

# Bush promises more aid to help Soviet republics

U.S. would join 7 other nations in \$24 billion fund

WASHINGTON — President Bush pledged Wednesday the United States will help finance a \$24 billion international aid fund for the former Soviet Union.

"This isn't any Johnny-come-lately thing and this isn't driven by election year pressures," Bush said at a White House news conference. "It's what's right for the United States."

Democrat Bill Clinton accused the president of moving too slowly on economic and humanitarian aid to the former Soviet republics. At a speech in New York, Clinton called Bush's foreign policy "reactive, rudderless, and erratic." Last month, former President Richard Nixon had said U.S. support for Russia was "pathetic."

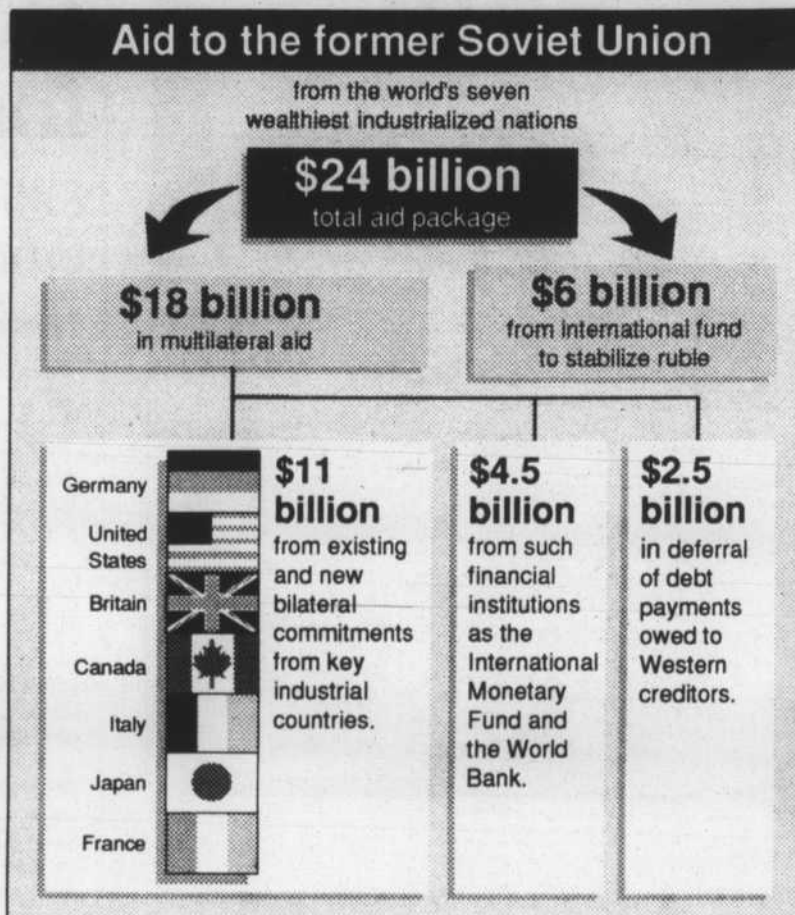
Bush, at the White House, said, "Some people will attack you for doing too much and some for not doing enough. I think this is right."

The \$24 billion aid fund would be extended by financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund with principal backing from the Group of Seven - Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and the United States.

Bush said the United States would provide \$600 million in new credit guarantees for grain purchases by Russia and a total of \$500 million for Ukraine, Armenia and other former republics of the now defunct Soviet Union.

The money would be in addition to the \$3.75 billion in agricultural credits approved by Bush since January 1991.

Bush and other administration officials were at a loss to say how much the overall plan would cost



American taxpayers. The plan repackaged many earlier proposals, including a long-stalled \$12 billion request to Congress to replenish loan funds of the IMF. The only major new expense appeared to be the \$1.1 billion increase for agricultural credits.

A senior U.S. official said afterward the program includes "roughly \$3 billion-plus in new money." He broke it down this way:

- \$1.1 billion in new credits for

Russia, Ukraine and other former republics.

- \$1.5 billion as the U.S. share of a \$6 billion fund to stabilize the Russian currency.

- \$500 million to \$1 billion to finance and insure U.S. investments in Russia.

"There's no funny money, it's real money," said the official, briefing reporters at the State Department under rules shielding his identity.

# Clinton prepares for final battles

Governor flays Bush's foreign policy

NEW YORK — Democrat Bill Clinton said Wednesday the Bush administration has bowed to political pressure and pursued a "reactive, rudderless and erratic" course in an era of global change.

"George Bush has invoked a new world order without enunciating a new American purpose," the Democratic front-runner said in remarks aimed at boosting his foreign policy credentials.

The Arkansas governor scored Bush as too slow in helping the former Soviet republics, too soft on China's communist government, and abandoning Iraq's Kurds and Shiites after the Persian Gulf War.

Clinton also took aim at Bush for what he described as a coldly calculated political decision to "browbeat Israel . . . while nurturing ties to Syria's despotic regime."

Clinton said he would not hesitate to use force if necessary, but added that in most cases he would prefer multinational actions taken through the United Nations.

"America's challenge in this era is not to bear every burden but to tip the balance," Clinton said. "As John Kennedy put it, we can't be strong abroad if we are weak at home."

Clinton has planned the speech for several weeks and took delight in Bush's decision to unveil a Russian aid package the very day Clinton chose for his address to the Foreign Policy Association.

# Clinton claims media ignoring issues

WASHINGTON — It is like water torture. One drip doesn't matter. Collectively, they can drive you crazy.

"Clinton's Hedging on Drug Use Revives Candor Issue," says the Chicago Tribune.

