, has until Dec. 10 to respond. The law itself expires Dec. 15; the attorney general must then appoint a special counsel.

A majority of the Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee have formally asked for appointment of an independent counsel to investigate whether independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh's recent handling of the Iran-Contra case involved improper political consid- erations.

Four of the committee's six GOP senators asked Attorney General William P. Barr on Tuesday to initiate an independent investigation specifically into his source of information in the Iran-Contra case. 30 indica- tions of former Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberg.

Sen. Alan K. Simpson (Wyo.), Strom Thurmond (S.C.), Hank Brown ( Colo.) and Charles E. Grassley (Iowa) wrote that "they wanted an investigation to determine 'whether there were any illegal, improper, or unethical activities' by Walsh's office in bring- ing the new Iran-Contra indictment four days before the presidential election."

"Among other concerns, we have questions whether or not improper political considerations were in the timing of the indi- ctures, whether improper disclosure of the indictment was made to the Clinton-Gore campaign," the letter said.

The indictment accuses Weinberg of lying in Congress in 1987 when he denied that he had ordered the sale of DOD planes to Iran.

But by June 7, 1986, note by Weinberg that contradicted President Bush's statements about his role in the Iran-Contra affair.

The indictment replaced an earlier charge of obstructing Congress that Weinberg's lawyers had criticized as too wide and redefine of his case.

"I'm not in a position now to promise you I will ever do it, or what the specifics will be, but I can tell you I'm going to change the policy," he said.

"I am not in a position now to promise you I will ever do it, or what the specifics will be, but I can tell you I'm going to change the policy," he said.

But on another subject, whether to lift the ban on gays in the military, Clinton reiterated his promise to move forward on this, "but sound- ed cautious in his approach to the controversial issue.""The question is, whether to lift the ban on gays in the military," Clinton reiterated his promise to move forward on this, "but sound- ed cautious in his approach to the controversial issue."

President-elect Bill Clinton, in his first press conference since the Nov. 7 election, 30 days ago, pledged Thursday that he would "aggressive and prompt action" in reviving the ailing economy and would consider a range of actions that were under debate.

Clinton made clear in the 35-minute session at the Old改变 here is that he would not take political or political action. But if it's a matter of life or death, I think they are doing a great job," Clinton added.

President Clinton was not ready to discuss options he was consider- ing for his administration's "next steps.""I'm not going to give it to you," Clinton said.

"I am not in a position now to promise you I will ever do it, or what the specifics will be, but I can tell you I'm going to change the policy," he said.