

## American relief aid begins arriving in Russia

MOSCOW — American soldiers handed over surplus food and medicine to baby-faced Russian troops in wool coats on Monday as a first wave of U.S. planes began an airlift to the struggling people of the former Soviet Union.

The \$78 million airlift, called "Operation Provide Hope," will deliver tons of canned lasagna, dehydrated pork chops, apple pie filling and other B-rations — much of it left over from the Persian Gulf War.

The Cold War seemed a distant memory as shyly smiling, teen-age Soviet recruits helped unload the first of the supplies from the gaping belly of a green C-5 transport plane at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

"It's a little shameful that my country has come to this. But what can you do? That's life," said Pvt. Andrei Chernyi, a 19-year-old Belarussian recruit shivering on the icy tarmac.

Five huge military planes, carrying a total of 505,000 pounds of food, flew from the U.S. air base in Rhein-Main, Germany, to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kiev, Kishinev and Minsk.

Other planes flew from two bases

in Turkey to the capitals of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

Officials said each C-5 carried enough food for 100,000 meals for poor or elderly Russians.

The airlift is part of an international relief effort agreed to at a 47-nation conference in Washington last month. Planes from Germany, France, Italy and Japan also flew in aid.

Five trucks from Germany were delayed for three days by customs officers who refused to allow them to enter Chelyabinsk, in Russia, the Information Telegraph Agency of Russia-Tass said. Local authorities relented when the frustrated drivers said they would return to Germany.

"The Cold War is over, and now it is time for all to join in building a new peace," Secretary of State James A. Baker III said as the American planes took off from Rhein-Main.

The goal of the airlift is "not only to stem a rising tide of human misery, but to send a message of hope and support in hard times," Baker said.

Over the next two weeks, a total of 64 American flights will deliver \$34



C-5 cargo plane

Five U.S. cargo planes left Germany with more than 505,000 pounds of supplies. The German carrier Lufthansa shipped about 880,000 pounds.



Seven U.S. cargo planes left bases in Turkey for Southern areas.

First to receive aid

Japan sent 12 tons of food and medicine to the Far East city of Khabarovsk.

AP

million worth of medical supplies and \$44.5 million of food to help the former superpower get through the winter.

"This is very insignificant in terms

### Operation Provide Hope

A two-week airlift of 4.5 million pounds of food and medical supplies to 22 cities across the former Soviet Union began Monday. Aid from Germany, Japan and Turkey was also en route.

of the total need. It's only a symbolic gesture," said Tom Brennan, a member of an advance team sent by the U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

To meet the real needs of the commonwealth would take an effort "1,000 times bigger," including technical assistance to retool factories, financial help and management know-how, Brennan said.

## Tyson found guilty, faces 60 years

INDIANAPOLIS — Boxer Mike Tyson was found guilty Monday of raping a Miss Black America contestant who said he lured her to his hotel room and overpowered her.

Jurors deliberated about 9 hours before reaching their verdict in the case, which threatens to end



the rags-to-riches career of one of the most prominent athletes of his generation. Tyson was the youngest heavyweight champion ever, and had been planning a comeback in a title fight against champion Evander Holyfield this spring.

Tyson, 25, sat staring straight ahead impassively as the verdict was read. He was found guilty of all the charges he faced — one count of rape and two counts of criminal deviate conduct.

The judge said Tyson could remain free on \$30,000 bond and set sentencing for March 6. He faces up to 60 years in prison.

Tyson and his entourage, including his promoter Don King, left the courthouse without making any comment.

The victim was not in the courtroom when the verdict was returned. She had been in court earlier during closing arguments.

## Company reveals complaints

WASHINGTON — Dow Corning on Monday released hundreds of internal memos, letters and other documents revealing it had received complaints for decades that its silicone gel breast implants had caused medical problems.

