

U.N. orders attack; Serbs withdraw guns

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina—U.S. gunships were ordered to strike at Bosnian Serbs firing at French troops, but the raid was called off Sunday after the Serb guns fell silent and bad weather obscured the target.

The attack order, coming less than two weeks after NATO war planes downed four Bosnian Serb fighters, demonstrated U.N. resolve to protect U.N. ground troops. But the decision to rescind the strike after the Serbs stopped firing also showed that NATO sought to avoid confrontation.

U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi ordered NATO planes to strike at Serb positions near Bihac in northwest Bosnia on Saturday night following a series of attacks on French positions, U.N. spokesman Maj. Rob Annink said. A French soldier was killed in the same area Friday.

Annink said a Serb tank had fired at a French armored vehicle, causing no casualties. Two hours later, Bosnian Serbs targeted French positions with heavy machine gun and anti-aircraft fire.

The United Nations claims the right to call in air strikes to protect its forces.

NATO spokesman John Jeffery in Naples, Italy, said the French peacekeepers asked for air support late Saturday. Two U.S. AC-130 Specter gunships based in Brindisi, Italy, were ordered on an attack

mission, but U.N. ground controllers called off the strike early Sunday.

"Mr. Akashi gave permission for close air support, but due to weather circumstances and the fact that the weapons withdrew, there was no air strike," Annink said. French Premier Edouard Balladur and Defense Minister Francois Leotard inspected French troops in the area Sunday. A Balladur spokesman in Paris, who asked for anonymity, said Balladur wanted to visit the soldiers "because they felt like they're being forgotten and shot like rabbits."

Bihac, as well as the desperate Muslim enclave of Maglaj in central Bosnia, were rocked anew by Serb artillery fire early Sunday. But Bosnian radio said the barrages stopped when NATO planes swooped low over the two besieged areas.

On Feb. 28, NATO jets shot down four Serb warplanes in northern Bosnia. NATO said the Serb planes had ignored several warnings to leave a U.N.-imposed no-fly zone and were observed bombing an area controlled by the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

It was the first military strike by NATO in its 44-year history. It came after repeated threats by the alliance to intervene to back U.N. resolutions aimed at ending nearly two years of civil war in Bosnia.

New leader ensures voting

MMABATHO, South Africa—A South African diplomat took over as leader of Bophuthatswana without ceremony Sunday to ensure the black homeland takes part in South Africa's first all-race election.

Ambassador Tjaart van der Walt said a return to normal life was essential so political campaigning could begin in a stable climate. He also assured residents he would address complaints that led to strikes and protests against the homeland's president, Lucas Mangope.

Although Bophuthatswana is nominally independent, it will be reincorporated into South Africa under the new constitution. The government body overseeing the election has been given authority to ensure the balloting takes place.

The pre-dawn announcement that South Africa no longer recognized President Mangope's authority appeared to defuse civil unrest that killed at least 24 people last week.

The takeover showed the resolve of South Africa's white-minority government and the African National Congress to open the entire country to free political activity. The ANC had been pressing for Mangope's oust for several days because he opposed participation in the April 26-28 election.

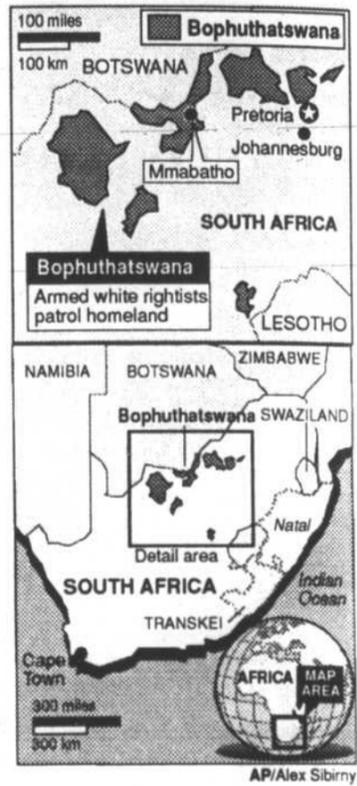
The election is opposed by some whites and by the Inkatha Freedom Party led by Zulu nationalist Mangosuthu Buthelezi. Some fear the opposition could increase political violence and disrupt the election.

Buthelezi condemned the takeover of Bophuthatswana, saying that Mangope had been brought down by violence orchestrated by the ANC, its Communist Party ally and the government.

"There appear to be indications that the same strategies are being devised for action in KwaZulu, the Zulus' homeland, he said.

People in Mmbatho, Bophuthatswana's capital, and the neighboring business center of Mafikeng reacted warily to the news that Mangope was out. Many said they lacked faith that a South African official backed by South African troops would improve the situation.

Mangope, who had been president since Bophuthatswana was declared independent in 1977, agreed Friday to participate in the election. But he made the concession only after his security forces began backing ANC protesters; at that, he agreed only to run himself and did not pledge to allow others to campaign in Bophuthatswana.



Virginia lawmakers approve incentives for Disney park

RICHMOND, Va.—Walt Disney Co. moved a step closer to building its American history theme park when state lawmakers agreed to provide \$160 million in incentives.

"This is a project that will be the envy of the entire nation," said Gov. George Allen, who made Disney his top priority during the legislative session.

The state agreed Saturday to finance \$131 million in highway improvements and provide other subsidies for the park in rural Prince William County, about 35 miles west of Washington, D.C.

