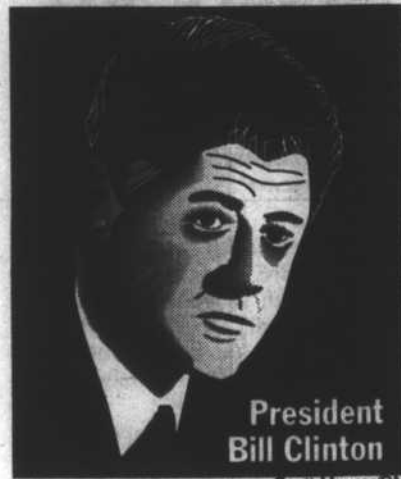


British balk

Major endorses American airlift but won't join effort



President
Bill Clinton

Scott Maurer/DN

WASHINGTON — British Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday that President Clinton's decision to airdrop relief supplies into Bosnia was "thoroughly welcome," but reiterated that his government would not join the operation.

In the first meeting between the two leaders, Major said his country was content to help distribute aid on the ground in Bosnia. Major said he and Clinton discussed the possibility of tighter sanctions against Serbian forces in the former Yugoslavia.

Clinton described the airlift as purely a relief operation and said Serbian warnings that it was the beginning of a greater American military role in the region were ground-

less.

"It would be a great mistake to view this humanitarian operation as an initial foray to a wider military role," Clinton said.

The president said the Pentagon plans would "minimize risk to our folks" by having U.S. planes fly above the range of antiaircraft fire. He acknowledged that dropping supplies from high altitudes would cause some to drift off target, but he still predicted that the operation would succeed.

Major endorsed what he called a "twin-track" approach of British, French and other troops helping deliver relief supplies on the ground in Bosnia while Americans drop food and supplies to starving Bosnians in

areas where ground deliveries are difficult or impossible.

Both leaders also called on the Bosnians to rejoin peace talks. "The United States feels very strongly that this agreement must be just that, an agreement. It must not be shoved down the throats of the Bosnians if it is going to work."

Speaking with reporters in the White House's ornate East Room, Major and Clinton both offered words of support to embattled Russian President Boris Yeltsin and fond words of farewell to Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who stepped down Wednesday.

The leaders said economic issues were a major focus of their talks, and

both stressed the importance of reviving stalled global trade talks now under way in Geneva.

Clinton said that he hoped for a meeting with Yeltsin "very soon," though no date had been set. The president said he believed Yeltsin could withstand the political challenges from conservatives in Moscow.

"We are putting a lot of effort into trying to support democracy and trying to support economic recovery there," Clinton said of Russia.

Major added: "I expect President Yeltsin to be there and continue. I think he is the best hope for the Russians."

Judge refuses to block King beating trial

LOS ANGELES — A judge refused to block the Rodney King beating trial Wednesday over defense allegations that a black juror could be biased and a defendant's claim of attorney conflict.

After intense questioning, three men were sworn in as alternate jurors and U.S. District Judge John G. Davies set opening statements for Thursday.

Davies also ordered the remaining handful of prospective jurors to return, indicating outside their presence that he might decide to question the challenged black woman juror before opening statements. If she were ex-

cluded, a new juror would have to be selected.

An undertone of racial tensions came into the open when an excused white juror accused a black woman accepted for the jury of making racially based remarks detrimental to the defense.

U.S. District Judge John G. Davies rejected a defense motion for a mistrial after questioning the accusing man in secret and concluding that "there was no appropriate showing" of bias. The judge said he would consider questioning the black juror briefly after he reviews legal precedents.

Four white policemen are charged with vio-

lating the civil rights of King, a black motorist who was beaten after a highway chase on March 3, 1991.

A state trial a year ago in suburban Simi Valley ended in acquittals on most charges against the officers, sparking three days of deadly rioting in Los Angeles.

In another key ruling Wednesday, Davies found that defendant Timothy Wind previously agreed to accept attorney Paul DePasquale even though Wind knew the lawyer could have a conflict of interest.

DePasquale was part of a law firm that represents codefendant Laurence Powell and

may have been privy to confidential information about Powell's defense.

The judge held a half-day hearing on the issue in secret and said he considered it so important that he would issue a written order explaining his reasons for ruling against Wind. He suggested that Wind's effort to retract his waiver of conflict came too late.

"It's obvious there was a conflict," attorney Harland Braun said outside court. "It's probably a practical decision (saying) let's plunge forward and if Wind is acquitted, which he will be, it won't matter," said Braun, who represents defendant Theodore Briseno.

WORLD WIRE

Economy leads to Mulroney's resignation

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, whose popularity plunged because of staggering economic problems, said Wednesday that he is resigning.

Mulroney, prime minister since 1984, made the announcement in a letter to Gerry St. Germain, the president of the governing Conservative Party.

"It is time for the party to elect a new leader," he said.

"We have governed decisively in challenging times," Mulroney said. "I am confident that in regard

to our major initiatives, the verdict of history will be a supportive one."

He is expected to stay in office until Conservative Party leaders meet to elect a new prime minister. Sources told the news agency Canadian Press that a leadership convention will probably be held in June.

