

Talks will focus on Persian Gulf crisis

## Bush takes Middle East, European trip

WASHINGTON - President Bush leaves today on an eight-day trip to the Middle East and Europe, becoming the first U.S. president to visit front-line troops since Lyndon Johnson went to Vietnam. Before his Thanksgiving stop in Saudi Arabia, Bush will sign a historic East-West arms control agreement in Paris.

The Persian Gulf crisis will dominate the tour, even while the president is in Paris attending a 34-nation European summit.

Aides said Bush would seek to coordinate his Gulf policies when he meets with leaders of the Soviet Union, Britain and France at the three-day Paris gathering.

In particular, U.S. officials said, Bush plans to sound out these and other members of the 15-member U.N. Security Council on wording of a proposed resolution to authorize force to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Although the European summit is largely a celebration of the end of the cold war, Bush is

"more than a one-topic president," said a senior administration official.

"He understands the significance of what is going to go on in Paris . . . By the same token, I am sure he will use opportunities as they come along to discuss the Gulf with others who are attending," said the official, briefing reporters at the White House on the condition of anonymity.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III flew to Europe ahead of Bush on Thursday to help lay groundwork on Gulf policy. He was meeting with foreign ministers of Security Council members, including three African countries — Ethiopia, Zaire and the Ivory Coast.

Before leaving Washington, Baker said that while economic sanctions against Iraq's Saddam Hussein seem to be working, "the real question is, are they working to achieve the goal" of Saddam's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

Baker and Bush will link up again on Monday in Paris at the beginning of the European summit.

The centerpiece of the Paris session is a treaty sharply reducing non-nuclear forces that both NATO and the Warsaw Pact maintain in central and eastern Europe.

It is the first major East-West agreement on conventional arms since the end of World War II.

In his session with Gorbachev early next week, Bush is likely to discuss the condition of the troubled Soviet economy. The administration is developing contingency plans to provide emergency food and medicine to the Soviet Union to help it get through the winter, officials said.

The planning is based more on concern that disorders may escalate than on food shortages, although they are severe, said the officials,

who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Bush was to leave Washington this evening for the trip, which will begin with a one-day state visit to Prague, Czechoslovakia.

On Sunday, on his way to Paris, Bush will pay a five-hour visit to recently reunified Germany. He will meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl at Kohl's home in a suburb of Ludwigshafen.

After three days in Paris, Bush will begin the Middle East segment of his trip. He will visit U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf on Thanksgiving Day.

The White House will not discuss specific sites for security reasons, but Bush is expected to visit forces both on a naval vessel and in desert encampments in Saudi Arabia.

Bush will wind up the eight-day trip with a stop in Cairo, Egypt, today where he will meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

## Clean Air Act signed into law

WASHINGTON - President Bush, saying every American "deserves to breathe clean air," on Thursday signed an extensive overhaul of the nation's anti-pollution law to curb acid rain, urban smog and toxic chemicals.

Susan Merrow, president of the Sierra Club, described the Clean Air Act of 1990 as "a breath of fresh air after a 10-year smog alert."

Bush said the bill, which updates and tightens federal air pollution standards for the first time since 1977, was "simply the most significant air pollution legislation in our nation's history."

"This bill means cleaner cars, cleaner power plants, cleaner factories and cleaner fuels. And it means a cleaner America," Bush said at a packed White House ceremony.

The goal of the legislation is to cut acid rain pollutants by half, sharply reduce urban smog and eliminate most of the toxic chemical emissions from industrial plants by the turn of the century.

The cost of adhering to the regulations is expected to be as much as \$25 billion a year.

Environmental groups temporarily put aside their differences with the president on other issues to praise his effort on clean air. But they said the effectiveness of the legislation would require aggressive implementation and

enforcement by the federal government.

Richard Ayers, chairman of the National Clean Air Coalition, called the legislation "cause for celebration and hope."

But Ruth Caplan, executive director of Environmental Action, said Bush's signature marked "only the first step toward cleaning up our air. There are dozens of provisions that must be implemented through regulation."

"While business supports the act's clean air objectives, its costs to American consumers and workers cannot be sugarcoated," said William D. Fay, administrator of the Clean Air Working Group, a coalition of 2,000 businesses and trade associations.

Bush's signature capped a decade-long debate over anti-pollution rules. The legislation was the product of 16 months of intensive wrangling among administration and congressional negotiators over myriad technical provisions.

The new law requires tougher emission controls on cars, and requires service stations to sell cleaner-burning gas. It mandates new equipment in thousands of businesses and factories to capture smog-causing pollutants and toxic chemicals.

It also requires coal-burning power plants to cut in half sulfur dioxide emissions, which cause acid rain.

Some of the new requirements will begin to be phased in within a few years, but most won't be fully in place until the end of the decade. Some cities with the worst smog problems have as long as 15 to 20 years to meet federal air requirements.

Bush, fulfilling a campaign promise, proposed in July 1989 a broad rewrite of the clean air laws. Earlier efforts to revamp the laws had been blocked by strong opposition from economic and regional interests and the Reagan administration.

