

U.S. warship retreats from Haitian waters

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Hundreds of militant right-wingers cheered Tuesday as an American warship left Haiti, in a retreat that marked a major setback for the U.N. mission to restore democracy here.

The aborted troop deployment threatened to derail international efforts to prepare for the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Oct. 30, U.S. officials in Haiti said.

The National Coalition declared Tuesday a "day of indignation," stopping buses to keep children out of school and urging their army to resist a foreign "invasion."

"We're ready to die!" said Jacques Robert, 32, an engineer who with scores of others stayed through an all-night "patriotic vigil" at the dock.

"We'll stay here till Oct. 30. We're mobilized. We don't want Aristide back!"

The USS Harlan County pulled anchor just minutes after Pentagon ordered it to withdraw to international waters.

Among the crowd of applauding, cheering people at dockside was a beaming, gun-wielding senior aide to Haitian army commander Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras, who ousted Aristide in 1991.

In the match between Haiti and the international community, "Haiti has just scored the first goal," said the aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Although U.S. officials say that only a minority of Haitians oppose Aristide's return, military-supported violence has hindered the transition government installed under the U.N. plan to restore democracy.

The Harlan County, carrying 472 service-

men from the United States and Canada, had floated 800 yards offshore since Monday, when military-backed port authorities, in a direct challenge to the U.N. mission, refused it a berth.

The troop deployment by 200 U.S. soldiers marked the beginning in earnest of the U.N. mission. About 100 U.N. personnel arrived earlier as an advance operation.

The withdrawal followed anti-U.N. demonstrations.

U.S. Sen. Bob Graham said Cedras refused to guarantee the safety of the troops aboard the Harlan County. Cedras also refused to resign by Friday.

Graham, D-Fla., told reporters that Haitian resistance has put the U.N. plan "into doubt." Also Tuesday, a television crew from

WSVN-TV in Miami was arrested and threatened with execution before being ordered out of the country, a station representative said.

Reporter Shepard Smith, cameraman Cesar Aldama and engineer Moreau Dugas had accompanied U.S. Sen. Bob Graham and U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings to Haiti, WSVN spokeswoman Peggy Phillip said.

The three were arrested at gunpoint and taken to a military barracks somewhere in Port-au-Prince, she said.

"They were told they were going to be executed because they were suspected U.N. military operatives," she said.

After Dugas managed to convince the soldiers that the three were indeed a television crew, they were ordered out of the country and driven to the airport, she said.

Europe takes first step to unity

BONN, Germany — Germany's highest court ruled Tuesday that the Maastricht Treaty on European union doesn't violate this country's constitution, clearing the way for implementation of the historic accord.

The Constitutional Court said it had struck down legal challenges to the treaty, which already has been ratified by the 12 EC nations' parliaments or voters. Final implementation hinged on the German court's approval.

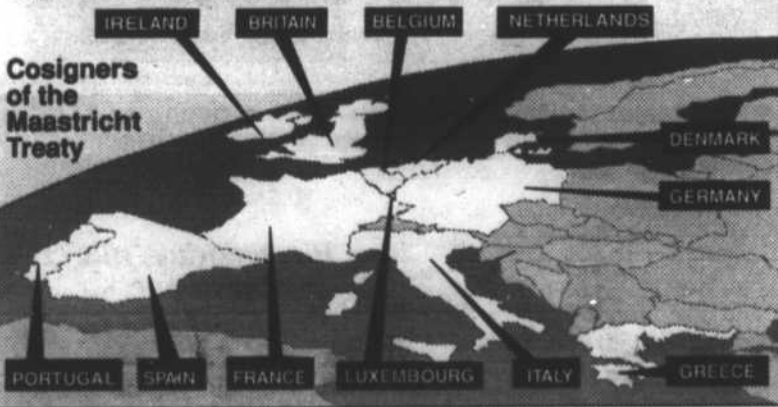
The treaty calls for opening a European Monetary Institute on Jan. 1 as the precursor to a Europe-wide central bank, which is to be in place no later than Jan. 1, 1999. The independent central bank will eventually issue a single currency, replacing existing national currencies.

Under the accord, the EC nations will work to forge common foreign, security and eventually defense policies. The EC will have more powers in education, public health, culture, consumer protection, industry, research and the environment.

A negative ruling Tuesday would have created a crisis for the EC, which

Maastricht treaty milestone

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has staked its future on turning the community into a world power through economic, political and monetary union.

The court said it wants assurances that Germany's parliamentary bodies won't lose substantial powers to European institutions.

Detroit police officers escape life sentence in murder trial

DETROIT — Two former policemen convicted of beating a motorist to death outside an inner-city crack house escaped life sentences Tuesday, one getting 12 to 25 years behind bars, the other eight to 18 years.

Judge George W. Crockett III said Larry Nevers and Walter Budzyn must be held accountable even if they didn't intend to kill Malice Green, 35, an unemployed steelworker who suffered at least 14 blows to the head and had part of his scalp torn off.

The defendants said they didn't mean for Green to die and said he just got out of hand. Crockett responded that it was the officers

who got out of hand.

The judge gave Nevers the stiff sentence, although both men were convicted of second-degree murder. A request to extend bail was denied and they were taken to jail.

"It is time for the world to see through the excuses and face the truth. Mr. Budzyn and Mr. Nevers killed my husband," said his widow, Rose Mary Green.

