

U.N.'s sanctions start against Libya

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council on Tuesday rejected a last-minute appeal and prepared to cancel all arms sales and airline travel to Libya because of its refusal to turn over suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

Following an earlier World Court rejection of Libya's effort to bar U.N. sanctions, the Security Council said sanctions would go into effect at midnight today.

White House Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater earlier said the sanctions would take effect at midnight Thursday, but U.N. officials denied that statement.

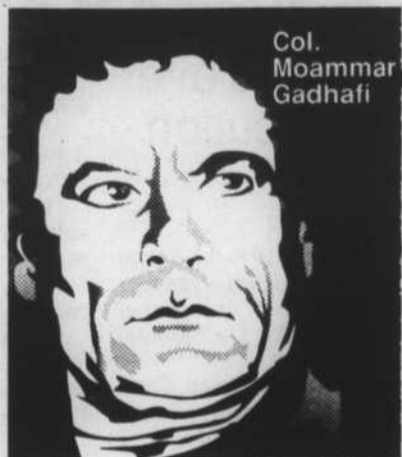
After the deadline passes, the officials said, there should be no flights to or from Libya, nor sales of any military equipment. The Security Council's first discussions on enforcing the sanctions were to begin today.

The Security Council has demanded the surrender of two men indicted for the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. The attack killed 270 people.

The council also says Libya must provide proof it has renounced terrorism and must cooperate with France in the investigation of four other Libyans suspected in the bombing of a French airliner that killed 171 people in 1989.

Col. Moammar Gadhafi's government appealed to the World Court, the U.N. judicial arm, in an indirect attack on the U.N. sanctions.

The court hears only cases between sovereign states, so Libya sought orders barring the United States and Britain from taking any military or economic action to force Tripoli to give the two men up for trial.



Col. Moammar Gadhafi

Brian Shellito/DN

Although the court's panel of international judges refused by an 11-5 vote to block military attacks, there was no indication either nation planned such actions.

"We've been working for a political solution all along and we're very pleased that there's no interference with that," Edwin Williamson, legal adviser to the U.S. State Department, said.

The World Court's decision was delivered by its acting president, Shigeru Oda of Japan. Speaking to a standing-room-only crowd of diplomats, dignitaries and reporters, he said Libya could not be protected from sanctions by the 1971 Montreal Convention, which governs international air travel.

Oda said Libya, the United States and Britain all are obliged to carry out the decisions of the U.N. Security Council, so "the obligations of the parties in that respect prevail over their obligations under any other international agreement, including the Montreal Convention."

The court has never conflicted with the Security Council.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Firestarter

Lincoln Parks and Recreation employee Dave Alder burns a field of grass at Pioneers Park. District Supervisor Jerry Shorney said burning kept weeds and stray trees from growing and helped the soil.

Russian reforms to continue

MOSCOW — Russia's Communist-dominated parliament backed down Tuesday from a week-long clash with President Boris Yeltsin and passed a declaration that will allow him to continue his free-market reforms.

The declaration preserves Yeltsin's power to rule by decree and directs the government to continue the painful reforms that the lawmakers oppose.

It apparently averted one of Russia's most serious political crises since the collapse of the Soviet Union last December.

On Monday, Yeltsin's Cabinet threatened to resign, claiming parliament's attempts to trim the president's powers would cripple reforms, raise inflation and block Russia's entry into the world marketplace.

After the 530-236 vote by the Congress of People's Deputies, Yeltsin's ministers happily clapped each other's shoulders and his parliamentary supporters burst into applause. Yeltsin was not present for the vote.

"This eliminates the need for our resignation," Yeltsin's right-hand man,

State Secretary Gennady Burbulis, told reporters.

Lawmakers will have a chance to change their minds and amend the document Wednesday.

Yeltsin had been at an impasse with the Congress since the legislative body opened April 6 in the Grand Kremlin Palace.

The declaration was approved without debate at the climax of a second day of raucous cheering, bitter name-calling and sudden walk-outs in the Kremlin.

Mayor fires official blamed for flood

CHICAGO — Mayor Richard M. Daley on Tuesday fired an official he said failed to heed a warning that probably could have prevented the flooding that has paralyzed much of Chicago's business district.