"No American should have to drive out of town to breathe clean air," Bush said. "Every city in America should have clean air. With this legislation I firmly believe we will. Every American expects and deserves to breathe clean air."

But while some environmentalists praised the president for the clean air legislation, others were harshly critical of his opposition to designating Antarctica a wilderness preserve. Such action would bar mineral and oil explorations.

The Alliance for Antarctica urged the United States to change its position as a multinational conference began in Antarctica.

## in brief

NEWS

### Shuttle takes off at night

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - Atlantis lit up the sky Thursday in a rare launch in darkness as it set off on a secret military mission that reportedly will send a satellite to spy on Iraq.

The shuttle thundered from its oceanside launch pad at 6:48 p.m. EST, trailed by a 700-foot-pillar of flame. On board were five astronauts who will deploy the satellite during the flight.

The 100-ton shuttle was visible for miles as it rocketed into the nighttime sky.

It was the fifth after-dark launch in 37 shuttle flights. It also was NASA's fifth launch for 1990 and the seventh and probably last Pentagon shuttle mission to be shrouded in secrecy.

Two minutes into the flight, Atlantis' two solid fuel rockets burned out and dropped into the Atlantic Ocean. The shuttle continued toward an undisclosed orbit on the thrust of its three main liquid fuel engines.

Throughout the day, high crosswinds and low clouds threatened to delay the launch, but the weather improved. The countdown also was unaffected by a last-minute problem with a unit at the launch pad used to cool the shuttle.

### FBI obtains CNN tapes

ATLANTA - The FBI said Thursday it had obtained Cable News Network tapes and was checking to determine whether they are Manuel Noriega recordings at the center of a court battle. The network demanded the return of the tapes, which it said were obtained without a warrant.

The FBI said the tapes turned up in a hotel lost and found department. CNN aired a report saying a box of materials belonging to a network reporter had been taken by FBI agents alerted by Turner Security, which provides security for the office complex which houses CNN and the Omni Hotel.

The network said the FBI agents had no warrant and acted over the objections of a CNN attorney. It said it was demanding the tapes be returned.

In Washington, FBI spokesman Scott Nelson confirmed authorities obtained some CNN tapes without a subpoena.

"We were made aware of the tapes and merely picked them up for analysis," Nelson said.

The network said the Turner Security official called the FBI because agents had told him they were looking for "stolen government property." The network said the material was not stolen.

## Senate Ethics Committee opens public 'Keating Five' hearings

WASHINGTON - The Senate Ethics Committee opened trial-like public hearings Thursday on the "Keating Five" with the panel's lawyer declaring the lawmakers helped the owner of a failing savings and loan fight an "all-out war" with federal regulators.

The senators also heard committee chairman Howell Heflin say many Americans believe "that you were bribed, that you sold your office, that you traded your honor and your good names for contributions and other benefits."

Special counsel Robert S. Bennett, said in his opening statement that Sens. Alan Cranston and Dennis DeConcini "were important players" in Charles J. Keating Jr.'s strategy to stave off federal rules and that Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr. "played a much greater role" than he now contends.

Speaking in a packed hearing room, Bennett said Sens. John McCain and

John Glenn played lesser roles. The lawyer spoke for about five hours Thursday, and will resume this morning.

Before Bennett spoke, the chairman of the six-senator committee, Alabama Democrat Heflin, somberly told the subjects of the inquiry: "Many of our fellow citizens apparently believe that your services were bought by Charles Keating, that you were bribed, that you sold your office, that you traded your honor and your good names for contributions and other benefits."

While Bennett denied his role as prosecutorial, Sen. David Pryor, D-Ark., testily told him, "You're beginning to reach personal conclusions and deciding what is relevant and what is not relevant."

Bennett responded "It's less my conclusion and more the objective evidence."

# UPDATE

## Saddam says hostage release could be secured by promise

Saddam Hussein said in an interview with ABC-TV on Thursday that he would release the foreign hostages he is holding as "human shields" in Iraq and occupied Kuwait only if President Bush promises not to attack his country.

"Such an open pledge of this nature — a declared statement of this nature — would be sufficient for us to allow all foreigners to leave Iraq," the Iraqi president said.

Saddam, interviewed in a government guest house in Baghdad, the Iraqi capital, said he regrets holding the hostages.

"This is the only decision which we have taken which rather chokes us up," he said.

"The only justification for this situation is that the presence of these people may help distract anybody who may opt for war. It may make them hesitate a little before jumping into a decision of this nature," he said.

As for dialogue with the United States, Saddam said he was unwilling to meet Bush's demand that Iraq unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait.

"This is not dialogue. These are preconditions imposed to insure our capitulation," he said. "We reject such preconditions."

Despite Iraqi protests, U.S. and Saudi Arabian troops also launched a six-day amphibious exercise near Kuwait on Thursday called "Imminent Thunder." While the exact location of the exercise was not revealed and a news blackout was imposed for the initial phases of the operation, a Pentagon spokesman in Washington said the exercise was based in eastern Saudi Arabia, about 100 miles from Kuwait.

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