

World leaders say Clinton is informal and informed



President
Bill Clinton

Scott Maurer/DN

LONDON — World leaders who visit Bill Clinton's White House portray the president as informal, well-briefed and brimming with questions.

German President Helmut Kohl reportedly exclaimed that the "chemistry is correct," and an Israeli journalist who covered Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit spoke of "good music" between the two.

For Russian President Boris Yeltsin, it was a simple matter of "ty" — the Russian word for "you" used only between friends.

"Maybe not in the first minute, but in the course of three hours we were already speaking 'ty' to each

other," Yeltsin told reporters after his April 3-4 summit with Clinton in Vancouver, Canada.

But Clinton's meeting Friday with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was an exception to this chummy style. After three hours of talks, the president still complained that "the simple fact is that it is harder to sell in Japan's market than in ours."

Overall, Associated Press bureaus report that the public expressions of goodwill are matched by favorable off-the-record comments from officials who have met Clinton.

But personal diplomacy is fragile. Canadian Prime Minister Brian

Mulroney announced his resignation less than three weeks after meeting Clinton. Turkish President Turgut Ozal, a White House visitor Feb. 8, died Saturday.

It remains to be seen whether it makes any difference that Clinton and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari discovered that they use the same type of watch to time their jogging.

Some leaders have been impressed by Clinton's familiarity with issues and his desire to learn more.

An aide to Mulroney, who met Clinton on Feb. 5, said some of

Clinton's questions were quite technical, involving Canada's health care system, a possible model for U.S. health care reform.

In Paris, an aide who sat in on a May 9 conversation between Clinton and President Francois Mitterrand said the French leader was impressed and even charmed.

"Mr. Clinton asked President Mitterrand lots of questions, and Mitterrand noted that he listened very attentively. That helped much to establish a meeting of the minds," said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

U.S. plane bombs Iraqi radar site

WASHINGTON — A U.S. warplane destroyed an Iraqi radar tracking site south of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq on Sunday after the aircraft was threatened, a Defense Department spokesman said.

The plane, one of two on a routine monitoring patrol in the zone, was not fired on but "the crew felt threatened," said DOD spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Brian Cullin.

White House spokeswoman Lorraine Voles said the action "is consistent with our policy that when our forces feel threatened, we're going to respond."

Both aircraft safely returned to their operating base at Incirlik, Turkey.

Iraq's official news agency reported three Iraqi soldiers were wounded in the incident. The Iraqi News Agency, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp. in Cyprus, quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman

as saying the attack was provocative, hostile behavior.

The spokesman, who was not named, said the attack occurred 33 miles south of the oil city of Mosul, apparently placing it outside the allied-enforced no-fly zone.

The two U.S. Air Force F-4G Wild Weasel fighters were in the no-fly zone throughout the incident but were illuminated by the radar operating south of the 36th parallel, Cullin said.

"They operated under the guidelines that when you're illuminated it is considered to be a threat," he said.

The 36th parallel marks the border of the no-fly zone over northern Iraq set up to protect Kurds from Iraqi attack after the Persian Gulf War.

"One of the two F-4s in the flight responded by firing a single HARM (high-speed, anti-radiation missile) at the Iraqi radar," the Defense Department said in a written statement.



Officials believe the site was destroyed because "the radar ceased illuminating after the impact of the missile," Cullin said. He said no immediate assessment was available and there had been no response from the Iraqi government to the incident.

"Although the Iraqi radar was located south of the 36th parallel, its associated missile system still posed a direct threat to coalition aircraft operating in the exclusion zone, making it necessary for the coalition aircraft to respond," the statement said.

Serb surge overtakes Bosnians at enclave

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Srebrenica's defenders caved in to a relentless Serb siege Sunday and signed a truce that permits aid and evacuation, but amounts to virtual surrender of the strategic Muslim town.

Many of Srebrenica's fighters resented the agreement and it was unclear if the cease-fire would last. Scores of truces in the Bosnian war have collapsed over the past year.

It would be the Bosnian government's biggest capitulation in the year-long war and underlines the weak position of the outgunned government forces against the Serbs and Croats who have seized most of the state.

Serbs are driving for control of eastern Bosnia to hook up with adjacent Serbia and other Serb-held areas of Bosnia and Croatia into a "Greater Serbia." Only two other Muslim enclaves, Gorazde and Zepa, remain in eastern Bosnia.

Just hours after Serbs and the Mus-

lim-led Bosnian forces signed the truce, 130 Canadian U.N. peacekeeping troops entered the town to a hero's welcome, said ham radio operators.

Crowds mobbed the peacekeepers' 22 armored personnel carriers and 19 trucks and hugged and kissed the soldiers.

French and British helicopters then began ferrying sick and wounded to Tuzla, under an agreement permitting airborne evacuation of the 500 most desperate cases before an overland evacuation starts for all those who want to leave the town.

