

S. Africa allows blacks to govern

CAPE TOWN, South Africa—Parliament voted Thursday to allow blacks a role in governing South Africa for the first time, and angry white right-wing lawmakers warned the decision could lead to civil war.

"This makes permanent peace impossible," said Ferdi Hartzenberg, leader of the white Conservative Party, who led his followers in walking out of Parliament after the vote. "We have lost a golden opportunity for peace."

The vote creates a Transitional Executive Council, comprised of representatives from the 26 black and white parties that have participated in the talks on ending apartheid.

The body will be a watchdog of the government, with some veto powers. It will help oversee the holding of the country's first multiracial election April 27.

The African National Congress hailed the vote as "a major victory for the forces of peace and democracy."

"For the first time in the history of our country, the racist Parliament has approved a bill which is responsible to the will and aspirations of the majority," the ANC said in a statement.

By giving blacks a role in government, the bill set the stage for ANC leader Nelson Mandela to endorse the lifting of remaining international economic sanctions against South Africa.

In Washington, President Clinton applauded the "historic step" and promised to provide voter education and training "to create a level playing field" for all the parties in the upcoming campaign.

The dominant white chamber of Parliament, led by President F.W. de Klerk's National Party, voted 107-36 to create a power-sharing council, agreed upon this month at talks with the ANC and other

— 66 —
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White Conservative Party leader

groups.

The council can start functioning as soon as next month, Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said.

The panel will also help oversee foreign, economic and national security policy and the April elections.

The ANC is expected to win the April ballot and create the first black-led government in South African history.

Three days of discussions on the bill became a bitter battle among white Afrikaners over the future of the country ruled throughout its history by its white minority.

Cries of "Traitor" punctuated debate Wednesday, and scores of police ringed the Parliament building Thursday in case of right-wing disruptions. The vote passed peacefully.

Supporters said granting power to the black majority was the only way to quell the violence and economic decline that has wracked South Africa.

Hartzenberg, whose party calls for the creating of an autonomous white Afrikaner state, said the Conservatives would continue to resist with a campaign of public pressure. He refused to rule out an eventual "declaration of independence."

Lost barge blamed for train wreck

SARALAND, Ala. — Investigators believe a barge lost in the fog struck and weakened a railroad trestle shortly before an Amtrak train hurtled off the bridge into a murky bayou. At least 44 people were killed.

The FBI and the National Transportation Safety Board said they found a dented barge near the train wreck, along with damage that appeared to match that on a concrete piling supporting the bridge.

Amtrak's Sunset Limited, traveling from Los Angeles to Miami with 206 people aboard, plunged into Bayou Canot on the outskirts of Mobile about 3 a.m. Wednesday. Some of the dead were trapped in a submerged, silver passenger car, others in a burned engine.

At least 159 people survived the wreck, the deadliest in Amtrak's 23-year history, said John Hammerschmidt of the NTSB. The NTSB and Amtrak put the number of missing at three. Divers resumed their search this morning for them and for the bodies of the three-member locomotive crew presumed dead in the wreckage.

A large section of the 500-foot-long, wood-and-steel bridge collapsed; investigators were trying to determine whether that happened before the wreck or because of it.

Asked how the barge might have struck the bridge, which crosses a bayou that isn't navigable by barges and is just 7 feet above the water, FBI agent Charles W. Archer said, "I understand it was very foggy."

The barge was one of six lashed together and pushed by a towboat.

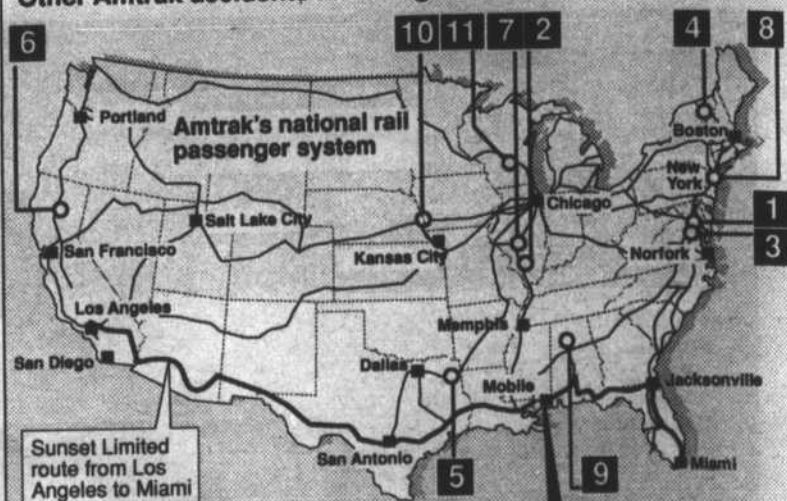
U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena said Thursday that the towboat captain had radioed shortly before the train wreck to report he was having trouble with fog and had lost his tow. The captain has been interviewed by investigators, Pena said.

"It is clear the barge hit the bridge," Pena told CBS. The towboat pushing the barges was traveling on the Mobile River when it got lost in the fog and found itself in the bayou, the company said. It was trying to return

Worst Amtrak accidents

An Amtrak train jumped the tracks on a bridge and plunged into a foggy bayou before daybreak Wednesday, trapping passengers in a submerged car. It was the deadliest crash in the history of Amtrak, created in 1970 to run the nation's long-distance passenger trains. Sixteen people were killed Jan. 4, 1987, in an Amtrak crash in Chase, Md.

