

Bush takes off on South American tour

Economic reform talks scheduled

WASHINGTON - President Bush departed Sunday night on a week-long trip to South America that is aimed at calling attention to the historic shift in the region to democratic rule and market-oriented economic policies.

Bush's first stop on his week-long tour was to be Brasilia, Brazil, following an overnight flight from Washington. His itinerary also includes Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela.

At each stop he is expected to hail the evolution to democratic rule in Latin America and to promote his vision of a hemisphere-wide free trade zone.

After a decade in which U.S. hemispheric policy was dominated by the political upheaval in Central America, Bush now has the luxury of having what U.S. officials like to call a "positive agenda" in his dealings with Latin America.

Skeptics wonder about the utility of his visit at a time of crisis in the Persian Gulf, but Bush feels it is important to seize on what he regards as a moment of unique opportunity in hemispheric relations.

Bush was to have made the visit in September but postponed it because of the Gulf situation. Secretary of State James A. Baker III will remain in Washington to deal with that issue.

Each of the countries on Bush's itinerary except Venezuela began the last decade under military rule and now has an elected president. Venezuela has had stable, democratic government since 1958.

Beyond that, there is an emerging

consensus in the hemisphere that radical economic reform is required to help the region escape from the "lost decade" of the 1980s—a period in which production, investment and consumption all fell sharply.

Through his "Enterprise for the Americas Initiative," unveiled in June, Bush is attempting to promote economic growth by encouraging more free trade and increased investment. Countries that adopt reform measures would be eligible for debt reduction.

The emergence of democratic governments, coupled with the phasing out of the Cold War and the willingness of most countries to undertake painful economic reform, has produced an era of unusual harmony in U.S. relations in Latin America.

"We are at the beginning of a new era," says Michael Wilson, an associate at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Some analysts believe the United States would derive immense benefits from an economically prosperous Latin America, a potentially lucrative market for U.S. manufactured exports.

"Latin America, rather than Japan, holds the key to the U.S. trade deficit," says Peter Drucker, a professor of the Claremont Graduate School in California.

Bush has pleased many Latin countries by recognizing more than President Ronald Reagan did the need to combat the drug problem by adopting policies that reduce demand at home. For many years, the United States had caused resentment by placing more emphasis on efforts to reduce supply in producing countries.

Bush's Journey to South America

1 SUNDAY NIGHT, Dec. 2
Departs Washington, D.C.

2 MONDAY, Dec. 3
Brazil
■ Arrives Brasilia, meets with president Fernando Collor de Mello at the Planalto, the presidential palace
■ Addresses Brazilian congress
■ Lunch at U.S. ambassador's residence for Brazilian businessmen
■ State dinner at Itamaraty, the Foreign Ministry
■ Spends the night at U.S. ambassador's residence

3 TUESDAY, Dec. 4
Brazil then Uruguay
■ Flies to Montevideo and meets President Luis Alberto Lacalle at the Edificio Libertad, the presidential office
■ Addresses Uruguayan congress
■ Helicopter flight to Punta del Este, private dinner, spends the night at private ocean-side mansion

4 WEDNESDAY, Dec. 5
Uruguay then Argentina
■ Breakfasts at Punta del Este
■ Flies to Buenos Aires and lays a wreath at Plaza San Martin
■ Meets President Carlos Menem at the Casa Rosada, the presidential palace
■ Addresses Argentine congress
■ Attends a rodeo and state dinner at Rural Society Fairgrounds
■ Spends the night at U.S. ambassador's residence

5 THURSDAY, Dec. 6
Argentina then Chile
■ Flies to Santiago and meets President Patricio Aylwin at his private home
■ Working lunch at Aylwin residence
■ Flies to Valparaiso to address Chilean congress
■ Returns to Santiago, attends state dinner at La Moneda, the presidential palace
■ Spends the night at U.S. ambassador's residence

6 FRIDAY, Dec. 7
Chile then Venezuela
■ Addresses the Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce at a Santiago hotel
■ Flies to Caracas
■ Meets President Carlos Andres Perez and attends state dinner at La Casona, the presidential mansion
■ Spends the night at U.S. ambassador's residence

7 SATURDAY, Dec. 8
Venezuela, returns to U.S.
■ Lays a wreath at the Pantheon where Simon Bolivar is entombed
■ Meets President Perez at Miraflores, the presidential palace
■ Addresses the Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce
■ Returns to Washington, D.C.

GULF update

Saddam tests SCUD missiles, gives war 'fifty-fifty' chance

Saddam Hussein's armies rattled nerves around the Persian Gulf on Sunday with the first test of surface-to-surface missiles since the invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi president said the chances of war in the region stand at "fifty-fifty."

In Washington, Secretary of State James A. Baker III said the United States would not attack Iraq — provided Iraqi troops are withdrawn from Kuwait and foreign hostages are freed.

Iraq, which has been sporadically releasing captives, let more go on Sunday, fifteen freed Americans flew out of Iraq with former world heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, who secured their release in talks with Saddam.