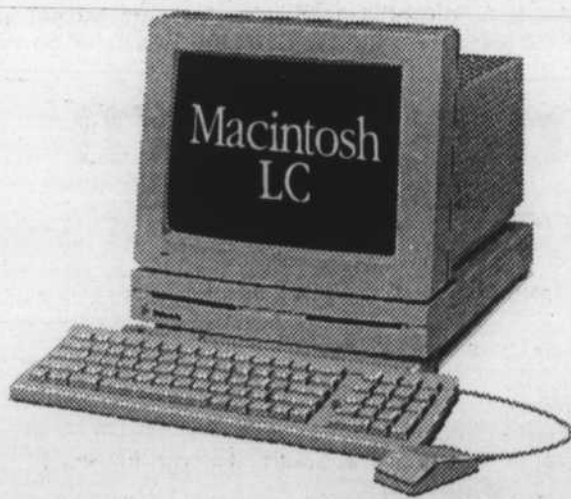
The company has repeatedly told doctors and the government that the implants are safe, and it reiterated that assurance on Monday. The documents show concern within Dow Corning as well.

In one 1985 memo, Bill Boley, a company scientist, warned that more

testing was needed to determine whether a particular formula of the silicone gel caused cancer. He wrote, "Without this testing, I think we have excessive personal and corporate liability exposure."

Boley's note is in a 4 1/2-pound book of internal documents the company released at the demand of the Food and Drug Administration, which is re-examining the safety of the implants. At the FDA's request last month the manufacturer and surgeons agreed not to use any more implants until the agency decides on their safety.

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## Haitian refugees tell of reprisals after being returned to homeland

WASHINGTON — Haitian refugees, who returned to the United States after being repatriated, told U.S. authorities about reprisals they suffered after their forcible return, immigration officials said Monday.

The acknowledgement of the claims of persecution came as the Bush administration again stated it had no documented evidence of reprisals against repatriated Haitians.

State Department press officer Richard Boucher said Monday that officials had investigated claims by four Haitians who said they were persecuted and "we've not found information to corroborate these stories. We don't have evidence that people are being persecuted upon going back."

Secretary of State James A. Baker III last week insisted there was "not one single documented case of a repatriated Haitian being persecuted or targeted after their return."

Human rights activists released reports from interviews with Haitians, which told of soldiers murdering and kidnaping people after they were delivered to the docks in Haiti.

Arthur C. Helton, a New York lawyer spe-

cializing in refugee affairs, said 41 Haitians who told such stories last month to the Immigration and Naturalization Service were cleared to travel to this country to seek political asylum.

INS spokesman Verne Jervis couldn't confirm the figure, but said a number of Haitians who recently escaped by boat told stories of abuse during the period after their forced return last fall.

More than 15,000 Haitians have fled the strife-torn Caribbean nation since a Sept. 30 military coup toppled the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The INS has cleared 3,912 Haitians to apply for political asylum, Jervis said. Most faced political persecution because of their support of Aristide, he said.

Two Coast Guard cutters returned 510 more Haitians to Port-au-Prince on Monday, bringing to 1,599 the number of refugees forced back to their homeland since the Supreme Court on Jan. 31 lifted an injunction against repatriation.

## Harkin wins Iowa caucuses uncontested

DES MOINES, Iowa — Sen. Tom Harkin scored a decisive home-state victory by default Monday night in Iowa caucuses that inaugurated the wide-open 1992 Democratic presidential race.

Other Democratic candidates skipped the contest, pointing toward next week's primary showdown in New Hampshire.

Harkin, 52 years old and the most liberal Democrat in a field of five, was gaining almost 90-percent support as he bid for momentum in the tumultuous campaign week to come.

Harkin called the results "far better than anything I ever imagined." He said it would give him a boost in New Hampshire, where his

rivals await. Republicans waited to test Patrick Buchanan's conservative challenge to President Bush. The Iowa GOP cancelled its traditional presidential preference poll, leaving New Hampshire to go first.

With 16 percent of the state's 2,186 precincts reporting, Harkin had 89 percent support. Uncommitted had 7 percent, while his four rivals had one percent apiece.

Harkin was optimistic, and looking ahead, with his favorite-son victory. "My polls, my numbers keep going up all the time in New Hampshire," he said.

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