Other Amtrak accidents involving fatalities:



1. Jan. 4, 1987: Chase Md., 16 killed.
2. June 10, 1971: Salem, Ill., 11 killed.
3. July 31, 1991: Camden, D.C., 8 killed.
4. July 7, 1984: Essex Jct., Vt. 5 killed.
5. Nov. 12, 1983: Woodlawn, Texas, 4 killed.
6. June 23, 1982: Gibson, Calif., 2 killed.
7. Oct. 12, 1979: Harvey, Ill., 2 killed.
8. July 23, 1984: Astoria, N.Y., 1 killed.
9. June 30, 1976: Goodman, Miss., 1 killed.
10. June 15, 1982: Emerson, Iowa, 1 killed.
11. Oct. 9, 1986: Fall River, Wis., 1 killed.

Total: 52 killed prior to Wednesday's accident

Source: National Transportation Safety Board

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to the river when the train when off the bridge, said Andy Harris, Warrior & Gulf general manager of terminals.

"We don't yet know accurately what happened in this incident, but we have been, are, and will continue to participate with all of the agencies seeking to resolve the questions," company president Nicholas J. Barchie said.

The train's data recorder and the bodies of the three crew members who had been operating the train remained in the lead locomotive, which was buried nose-down in 15 feet of mud and 25 feet of water, investigators said.

The train's speed was not immediately known, but the limit on that stretch of track was 70 mph.

"We were asleep, and the next thing I knew we were in the water. It sounded like a big blast," said Dennis Stevens, 33, of Orange City, Fla. "I pushed out a window and got us out. Fuel was burning on top of the water. Smoke was everywhere. Then a tugboat came and threw some ropes to fish us out. You could hear screams."

The train's three locomotives and four of its eight cars, including two passenger cars, went into the swamp, which is crawling with alligators and snakes. Another passenger car dangled from what was left of the bridge.

One wrecked engine erupted in flame, setting the night sky aglow as survivors, joined by rescuers in helicopters and local people who arrived in boats, worked frantically to pull passengers from the water.



STATE WIRE

Bosnia student finally gets to call home

NORFOLK — Most college students try to make at least the obligatory 10-minute call home on weekends. Munib Dzuho's calls may be more infrequent but probably have more meaning.

The Northeast Community College sophomore is calling Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dzuho was able to reach his parents by phone in the war-torn country at around 11:30 a.m. CDT Sunday. It was the first contact with family members since last January.

Dzuho left the former Yugoslavia on March 29, 1992, just six days before a civil war broke out in Bosnia. Tension was building between Serbs, Croats and Muslims before he left, but Dzuho had no idea war would break out and so many lives would be lost.

After closely following news from his home during his first few months in the United States, Dzuho said he tries not to spend much time thinking

about it now.

"If I think about it a lot, it will mess me up," he said.

Dzuho said he got off to a slow start academically his first semester last fall, in part because of the concern about his family.

This fall he is devoting his time to 19 credit-hours of studies, his part-time job and preseason conditioning as a member of the Northeast basketball team.

In his weekend call, Dzuho, who is Muslim, learned everyone in his family was doing fine, are able to find food and sometimes have electricity in their home.

His family also told him not to worry because they would be OK.

"They're more worried about me than I am about them," he said. "I always tell them I will be OK."

"I just want there to be peace as soon as possible," he said.



SPORTS WIRE

Australia beats out Beijing for 2000 Summer Olympics

MONTE CARLO, Monaco—Stability and reliability won out over political risk and uncertainty Thursday as Sydney narrowly edged out Beijing for the right to host the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

In a secret ballot by the International Olympic Committee, Sydney beat Beijing on the final round by just two votes — 45-43.

Dropping out in the previous rounds were Istanbul, Turkey; Berlin; and Manchester, England.

The decision to return the Games to Australia for the first time since the 1956 Melbourne Olympics was announced live to a worldwide television audience by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

In choosing Sydney over Beijing, the IOC went for the safer candidate, a glamorous, cosmopolitan city with superior sports facilities and technology.

"We know this is the perfect decision," said IOC director general Francois Carrard. "The Olympic movement is in good hands."

Beijing had offered the powerful symbolic impact of holding the Games of the new millennium in a nation of 1.2 billion people as it opens up to the rest of the world.

Awarding the Games to China would have prompted further outcry from human rights critics, including

members of the U.S. Congress. There may also have been concern over the uncertain political future in China, ruled by 88-year-old Deng Xiaoping.

"If there was a difference in the vote it was clearly between the risk-takers and the non risk-takers," said Dick Pound, a powerful executive board member from Canada who had lobbied for Beijing.

Some members felt it was too soon for China to get the Games, with 2004 a more realistic target.

"Of course we are disappointed, but they (the Australians) conducted themselves in a sportsmanlike way, and we are happy for them," said Wei Jizhong, secretary-general of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Chinese officials in the audience appeared stunned by the announcement and offered polite applause as members of the Sydney delegation danced and shouted in glee.

"This decision puts the Chinese leadership on notice that they will pay a price for the continued abuse of their own citizens," said Richard Dicker, a lawyer for Human Rights Watch in New York.

Some officials had said putting the Games in Beijing could help speed reforms in China.

However, Bob Scott, head of the Manchester bid committee, said there was a definite "stop-Beijing" move-

ment among IOC members uncomfortable with what they perceived as heavy-handed support of China by some top IOC officials.



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Sydney's victory resulted from steady insistence that the harbor city could provide state-of-the-art infrastructure, and cater best to the needs and wants of the athletes.

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