A spokesman for the boxer said he planned to return to Baghdad at Christmas to try to bring out more of the hundreds of remaining captives, who were stranded when Iraq invaded small, oil-rich Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Iraq, meanwhile, told the Soviet Union that it could lose its influence in the Arab world if it sent troops to the Persian Gulf. That was apparently in response to a warning from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, who said last week Moscow would send in soldiers if Soviet citizens trapped in Iraq were harmed.

The official Iraqi News agency quoted an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Shevardnadze "seems to be looking for a pretext to send troops to the region."

The U.S. military refused to say whether the American forces went on alert Sunday when Iraq launched surface-to-surface missiles in what appeared to be test launches. The test firings reportedly were SCUD missiles.

Selective Service on standby

WASHINGTON - Seventeen years after the government's authority for a military draft expired, the Selective Service System is alive and well — and on standby.

But if President Bush and Congress gave the order, the Selective Service could start issuing draft notices within days and supply up to 100,000 young men within a month.

Bush has said as recently as last week that he doesn't want to see the draft reactivated, but it's the job of the Selective Service to be ready — just in case.

The agency has 270 full-time employees, 2,000 local draft boards and an entire system for resuming the draft if business as usual.

"It's business as usual because that is our mission — to be ready," Selective Service spokeswoman Barbi Richardson said. "We were ready a year ago, and we'd be ready tomorrow."

However, Selective Service Di-

rector Samuel K. Lessey Jr. said "our agency has had no indication that a draft is needed in response to the Middle East crisis."

Still, the buildup of U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf has led to growing public concern and debate about the draft, which was one of the most divisive issues of the Vietnam War.

Former Navy Secretary James Webb last week questioned Bush's buildup of troops in the Gulf, but said "if the president is serious about going on the offensive, he should call for an immediate resumption of the draft" to avoid troop shortages.

The president's authority to draft men into the armed forces, which had been routinely renewed by Congress every four years, expired on July 1, 1973, three months after the last U.S. soldiers left Vietnam. The military then began depending only on voluntary enlistments.

Even if the draft were reinstated

quickly, there would be a significant time lag before conscripts reached the Gulf. By law, draftees may not be sent overseas for three months after induction.

Lawrence Korb, a Brookings Institution analyst who was assistant secretary of Defense for manpower until 1985, said it would take a year to get conscripts trained and over to the gulf.

"I don't think it (the draft) is likely," Korb said. "Militarily, it doesn't make sense."

Martin Binkin, another Brookings Institution analyst, said "I do not think that the average American kid has to worry about conscription."

Many are worried nonetheless.

"We receive calls from mothers... from the young men, their wives, their girlfriends, their grandmothers, their grandfathers," Richardson said. "We let them know there is no draft and we do not anticipate one."

Chad's deposed leader reportedly killed

N'DJAMENA, Chad - Rebel leader Idriss Deby entered the capital in triumph Sunday, and Libyan news reports said deposed President Hissene Habre had been killed near the Sudanese border.

Deby arrived in N'djamena in a black Mercedes, escorted by all-terrain vehicles. He refused to recognize the remnants of Habre's government as the country's legitimate authority, but declared that his Patriotic Salvation Movement would institute a democracy.

"My worry is not to be president of the republic," he said. "This country must become democratic, pluralist. The moment has come to lay down our arms."

He did not rule out being president, but said the decision would rest with his party. He was to meet later Sunday with Alingue Bawayeu, president of Chad's National Assembly and the highest-ranking politician left

in the capital.

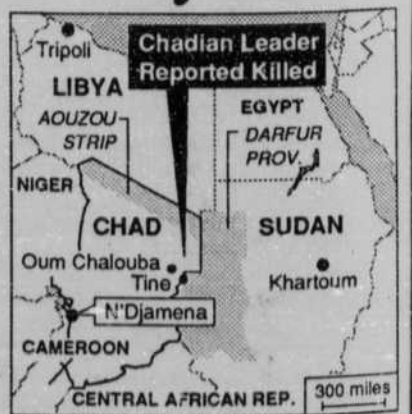
Deby urged reconciliation with Goukouni Oueddei, the president he and Habre together toppled in 1982. Oueddei is exiled in Libya.

Deby served as Habre's chief military adviser from 1982 to 1989, when the president accused him of plotting a coup. He fled to Sudan and organized a rebel movement against his onetime ally.

There were no immediate reports of deaths in the takeover, but the French relief agency Doctors Without Borders said it treated 120 people hurt in rioting Saturday.

The official Libyan news agency, JANA, meanwhile said Habre and several aides had been killed between Tine and Oum Chalouba in eastern Chad, the site of heavy fighting between government soldiers and rebel fighters last week.

Diplomats and other sources had said Habre and his family flew in a



military plane to Cameroon, west of Chad, before dawn Saturday. Habre was pushed out by a string of rebel victories.

Earlier Sunday, the rebels issued a communique claiming Habre had sought refuge in Maroua, Cameroon, 185 miles south of N'Djamena.

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Editor **Eric Pfanner** 472-1766
Managing Editor **Victoria Ayotte**
Photo Chief **Al Schaben**
Divisions Editors **Lee Hood**
Amy Edwards
Professional Adviser **Don Walton** 473-7301

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