U.N. officials said they expected about 60 people to be evacuated before nightfall Sunday, and the helicopters would continue their mission over the next few days.

Tuzla, 45 miles northwest of Srebrenica, is already overflowing with an estimated 60,000 refugees from the Serb drive in eastern Bosnia. There are up to 60,000 more in Srebrenica.

Holocaust survivors cope with painful memories

JERUSALEM — Mera Gol tried to coax a crying woman on the other end of the telephone to talk about her experiences in a Nazi death camp. "I understand," she said. "I am a survivor too."

Sunday was Holocaust Day in Israel — a day of melancholy music on the radio; of air raid sirens that brought traffic to a two-minute standstill; of ceremonies at which people took turns reading the names of some of the six million Jews who died under Nazism.

In the Jerusalem office of Amcha, where Mrs. Gol and others counsel survivors, it was day for listening, talking, sharing pain and tears.

Amcha — which means "the common man" in Hebrew — was a code word that helped

surviving Jews identify each other in post-war Europe.

It is now the adopted name of the National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation, a private group set up six years ago.

By mid-afternoon, some 300 people had telephoned Amcha offices in Israel's three largest cities, said director John Lemberger. The calls came not just from survivors, whose number has dwindled over time, but from their children.

"I got a telephone call from a man who says to me, 'My father put me on a train a week before the Germans marched in. Am I a survi-

vor? I haven't reacted to it for years. These last two years I sit before the television and I cry,'" Lemberger said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, addressing the main state service at Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, said the experience taught Israel "not to trust in others, only ourselves."

"The State of Israel is the guarantee that this kind of horror will never again return," said the 71-year-old ex-general.

Rabin flies to Poland on Monday to attend ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the anti-Nazi uprising by the doomed Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Amcha has found increasing numbers of survivors who feel they have not long to live and must tell their story for the sake of future generations. Their children also seek help to ease the inherited trauma.

In Amcha's Jerusalem office, six memorial candles burned beneath an easel on which rested a poem that was scratched on the side of a cattle car transporting Jews to death camps.

The woman who had phoned Mrs. Gol stopped crying and said she was strong and didn't need help after all. Mrs. Gol persevered, telling her to open her heart and talk. She pleaded to her to give her name, or a telephone number — anything that would preserve the tenuous contact.

WORLD WIRE

5 Ohio prison hostages reportedly alive

LUCASVILLE, Ohio — Negotiators trying to end a deadly prison uprising said Sunday they had proof that five guards held hostage were alive but would not say if a settlement of the eight-day insurrection was imminent.

One released hostage said in interviews published Sunday that inmates killed a guard because a corrections official appeared to belittle their demands.

Negotiators at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility had obtained an audio tape proving that all five

guards still being held hostage were "alive and well," a corrections spokeswoman said.

The hostages' families had heard the tape and verified the guards' identities, said Sharron Komegay, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

She would not say when or how the tape was obtained.

She said at an afternoon briefing that negotiations had resumed but would not say how or if any progress was made.

After scandal, Navy cleaning up attitudes

WASHINGTON — The Navy is trying to cast off the attitudes that spawned the Tailhook scandal by discharging sexual harassers and teaching every sailor from recruit to admiral what's proper conduct and what's not.

In the past 13 months, 35 officers and enlisted men and women have been discharged from the Navy for misconduct in connection with sexual harassment offenses. Eleven

additional cases are pending, Navy officials say.

All service members now are required to attend repeated instruction on dealing with sexual harassment. There are 18 separate courses offered to civilian employees and active duty members of all ranks.

A toll-free advice line has received 500 calls seeking counseling about sexual harassment in the first four months of its existence.

U.S.-Vietnam relations may be hurt by document

WASHINGTON — A "road map" for normalizing relations with Vietnam, laid down by the Bush administration and followed by President Clinton, is in tatters due to a document suggesting Vietnamese duplicity on the POW-MIA issue.

Hanoi says the 1972 report, discovered by a Harvard University researcher in the archives of the Communist Party in Moscow, is a fabrication. The Pentagon is urging caution, saying the document needs further study.

The report says Vietnam was holding 1,205 American prisoners of war in 1972, twice the number eventually released.

Regardless of whether the document is real, the long road back to normal relations has again become longer.

"The so-called road map for normalizing relations with Vietnam should be rolled up, put on a dark shelf and forgotten," said Richard Christian of the American Legion.

Christian joined representatives of veterans groups, POW-MIA families

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—Richard Christian
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and members of Congress on Capitol Hill last week to oppose any improvements in ties with Hanoi until the POW issue is resolved.

"We are speaking with one voice today in terms of our consensus that it is indeed premature at this time to consider lifting either the trade embargo or moving toward normalization," said Paul Egan, executive director of Vietnam Veterans of America.

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