

Clinton begins transition work, plans economic summit

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — President-elect Clinton on Monday detailed plans for a pre-Christmas economic summit and began work in earnest on a White House transition that aides said was unlikely to yield many quick decisions.

Clinton opened the week by exercising his reach as both a sitting governor and president-elect, speaking by phone with three world leaders, meeting with his state Cabinet and lieutenant governor, then conferring with key members of his transition team.

Aides set out to organize a summit of American business and economic leaders, and to form transition "clustering groups" that will develop recom-

mendations in various areas of government policy.

As he left his statehouse office for the Governor's Mansion, Clinton described the summit as an outgrowth of his campaign promise to put economic recovery at the top of his agenda.

"I want to bring in some of the brightest people in the country, a broad range of backgrounds, talk to them about the gravity of the situation, deal with what our options are, get as many good ideas as I can," Clinton said.

Earlier in the day, Clinton met with his state Cabinet and his apparent successor, Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker. Tucker said he and Clinton had agreed on a state transition schedule but were not ready to provide

details.

Clinton asked his Cabinet to identify any major decisions he needed to make before resigning, and senior aides said they believed any transfer of state power was several weeks away.

From the statehouse, it was back to the Governor's Mansion, where Clinton met with Vice President-elect Al Gore and senior aides, including transition director Warren Christopher.

Spokesman George Stephanopoulos said Clinton planned a conference call Tuesday with his full transition board and that the group would likely meet in Little Rock next week.

This week's goal, he said, was "working on his timetable for the whole transition period. Who exactly will be in place at what particular time we don't know yet."

That suggested no major decisions were imminent, a view echoed by a senior Clinton aide close to the transition process.

"We're just getting started, remember," the adviser said, recalling that several past presidents-elect held off major announcements until December.

Stephanopoulos said Clinton spoke by telephone Monday with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and South African President F.W. de Klerk.



Brian Shellito/DN

EC ponders reprisals in face of U.S. tariff

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European ministers agreed Monday to seek a quick resumption of talks with the United States to avoid a trans-Atlantic trade war, but also went along with France's demand for the EC to prepare its own list of retaliatory sanctions.

Italian Foreign Trade Minister Claudio Vitalone said the 12 EC states asked the bloc's Executive Commission to draft a list of U.S. goods to be targeted for trade sanctions if Washington imposes punitive tariffs on white wines and other EC products.

The ministers issued a statement in which they expressed "grave concerns at the dangers inherent in the present situation."

The statement made no mention of trade retaliation, but both Vitalone and French Foreign minister Roland Dumas told reporters the EC states had formally requested the EC Commission draw up an American-goods hit list.

Last week, the Commission said that any trade retaliation would be proportional to any U.S. sanctions. France has urged other EC members to remain tough with Washington, which last week said it would impose stiff tariffs on Dec. 5 on wines if the farm subsidies issue was not resolved within 30 days.

"We cannot have a constructive dialogue where there are threats of retaliation," said Bruno Durieux, deputy French minister for foreign trade.

The Bush administration vowed to impose sanctions on \$300 million worth of goods exported to the United States after the two sides failed to break an impasse over EC subsidies to European farmers producing competitively priced grain products.

The dispute over subsidies is holding up an overall accord between the 105 nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The American attitude... is a very serious obstacle to the GATT negotiations.

— Durieux deputy French trade minister

The American attitude... is a very serious obstacle to the GATT negotiations," Durieux said.

Durieux said France was not alone in its refusal for concessions to Washington.

"They want us to think it is but it's not," he told reporters.

The American tariffs are largely targeted on French white wines, an obvious move to hurt France, with a powerful farm lobby and the most resistant to any effort to slash subsidies to the EC's 9 million farmers.

An Irish official said Ireland would side with France on resisting giving concessions to Washington, but would not go along with French demands for instant retaliation.

Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo said Italy supports the French position but added the EC hoped to avoid starting its relations with a new U.S. president on a bad footing.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel urged EC negotiators to go back to the table, stressing the need to sew up a cross-Atlantic deal before the promised Dec. 31 deadline and before President-elect Clinton takes office in January.

"We've come very close (to an agreement) and we've got 30 days" until U.S. sanctions are scheduled to take effect, he said. "It would be a stupid thing if we had a trade war now."

British officials avoided the question of whether Britain would support the idea of drawing up a list in case U.S. sanctions did take effect next month.

Germans mark anniversaries

Berlin Wall's fall, 'Crystal Night' remembered

BERLIN — Germany marked the 54th anniversary of the Nazis' "Crystal Night" attacks on Jews with solemn memories on Monday of destroyed Jewish communities and warnings about a wave of neo-Nazi violence.

In Berlin, Mayor Eberhard Diepgen helped lay the cornerstone of a new Jewish Museum intended to draw the world's attention to today's treatment of Jews in the city where the Holocaust was planned.

Germans also marked the third anniversary of the Berlin Wall's fall.

The euphoria of unification gave way long ago to worries about the cost of merging the country's bankrupt formerly Communist eastern lands with its long-prosperous west. The burden has been compounded by the cost of caring for tens of thousands of foreign asylum seekers.

