

Clinton era begins with 'daunting challenges'

President-elect pledges innovation in government

WASHINGTON — On the brink of his presidency, Bill Clinton pledged on Tuesday to inject a spirit of innovation in government and said, "I desperately want to make a difference."

Nearly half his Cabinet received preliminary approval and Clinton filled out his State Department team to confront a rash of global crises.

"I face daunting challenges too great for any person's mind to comprehend or wisdom to judge or strength to meet alone," Clinton said.

At 11 a.m. Wednesday, Clinton will recite the historic 35-word oath and become America's 42nd president. Fifteen minutes earlier, Vice President-elect Al Gore will be sworn in. Both men will begin the day worshipping at the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Thousands of people paid between \$100 to \$1,000 for tickets to "a presidential gala" of entertainment featuring such stars as Elton John, Barbara Streisand, Aretha Franklin, Chuck Berry, Judy Collins and the Alvin Ailey Dance Troupe. The rock group Fleetwood Mac reunited for the per-

formance.

Clinton began his day by paying solemn tribute at the graves of the two slain Kennedys, John and Robert, his political heroes. He placed a white rose at each burial site and bowed his head in prayer. About 20 members of the Kennedy clan joined him.

"I did not run for this job just to warm the seat. I desperately want to make a difference."

--Clinton President-elect

President Bush held a farewell lunch with Vice President Dan Quayle and said goodbyes to his aides.

Clinton invited past and present governors to lunch, and he spoke to them about his vision of the presidency.

"My goal as president will be to bring to this city a new spirit of inno-

vation," Clinton said. He quoted Franklin D. Roosevelt, another former governor who became president in a time of economic trouble: "We ought to be about bold experimentation."

Reciting a long list of objectives, he said he wanted to fix the economy, create jobs, reduce the huge federal debt, control health care costs, improve schools and "reinvent our national government." He promised to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and work for campaign finance and lobbying controls.

"I did not run for this job just to warm the seat," Clinton said. "I desperately want to make a difference."

He said the government must find a way to experiment, to embrace what works and reject what does not. "It doesn't work that way in government," he complained. "We have to find a way to make the exception the rule."

Clinton said the nation must enact a health care program this year, but said it has to be linked with efforts to reduce the budget deficit. He said the states will have to shoulder part of the burden.

Clinton views Iraq cease fire with doubt; wants compliance

WASHINGTON — President-elect Clinton greeted Iraq's cease-fire offer on Tuesday with skepticism and bluntly warned that defiance would trigger more military strikes.

"We need to see Iraq change its behavior," Clinton communications director George Stephanopoulos said. "We need full compliance with the U.N. resolutions."

Saddam Hussein's sudden promise to stop firing at allied aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones over Iraq raised hopes of reduced tensions in the Middle East when Clinton takes office at noon Wednesday.

Clinton himself said nothing publicly about Iraq. Speaking for him, aides pledged a continuity in the hard-line U.S. policy as the hour approached when the Bush administration's two-year confrontation with Saddam would become an instant Clinton administration foreign policy dilemma.

Advisers said Clinton was weighing an array of options from the Pentagon and his own camp.

Some advisers privately expressed relief at the prospect of a cooling-off period and an inauguration day free of military action.

Publicly, Clinton aides would not offer any praise of Saddam's announcement.

They chose instead to note Iraq was still not in compliance with United Nations demands for its inspectors to have full access to suspected Iraqi military installations and were openly skeptical of Saddam's commitment to honor the no-fly zones he has insisted violated Iraq's sovereignty.

"The policy is firm at this point," Stephanopoulos said.

"There should be no perceived opening of the door" to improved relations, said Clinton press secretary Dee Dee Myers.

SPORTS WIRE Iraq promises cease fire after air battles erupt

Lendl loses in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia — No. 8 seed Ivan Lendl, showing rustiness because of a groin injury which forced him to withdraw from a warm-up tournament, fell to Christian Bergstrom 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in the first round of the Australian Open.

He had not lost in the first round of a Grand Slam since 1981 at Wimbledon.

Sixth-seeded Michael Chang put on an exhibition of all-around tennis in beating Chris Bailey 6-3, 6-1, 6-1.

Bears hire Wannstedt

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bears dipped into Dallas for another hands-on, emotional coach Tuesday, picking Cowboys defensive coordinator Dave Wannstedt to replace Mike Ditka.

The Bears want Wannstedt to work the same Ditka magic. That job starts after the Cowboys play the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowl on Jan. 31.

Barkley goes after ref

NEW YORK — The NBA deferred any action Tuesday after Charles Barkley's tirade and pursuit of official Jim Clark following the Phoenix Suns' 106-103 loss to the New York Knicks on Monday.

Barkley vaulted over the scorer's table to chase after Clark at the end of the game, complaining that he had been fouled by Anthony Mason on a last-gasp 3-point shot.

When warned that the outburst would cost him money, Barkley went wild.

WASHINGTON — Fresh air battles mounted over northern Iraq on Tuesday and additional U.S. warships sailed to the region as the Bush administration prepared to hand its troubled relationship with Iraq to President-elect Clinton.

President Bush's spokesman said the White House wanted to see action backing up the Iraqi offer to cease firing at allied planes in its "no-fly zones." The incoming Clinton administration, too, said it wanted more than words.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council — headed by Saddam Hussein — said there would be no attacks on U.S., French or British planes in a gesture of good will starting at midnight on Clinton's Inauguration Day.

The move came after Iraq asked Clinton to abandon the allied air raid campaign, asserting that continued attacks would not force cooperation by Baghdad.

