

## Human rights to be discussed

BEIJING—China on Tuesday told Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown it was ready to resume talks with the United States on the sensitive topic of human rights, discussions that the Chinese suspended a half-year ago.

The surprise decision seemed intended to reward Brown for pushing President Clinton to sever the link between trade and China's human rights practices. It also was seen as China's way of thanking the United States for Brown's visit, which both sides say marks a new era in Chinese-U.S. business ties.

Brown, leading an entourage of two dozen American business executives, is the first Cabinet member to visit China since Clinton decided in May not to make the annual renewal of China's most-favored nation trade status contingent on improvements in its human rights practices.

Clinton's policy change was an important boost to American corporations seeking to expand or establish themselves in China, the world's fastest-growing economy and biggest single consumer market. In subsequent months, businesses ranging from Boeing to Wal-Mart have announced agreements with the Chinese.

Brown told a news conference he was "exhilarated by the results" of his trip so far. He said nearly \$5 billion in business deals have been concluded in the first three days of his eight-day trip, but did not give details.

"We came with high expectations about our ability to have a profoundly positive impact on the relationship between China and the United States. We have already met and surpassed those expectations," he said.

Brown was informed of the decision to reopen the human rights dialogue minutes before the news conference.

He said Foreign Minister Qian Qichen would be visiting the United States at the end of September for talks, but said he had no other details.

China and the United States have been holding informal discussions on human rights since 1990. But that dialogue was suspended after Beijing reacted with fury to a meeting between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck with leading dissident Wei Jingsheng during a visit in February.

The flap over the Shattuck-Wei meeting helped taint the subsequent visit of Secretary of State Warren Christopher in March, when dozens of dissidents were detained or put under surveillance. Many of those detained remain in custody.

Only one dissident has been detained during Brown's visit, but that may be because the most vocal political activists are already in detention.

Human rights activists charge China has become even more heavy-handed in suppressing dissent since Clinton's decision increased pressure on the issue.

Clinton and many U.S. business leaders argued that using the annual threat to withdraw most-favored-nation status from China was not an effective way to bring about improvements in China's human rights practices.

By resuming discussions on the issue, China's Communist rulers have sought to reinforce that point of view. But they also may be hoping Washington will reciprocate by softening its stance on the issue of Beijing's application to join the world trade organization, or General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

China wants to join GATT as a developing nation and benefit from less stringent entry requirements, while Washington would prefer that Beijing join GATT under less favorable conditions, given its strength as an export power.

Foreign Trade Minister Wu Yi told Brown on Monday that improved trade ties would depend on China's success in joining GATT.

Brown and Wu signed an agreement Monday that establishes a permanent system of talks to identify new business opportunities and resolve problems.

The U.S. visitor said the agreements "lay a foundation on which we can build one of the most important business relationships the United States will have in the century ahead."



## News... in a Minute

### Judge Ito denies defense request

LOS ANGELES — A judge rejected a request from O.J. Simpson's lawyers to examine a police detective's military records, ruling Tuesday that they have no bearing on defense suggestions that the officer is a racist and a liar.

"Having heard the argument by counsel for the defendant alleging racial animus and propensity to fabricate ... the court reviewed the military file and found no reports or other information relevant to the issues in this case," Superior Court Judge Lance Ito said in a written order.

He said he weighed the privacy rights of Detective Mark Fuhrman against the rights of Simpson to gather evidence for his defense and decided against turning over Fuhrman's Marine Corps records.

### Dismissal requested in Jordan murder

LUMBERTON, N.C.— Defense attorneys asked Tuesday that charges be dismissed against one of the two teen-agers charged with killing Michael Jordan's father, arguing the prosecutor has withheld crucial evidence.

The evidence includes one reported sighting of James Jordan after the date he was supposed to have been killed and two reports indicating other people talking about committing a similar crime, said defense lawyer Woodberry Bowen.

"Most of these reports would have been in the district attorney's hands way back in the fall," Bowen said.

Bowen represents Daniel Andre Green, who with Larry Martin Demery is charged with first-degree murder, armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery in the elder Jordan's death last July. Demery and Green were charged Aug. 15, 1993.

### Threat to Clinton taken seriously

FALMOUTH, Mass. — A construction worker was charged with threatening to kill President Clinton after allegedly saying that's why he wanted to travel to Martha's Vineyard.

Glenn R. Armstrong, 26, of Uxbridge, pleaded innocent Tuesday in Barnstable District Court and was ordered to undergo 20 days of psychiatric evaluation at Bridgewater State Hospital.

Armstrong was taken into custody Monday at the Steamship Authority ferry terminal in Wood's Hole. Police said he told a ticket agent he needed to kill the president, who is vacationing at Martha's Vineyard.

The agent alerted police who made the arrest after Secret Service agents questioned Armstrong for several hours.

### Scout leader opens fire

NEW YORK — The Boy Scouts have fired a 24-year-old counselor for allegedly shooting a BB gun at scouts attending a summer camp, hitting one boy between the eyes.

Sean Turner, 24, faces seven counts of assault. He was being held in lieu of \$10,000 bail Tuesday after pleading innocent in Sullivan County, where the city youths attended the camp.