Witnesses during the officers' summer-long trial testified they saw the two white officers repeatedly beat Green with their heavy metal flashlights outside a suspected drug house Nov. 5 when he refused orders to open his clenched hand. Green died on the way to a hospital.

SPORTS WIRE

Falcons trade away Dickerson, Pickens

ATLANTA — So the Atlanta Falcons didn't want Eric Dickerson after all.

The winless Falcons (0-5) on Tuesday shipped the NFL's No. 2 all-time rusher to the Green Bay Packers along with former Nebraska defensive back Bruce Pickens for running back John Stephens and a conditional draft pick.

"It will give Eric a chance to play, to start," said Falcons president Taylor Smith. "Green Bay was real interested in getting him and for us it was a chance to get a big fullback in Stephens, something we didn't have. It just made sense to do it at this time."

Dickerson was acquired from the Los Angeles Raiders during the summer and started the first two games of the season for the Falcons. He played in four games, rushing 26 times for 91

yards. Pickens, the Falcons' first-round pick in 1991 from Nebraska, had played 20 games, with eight starts in three seasons. The 25-year-old started the first four games this season, but missed the last game with a hamstring injury.

"Pickens is a guy with a lot of ability, but we just think he probably needs a change of scenery," Smith said. "For some reason it didn't pan out for him here."

Stephens, 27, was the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year in 1988 with the New England Patriots. He led the Patriots in rushing in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

He started all five games with the Packers (2-3) this year, gaining a team-best 173 yards.

STATE WIRE

Hohenstein's attorneys appeal prison sentence

DAKOTACITY — A former state senator who pled guilty to felony theft took the first step Tuesday to appeal his sentence.

Kurt Hohenstein was sentenced by Dakota County District Judge Mark Fuhrman on Oct. 1 to the maximum six years and eight months to 20 years in prison.

Hohenstein's attorneys on Tuesday filed a notice of appeal with the

clerk of the Dakota County District Court.

Hohenstein will be eligible for parole in three years and four months and would face mandatory release in 10 years based on good behavior while behind bars.

Fuhrman also imposed a \$25,000 fine and ordered Hohenstein to make \$35,354 in restitution to clients.

Hohenstein was Dakota County

attorney, a part-time position, before his election to the Legislature in November 1992.

In August he pleaded guilty to felony theft, admitting that he took insurance money that was supposed to pay medical bills for clients who were injured in a motor vehicle accident. He simultaneously resigned from his 17th District seat in the Legislature as part of the plea agreement.

Barney

Continued from Page 1 morning cartoons? It was probably last week.

Observers might not get that impression judging from the publicity Fox has received.

Fox has been accused of being a mean person, a child-hater and a contributor to youth violence.

"I was thinking about getting business cards printed out that said, 'Childhood Dream Smasher,'" he said.

Fox said it all started like this: He worked in a local video store last spring. Every day Fox watched children come into the store and race to the Barney movies in the children's section.

"They'd yell, 'Barney!' and they'd run over to the videos," he said.

After a while, those kinds of actions began to annoy Fox.

"When you hear that over and over every day," Fox said, "it's just one of those dislikes you develop."

Barney, a large love-preaching, people-bonding dinosaur character, stars in the television show "Barney and Friends," which airs weekdays on the Public Broadcasting System.

Fox said he believed Barney's messages to be useful. He supports Barney's ecologically sound, peace-

keeping ideas, he said. But Fox says Barney has become more than just a teacher. He's become an idol.

"Kids are addicted to Barney," Fox said. "It's almost like a kid drug. That's weird."

The Barney bash is not an attempt to deter children from putting their hopes in a fake dinosaur, he said. It's just for fun, Fox said, and should be taken for nothing more.

Barney's popularity and monstrous merchandising have given even college students cause to take notice. The fact that a children's idol is so pervasive in society makes the event fun, Fox said.

While Barney is for children of the '90s, Fox said, college students of the '90s remember their childhood heroes such as Big Bird. Fox said he was a bit saddened that a new idol is replacing the Sesame Street characters he loved as a child.

"We're mourning the loss of our childhoods," he said. "We're losing our childhood to a purple dinosaur."

Fox's childlike tendency to protect his own heroes has played a part in his reasons for bashing Barney, he said.

"I loved Big Bird. I still have 'Sesame Street' sheets at home," Fox said. "I can actually sit down and watch 'Sesame Street.'"

Fox said he watched the movie

"Rock With Barney" last week, and the show didn't have the same effect on him as "Sesame Street" did.

"We're not kids anymore, and obviously we don't understand this anymore," he said.

Beth Ryan, communications manager for The Lyons Group, who created and produces "Barney & Friends," said she didn't expect college students to relate to Barney.

"We don't gear our programming to college students. We don't care if they enjoy it," Ryan said. "We'd prefer they didn't put it on public display."

The bash won't hurt Barney's popularity, she said. Ryan said Barney had 8,000 members in his fan club.

And, she said, Barney's main audience has nothing to do with the "Barney Bash."

"It's a little different than if two-year-olds were putting on this display," she said.

The Lyons Group could file a lawsuit if a Barney costume was used in the bash, she said.

For the most part, Ryan said she wasn't upset with UPC member's plans.

"In a perverse sort of way, it's rather a compliment that they picked out Barney," she said. "It's a testament Barney is popular."

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