

## POWs freed; uprisings sweep cities

With rapid-fire prisoner releases and proclamations, Iraq struggled to clear away the fallout of its Gulf war defeat Tuesday. But an anti-Saddam uprising was reported sweeping city after city, in what a dissident spokesman promised would be "a long, violent battle."

The Iraqis turned over 35 prisoners of war, including 15 Americans, to the Red Cross in Baghdad, and said they were the last allied captives. Bad weather delayed a transfer of the ex-POWs out of Iraq in exchange for Iraqi prisoners.

The Iraqis formally annulled their "annexation" of Kuwait and pledged to return looted Kuwaiti property.

The Kurdish opposition claimed it seized a major city in the north, just days after violent protests against President Saddam Hussein began spreading through Iraq's southern cities.

American military sources said Iraqi army units were choosing sides in bloody local show-downs.

Officials and news organizations reported that 28 Western journalists have disappeared while traveling in southern Iraq to report on the civil unrest. Four are newsmen from U.S. organizations.

Pentagon sources said a first wave of returning U.S. troops would arrive at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington on Thursday.

The 4,400 soldiers, including members of the 82nd Airborne Division, might be personally welcomed home by President Bush, the sources said.

On Monday, the Iraqis moved quickly to meet the allies' demands for immediate prisoner releases, freeing six Americans and four other captives as an initial gesture.

On Tuesday, they freed a second group according to the Red Cross. Their names were not released.

"Iraq has completed the handing over of all prisoners," an Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by Baghdad Radio.

That meant 29 military people remained unaccounted for in the war's aftermath. The Pentagon on Tuesday also updated the U.S. casualty toll in the 43-day war to 115 dead and 330 wounded. Tens of thousands of Iraqis were believed killed.

The Americans freed Monday in Baghdad went by road to Jordan and then were flown to Bahrain and the U.S. Navy hospital ship Mercy. Air Force Col. Wynn Mabry, a medical team chief, later told reporters, "I'm pleased to report that they are all in good shape and in good spirits."

The prisoners freed Tuesday were to be boarded a Red Cross plane for Saudi Arabia, after it flew in 294 Iraqi POWs in an exchange.

But the flight from Saudi Arabia was scrubbed because of poor visibility there and high winds in Baghdad, U.S. military officials said. Weather permitting, the swap will take place Wednesday, they said.

The U.S.-led alliance holds at least 63,000 Iraqi prisoners. Terms of the provisional ceasefire call for a full prisoner release, but U.S. officials say they will not repatriate any Iraqi soldier against his will.

The allies also demand that an estimated 30,000 Kuwaiti civilians abducted by the Iraqis be freed. Red Cross officials said they were discussing the missing Kuwaitis with the Iraqi government.

## While talking peace, U.S. moving to rearm nations of Middle East

WASHINGTON - Even before the smoke of the Persian Gulf war has cleared, there are signs the Middle East is moving to rearm — with help from the United States.

There are U.S. plans to sell F-16s, "smart" bombs, cluster bombs and missiles to Egypt, and to provide new military aid to Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and others in the region, according to Pentagon documents and congressional sources.

"I don't think the administration has got a policy yet" for dealing with postwar Middle East arms control, said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis. "It would be nice if they didn't start shoveling dollars until they have one."

Secretary of State James Baker is leaving for a nine-day trip to the Middle East that will include discussions with leaders about arms control, and Presi-

dent Bush is expected to make the topic a primary subject of his speech Wednesday night to a joint session of Congress.

But the administration apparently has no intention of imposing the kind of across-the-board moratorium on weapons sales called for by some congressional leaders. "I don't think there will be any arms embargo" by the United States, Bush said last week.

Developments that worry some on Capitol Hill and elsewhere include:

- A notification that the United States intends to sell \$1.6 billion in new weapons to Egypt, a leading ally in the Gulf war. The list includes 46 F-16 fighter planes, 80 air-to-ground Maverick missiles and 240 cluster bombs. It also includes 48 guided glide bombs of the type the United States used to hit targets in Baghdad.

- A recent classified report to Congress listing \$33 billion in proposed weapons sales this year to American allies around the world, with more than two-thirds of it destined for Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

- The administration's apparent intention to reimburse Israel and Turkey for hundreds of millions of dollars in military costs associated with the Gulf war, and indications that some U.S. weapons may be left behind when troops withdraw from Saudi Arabia.

- A new \$1 billion credit program through the Export-Import Bank in President Bush's 1992 budget request, aimed at facilitating U.S. weapons sales abroad.

## Bush's popularity signals '92 problems for Democrats

WASHINGTON - Twenty-one months from Election Day, the Democrats are looking at an incumbent Republican president who is commander in chief of a striking war victory and soaring around 90 percent in approval ratings. It's no wonder George McGovern is the only Democrat openly talking about challenging George Bush for reelection.

About the only solace Democrats have is that Bush's popularity will likely go down.

"George Bush is in as good a shape as anybody I've seen the year before an election campaign," said Robert Beckel, who learned about popular incumbents as manager of Walter Mondale's 1984 challenge to Ronald Reagan.

There is a conspicuous reluc-

ance among big-name Democrats to gear up for a challenge to Bush in 1992.

"I am not running; I have no plans to run," Sen. Sam Nunn told reporters in Boston on Monday. The Georgia Democrat is at or near the top of most lists of potential Democratic contenders. He won't flatly rule out a run, but expresses no enthusiasm for it.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, Gov. Mario Cuomo of New York, House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri, Sen. Al Gore Jr. of Tennessee and Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas all have their backers. But not one of them has made an overt move toward a presidential candidacy. Ask any one of them about the possibility and the response ranges from coyness to horror.

## Search for cyanide

# Thousands of capsules examined

SEATTLE - A sixth suspect Sudafed 12-Hour capsule was found Tuesday during examination of tens of thousands of capsules during the investigation of three cyanide poisoning cases, an official said.

"You can visually see that it was different from the other capsules," Food and Drug Administration spokesman Jeff Nesbit said from his Washington, D.C. office. "Its contents were yellowish, or cream-colored."

The capsule was one of 20 in a plastic-and-foil "blister pack" of the cold remedy that had been removed

from a drugstore shelf at the Tacoma, Washington mall.

Nesbit said the tape seal on the box had been reglued, and the aluminum part of the blister pack was broken and then pushed back into place. The capsule appeared different from the others in the pack and probably was not a regular Sudafed 12-Hour capsule, he said.

Two people died and a third fell critically ill last month in the Puget Sound area after taking Sudafed 12-Hour capsules that authorities say were laced with cyanide. The poisonings



led the maker of the medicine, Burroughs Wellcome Co., to recall the over-the-counter medication nationwide.

Officials advised consumers who have the capsules to return them to the stores where they were bought, and to alert authorities if anything looks suspicious.

The discovery Tuesday represented the sixth apparent tampering. All have been in the Tacoma-Olympia area, about 50 miles south of Seattle. Investigators have not publicly offered a motive. No arrests have been made.

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