

First witnesses testify in Whitewater case

WASHINGTON — White House officials testified before a federal grand jury about the Whitewater affair Thursday and the administration gave investigators an attaché case full of subpoenaed documents.

The leadoff witnesses were two of Hillary Rodham Clinton's senior aides: chief of staff Margaret Williams and press secretary Lisa Caputo. President Clinton's communications chief, Mark Gearan, also was ready to testi-



President Bill Clinton

fy. Seven other administration officials under subpoena were allowed to testify.

The officials were subpoenaed in a probe of whether the White House intruded improperly in investigations of the Clintons' interest in the failed Whitewater land deal and its ties to a collapsed savings and loan.

A dozen demonstrators who described themselves as members of conservative groups milled about with posters reading, "Shred No More," "Fess Up," "Please, All Documents" and "Stop the Coverup."

The president, in New York for a series of appearances, complained to one audience about people in Washington "using extreme words to characterize conduct or activity or positions. The other politicians do it, the media do it, always trying to twist it like taffy to the 10th degree."

The president was accompanied by Bruce Lindsey, a close confidant who was among those subpoenaed.

Sen. William Cohen, R-Maine, said congressional hearings could begin by "the middle of May or perhaps even June first." Democrats are resisting the hearings, accusing the GOP of

merely trying to make political hay at Clinton's expense.

The subpoenaed documents were delivered to the grand jury by White House Deputy Counsel Joel Klein, Associate Counsel Marvin Krislov and Chris Cerf, general counsel for the White House Office of Administration.

About 1,000 pages of notes, letters, memos, phone logs and newspaper clippings related to Whitewater were collected in a week of searching by 400 White House employees. Duplicates made up at least half of the packet, an administration official said.

The White House did not exercise executive privilege to withhold any documents, Klein said, but he refused to say whether the president or first lady turned over any material.

Klein merely said that the Clintons had complied, meaning they either had no documents covered by the subpoena or had turned them over.

Between 30 and 50 employees provided documents to special prosecutor Robert Fiske. The papers were culled from a much larger batch of documents submitted by the staff and winnowed down by the counsel's office under the direction of Fiske's aides.

Christopher tries to sway Japan

TOKYO — After pointedly telling Japan's prime minister, "Great nations keep their commitments," Secretary of State Warren Christopher tried Friday to convince private business leaders that trade concessions were in their interest.

Christopher met Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata Thursday, then said, "I think they understand better tonight that I feel at least there is an issue of credibility in carrying out agreements."

In an effort to reach beyond the Japanese government and bureaucracy, Christopher planned to lay out U.S. views of trade disagreements with Japan in a speech Friday to an influential business group, Keizai Doyukai.

The group's membership includes Japanese businesses that tend to support eliminating barriers to foreign goods.

After his speech, Christopher was to fly to Beijing for difficult discussions with Chinese leaders

on human rights.

In Tokyo, during a 30-minute news conference at the U.S. Embassy, Christopher said his discussions with the Japanese were "straightforward and, I believe, candid."

"I can't say that we reached any breakthroughs," he said.

Christopher said he reminded the Japanese leaders of commitments to reduce their trade surplus and to open their domestic market to more imports.

Hosokawa made no commitments about specific economic measures, a foreign ministry official told reporters.

But the official, who spoke only on condition he not be identified, said that Hosokawa recognized there is a problem that must be resolved as soon as possible.

At the heart of the problem is Japan's trade surplus of more than \$100 billion with the rest of the world, including \$59.3 billion with the United States.



Serbs block relief to 19,000 Muslims

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Stymied for days by Bosnian Serbs, a U.N. aid convoy Thursday gave up trying to reach 19,000 desperate Muslims trapped by roaring artillery in the town of Maglaj.

The failure was a demoralizing setback for the U.N. relief effort in Bosnia, and it demonstrated that Serb forces can still stop deliveries at will.

"Once again the Bosnian Serbs have succeeded in delaying and preventing delivery of humanitarian aid," Peter Kessler, a U.N. relief agency spokesman in Sarajevo, said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, issued a statement in Geneva condemning the interference with the convoy.

"In the past few weeks, the delivery of humanitarian aid has improved over most of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but Maglaj stands out as a stark exception," she said.

Maglaj has been surrounded by Serb and Croat forces for most of the past nine months. Pounding by artil-

lery has continued despite a month-old cease-fire between Serbs and the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo, 50 miles south.

The convoy of 10 trucks, carrying 92 tons of supplies, got within a few miles of Maglaj, but Serbs manning the last checkpoint warned that they could not guarantee its safety because of fighting ahead.

The U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose, has pledged to take a tougher line with combatants who interfere with aid convoys.

Rose has complained that U.N. peacekeepers already are stretched too thin trying to police the Sarajevo cease-fire and another that continues to hold between Muslim and Croat forces in central Bosnia.