"This morning I have requested and received the resignation of acting transportation commissioner John LaPlante," Daley said at a news conference at City Hall.

LaPlante ignored a memo April 2 that warned him to immediately re-

pair a crack in a tunnel under the Chicago River, Daley said. "The memo said the wall should be immediately repaired, citing the danger of flooding the entire freight tunnel system," Daley said.

On Monday, the tunnel burst sending water through the turn-of-the-century freight tunnel network and flooding basements under the city's Loop district with millions of gallons of water.

Phones went unanswered at LaPl-

ante's office Tuesday afternoon.

Daley said that after the memo came in, LaPlante's department began getting cost estimates from a couple of construction companies, decided they were too high and was weighing further action when the collapse occurred.

Much of the Loop remained closed Tuesday, as city workers struggled to plug the leak and drain the water that stood more than 40 feet deep in the bowels of some high-rises.

Hotel queen headed for federal prison

NEW YORK — Former hotel queen Leona Helmsley said Tuesday she was prepared to serve the four-year prison term she received for tax evasion now that it has been upheld by an appeals court.

Helmsley had been ordered to report Wednesday to a federal prison hospital in Kentucky.

"I accept the judgment and I'm prepared to abide by the law," Helmsley said through publicist Howard Rubenstein.

Earlier Tuesday, the 2nd U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously rejected arguments from Helmsley's lawyers that the sentence should be reversed.

They said the sentence may have been fair when imposed in 1989, but the "dramatic change" in her health since then has turned it into a virtual life sentence.

"We're arguing not that the original sentence was wrong, but that circumstances have changed," said defense attorney Alan Dershowitz.

Prosecutors argued that the 71-year-old hotel queen remains an active woman and allowing her to avoid prison would "make a mockery of the law."

Helmsley was convicted in 1989 of evading \$1.7 million in taxes by billing personal expenses to companies the Helmsleys owned.

She has remained free on \$25 million bail, but the appeals of her conviction ran out in February when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

Saddam shuffles leaders to prevent military coup

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Saddam Hussein has moved several trusted generals into key positions in a command shuffle that reflects his constant efforts to forestall a coup, informed travelers from Iraq say.

The sources, who include Baghdad-based western diplomats and knowledgeable Iraqis, say there is no sign that Saddam's regime is in any immediate danger.

But the feeling is that these changes in the hierarchy, the latest in a long line of shuffles over the past 18 months, reflect Saddam's insecurity more than a year after his Gulf War defeat.

The sources spoke to The Associated Press in Nicosia and Amman, Jordan, on condition of anonymity.

They said the Iraqi leader has ringed Baghdad with three of his five elite Republican Guard divisions to ensure his regime's security amid the continuing threat of

Kurdish and Shiite Muslim unrest.

They said Saddam has named Gen. Hussein Rashid, a former chief of staff and hero of the 1980-88 war against Iran, the commander of the Republican Guard Corps, a pillar of the regime.

Rashid, who was chief of staff throughout Gulf crisis, commanded the Republican Guard in 1984-85 and oversaw its expansion from a brigade-size formation into an army-within-an-army of seven divisions with 120,000 men.

Saddam's command shuffle is the seventh major reorganization he's made in his military and political hierarchy since he invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990. Rashid is the Guards' fourth commander in that period.

Kamel Yassin, a member of the ruling Baath Party's command, has been appointed to oversee party branches and security in the military, the sources reported.

Arrests solve stereo-theft cases

From Staff Reports

A joint effort between the UNL and Lincoln police departments has cleared up 38 cases of stolen car stereos on campus and in surrounding areas, a university police official said.

Lt. Mylo Bushing of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department said \$4,000 worth of stolen stereo equipment had been recovered and returned to owners.

The arrests of three individuals solved 13 auto larceny cases reported to the UNL Police

Department, Bushing said.

Lt. Albert Maxey of the Lincoln Police Department said 20 cases in the department were solved by the arrests.

The investigation, which lasted about one month, has solved cases as far back as Feb. 3 and as recent as March 19, Bushing said.

The arrests cleared up 12 percent of the total campus cases reported since August of 1991.

The individuals arrested are minors and will be tried in juvenile court.

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