Three killed in Plateau

HE tension in Plateau State got worse yesterday when the state government imposed a dusk-todawn curfew in the Pankshin Local Government Area, after police shot dead three persons. A police station was burnt, following a clash between residents and law enforcement agents.

The Police, according to sources, invaded a hotel in the city, where some youths were said to be having a party. They shot into the party, mistaking the youths for robbers. Two weré felled.

But another source claimed that the youths were mere hoodlums who had actually invaded the hotel with the intention of robbing the occupants before the clash with the policemen.

Residents said that armed

From Agbo Isaac Jos robbers had for some days now, laid siege to the town, dispossessing people of their valuables with ease, as all distress calls to the police whose station is situated a few metres away from the major targets of the robbers were shunned.

The eyewitness said that the third person was an official of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), who was shot dead while repairing a fault on top of an electric pole.

It was the accumulation of these events, it was gathered, that angered the youths who marched on the police station.

The youths were also reported to have been on their way to the residence of the local government chairman, but they were stopped by the police.

The Chairman of the Local Government, Mr. Anthony Goyol, we gathered, was given the impression that hoodlums were actually attacking the hotel, as a result of which he was said to have alerted the police.

The police had allegedly cordoned off the area in a bid to apprehend the "hoodlums", said to be over 20. However, the hoodlums were said to have relocated their operation to another , hotel in the same neighbourhood when they were dislodged from the first.

They were, however, chased to the second place and in their attempt to escape two were killed while the rest escaped.

The youths went on the rampage, looting and destroying shops of traders.