

Clinton hopes to see NAFTA passed

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration was preparing a high-profile start Monday to its fall lobbying campaign on behalf of a free trade agreement linking the United States, Mexico and Canada.



And at the same time, Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen confidently predicted the administration will be able to overcome

formidable congressional opposition. President Clinton was to sign environmental and labor side pacts to the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement on Tuesday with former presidents George Bush, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford looking on.

Bentsen conceded that the administration does not yet have the votes to pass NAFTA, but he said many lawmakers were withholding judgment until after they had seen the side agreements.

"Traditionally, you have more opposition as you start until you get a chance to explain the benefits," said Bentsen, who rejected suggestions that the administration was holding back its lobbying effort because of strong opposition from labor and environmental groups who had heavily backed Clinton's presidential campaign.

"We will win it," Bentsen predicted.

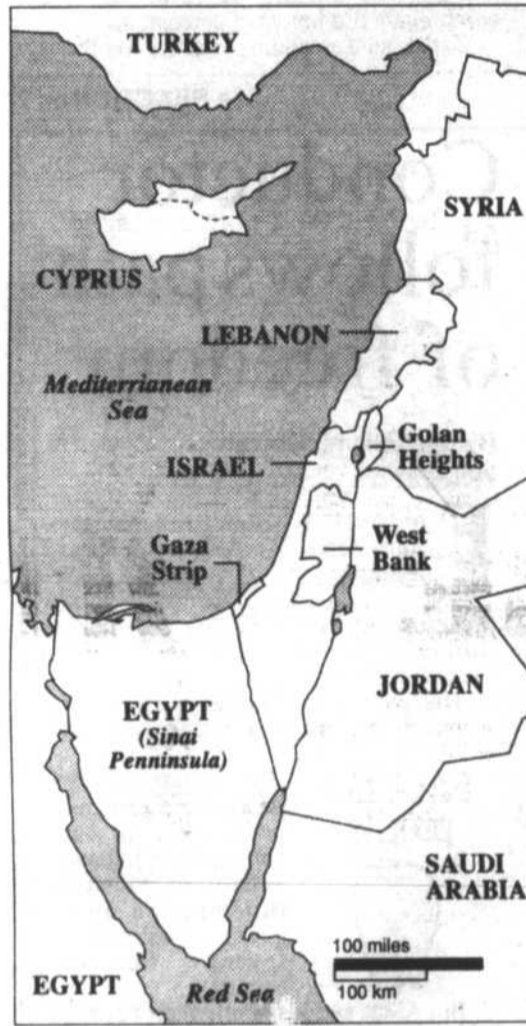
The Bush administration completed the 2,000-page trade agreement a year ago, but Clinton demanded negotiation of side pacts in an effort to answer concerns raised by environmentalists and unions over lax enforcement of Mexican laws.

The main trade agreement would eliminate tariffs and other barriers to the movement of goods, services and investment among the three nations over a 15-year period, creating a free trade zone of 360 million consumers.

Bentsen said the administration planned to send the implementing legislation to Congress by Nov. 1. While that measure cannot be amended, the administration will spend the next seven weeks bargaining behind the scenes on the drafting of this legislation in an effort to attract swing votes.

Congress will have up to 90 work days after receiving the implementing legislation to vote on the pact.

Senate approval is expected. Rep. David Bonior, D-Mich. and No. 3 Democratic leader in the House, has vowed to actively work to defeat NAFTA and House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., has said he opposes the pact in its current form.



Where the Palestinians are today

Of the 5.5 million Palestinians worldwide approximately 3.5 million inhabit the region.

WEST BANK and GAZA STRIP
1.8 million (about 750,000 are in Gaza, rest in West Bank)

ISRAEL
About 800,000 (throughout Israel excluding the West Bank and Gaza)

LEBANON
About 475,000, including 317,000 in refugee camps

SYRIA
About 400,000, including about 250,000 in refugee camps

JORDAN
About 1.2 million, including about 225,000 in refugee camps

Reaction

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alternative to hammering out a solution.

"This thing had to be done," he said. "It could fail, but it had to be tried."

"This could take five to 10 years until it's settled, but at least we're taking constructive steps forward."

Bruce Erlich, a UNL English professor who also is Jewish, does not support the peace plan.

"The present agreement is a betrayal of the martyrs who died to defend the Jewish right to exist," he said.

Erlich said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was very complex.

"From one perspective," he said,

"it's a terrible solution because the PLO is an organization of gangsters and murderers. And what this demonstrates is that if you kill enough people, hijack enough airplanes, cut the throats of enough children and make enough noise in the world, someone will recognize you as a political force."

Erlich said he thought Israel was making a strategic move to undercut the PLO.

"I think it's a very shrewd move on the part of Israel," he said. "I think it's a shrewd move because it calls the bluff of the PLO. The bluff of the PLO is first that the PLO is a stable organization that has authority among Palestinians. Two, it calls the bluff that the PLO can in fact institute the terms of the peace agreement."

"When conducting Bach or a requiem, I had to first gain approval by the Minister of Culture within the Politburo," he said.

Aluas finally requested to leave Romania in 1985, but his attempts to escape communist restraints were frustrated.

He was laid off from his job as conductor of the Satu-Mare State Philharmonic Orchestra in Romania.

"I was eventually allowed to work again after much persuading by some of my associates, but with one exception—my name was not allowed to be on posters any longer when I performed," he said. "I found it somewhat comical."

Aluas

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expected me to be a part of the Communist party," Aluas said. "I was told 12 times by the high offices of the Politburo to complete the papers for the Communist party."

"Twelve times I declined." During this time, Aluas said dissidence within the intellectual community exploded.