"There is a cease-fire regimen in place in U.N. Resolution 687, and if Iraq complies with that, then there should be no problem," said presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

George Stephanopoulos, Clinton communications director, said Iraq's offer did nothing to change the fact that the new administration expects "full compliance with all the requirements of the U.N. resolutions."

"We need to see Iraq change its behavior," Stephanopoulos said.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Pete Williams termed the offer "a helpful sign." But "more important than any statement is action," he said, citing the two issues that have drawn Iraq and the allies into military confrontation repeatedly in recent weeks.

He said Iraq must:

- Stop firing on U.S., British and

French aircraft patrolling the no-fly zones in the north and south, take its anti-aircraft missiles out of firing status and store them.

- Agree to the weapons inspections demanded by the United Nations.

Both Williams and Fitzwater denied the Bush administration would steer clear of force against the Iraqi military if provoked in the final hours before Clinton is sworn in at 11 a.m. on Wednesday.

"We continue to watch Iraq's behavior. We certainly would not hesitate to respond if necessary," said Fitzwater. About 2:30 a.m. EST Tuesday, Iraqi missile and radar installations "locked on" a U.S. F-4G "Wild Weasel," which fired an anti-radar HARM missile at the site, located some 14 miles east of the city of Mosul, Williams said.

"We're not certain of the results," he said.

About an hour later, a U.S. Air Force F-16 drew Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery fire, but did not return the fire, Williams said.

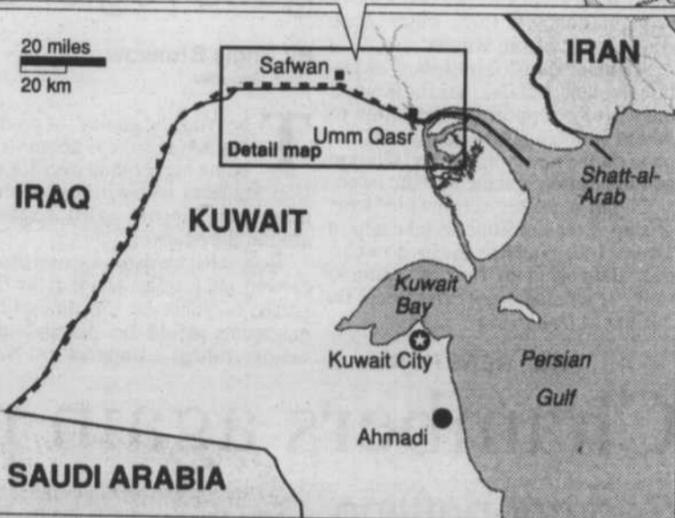
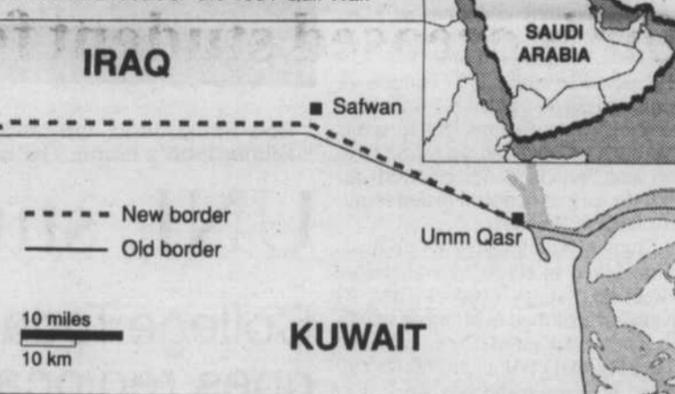
In a third incident at 5:30 a.m. EST at a different location, two F-16s were fired on by Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery. They dropped four cluster bombs at the Iraqi weaponry, but Pentagon officials "don't know the results," Williams said.

Williams said that Iraqi jets are continuing to fly just across the 36th parallel that forms the southern border of the northern no-fly zone in an attempt to lure allied aircraft into air defense traps.

"This is sticking a toe over the line," he said, indicating that the Iraqi flights are designed only to draw allied planes close enough to surface-to-air missile batteries to try to shoot them down.

Kuwait's new border

The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission has redefined the international border between the two countries as a result of the 1991 Gulf War.



Source: United Nations AP

Marines say Somalia more stable now

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The first American combat troops flew home from Somalia on Tuesday with excitement, relief and a feeling that they brought some stability to this far-off ravaged land.

The chief U.S. military spokesman, Marine Col. Fred Peck, said he did not know when more of the 24,715 American troops would be withdrawn.

The United States has been stymied in its efforts to transfer military control of Somalia to a U.N. command because the Security Council has not yet acted on a required resolution. The top U.N. envoy to Somalia, Ismat Kittani of Iraq, indicated Monday that the U.S. deadline of Feb. 1

would not likely be met.

The 556 Marines who left for Camp Pendleton, Calif., were jubilant as they departed, many of them cheering loudly, happy to be out of harm's way and the heat, disease and dust of Somalia. More than 500 troops were scheduled to leave Wednesday, reducing Marine strength to less than 9,000.

Another spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Steve Ritter, told the daily briefing that U.S. strength had probably reached its peak in numbers, but about 430 support troops, mostly from the Army, would be arriving as part of the logistics task force. The United States

reportedly will provide logistics support to the U.N. command once it is set up.

The Marines are providing security for aid workers trying to break through the famine, disease, lawlessness and civil war that have taken 350,000 Somali lives in the past year.

"I'm excited to be leaving Somalia," said 1st Lt. Anne Christenson, 25, of Vancouver, Wash., looking forward to a reunion with her husband, who is in the Navy. "It's a pretty hard place to be living in, the heat, the dirt, being shot at. I've only been here for five weeks. It seems like a year, though."

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