

Croats, Yugoslav army agree to negotiate settlement

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Yugoslavia's army agreed in principle Thursday to withdraw from Croatia within a month, and Croat militants pledged to lift their blockades of army barracks in the secessionist republic.

At the same time, the combatants agreed to negotiate a political settlement to the civil war that would address the grievances of the Serb minority in Croatia, said Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, who announced the agreement.

Van den Broek spoke after five hours of talks with the leaders of Croatia, Serbia and the

federal military at a European Community-led peace conference in The Hague.

The accord appeared to offer the best chance yet for halting the 3 1/2-month-old civil war in Croatia, which has pitted Croat militants against ethnic Serb guerrillas supported by Serbia and the Serb-dominated federal army.

It was unclear whether the latest peace agreement would be observed by fighters in the battlefield.

More than 600 people are known to have died since June 25, when Croatia declared independence along with neighboring Slov-

enia. Croatia reported more casualties from clashes Thursday in the eastern part of the republic.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and the federal defense minister, Gen. Veljko Kadijevic, both said they accepted the agreement. Tudjman insisted that Croatia be treated as a sovereign republic in the negotiations and Kadijevic linked the army pullout to progress on the political front.

"If what was discussed today is translated into reality there is a good chance for the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis to be done by

political means," he said.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic called the one-month deadline "a realistic framework," but added that all parties in the crisis must "fully contribute to the settlement."

Milosevic indicated that a final settlement must give some kind of autonomy to Croatia's Serb minority, which doesn't want to be part of an independent Croatia.

He said, the EC would discuss whether to recognize the independence of republics wanting to break away from the Yugoslav federation.

Four killed in rampage

Police say fired mail worker surrenders

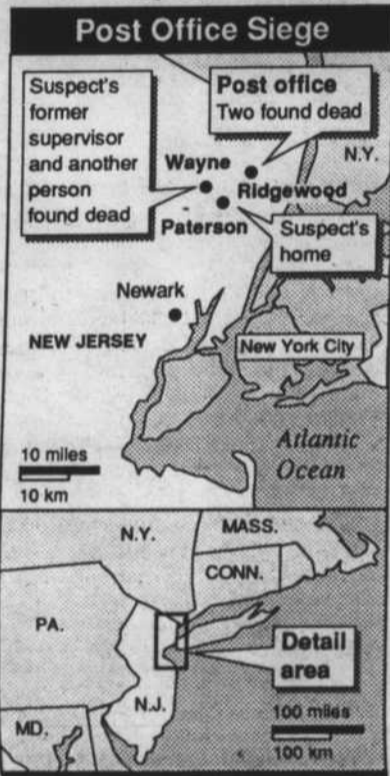
RIDGEWOOD, N.J. — A fired postal worker armed with a machine gun, grenades and a samurai sword went on a rampage Thursday, killing four people, including a former supervisor who had accused him of harassment, police said.

Joseph M. Harris killed the woman and her boyfriend at their home in Wayne, then went to the Ridgewood post office, where he killed two mail handlers as they arrived for work, authorities said.

He surrendered there after a 4 1/2-hour standoff during which he set off two small explosives, police said. He had weapons including a machine gun, hand grenades and the samurai sword, which may have been used to kill the supervisor, authorities said. An explosive booby-trap was found at his rented room in Paterson in northern New Jersey west of New York City.

"In my opinion, considering the way he was armed . . . he intended to kill more people," said Ridgewood police Chief Frank Milliken.

Harris, 35, was arraigned on four counts of murder, two of attempted murder, two of attempted kidnapping, and charges of possessing automatic weapons and explosives. Bail was set



at \$1 million. Hands and feet shackled, Harris shook his head and smiled as the charges were read. He blurted out "It's wrong!" and "I didn't shoot!" before being ordered to be silent. Harris' former supervisor, Carol Ott, 30, was found dead in her home about 10 miles from Ridgewood, along with Cornelius Kasten Jr., who lived with her. Police checked the house when Ott failed to report to work.

Senate stage prepared for Thomas testimony

WASHINGTON — The Senate set the stage Thursday for the showdown between Clarence Thomas and the woman accusing him of sexual harassment. At stake: His bitterly fought nomination to the Supreme Court.

The Senate Judiciary Committee subpoenaed witnesses while Republican and Democratic members negotiated over whether Thomas or his accuser, Oklahoma law professor Anita Hill, would be questioned first when the hearings begin today.

"He knows it's been terribly damaging but he wants to do what he can to clear this cloud off his character," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who will act as Thomas' chief Senate defender in the hearings.

Hill spent Thursday consulting with her quickly formed legal team, said Louise Hilsen, a publicist retained to be her spokeswoman during the hearings. Hill's parents and two brothers were arriving to be with her in the hearing room today.

"I support him 100 percent," said President Bush. He added, "I'm simply not going to inject myself into what's going on in the Senate."

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this business in a fair fashion, get this matter resolved," Bush said.

The panel could hear testimony through the weekend before the Senate votes at 6 p.m. Tuesday on the troubled nomination.

Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., the panel's chairman, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., a former prosecutor, and Sen. Howell Heflin, D-Ala., a former judge, will ask questions for the Democrats.

