

Clinton announces \$6 billion Saudi jets deal

WASHINGTON—Saudi Arabia, replacing its entire fleet of commercial aircraft, will purchase 50 planes from the American aerospace industry, which will provide jobs for tens of thousands of American workers, President Clinton said Wednesday.

The planes will be built for the oil-rich kingdom by Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp., proving "that we can compete," Clinton said. Saudi Arabia chose the American firms over foreign competitors.

Besides the two big manufacturers,

the \$6 billion deal will benefit firms across the country that make jet engines and other parts of the planes.

Britain, France and Germany all bid for contracts, but the Saudis chose their principal arms supplier and the country that organized defense of the Saudi oil fields from Iraq in 1990.

Prince Bandar, himself a pilot, stood alongside Clinton in the White House for the announcement, along with Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and Chairmen Frank Shrontz of Boeing and John McDonnell of

“We thank God it's American jobs.”

Glickman,
State Representative from Kansas

McDonnell Douglas.

The aerospace industry is in the grips of hard times and tens of thousands of American workers have been forced out.

Brown said the sale to Saudi Arabia marked the formation of a "real part-

nership" in the commercial arena.

Clinton said the United States worked hard to conclude the sale and would keep pushing for more business abroad.

Members of Congress were quick to express delight at the news.

"This is a great day for the country," House Speaker Tom Foley told Clinton. Boeing is based in Seattle, Wash., Foley's home state.

Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., whose district includes the Boeing plant at Wichita, told Clinton: "We thank God it's American jobs."

In Seattle, Boeing spokesman Mark Hooper said the long-awaited Saudi order is "certainly encouraging." He said the company still has to work out exactly how many Boeing planes the Saudis want.

Leader announces compromise to prevent boycott, civil war

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela announced major concessions Wednesday to an opposition alliance in hopes of avoiding a boycott of national elections and reducing the threat of civil war.

"We must treat the threat of civil war seriously. That is why we have gone out of our way to make these concessions," Mandela said at a news conference after an emergency meeting of the group's policy-making National Executive Committee.

The ANC dropped its demand for a single-ballot system in the April 26-28 election to end white-minority rule and called for multiparty negotiations to be reconvened Monday to approve the decision, Mandela said.

This marks an important concession to the opposition Freedom Alliance, a coalition of anti-ANC white and black groups who have vowed to boycott the election and raised threats of political violence. The Alliance has said voters should cast two ballots in April — one for a national Parliament and another for regional legislatures.

This would give small, regionally-based parties, such as those represented in the Alli-

ance, a chance of establishing power bases in their areas of support. A single ballot would have virtually assured the huge ANC a majority of seats in both the national and provincial legislatures.

Mandela also sought to reassure the Alliance by saying that the new government will not substantially change the post-apartheid constitution drafted in multiparty negotiations. The Alliance said it fears the document will be rewritten by the next government, which is expected to be dominated by the ANC.

Even with the announcement, it was not certain the Alliance members would agree to take part in the vote.

The parties, led by pro-apartheid whites and the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party, also are demanding independent homelands for their supporters to avoid living under ANC rule. Mandela said his opposition to this was unchanged.

"Our position is that of a united South Africa. Apart from the fact that there will be provincial governments and they will be able to decide their own structures, our position remains the same: a united South Africa," he said.

Norwegians capture two more gold medals

LILLEHAMMER, Norway — Norwegians thrilled wildly cheering home crowds Wednesday by capturing gold medals in men's speedskating and women's freestyle moguls.

Johann Olav Koss, star of the Winter Games so far, smashed his second world record in four days and outskated previous record-holder Rintje Ritsma of the rival Dutch in a frenzied Viking Ship arena. Ritsma took the silver, seven-tenths of a second behind Koss' 1:51.29, and countryman Falko Zandstra got the bronze.

Stine Lise Hattestad won the women's moguls gold, a first for Norway in the relatively new event, ending the Americans' surprising early dominance on the ski slopes.

But Liz McIntyre of Winter Park, Colo., followed Alpine champions Tommy Moe and Diann Roffe-Steinrotter to the medals stand with the silver, picking up the slack from favorite Donna Weinbrecht, who was a disappointing seventh.

A Canadian, Jean-Luc Brassard, took the gold in the men's moguls. Defending champion Edgar Grosperon of France was third.

Russia, after extending its reign in figure skating pairs with a sensational 1-2 finish the night before, got two moguls medals Wednesday — a silver from Sergei

Shoupletsov and a bronze from Elizaveta Kojevnikova. The Russians lead the medals race with 10.

Tonya Harding arrived in Norway Wednesday. "I'm very excited to be here," the skater said.

As soon as she arrived, she was whisked away in a blue van and headed for Hamar, where she will live, practice and compete with Nancy Kerrigan.

Asked as she changed planes in Copenhagen if she was confident, Harding replied, "Yes."

The SAS flight that brought Harding to Norway was no ordinary journey. She was on her way to the Lillehammer Games, and that alone was a victory.

"It feels really good," she told The Associated Press aboard her flight. "I'm tired, but I'm glad I'm going."

As she padded around in stocking feet in the Euroclass cabin, the 5-foot-1 figure skater hardly seemed someone who had caused such a monumental stir.

And if she was worried that the already glaring spotlight was about to get much brighter, she didn't show it.

Harding and Kerrigan will live in the same building — though on opposite ends of different floors — and practice on the ice at the same time.

They will skate competitively against each other Feb. 23, the first night of women's figure skating.

Diane Sawyer stays with ABC

NEW YORK — After weeks of avid courting from rival television networks, ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer has decided to stay put.

Terms of Sawyer's new multi-year contract were not disclosed by the network Wednesday but, by some estimates, her salary will rise to between \$5 million and \$6 million per year. She reportedly had been earning nearly \$3 million per year under the five-year contract that would have run out this month.

Sawyer will continue on ABC's "PrimeTime Live," the magazine show she has co-anchored with Sam Donaldson since its premiere in August 1989.

She also will share anchor duties with Barbara Walters and Peter Jennings on "Turning Point," a magazine show that begins next month, the network said.

In addition, Sawyer will be involved with yet another magazine show, the year-old "Day One," currently anchored by Forrest Sawyer. She will serve "in an undetermined role," spokeswoman Teri Everett said.

The big news was not that Sawyer would stay

at ABC, but that she had turned down lucrative and imaginative offers from suitors that included NBC, CBS and Fox Broadcasting Co.

Reportedly, NBC had wanted her to anchor a five-nights-a-week prime-time newsmagazine. CBS President Howard Stringer was said to have envisioned a nightly half-hour news and analysis program for Sawyer to follow "The CBS Evening News."

And Fox, wielding an offer reportedly between \$7 million and \$10 million per year, would have starred Sawyer in a Sunday newsmagazine to compete head-to-head with CBS' top-rated "60 Minutes."

Sawyer was a "60 Minutes" correspondent when she left CBS News to join ABC in February 1989, at a reported salary of \$1.6 million per year.

Before joining CBS in 1978, she had worked at the White House as chief assistant to Ron Ziegler, press secretary for President Nixon. She also helped Nixon with his memoirs after his resignation.

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