"Clinton Denies He Exempted Himself from an Ethics Law," says The New York Times.

Bill Clinton says the portrait of him in the news media is "a total denial of all my life's work."

Are the media piling on? Is he undergoing a scrutiny rougher than

normal?

Some observers, including Thomas Kean, former Republican governor of New Jersey and a supporter of George Bush's re-election, think so.

Kean said he has no problem with "have-you-ever" questions, "but I get very disturbed when they lead the evening news with it or put them on the front page. You have to ask, 'Is that question really material as to whether the man would be a good president?'"

"I think the press is on the edge of nitpicking Clinton," added Thomas Winship, former editor of the Boston Globe.

# Libya protests U.N. sanctions

CAIRO, Egypt — Syria, Tunisia, Lebanon and the Arab League criticized the new U.N. sanctions against Libya on Wednesday, and Moammar Gadhafi reportedly threatened to withhold oil exports to Europe in retaliation.

Protesters in various Libyan cities condemned what they called the unjust and Draconian sanctions the U.N. Security Council imposed Tuesday on Libyan air traffic and arms trade, the official Libyan news agency JANA said.

A pro-government newspaper Bahrain asked: "What new world order are we talking about? And what is the world going to do under this new world order?"

The paper, Akhbar Al-Khaleej, told read-

ers in the Persian Gulf state that the meaning of the resolution "is crystal clear, that the big ones can impose what they want on the world, flouting limits of logic or justice, flouting respect for international law and the real will of the international society."

The Arab League said the dispute could be resolved by April 15, the date the sanctions take effect unless Libya turns over six suspects in the terrorist bombings of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988 and a French airliner in 1989.

In all, 441 people from 32 countries died in the airliner bombings.

The resolution "is not appropriate," said Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa of Syria.

# 4 killed in Gaza Strip violence

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops opened fire in a refugee camp market Wednesday after being attacked by firebombs, U.N. officials and Arab reporters said. Four Palestinians were killed and more than 50 wounded.

The violence at Rafah in the Gaza Strip came as Palestinians were shopping for the feast marking the end of Ramadan, the holiest time on the Muslim calendar. It was the bloodiest single confrontation between Palestinians and troops in the occupied lands in three years.

The Israeli troops were chasing Palestinian men who had thrown firebombs at them, said Rolf van Uye, a spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

"Troops started opening fire, and at the time the market was extremely busy because of the end of Ramadan," van Uye said.

The army, which confirmed four dead and

10 wounded, said a grenade was thrown at an army observation post in Rafah town, which borders the camp.

Troops closed the area and spotted a car as it sped from the scene, running over three bystanders, the army said. Firebombs were thrown at the troops, and one device set a border police jeep ablaze, said an army official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Troops opened fire, killing two Palestinians who had thrown firebombs, the army official said. He said he did not know how the other two Palestinians were killed.

PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif, speaking by telephone from Tunisia, called the shootings a "massacre" and urged the Bush administration to pressure the Israeli government to prevent further shootings.

# Hit list

Continued from Page 1

parking lots. Point sources are more localized, he said.

"Point sources are quite well-known," he said. "We need to deal with non-point sources. Non-point sources are considered by most people to be the predominant problem in water quality."

UNL's part in the project, Merchant said, is to invent ways to use remote sensing, such as aerial surveys or space satellites, to collect data on the pollution. The university also is looking into computer models and mapping, he said.

Merchant said the project probably was targeted by the Bush administration because of the way it was financed.

Money for the study is channeled through the Environmental Protection Agency office in Kansas City, Kan., he said. Although the funds have been allocated, the university will not receive the money until June,

when the "grant year" begins.

Until then, Merchant said, the funds are "frozen" at the EPA office, giving Bush a convenient target.

"It's not anything to do with the nature of the research at all," he said.

Merchant said all of the grants he was aware of on the list were similar in that respect.

"There's nothing you can generalize about (the grants) except they were not spoken for yet, just because of the grant year."

The three universities in the water project, Merchant said, are one year along in a 3-5 year program. If funds are cut, he said, the research would stop and some student employees would lose their positions.

Merchant said he was optimistic that the cuts wouldn't take place.

"We have no way of being certain, but we have very good support from our congressional delegates," he said.

Julie Savidge, an assistant professor in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, said one of the wetlands projects slated to be cut

# The Sandhills are a really understudied area of Nebraska.

Savidge assistant professor, department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife

involved studying the needs of Sandhills waterfowl.

The study, she said, would focus on the 2,000 lakes of the Nebraska Sandhills and how birds use them. The lakes are a major stopping area for migrating birds, many of which also breed there, she said.

The research would examine more than one lake to see how different lakes function together to provide a habitat for various birds, Savidge said.

She said some preliminary work had been done, but additional funding was needed for the project to continue.

The data gathered by the study would be used to help protect and

manage the wetlands, she said.

"The Sandhills are a really understudied area of Nebraska," she said. "It's one critical area for birds."

A \$60,000 grant allocated to a groundwater monitoring study was the second wetlands project on the hit list.

Anne Mathern, a hydrologist with the Conservation and Survey Division, said a system to monitor groundwater in the Sandhills was important in understanding how groundwater flowed through the aquifer of the region.

Data gathered in the study could be used to maintain animal habitats and track the movement of agriculture chemicals and other surface inputs, she said.

"The hydrology of the wetlands in the Sandhills has not been studied in a lot of detail," she said.

Mathern said she was unsure why the project was selected for the cuts. If funding is removed, the chances of the project being funded by another source will be "up for grabs," Mathern said.

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