Rumblings of war, peace heard in gulf

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia - Sounds of war thundered up and down the tense Persian Gulf battle line Thursday, but words of possible peace came

from a midnight meeting in Moscow.
The Iraqi foreign minister met with
Mikhail Gorbachev to deliver a reply to the Soviet president's peace plan, and it was announced afterward that Baghdad and Moscow had agreed on steps to end the war.

There was no immediate official U.S. reaction to the Soviet-Iraqi plan, but one official U.S. source said the proposals have "serious problems." Seventy-two British artillery pieces

and battery after battery of U.S. rocket launchers opened fire on targets deep in Iraqi-held territory, in one of the heaviest barrages of the war.

Helicopter gunships streaked north of the frontier and blasted Iraqi guns and armored vehicles, and American ground troops were venturing into Kuwait and Iraq on reconnaissance forays, the U.S. command said. Meanwhile, seven Americans were killed in a helicopter accident.

The command said the allies' stepped-up cross-border activity was "shaping the battlefield."

The exiled emir of Kuwait, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, issued a message to his armed forces declaring: "The hour of salvation is near." But there were signals Thursday that a major attack would not begin in a day or two, as some expected.

A senior Pentagon official said it "might be worthwhile" to continue a mostly air war to destroy more Iraqi armor and artillery. The CIA said only 10 percent to 15 percent of equipment has been destroyed, far below the U.S. military's estimate.

from the Iraqi leadership, President Saddam Hussein went on Iraqi radio to rally his people for a final defense if the United States and its allies reject the latest peace terms.

There is no path except the path that we have chosen. . . . this path which Tariq Aziz has carried to Moscow," Saddam said. He acknowledged Iraq is ready to withdraw from Kuwait, but gave no clue to any other Iraqi or Soviet terms for peace.

As Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to Aziz on Monday by Gorbachev.

headed to Moscow with the message The Soviets briefed the Desert Storm allies on the plan, but did not publicly disclose its details, except to say it abides by U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

> Various reports suggested it also provided some guarantee that Saddam could remain in power and some reference to eventual settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian impasse. Saddam previously had sought to link simultaneous withdrawals of Iraq from Kuwait and of Israel from occupied

Peace plan dismissed

Ground war readied as U.S. warns Saddam to withdraw

WASHINGTON - With allied troops awaiting the presidential go-ahead for the ground war with Iraq, the Bush administration warned Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally or be forced out soon.

Debate and speculation over when allied forces would launch a full-scale land war against weak-ened Iraqi forces intensified as Moscow awaited a response from the Iraqi president on its 11th-hour peace initiative

Secretary of State James Baker asserted anew Wednesday that nothing less than immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait would avert a land attack.

"Anything short of that is unac-ceptable," Baker said. "One way or another, the army of occupation of Iraq will leave Kuwait soon."

President Bush, at a state dinner

Wednesday night for Denmark's Queen Margrethe, denounced Saddam as a "brutal dictator." As for the start of the ground war, Bush said only, "Watch and wait. Watch and learn."

Anything short of that (unconditional withdrawal) is unacceptable. One way or another, the army occupation of Iraq will leave Kuwait soon.

James Baker Secretary of State

national security adviser, told reporters at the dinner that the White House had been in touch with the Soviets on Wednesday. But he said the Soviet peace plan had not affected the U.S. timetable

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were appearing today before the Senate Armed Services Committee to discuss the Pentagon's request for funds to pay for the Persian Gulf War.

Bush has dismissed the secret Soviet peace initiative as inadequate and said there would be no concessions for Saddam. But there were signs the administration was restrained, at least temporarily, by the potential of the Soviet plan.

The administration faced the possibility its coalition of allied ar partners, assembled around the U.N. resolutions demanding Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, could be fractured should it ignore a serious

House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., said if Saddam agrees to an unconditional withdrawal, Bush would have "a very difficult choice.

.. I don't know how he could fail

to accept it."
The Washington Post reported in today's editions that Bush told Gorbachev the Soviet proposal should be toughened to require an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait within four days, plus the immediate re-lease of all war prisoners and dis-closure of mine locations.

It cited unnamed diplomatic and administration sources, and said the United States and Soviet Union were continuing to talk about the

☆☆☆ Details of Peace

 Iraq agrees to a complete, unconditional withdrawai from Kuwait.

2 The withdrawal begins the second day after the cessation of hostilities.

3 The withdrawal takes place in a fixed time frame.

4 After the withdrawal of two-thirds of the Iraqi forces, the United Nations' economic sanctions against Iraq cease to apply.

5 After the full withdrawal, the causes for the remaining U.N. resolutions against Iraq cease to exist.

6 After the cease-fire, all prisoners of war will be immediately released.

7 The withdrawal will be monitored by countries not directly involved in hostilities, to be entrusted by the U.N. Security Council.

8 The work of determining details of the agreement continues

Paratroopers anticipate war, spend day readying for fight

Editor's Note: The following dispatch was subject to U.S. military censorship.

IN NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA When paratroopers have to wait, they call it racetracking.

It refers to the oval pattern their planes fly over a jump zone when they have their gear on, their chutes ready, their adrenalin flowing. All

they need to jump is a green light. Waiting for G-Day, the day for the ground war to start, is like racetracking for Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division.