Turner fired at six of the 12 Scouts under his care, ordering them to dance, police said.

The 14-year-old shot between the eyes suffered a superficial but bloody wound.

"He would point the gun at us and we would all run," police quoted the injured boy as saying. He said he told Turner he "didn't want to play any more."

### Second NAACP suit revealed

WASHINGTON — The NAACP settled a sex discrimination suit against a member of its board of directors three days before it fired Executive Director Benjamin Chavis for inking a similar settlement without the board's knowledge.

In an October 1993 lawsuit, Harriet Diles accused board member Gentry W. Trotter of harassing her, defaming her and firing her because she filed sex discrimination complaints with federal and local employment officials.

The harassment, Diles alleged, was part of longstanding "policy and pattern of conduct" at the civil rights organization. She sought more than \$2 million in back pay and damages.

## Defense contractors to merge

NEW YORK — Lockheed Corp. and Martin Marietta Corp. are heading for one of the biggest defense mergers ever, a \$10 billion deal that will combine the makers of the stealth fighter and Titan 4 rocket under one roof.

Lockheed Martin, as the new company will be called, will employ about 170,000 people and have approximately \$23 billion in annual sales, making it the nation's largest defense contractor.

The companies said the merger, which both boards have approved, will allow them to cut costs in providing defense, space and other high-tech products to government and civilian customers.

The merger is subject to regulatory approval and shareholder acceptance. The companies said the deal is expected to close in early 1995.

John Deutch, deputy defense secretary, said the Defense Department would study the merger for possible antitrust violations and advise regulators on its findings.

"There appear to be very serious antitrust questions," he said. Such mergers are "generally a good idea from the viewpoint of the U.S. taxpayer, but this is a big enough one that the competitive aspects deserve careful study."

## Lockheed and Martin Marietta set \$10 billion merger

Lockheed Corp. and Martin Marietta Corp. announced a deal that will combine the makers of the stealth fighter and Titan 4 rocket.

### Company profiles



Headquarters: Calabasas, Calif.

Businesses: Defense and aerospace.

History: Founded in 1926. Government loans saved it from ruin in the early 1970s. In the 1970s and 1980s, developed the space shuttle's thermal insulation, the Hubble Space Telescope and the F-117A stealth fighter. Products include the Hercules C-130 military cargo plane and the Air Force's F-22 stealth fighter.

Recent news: In 1992, with McDermott and Olin, formed International Disarmament Corp. to dismantle nuclear arms; was picked by the U.S. Army to develop the THADD missile system; signed a deal with Motorola to provide satellites for its IRIIDIUM communications system.

Employees: 77,500  
1993 sales: \$13.2 billion  
1993 profits: \$422 million



Headquarters: Bethesda, Md.

Businesses: Aerospace and electronics.

History: Founded in 1917. Produced the first U.S.-built bombers as well as the Pan Am "Clipper" and the B-26 Marauder bomber. After WWII, reduced aircraft production in favor of missiles, electronics and nuclear systems. In 1953, began development of the Titan rocket. In the 1970s, won government contracts for the Viking Mars lander, the space shuttle's external fuel tank and the MX missile.

Recent news: In 1991 along with TRW, Martin Marietta won a \$659 million contract to develop Brilliant Pebbles space-based missile interceptors. In 1993 it was awarded a five-year contract extension by NASA to provide payload support for the Space Shuttle, Space Station and Spacelab valued at \$480 million.

Employees: 93,000  
1993 sales: \$9.4 billion  
1993 profits: \$20.9 million

## U.S. policy toward Cuba questioned

WASHINGTON — The United States talks with North Korea about nuclear technology and expanded relations, but turns a cold shoulder to Cuba. President Clinton sits down for a cordial chat with Syrian President Hafez Assad, but won't exchange a word with Fidel Castro.

Now Clinton is coming under pressure from allies and critics alike to ease the U.S. hard line toward Castro's regime.

"It really is incongruous that the most powerful nation on earth is unable or unwilling to talk to the leader of a tiny impoverished nation that's just 90 miles off our coast," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., one of the president's strongest allies in Congress.

No booster of Clinton is Sen. Alan

Simpson, the assistant Republican leader of the Senate. Neither would anyone call the Wyoming senator soft on communist regimes.

But he too wonders aloud why the United States can't talk to Cuba.

"If we're opening the door to Vietnam and North Korea, what in the world are we doing not talking to this guy (Castro), who's 91 miles away?" asked Simpson during an appearance on CNN.

Under strict orders to talk only about migration, a mid-level U.S. delegation will meet with Cuban officials in New York on Wednesday or Thursday.

If the Cubans raise other issues; the U.S. economic embargo, the possibility of discussions between Castro and Clinton, they will be cut off, says

Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff.

The U.S. delegation is authorized "to talk migration issues and that's all we will talk about," he said.

Tarnoff echoes the belief of the Clinton administration and eight predecessors, going back to Dwight D. Eisenhower, that with enough U.S. pressure Castro's regime will crumble.

"We have no doubt that the people of Cuba want a change, an overwhelming majority," Tarnoff said in an interview on Public Television.

"Of the presidents who thought he would leave soon, four of them are now dead, another four are out of office and he's still there," said Leahy.

## Daily Nebraskan

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