Disney also will get \$13 million for tourism promotion and \$1.8 million for employee training. The state will

build a \$2.5 million visitors' center on land donated by Disney.

"I think it's a great day for Virginia," Mark Pacala, a Disney senior vice president, said.

Pacala said Disney hopes to break ground for the park in late 1995 and open in 1998.

Disney's plan is opposed by some area residents worried about about traffic and urban sprawl that would spoil the pristine countryside.

Supporters of the project depict critics as fox-hunting elitists who oppose any development. They argued that the state needed the estimated 19,000 jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenues the project would generate.

NASA budget cuts raise safety fears

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—NASA budget cuts and a string of problems with crucial space shuttle parts have raised fears of another Challenger disaster.

In the past few months, NASA has investigated one serious shuttle issue after another: booster pressure spikes, glued engine pumps, flawed engine welds.

Daniel Mulville, director of NASA's engineering and quality management division, said the problems are unrelated and in no way suggest "we have been lax in our standards or compromise our standards."

But Alex Roland, a former NASA historian who now teaches at Duke University, said he is worried and has been for years.

"They're getting a little more comfortable, perhaps too comfortable, and

that's what happened with Challenger," Roland said.

John Pike, head of the Federation of American Scientists' space policy project, also said he fears another accident.

Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff Jan. 28, 1986, after combustible gas leaked from an O-ring joint on the right solid rocket booster. All seven people aboard were killed. It was NASA's 25th shuttle flight, Columbia's two-week research mission, due to end Friday, is No. 61.

NASA estimates the odds of a catastrophic failure during the shuttle's 8 1/2-minute climb to orbit, the most dangerous part of the flight, at 1 in 75.

But those estimates don't factor in recent cuts that have trimmed NASA's budget by hundreds of millions of dollars and forced the agency to delay

some safety improvements.

NASA's proposed budget for the next fiscal year contains \$3.3 billion for the shuttle program, down from \$3.5 billion this year, which was down from \$3.9 billion last year.

"This is it. We can't get any closer to the bone," NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin warned when the proposed budget was presented to Congress last month.

The head of NASA's space flight program, Jeremiah Pearson III, insists that safety is, and will remain, paramount.

To save money, NASA has eliminated shuttle work deemed redundant, deferred safety improvements and, since 1988, reduced the production of main engines from five to two a year. Each engine costs more than \$40 million.

Security alert closes British airports

LONDON — Heathrow and Gatwick, London's two major airports, closed Sunday night in a security alert after coded warnings were received. The closure came less than a day after the third mortar attack on Heathrow in a week.

The most recent attack was Sunday morning. In all, 12 shells have been fired at Heathrow but failed to explode. The Irish Republican Army claimed responsibility for the first attack.

No one has been hurt, but traffic has been severely disrupted.

Heathrow authorities said Sunday night that passengers were being held in secure terminal areas. They said perimeter roads had also been closed, and a security plan was put into effect.

Scotland Yard said warnings were made against Heathrow and Gatwick airports, and contingency plans have been implemented at both airports. The warnings contain codes known to authorities that appear to make them authentic.

Four mortar shells hit Heathrow Sunday morning, one landing on the roof of Terminal Four, which is used primarily for British Airways international flights, while the three others landed nearby.

The shells were fired despite a substantial increase in security, including armed police patrols, ordered after similar attacks Wednesday and Friday.

Previously, it had not been clear whether the shells were inadvertent

duds or if they were intended not to explode.

But David Tucker, commander of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said Sunday's shells were loaded with plastic explosives and failed only because "there appears to be a consistent mechanical defect."

Tucker said he believed the launchers used in all three attacks were planted at the same time, probably last Tuesday or Wednesday. They were set off by timers. After the first attack, Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political ally Sinn Fein, predicted more attacks if Britain did not accommodate IRA-Sinn Fein demands for new communications with the British government.

Four parties file for RHA offices

By Stacie Hakel
Staff Reporter

Four parties have filed for the Residence Hall Association's executive positions, RHA officials said Sunday.

RHA President Raquel Wright said at RHA's weekly meeting that elections for RHA executive board positions would be April 5, with voting booths in all University of Nebraska-Lincoln residence halls.

Wright said that although four unofficial parties already had filed for the ticket of president and vice president, more students were encouraged to run.

Wright said RHA could not dis-

close the candidates' names until the March 27 filing deadline expired.

RHA president responsibilities include presiding over executive board meetings, appointing committee chairs, attending five weekly meetings and meeting monthly with a counselor for student affairs, Wright said.

The president also should expect to spend at least two hours in the RHA office each day, talk frequently with administrators, run errands, plan a fall retreat, submit awards and more, Wright said.

"You have to be willing to give all of yourself," Wright said. "You will live, think and breathe RHA for an entire year, and it's fun."

In other business, a bill was passed to make Glenn Schumann, interim director of housing, an honorary member of RHA.

Mick DeVries, Abel senator, said Schumann was an administrator willing to listen.

"He wants to hear what you say," DeVries said. "He's one of the rare people that I know who says, 'What's your opinion?'"

Doug Zatechka, director of housing, also was appointed as an honorary member.

Wright said Zatechka had represented RHA well, especially when dealing with UNL administrators like Chancellor Graham Spanier.

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Professional Adviser: Don Walton 473-7301

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