

Clinton, congressional leaders promise end to gridlock



President-elect
Bill Clinton

Brian Shellito/DN

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — President-elect Clinton and Democratic congressional leaders promised a "new era" of action on Monday, and said creating jobs and restoring America's economic power would be their top priorities.

"I will be in a hurry," Clinton said at a joint news conference with Democratic lawmakers.

"Gridlock is over and cooperation and teamwork have begun," said House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt.

Clinton declared an end to "the Cold War between the Congress and the White House" and promised, "Pennsylvania Avenue will run both ways again."

"I can't say for sure which will and what won't pass within 100 days," he said. "I'll just work as hard as I can and get as much done as quickly as I can."

Clinton said that during his first meeting with congressional leaders all hands agreed that "creating jobs, raising incomes, getting our economy moving again, and the long-term competitive strength of the American economy" was the No. 1 objective.

Democratic leaders share his commitment, Clinton said, to health care reform and bringing down the deficit.

Those attending Sunday's session included Gephardt, House Speaker Tom Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, Vice Presi-

dent-elect Al Gore and Clinton's wife, Hillary.

"Our dinner last night marks a new era of cooperation and action in our nation's capital," Clinton said.

The president-elect has said in the past that a short-term jobs package might come first on his priority list to get through Congress.

On Monday, he sought to downplay expectations for what would emerge from Congress in his first 100 days, saying he expected to forward proposals on thorny issues such as health care to Capitol Hill promptly but not necessarily see them enacted immediately.

Clinton brushed off speculation that Republicans would try to tie his hands,

and said the scope of America's problems would be his biggest hurdle. He cited the "mammoth complexity" of health care as one of the huge challenges ahead.

In a wide-ranging news conference, Clinton also:

● Said that despite the deficit, he'd make good on his campaign pledge of tax breaks for the middle class.

● Reiterated his intention to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military despite opposition from military leaders and Sen. Sam Nunn, a Georgia Democrat who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee. Clinton said anew he would consult with opponents in working out the details of his policy.

Roman Catholics unveil new church catechism

PARIS — The Roman Catholic Church took a step Monday to bring doctrine into line with modern life, unveiling a new catechism that maintains bans on divorce and abortion but urges compassion for homosexuals and condemns low wages as theft.

The first catechism of the Catholic Church in 426 years contains no new sins and absolves none of the old ones.

In a retrenchment of orthodox positions bound to disappoint many of the world's 900 million Catholics, divorce and abortion remain forbidden sins. The only contraception accepted by the church is natural.

"We have simply tried to take up the commandments again on how a Christian can conduct his life today," said Jean Honore, bishop of Tours and the catechism's French editor.

Woman priests are unacceptable.

The catechism describes homosexual acts as "intrinsically disordered, contrary to natural law," and instructs homosexuals to practice chastity.

Since most homosexuals do not willingly choose their lifestyle they "must be welcomed with respect, compassion and delicacy," it says.

"One must avoid all unjust discrimination against them."

The catechism spurred intense debate among the 3,000 bishops who submitted some 24,000 amendments to the six-year project. It is rooted in the Ten Commandments. The Seventh Commandment — Thou Shalt Not Steal — is interpreted as a call for economic and social justice.

"Any manner of taking and unjustly holding the property of another, even if it does not specifically contradict civil law, is contrary to the Seventh Commandment," the catechism says.

Richer nations are urged to welcome poor immigrants, price-gouging and low wages are considered forms of stealing, and the handicapped have a right to work.

Forging checks is sinful, as is badly performed work. Going on strike is a moral right, unless accompanied by violence.

The church's once-sacrosanct stance on private property has been modified to state that the Earth is the heritage of all mankind.

Guidelines on sexual behavior fall broadly under the Sixth Commandment — Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery. Sexual union outside marriage remains forbidden.

"Among the sins gravely contrary to chastity, one must cite masturbation, fornication, pornography and homosexual practices," the catechism says. "Adultery and divorce, polygamy and free sexual union are grave offenses to the dignity of marriage."