All over the country, observances of what Germans call the "Pogrom Night" of 1938 were colored by worry about the right-wing violence and new signs of anti-Semitism.

Vandals painted swastikas and slogans saying "No to Arabs and Jews" on a monument to 19th century Prussian royalty in Berlin late Sunday.

The head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, Ignatz Bubis, said at a ceremony in Bremen that the wounds of the Holocaust were not yet

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Gorbachev — former Soviet leader

healed, and he admonished political leaders to stand up to extreme rightists.

Weak leadership was a prime cause of the collapse of Germany's post-World War I democracy, the Weimar Republic, Bubis said.

Nazi thugs attacked synagogues and Jewish homes and businesses throughout Germany on Nov. 9, 1938, leaving so much broken glass it became known as "Crystal Night." It marked the start of open persecution of Jews and ushered in the Holocaust, which claimed the lives of 6 million European Jews.

On the same date in 1989, the Berlin Wall opened, so Germany marked contradictory anniversaries

Monday.

To celebrate the end of the city's division, Berlin granted its highest award — honorary citizenship — to former President Reagan, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in recognition of their services to ending the Cold War.

"The old and new wounds are healing," Gorbachev said in his acceptance speech. "The rebirth of a unified and democratic Berlin is also a symbol, the symbol of a new time, a time of overcoming not only the division of Germany, but also of all Europe." Reagan did not attend.

German politicians tried to put the best face on the rally that was disrupted by leftist radicals Sunday. About 350,000 people marched to the rally, but a tiny minority of protesters booed and threw eggs. Kohl had to be escorted away, and federal President Richard von Weizsaecker was spat on by eggs as he spoke.

"The democrats came out, 350,000 and more, and demonstrated in Berlin. That didn't happen in the Weimar Republic, and that is the difference," Diepgen said.

The rally was boycotted by Kohl's conservative Bavarian coalition partner, the Christian Social Union, which derided it as a meaningless gesture.

Top New York judge stands accused

NEW YORK — As the state's top judge, Sol Wachtler seemed to have it all: a brilliant career and a happy, 41-year marriage.

The FBI painted a darker portrait — a man so obsessed with an attractive socialite he may have ruined his life for her.

Within two days, Wachtler, 62, went from respected jurist, prominent Republican politician and admirable family man to tabloid headliner. He was arrested Saturday on charges of trying to blackmail his mistress after she ended their affair.

While his associate judges in Albany considered whether to suspend him from his \$120,000-a-year post, Wachtler was confined to a small room at Long Island Jewish Hospital. He was under 24-hour guard for fear he might kill himself, said Flip

Lorenzoni, chief deputy U.S. marshal in New York City.

Wachtler was scheduled for a bail hearing Tuesday in federal court in Manhattan.

His accuser was identified as Joy Silverman, 45, a Republican Party fund-raiser. She is estranged from her husband, an industrialist, and lives in a Park Avenue apartment with her teen-age daughter. She has a weekend house in affluent Southampton.

The FBI complaint detailed stalking and harassment that resulted from passion gone sour, a plot that could have been lifted from the pages of a new Danielle Steel novel.

Wachtler was charged with making telephoned threats and sending obscene letters to his ex-mistress from all over the country.

Some of the calls were made with a voice-disguising device, investigators said.

The father of four sent a lewd letter containing a wrapped condom to Silverman's 14-year-old daughter and demanded \$20,000 from Silverman in exchange for embarrassing tapes

The calls to Silverman taped by the FBI don't sound like a man who was considered a potential gubernatorial candidate and mentioned as a possible U.S. Supreme Court justice. Nor did they illustrate Wachtler's famed skills as an orator.

"I'll tell you what you are getting back, lady," one taped call went. "If you don't do that, if you (expletive) me at all, I promise you it will cost you \$200,000 to get your daughter back."

Gay sailor turned away by Navy

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The Navy on Monday refused to give a homosexual sailor his job back, despite a court order against the military's ban on gays.

"The day I had hoped for apparently has not arrived," Keith Meinhold told reporters outside the gates of Moffett Naval Air Station. "I will never back down until the policy is changed. I will fight this to the end."

Meinhold, 30, is a petty officer who trained radar crewmen aboard P-3 submarine hunters. A 12-year Navy veteran, he was given an honorable discharge in August after telling a television news program he was gay.

After he was discharged, Meinhold filed a lawsuit seeking reinstatement, arguing that the Navy violated his constitutional rights by discharging him because he is gay.

On Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. in Los Angeles issued a temporary order reinstating Meinhold to his former rank.

When Meinhold showed up at Moffett on Monday, all he was given was a letter referring him to the Office of Naval Personnel in Washington.

The Navy said in a statement: "Mr. Meinhold's current status remains unchanged pending evaluation of possible responses to the judge's ruling."

Moffett spokesman John Shackleton said officials at the base weren't authorized to reinstate Meinhold.

Meinhold, who has been working as a computer salesman in Palo Alto, wore a civilian coat and tie as he walked onto the base. He said he hoped to walk out dressed in the Navy uniform taken from him when he was discharged.

John McGuire, one of Meinhold's lawyers, said he and his client hoped President-elect Clinton would fulfill his campaign promise to issue an executive order ending the ban on homosexuals in the military.

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