Among the possible contenders to replace him: Defence Minister Kim Campbell, Trade Minister Michael Wilson, Communications Minister Perrin Beatty and Environment Minister Jean Charest. Others include Constitutional Af-

fairs Minister Joe Clark and Employment Minister Bernard Valcourt.

Mulroney, 53, led the Conservative Party for 10 years and took it to two consecutive majority governments — a feat only two other Conservative leaders in history had managed.

But high unemployment, record bankruptcies, massive debt and no clear policy for recovering from a three-year recession have hurt Mulroney's standing among Canadians.

Eric Clapton cleans up

LOS ANGELES — Eric Clapton, virtually ignored by Grammy voters for much of his career, and the music from "Beauty and the Beast" won a leading four honors each Wednesday at the 35th Annual Grammy Awards.

Clapton's acclaimed "Tears in Heaven," a song through which he dealt with the accidental death of his young son, won song of the year and best male pop vocal performance.

Clapton, who led with nine nominations, also was favored to win record of the year for his acoustic "Unplugged" album, which won the male rock vocal performance Grammy. A

stripped-down version of his classic "Layla" earned best rock song honors for Clapton and co-writer Jim Gordon.

"I don't think I deserve to win this, there were better songs," the typically self-effacing guitarist-singer said after winning one of his awards for "Tears in Heaven."

James Brown, the godfather of soul, took the suspense out of Clapton's pop vocal performance victory by inadvertently ripping open the envelope and reading "Tears in Heaven" before the other nominees were announced.

Middle East peace talks close indefinitely

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher Wednesday concluded a week of talks in the Middle East without setting a date for resuming Arab-Israeli negotiations.

"There was a strong desire throughout the region to reconvene," he said after final, separate

meetings with the Palestinian delegation and with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"Before I came here, I said I didn't think we could establish any date, and that was right," Christopher said.

His chief hurdle apparently was the festering controversy over

Israeli's deportation of 396 Palestinians to Lebanon and the Palestinians' refusal to accept a compromise worked out with Rabin on Feb. 1 for a phased repatriation.

Christopher said he hoped to be able to set a date for resuming the negotiations in Washington over the next several days or weeks.

Mutual solution sought for Danube argument

By Steve Smith
Senior Editor

A permanent solution hopefully will be created within the next year between the governments of Slovakia and Hungary concerning the diversion of the Danube River, a Hungarian government official said Wednesday.

Gyorgy Samsondi Kiss, a representative of Hungary's Ministry of Environment and Regional Policy, spoke to a group of about 60 students, faculty and administrators gathered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's East Campus Union.

He said that when the Gabickovo-Nagyvaros barrage project was completed on the Danube River in 1989, Slovakia had violated Hungary's sovereignty.

The seminar was part of the 1993 Water Resources Seminar Series, which gives global perspectives on water and the environment.

The series is co-sponsored by the UNL water center and environmental programs and the "Environment and Politics" program of the departments of civil engineering and political science. It has featured such speakers as Sen. Bob Kerrey.

The original course of the Danube served as a borderline between the nations of Hungary and Czechoslova-

debate between the two countries and also gave a presentation using an over-look for years, Kiss said.

He said that when a 7-kilometer navigation channel was built in 1989 in Czechoslovakia to prevent flooding, improve navigation and increase electrical output for the region, it diverted the Danube's water flow. The river then flowed from the original river bed to the channel inside Slovakia, Kiss said.

Only 5 percent of the Danube's water now flows through the original river bed, Kiss said, with the other 95 percent of the river going into the navigation channel.

A solution to the problem is needed because the communities around the original river bed are "drying up," he said.

The diversion of water inside Slovakia's borders has caused much unrest in Hungary, he said, and has had the two governments at odds in recent years.

That unrest is not needed, Kiss said.

"Historical scars from World War I and II need to be forgotten," Kiss said. "We need to put aside our differences and come together with a joint effort for a mutual solution to this problem."

TV tip leads to Nebraska fugitive's arrest

DELAND, Fla. — A former Nebraska police chief charged with killing his girlfriend six years ago was ordered held without bail Wednesday until another hearing this week.

Gregory Jon Webb, 42, who was the police chief in Lyons when Anna Anton was killed in 1986, made his first appearance Wednesday in Volusia County Circuit Court.

His extradition case was continued until Friday.

Webb disappeared from Lyons just before being charged with murder. He

was arrested Tuesday in Holly Hill after a tip based on a television program.

Authorities found Webb after a man in Florida called the Nebraska State Patrol after watching a segment of "Unsolved Mysteries" that featured Webb's case.

He was picked up by FBI agents, Volusia County Sheriff's deputies, and Holly Hill police at a construction site where he worked installing underground cable and pipe, said George

Wisnovsky, a spokesman for the FBI in Jacksonville.

Webb was charged in an arrest warrant with murder in the death of the 34-year-old Mrs. Anton. He also was charged in a federal warrant as a fugitive from justice, but that charge was dropped after his arrest, Wisnovsky said.

Webb was living in Osteen, about 30 miles north of Orlando. He was working as a subcontractor and was a crew foreman.

Daily
Nebraskan

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Doug Fiedler, 436-7862. Subscription price is \$50 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

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