"We have simply tried to take up the commandments again on how a Christian can conduct his life today."

— Honore
bishop of Tours

Under the Fifth Commandment — Thou Shalt Not Kill — the catechism does not rule out a state's right to impose the death penalty.

Regarding abortion, the catechism says that "human life must be protected in an absolute manner from the moment of conception."

Basic doctrine are unchanged.

The catechism encodes the decision by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s absolving Jews of blame for the crucifixion of Jesus, a teaching that spread virulent anti-Semitism.

"We cannot attribute responsibility to all the Jews of Jerusalem, despite the cries of a manipulated crowd," the catechism says. The guilt of Judas and Pilate is "known to God alone."

Some strictly modern items are condemnations of terrorism and hostage-taking, drug abuse and drug-trafficking, and the transplantation of organs against the consent of the donor.

The catechism appeared first in French since that was the working language of the drafting committee.

Somali ship limps to port

SAN'A, Yemen — A ship crowded with 2,500 Somali refugees limped into a remote Yemeni port Monday, where they received their first food and water in several days but were forbidden to go ashore.

There was no immediate confirmation of reports that as many as 100 people might have died during the ship's harrowing six-day, 1,200-mile voyage from Somalia with little or no food or water.

Yemeni officials ordered the Samaa-1 to take its passengers on from Mukalla to Yemen's main port, Aden, some 300 miles to the southwest, where U.N. workers were putting up tents and digging latrines on the beach for the refugees. The authorities said Mukalla was not equipped to handle the Somalis.

U.N. officials in Geneva said the refugee ship might stay at Mukalla for several days. French naval officials in Paris said the Samaa-1 sailed Monday night and was accompanied by the French corvette Commandant Duquing, which arrived from Djibouti with emergency food, water and medicine. They said the Saama's captain had not asked for any of the French supplies.

The refugees reportedly were given fish, flour and milk from Mukalla.

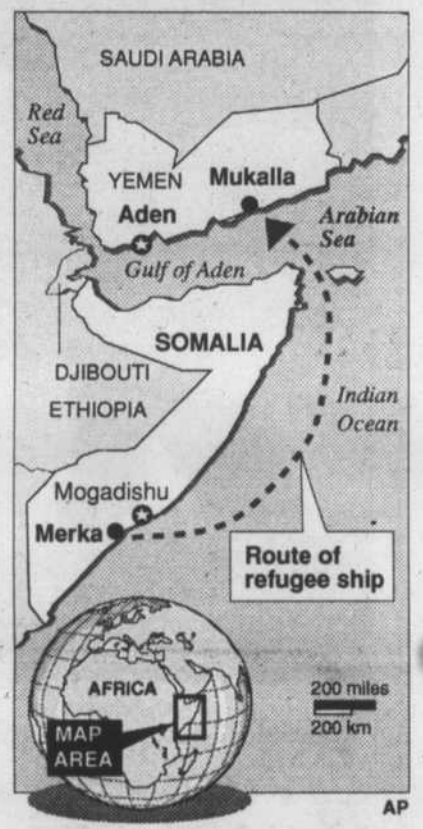
About 100 of them were reported to be very sick, said Sylvana Foa, a spokeswoman for the U.N. refugee agency in Geneva, which provides aid for Somalis in Yemen.

She said she had no official word on whether any refugees had died. Earlier, sources in Yemen, who spoke on condition of anonymity, put the death toll as high as 100. The ship's owner, the Pakistani-owned Samaa Asia Shipping of Dubai, said 10 or 11 children had died.

Thousands of Somalis have fled clan fighting and a famine in their country that has killed at least 300,000 people since January. Two million more are said to be on the verge of starvation.

Yemeni authorities have agreed to accept Somali refugees provided the United Nations takes care of them. An estimated 62,000 are in Yemen, many of whom sailed north across the Arabian Sea in small boats.