He has asked for nearly 11,000 additional troops. There were signs Thursday that at least some would be on the way soon. British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said his country would send 900 more soldiers.

Palestinians take revenge on Jews

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank — Palestinians, still angry two weeks after a Jewish settler massacred Muslim worshippers, attacked the main Jewish enclave with stones and burning tires Thursday.

Israeli troops answered the attack, which occurred after a curfew was briefly lifted, with bullets and tear gas. Sixteen Palestinians were wounded, one seriously, and two dozen were treated for tear-gas inhalation.

Some of the protesters yelled "settlers out!" and others set tires ablaze and rolled them toward army positions. Protests erupted near the Tomb of the Patriarchs where the massacre took place.

Troops protecting the Beit Hadassah settler compound fired tear gas, live ammunition and rubber bullets into groups of Palestinians, some hurling stones with slingshots.

The PLO has demanded that Beit Hadassah and several other settlements be evacuated to reduce tensions and clear the way for resumption of Israel-PLO peace talks.

Palestinian sources said Thursday that PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were expected to meet in Washington within two weeks to try to get the talks back on track.

Israel rejected a pitch by Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to

“
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—Peres, foreign minister

gather all parties to the Middle East peace talks in Moscow, with Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres saying they had to focus on the agreements already signed.

But Kozyrev is due in the region Saturday bearing a message from President Boris Yeltsin to Israel and the PLO.

Thursday's unrest began after the army lifted the curfew for two hours to allow Palestinians to shop for this weekend's Id Al-Fitr holiday marking the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting.

Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the 450 settlers in Hebron, said Palestinians used mosque loudspeakers overnight to threaten the settlers in Hebrew. "Your day will come, and we will destroy all of you," he quoted the message as saying.

Danny Hizmy, a Beit Hadassah resident, said the army asked settlers to stay indoors while the curfew was lifted, but several defied the request to show they could not be cowed.

Also Thursday, Israeli troops shot and killed an 18-year-old Palestinian, Moussa Dawas, during a clash in the Deir el Balah refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip, Arab reporters said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the massacre ended hawkish illusions that Jews and Arabs could live together with territorial changes.

"There was a sweet dream that the settlers and the Arabs would live peacefully," Peres told a business conference in Jerusalem. "How does it look today? One incident and it all cracks. All the cracks come out on the walls."

The rioting in Hebron came as an inquiry commission held its third session, taking testimony from soldiers on the Feb. 25 massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in which 30 Muslims were gunned down by a New York-born doctor, Baruch Goldstein.

Schizophrenia study under investigation

LOS ANGELES — A patient killed himself, and other mental patients suffered severe relapses after researchers studying schizophrenia took them off their medication without getting proper consent, a federal agent said.

The Office of protection from Risk Research, part of the National Institutes of Health, leveled the allegations against the University of California at Los Angeles in a report obtained by The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times.

The report contains initial findings and could change after the school gives its formal response, NIH spokesman Don Ralbovsky said Thursday.

A co-director of the study defended it, saying it is important to determine in early stages of schizophrenia if patients can maintain their equilibrium without medicine.

"Entry into the study was com-

pletely voluntary, and patients were free to indicate that they wanted to withdraw," Keith Nuechterlein, a clinical psychologist, told The Associated Press.

In the study, 23 of 50 patients under treatment for schizophrenia suffered severe relapses after their medication was interrupted, newspapers reported Thursday. Neither Glezos nor Ralbovsky would provide The Associated Press with a copy of the report.

The relapses ranged from depression to paranoia and psychotic episodes, Nuechterlein said.

One patient threatened to kill his parents and tried to go to Washington to assassinate President Clinton on orders from space aliens, the newspapers reported. Another jumped to his death off a building at the university.

Harding continues training after judge delays hearing

PORTLAND, Ore. — Her lawyers gotherto Norway. Now Tonya Harding has her sights set on Japan.

Thanks to a federal judge's ruling, Harding likely will compete in this month's World Figure Skating Championships in Chiba, Japan.

The U.S. Figure Skating Association planned to convene a hearing Thursday in Colorado Springs, Colo., to determine whether Harding should be banished from the sport.

But U.S. District Judge Owen Panner granted a temporary restraining order delaying the USFSA proceeding indefinitely.

The figure skating association

wouldn't comment on a possible appeal. But the draw for the order of competition at the world championships is March 18, and chances of a hearing being rescheduled before then seemed dim.

Harding was elated when informed of the ruling as she practiced at a rink some 10 miles from the courtroom.

Thursday, the Oregonian quoted unnamed sources as saying the U.S. Department of Justice and Michigan authorities have bowed out of the possible prosecution of Harding. That would leave any criminal prosecution for Portland authorities.

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