Hatch will question Thomas while Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., former Philadelphia district attorney, will question Hill, aides said.

Two witnesses whom Hill once told her allegations of sexual harassment were among those subpoenaed to testify, said sources familiar with the arrangements.

Susan Hoerchner, who graduated from Yale Law School in 1980 with

Hill, has told investigators that Hill once confided to her that she had been sexually harassed at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, said sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Joel Paul, an American University law professor, another witness, has told investigators that when Hill interviewed in 1987 for a teaching position she said she left EEOC because she had been sexually harassed.

At a Capitol Hill news conference, Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., Thomas' mentor and chief Senate champion, introduced several women who vouched for the nominee's character and sensitivity to the issue of harassment.

Janet Brown, who worked with Thomas on Danforth's Senate staff, said that when she suffered sexual harassment "outside my immediate family, no one exhibited more compassion (and) more caring about what was happening than Clarence Thomas."

Pamela Talkin, who was Thomas' chief of staff for three of the eight years he headed the EEOC, said the nominee "had a feminist understanding" of sexual politics.

Cuomo aides inquiring about race, officials say

WASHINGTON — Aides to New York Gov. Mario Cuomo have been quietly inquiring about delegate rules and deadlines for getting on 1992 presidential primary ballots, Democratic Party officials said Thursday.

Cuomo, who regularly denies any interest in the 1992 race, also is the subject of a glowing, 16-page brochure mailed recently to some party leaders and donors that touts his record and promotes his views on the 1992 race.

The governor's disavowals of interest aside, party leaders view the activity as a sign that

Cuomo is seriously considering running.

"Some of his people are telling people not to commit (to other candidates), they want people to hold," said Lynn Cutler, vice chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee. "Clearly they're reminding people that he's there."

Cuomo's office as recently as this week repeated the governor's assertion that he "has no plans and no plans to make plans" to run in 1992.

Yet longtime Cuomo confidant John Marino said this week that "anything could still

happen" and that the governor had not closed the door on the 1992 race.

If nothing else, the attention and interest Cuomo generates demonstrates his influence over the race even as a non-candidate.

"Until Mario walks up to a microphone and says, 'No, No, No, a thousand times No,' there will be a large group of people who will believe he's going to run," said one senior party official who asked not to be identified.

Because of his high name recognition and fund-raising base, Cuomo can wait longer than

other prospective candidates before making a final decision.

But with five major candidates now in the race, party officials interpret the recent inquires "as a kind of mission to determine just how long he can wait and how long is too long," in the words of one party operative. This party official, who was recently contacted by the Cuomo camp, said the Cuomo aide "indicated the governor was thinking seriously about running but still undecided, and didn't want to get caught off guard if he decided to do it."

Panel concludes King plagiarized for study

BOSTON — A committee of scholars said Thursday that civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. plagiarized passages in his dissertation for a doctoral degree at Boston University.

"There is no question but that Dr. King plagiarized in the dissertation by appropriating material from sources not explicitly credited in notes, or mistakenly credited, or credited generally and at some distance in the text from a close paraphrase or verbatim quotation," the panel said in a report.

Despite its findings, the committee said: "No thought should be given to the revocation of Dr. King's doctoral degree from Boston University" because that wouldn't affect "academic or scholarly practice."

The group did recommend that

a letter stating the committee's finding be placed with the official copy of King's dissertation in the university's library.

University Provost Jon Westling accepted the report's recommendations. He said the committee "conducted the investigation with scholarly thoroughness, scrupulous attention to detail, and a determination not to be influenced by non-scholarly consideration."

Boston University established the committee nearly a year ago to determine whether plagiarism allegations against King, who was assassinated in 1968, were true.

King wrote "A Comparison of the Conceptions of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Nelson Wieman" in 1955 as part of his requirements for a doctor of philosophy degree.

Congress' AIDS bill could create conflicts

If President Bush signs legislation designed to protect people from AIDS-infected health care workers, it could put Washington on a collision course with state capitals that have adopted guidelines of their own.

Several states, including New York, California and Michigan, have policies that differ from the federal mandate, passed by Congress last week.

The congressional legislation initially required states to adopt a policy written by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. It asks health care workers to be voluntarily tested for AIDS and says infected workers should stop performing certain "exposure-prone" procedures.

In a compromise, Congress agreed to allow states to adopt an equivalent policy of their own. Some states have policies that differ significantly from the CDC guidelines and it isn't clear how flexible the federal officials will

be. "I don't think we know exactly how 'equivalent' will be defined," said Dr. Ronald Davis, chief medical officer for the Michigan Department of Health. CDC officials said they hadn't decided yet.

States that don't comply with the federal policy could lose all federal Public Health Service funds. In Michigan that could be more than \$30 million a year, Davis said.

Dr. Lloyd Novick, community health director for the New York State Health Department, said his state stood to lose tens of millions of dollars.

The aim of the policy is to prevent a recurrence of a Florida case in which a dentist, the late Dr. David Acer, transmitted the AIDS virus to five patients. He is the only health care worker in the country who is known to have transmitted the virus to a patient.

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