Foa said about 2,500 refugees were aboard. Earlier accounts had said as many as 3,000 people were crammed aboard the vessel. The refugees include about 400 children.



Detroit police charged with murder

DETROIT — Two police officers were charged Monday with murder and one with manslaughter in the beating death of black man, a case that drew parallels with the Rodney King confrontation in Los Angeles.

A fourth officer was charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm. Three other officers who also had been suspended after the Nov. 5 beating of Malice Green were not charged.

Green, 35, died of head injuries after being beaten on an inner-city street near a suspected drug house.

"I feel justice is done. . . . I think they handled it very well," said the victim's father, Jessie Green Jr.

"He's dead, and any charges aren't going to bring him back. I got to live on."

Three of the officers charged, including the two charged with murder, are white. The one charged with manslaughter is black.

While the beating of an unarmed motorist drew parallels to the videotaped beating of King and the rioting that followed the acquittal of officers

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— Green
beating victim's father

in that case, NAACP officials have said the Detroit case was different.

They credited quick action by Police Chief Stanley Knox in suspending the officers allegedly involved. And Mayor Coleman Young publicly denounced the beating. Knox and Young are black.

Knox has said he did not believe the beating was racially motivated and Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair said Monday no racial epithets were used during shouting that witnesses said was going on during the beating.

Knox had suspended seven officers Nov. 6, a day after Green's death. O'Hair said there was not enough evidence to charge the three other officers. Those officers remain on

indefinite suspension, police Sgt. Christopher Buck said Monday.

While the four officers were being arraigned, about a dozen people demonstrated at the site of the beating.

O'Hair refused to give details of the beating. Witnesses have said it occurred after Green and police argued when he dropped off a passenger near the suspected drug house, and that Green refused to open his clenched hand.

Undercover officers Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn were charged with second-degree murder. They could get life in prison if convicted.

Sgt. Freddie Douglas was charged with involuntary manslaughter, which carries a maximum 15-year sentence, and willful neglect of duty.

U.N. approves naval blockade of Yugoslavia

UNITED NATIONS — The Security Council voted Monday to authorize a naval blockade on the Danube River and the Adriatic coast to tighten economic sanctions on Yugoslavia. It said force could be used to back up the blockade.

The resolution prods Bulgaria and Romania to patrol the Danube, which flows along their borders. It wasn't immediately clear to what extent Western or other governments were willing to get involved in enforcement of the sanctions.

NATO and the European Community's Western European Union each have five frigates along the Adriatic.

"I think we should move from surveillance to enforcement," Willem van Eekelen, the Dutch secretary-general of the Western European Union, said in Helsinki earlier in the day.

The vote on the resolution was 13-0, with China and Zimbabwe abstaining because they felt the Serb-led government in Belgrade had no real control over the Bosnian Serbs.

"The Security Council must adopt firm measures to deal with the problem," Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov said. "Bosnia-Herzegovina has been devastated."

Twenty-seven nations supported

the resolution, led by Islamic countries backing the Muslim-led government of Bosnia. They denounced Belgrade for fomenting war, capturing vast territories in Bosnia and Croatia, and driving out non-Serbs in a vicious "ethnic cleansing" campaign.

Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Jordan and other Islamic countries wanted the council to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia so it could rearm and acquire heavy weapons, but the council refused.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic said the war in Bosnia was a civil and ethnic war fought by para-

military groups not controlled by Belgrade, and by foreign mercenaries, Muslims brought in by Islamic nations.

"Sanctions are hitting the most vulnerable part of the population" in Serbia and Montenegro, he said, including more than 300,000 Bosnian refugees.

Until now, ships moving up the Danube have not been boarded and searched. Port authorities merely radio the captain to ask what is in the cargo and where it is bound. After that, the ship goes on, often all the way to Belgrade. Other ships unload at Montenegrin ports on the Adriatic.

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Editor Chris Hopfensperger 472-1766
Managing Editor Kris Karnopp
Assoc. News Editors Adeana Leftin
Assoc. News Editor Wendy Navratil
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