

## Bush says U.N. diplomacy probably won't solve crisis

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine - President Bush said Monday he holds out little hope that a U.N.-sponsored search for a diplomatic settlement in the Persian Gulf will result in "fruitful negotiations."

He said the demand of the United Nations and the United States for a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is not subject to negotiations.

And Iraq's Saddam Hussein "has been so resistant to complying with international law that I don't yet see fruitful negotiations," Bush said.

"There is no flexibility on Iraq getting out of Kuwait and the rulers (of Kuwait) being permitted to come back," Bush said.

The president commented during

a news conference with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who came by Bush's vacation home to consult on the crisis.

Asked if he was more optimistic now than earlier about a diplomatic settlement, Bush said:

"I don't particularly see more hope now. . . . It's so clear that what the world is demanding of Saddam Hussein (is): 'Get out of Kuwait and restore the rightful leaders to their place.'"

Bush praised Mulroney for Canada's decision to send three ships to support the U.N.-backed trade embargo despite some initial Canadian reservations.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater welcomed the decision of

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to meet Thursday with Iraq's foreign minister but said "it remains to be seen" whether the talks are likely to offer a promising resolution of the crisis.

"Certainly we are pleased with the role the U.N. is taking at this point," Fitzwater said.

However, he indicated that the United States expects Perez de Cuellar to hold firm to the U.N. call for Iraq to withdraw from occupied Kuwait and for military enforcement of the trade-embargo against Iraq.

"We expect these discussions to focus around the U.N. resolutions and take place within the context of a complete and immediate unconditional



Saddam



Bush

withdrawal from Kuwait," Fitzwater told reporters here.

Bush was expected to talk by telephone to Perez de Cuellar later Monday, Fitzwater said.

There was no indication, he said, that the United States would join the U.N. talks, but that U.S. officials in Baghdad remained available to talk to the Iraqis. Such contacts have mostly

focused on the fate of Iraq's American hostages.

"There is no intention of changing the status of any of the discussions at this point," Fitzwater said.

The White House has demanded that Saddam remove his troops from Kuwait, restore its emir ruler and free foreign hostages.

## Iraqi diplomats expelled

WASHINGTON - The State Department on Monday ordered the expulsion of 36 members of the Iraqi Embassy staff and imposed strict travel limits on the 19 envoys allowed to remain.

Spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the move came in response to the "illegal order" by Iraqi authorities to close the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait. The State Department has refused to comply with that order.

The 19 Iraqis permitted to remain in the United States, including Ambassador Mohamed Al-Mashat, reflects the same number of Americans accredited to the U.S. embassies in Iraq and Kuwait.

At a news conference at his Maine vacation home, President Bush said the United States was "trying to keep a reasonable parallel in terms of numbers."

He also noted that although many Americans cannot leave Iraq or Kuwait, Iraqis in this country won't be detained.

The expelled Iraqis were given 72 hours to leave the country, a U.S. official said. Among those expelled are seven accredited diplomats, including all those who deal with commercial affairs.

Diplomats at Iraq's U.N. mission in New York City are not affected by the order.

"I don't think it was warranted or called for," Sami Jabbouri of the Iraqi Embassy press office here said about the expulsion order. "It is just part of the nerve war by the U.S. authorities because they don't want a solution."

Tutwiler said the Iraqi diplomats allowed to remain in the United States will be restricted to travel within a 25-mile radius of Washington.

In addition, all Iraqi diplomatic visas will be changed from multiple entry to single entry, tighter controls will be imposed on unofficial Iraqis wishing to visit the United States and use of Iraqi Embassy funds for students and other humanitarian needs will be "closely controlled," she said.

## SAT verbal scores decline again; parents, poor reading habits blamed

NEW YORK - Warning that reading could become a "lost art" among high school students, the College Board reported Monday that SAT scores sank for the third consecutive year. Verbal averages dropped to their lowest levels in a decade.

Scores on the verbal section of the Scholastic Aptitude Test last year fell 3 points to 424 -- the lowest since 1980 and equal to the lowest levels since annual averages were first compiled in 1971.

Scores on the math section averaged 476, unchanged for the fourth straight year.

The steady, four-year slide in verbal scores from a recent peak of 431 in 1986 is "disturbing but not particularly surprising," said College Board president Donald M. Stewart.

"Students must pay less attention to video games and music videos and begin to read more."

Blame for the poor verbal scores rests with parents and schools, Stewart said in an interview.

"The requirement to read through homework has been reduced. Students don't read as much because they don't have to read as much," he said.

"Reading is in danger of becoming a lost art among too many American students -- and that would be a national tragedy."

Among the few bright spots in the gloomy report: Women's math scores reached their best levels in 16 years, scores of American Indians rose a combined 13 points, and black test-takers continued a 15-year trend as the most improved

ethnic group.

The SAT, taken by 1.03 million college-bound high school students, is a two-part multiple-choice exam, each scored on a scale of 200-800. It is sponsored by the College Board, and administered by the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. It is the predominant college entrance exam in 22 states.

Scores on the ACT, the college entrance test that predominates in

But the College Board and others caution that no single number can reasonably summarize the performance of 40 million students attending 83,000 public schools across the country.

Critics also have repeatedly accused the SAT and ACT of bias against women and minorities. The tests' makers deny those charges. But the SAT is undergoing a massive revision that ETS says should produce a fairer, more accurate gauge of college aptitude by 1993.

Among the report's other findings:

- The higher a student's family income, the higher the average score. Test-takers from 151,485 families earning \$70,000 or more averaged 468 on the verbal, 527 on math. The 41,845 test-takers from families earning less than \$10,000 averaged 357 in verbal, 419 math.

- Women's math scores rose a point to their highest average in 16 years: 455.

- American Indians scored the best year-to-year gains of any ethnic group: a 4-point gain in verbal averages to 388, and a 9-point rise in math to 437.

- Verbal scores among black students rose by 1 point to 352 and now stand 20 points higher than 1976 levels. Math averages were down a point to 385, but are still 31 points better than 1976 scores.

The College Board is a private, nonprofit membership organization based in New York representing over 2,700 colleges, universities, secondary schools and other educational associations.

**Students don't read as much because they don't have to read as much. Reading is in danger of becoming a lost art among too many American students -- and that would be a national tragedy.**

Stewart  
College Board president

28 states mainly in the Midwest and West, will be released Sept. 11.

The SAT has become the single most often-cited barometer of the nation's educational progress, or lack of it.

This year's scores and the stagnation in student achievement that they suggest will almost certainly fuel public doubts about the success of the decade-old school reform movement.

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## Bulgarian protest leads to violence

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Police were instructed Monday to use truncheons and tear gas if necessary to prevent further violence after anti-Communist protesters torched and ransacked the governing Socialist Party headquarters.

Hundreds of police stood guard around the partly gutted building, blocking access to nearby government offices and the presidential palace.

The Socialist Party held a rally nearby Monday evening, apparently to show its strength despite the attack on its headquarters. Thousands attended, a state radio reporter said.

A small group of demonstrators broke away from a larger anti-Communist protest late Sunday and threw torches into the party building's windows. They were incensed by the red star -- the symbol of communist, one-party rule -- on top of the building.