The line doggies of Bravo Company call themselves "The Nasty Boys." Here is a day in their life in the Saudi desert.

6 p.m. - Sunset. A crescent moon hangs in the sky like a bright slice of

"Out here, night is when we got to work," said 1st Sgt. Michael O'Neal, 35, of Ripley, W.Va. "We have heightened security at night. All our missions have been at night. It's a reverse cycle."

8 p.m. - Staff Sgt. Steven Ahlfield, 24, of Tucson, Ariz., is using his night vision goggles to adjust an infrared scope on his M-16 rifle. The invisible beam allows him to shoot targets more than a football field away.

11 p.m. - Grunts sleeping on the ground, many of them snoring, are awakened by an artillery barrage aimed at Iraqi positions. They can see tracers from a distant skirmish and lightning flashing over the desert while rain pelts them.

Most of the paratroopers wrap themselves in ponchos and sleep in the rain.

the damp sky from a multiple launch rocket system firing that lasts an hour.

3 a.m. - Spec. 4 Darrin Janish, 21, of Apple Valley, Wisc., rises for guard

"Everybody's got a purpose in life. Mine is to sit in a hole," Janish jokes. 6 a.m. - The sun isn't up yet but Bravo Company is.

"There's Iraqis coming over the hill," yells 1st Sgt. O'Neal.

There aren't, of course, but it's an effective wakeup call.

The company's warming tent has already been dismantled in anticipation of an attack. O'Neal lights a heat tab in his foxhole to heat water for coffee and warm up an MRE, or Meal, Ready to Eat.

The first order of business is to clean the sand and morning mist off the weapons.

7:30 a.m. - Spec. 4 Dary Smallwood, 21, of Gainesville, Ga., gets off guard duty and heads for his hooch a poncho-covered hole with burlap strung over his sleeping bag. It's a modest but dry home.

He listens to his favorite country song on tape: "Jesus Hold My Hand."

"It gives me hope. When I get down, I listen to that tape," Small-wood says. "I've got too much I want to do in life to die in a place like this.' Noon - The sun has defeated the

overnight chill. Sgt. David Kent, 27, of San Francisco, pauses from his reading and weapons study to eat a ham slice MRE for lunch.

He also takes a moment to think about his unseen Iraqi counterparts.

"I honestly feel sorry for those men. The majority of them are vic-tims of circumstance," Kent says. "They may be my enemy, but I have more in common with them than anything else. We're all stuck out here in the desert facing each other, waiting for the fighting and the dying."

2 p.m. - Sgt. Tony Bell of Oxnard, Calif., schools his squad on the technique of taking Iraqi prisoners. "We're anticipating a lot of them. We expect a lot of them to surrender," Bell says after an hour of drilling.

4:30 p.m. - Training ends. Time to clean weapons one more time. Maybe grab an MRE dinner.

Peer

Continued from Page 1

for UNL.

UNL's reterence group in the legislative study consists of Auburn University, Colorado State University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Oklahoma State University, Oregon State University, the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and Washington State University. The study was issued to the Appropriations Committee on Tuesday by the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

In a second comparison group, the study includes the University of Georgia and the University of Missouri at Columbia, in order to represent institutions that are both land-grant and acknowledged flagship universities in their states, according to a letter from Dennis Jones, president of NCHEMS.

Calling UNL's current peer group an "aspiration group," Moore said the report substanti-ates his beliefs about UNL's place in it. "The group that UNL has used has been a far

stretch of the imagination to call a peer," he

Moore cited report findings that place UNL below its current peer institutions in student enrollment, research expenditures, tuition, salaries and in degrees awarded in some fields.

UNL's current peer group includes Illinois, Iowa State, Maryland, Michigan State, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue

Using 1987-88 data, the NCHEMS report said UNL enrolled 19,818 full-time students compared to the average 33,769 students at its current peer group.

The report also indicates that UNL's average faculty salaries lagged 22.6 percent behind those of its peer group in 1987-88, with an average salary of \$42,694 per year compared to the group's average of \$52,336.

When compared to the peer groups proposed by the report, UNL salaries lagged 6.9 percent behind the first group, which had an

percent behind the first group, which had an average annual salary of \$45,638, using the 1987-88 figures.

The report indicated that, when compared to the second group, UNL faculty salaries were 7.9 percent less than the average \$46,054 annual salary.

Appropriation

Continued from Page 1

the transition of Kearney State College into the University of Nebraska system, scheduled to take place July 1. The committee is proposing \$275,000 for 1991-92 and \$278,950 for 1992-93 to finance the transition.

The committee recommendation provides no increase in funding for the Nebraska Research Initiative from 1991-93.

The initiative was a five-year plan to increase university research funding by \$4 million a year.

Instead of accepting Nelson's proposal for a percent across-the-board cut for state agencies in 1991-92, the committee recommended a 4 percent cut.

McShane said he was concerned about the larger cut.

If the Legislature does not allocate funding for the faculty raises while creating a 4 percent across-the-board cut, McShane said, the money to pay for the salaries probably would come from operating budgets.

The NU budget hearing before the Appropriations Committee will be March 4.

Nebraskan

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