"Many intellectuals were imprisoned, strictly supervised, or fled the country," he said.

Aluas said his artistic freedom was limited.

Peace

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live in peace and renounced violence. Israel in turn recognized the PLO as the representative of Palestinians.

The fast-moving chain of events is expected to continue today with announcements by Jordan and Israel at the State Department of agreement on a negotiating agenda that could lead to a peace treaty and diplomatic relations.

The success of the Israeli-PLO agreement depends on the international community providing billions of dollars to develop the economy of the West Bank and Gaza. Clinton made clear he expected other nations to provide the lion's share.

"We know a difficult road lies ahead," Clinton said. "Every peace has its enemies, those who still prefer the easy habits of hatred to the hard labors of reconciliation."

"It's not so easy," Rabin said, "neither for myself as a soldier in Israel's war, nor for the people of Israel, nor for the Jewish people in the Diaspora who are watching us now with great hope mixed with apprehension."

Arafat sought to appease his critics after the ceremony by predicting that the Palestinian flag "will fly over Jerusalem's walls, minarets and churches."

STATE WIRE

Lt. Governor to step down

From The Associated Press

Lt. Gov. Maxine Moul, the state's first woman lieutenant governor, plans to step down to take a job heading the state Economic Development Department, Democratic Party sources said Monday.

At least four sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said Gov. Ben Nelson planned to announce Tuesday that he would name his chief of staff, Kim Robak, to succeed Moul as lieutenant governor.

Robak's post will be filled by Tim Becker, a Lincoln resident who left the Nelson administration several months ago to become assistant director of the Lincoln Housing Authority, the sources said.

The governor has scheduled a news conference for today in the

Capitol. Earlier Monday, his spokeswoman would not disclose the topic of the news conference but said it involved a major announcement.

"During the conference Nelson will make an announcement that is both good news for the entire state and has statewide implications," a news release from the governor's office said.

Moul did not immediately return a message left Monday night on her home telephone answering machine. Neither Robak nor Becker immediately returned messages left Monday night at their respective homes.

A former Nebraska Democratic national committeewoman, the 46-year-old Moul is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate with extensive experience in small business.

Counterfeit lottery tickets being examined

OMAHA — Lottery officials are investigating seven counterfeit lottery tickets that were turned in by a man who said he bought them outside a service station.

Each ticket showed a combination worth \$10,000, said State Patrol spokesman Jeff Hanson. He said they were turned in Sunday.

John Adams, the lottery's deputy director, said that lottery investigators were looking into the matter.

Hanson said the patrol turned the tickets over to lottery officials and will not be involved in the investigation.

A Bellevue man said he bought the tickets Friday night and later realized they didn't go on sale until Saturday, the Omaha World-Herald reported Monday.

"I scratched them off and got very excited thinking I'd won \$70,000," the paper quoted the man as saying.

The scratch-off tickets, which debuted Saturday, offer a top prize of \$5,000.

The tickets had a lottery logo on the front, but did not have the Nebraska scenes on the front or official instructions on the back, the newspaper reported.

SPORTS WIRE

Johnson will try to solve one problem

IRVING, Texas — Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson, addressing a problem he can do something about, said Monday he has summoned eight kickers for a tryout to find a replacement for Lin Elliott.

Elliott missed two field goal attempts, including a 30-yarder, in Sunday's 13-10 loss to the Buffalo Bills.

Elliott missed a field goal and an

extra point in an opening 35-16 loss to Washington.

"I dug my grave," Elliott said after Sunday's game. "In practice I do well. On Sunday I struggle. I've let my teammates down."

The other problem, unsigned All-Pro running back Emmitt Smith, is something Johnson can't do anything about.

"We just have to understand who we are," Johnson said Monday.

Daily Nebraskan

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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, 436-6407. 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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main beneficiaries of the plan, aren't necessarily satisfied either.

Moira Ferguson, a UNL English professor who has served as the faculty liaison for the Palestinian Student Association, said both Palestinians and Israelis could have mixed reactions to the accord.

"Many Palestinians, I think, would see a lot of potential problems in the plan," Ferguson said. "I think many Palestinians would have wanted some discussion of the settlements and some discussion of East Jerusalem. I think some Palestinians would see it as an agreement between two heads of state rather than two peoples."

But Ferguson said she was cautiously optimistic.

Erlich said he thought Palestinians eventually would fight each other over this plan.

"There is going to be a bloody civil war among Palestinians, as there was already in the 1970s in Lebanon... I expect it's likely that something like that will happen again."

Erlich said he realized the peace process would be long. But he said he was haunted by images of 12-year-old Palestinians being trained to fight Israelis.

"It's difficult for me to see that an entire generation brought up in Palestinian training camps with their beliefs are suddenly going to put down their rifles and suddenly accept Israelis as their brothers," he said.

Palestinians, who seem to be the

"Over the past 15 to 17 years its reputation has declined," Aluas said of the orchestra. "The orchestra program had really been neglected."

"I consider the orchestra as the heart of the school of music," he said, "and I do intend to seriously develop a nationally — if not internationally — talented orchestra."

The orchestra, Aluas said, would be open to all serious musicians from the community. His first step is finding enough string players for the group.

Aluas said he wanted to draw on the talent Nebraska and nearby states had to offer by recruiting high school musicians to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"We need our state and regional

resources," he said. "There is really no reason for competitive young musicians to leave this region when they have some of the best resources right here."

But his devotion to UNL's School of Music is not limited to the orchestra. Aluas speaks highly of the other programs as well.

He would also like to expand the school's opera program, which "has great potential," Aluas said.

"We need a strong symphony orchestra in order to have a strong opera program. These two are very well connected," he said.

"One of my other goals this school year is to schedule an opera concert in the spring," he said.