

U.S. officials foresee more violence in Haiti

WASHINGTON — With the flash of a gun barrel ending a week of relative calm, senior officials warned Sunday that the firefight that took 10 Haitian lives may be a forerunner of more violence in that historically violent land.

"This is the first bad incident we've had involving, directly, American troops, but it won't be the last," said Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., a member of the delegation that brokered the deal with the Haitian military on the entry of U.S. forces.

U.S. Marines killed 10 armed men Saturday evening outside a police station in the northern coastal city of Cap-Haitien, in a battle that ensued after several of the men emerged from the station and opened fire on an American patrol.

It was the first violent incident involving Americans after a surprisingly peaceful first week of the U.S. occupation, and it drew quick comparisons to hostile attacks against U.S. troops in Somalia.

While administration officials responded by assuring the American public, and warning the Haitians they were ready for more, congressional critics geared up for an attempt to legislate an early withdrawal from Haiti.

President Clinton, in New York for a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, issued a statement expressing regret for the loss of life and saying: "It must be

prepared to respond to hostile action against them and will do so."

Speaking at a church in Harlem, Clinton said the Haiti operation "helps to end human rights violations that we find intolerable everywhere but unconscionable on our doorstep and offers them (Haitians) a chance at stability."

Clinton did not mention at the church the violence in Cap-Haitien. But Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. John Shalikashvili said Haitian military leader Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras had been flown to the port city Sunday and the U.S. side was making it "abundantly clear" what the consequences would be if there were further threats to U.S. troops.

"They now know, he said on CBS' 'Face the Nation,' 'what the cost to the Haitians is for picking a fight with the Marines.'"

The officials appearing on the Sunday news programs also sought to remind the American public that no military operation of this sort can be risk-free.

Defense Secretary William Perry, who visited Haiti on Saturday, said he told U.S. troops that "they have to stand tall for that mission and that they would have difficulties. We fully expected difficulties, and the incident we saw yesterday, I think, is just typical of what we expected to see," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

But House Minority Whip Newt

Gingrich, R-Ga., said the incident underscored Haiti's similarity to Somalia, and said he will press for a resolution this week demanding U.S. withdrawal "at the most rapid possible speed."

Gingrich, speaking on CBS, said that after the firefight the American public doesn't "want to wait around for ambushes and for booby traps and for all the things that can go wrong."

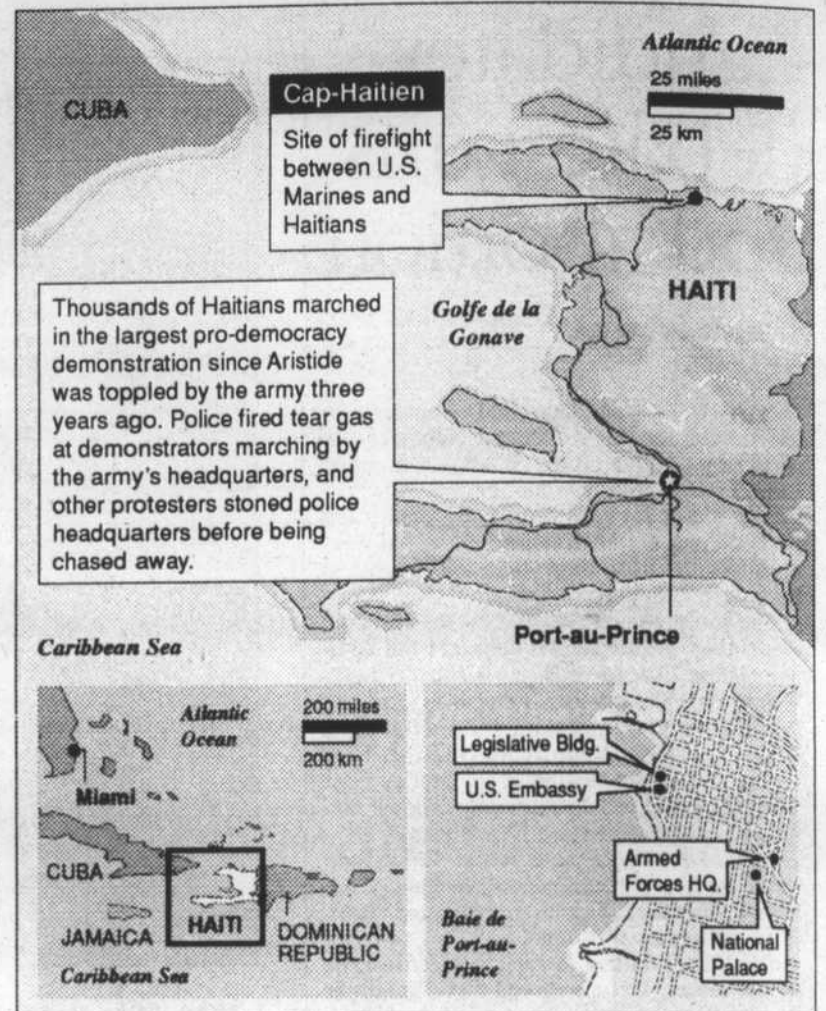
American troops left Somalia, another peacekeeping mission that began well, after the loss of 44 American lives, 30 in combat.

Nunn, also on "Meet the Press," said he opposed setting a specific date, but also warned against a broad mission of restoring democracy to a land that has had six coups in the last seven years.

"They've not had the ability to have dissent without violence," he said. "They have had a very violent history and they have not had democracy."

Nunn urged deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to seek an immediate end to the U.N. embargo on Haiti so that the frustrations of impoverished Haitians would not be turned on U.S. troops.

Aristide later said he was asking the U.N. Security Council to remove some sanctions as a first step toward restoring democracy, and said he had ordered the Haitian parliament to meet Wednesday to consider the question of amnesty for those who overthrew him three years ago.



Simpson jury selection begins

LOS ANGELES — After three months of endless publicity in the O.J. Simpson murder case, 1,000 people must look inward and answer a question: Could I be a fair juror for this man?

"People have a personal involvement in this case. Some of them may have been out there on the freeway that Friday afternoon," said Loyola University Law School professor Laurie Levenson.

"Both sides have to be scared of jurors with an agenda; people who want to send a message," she said.

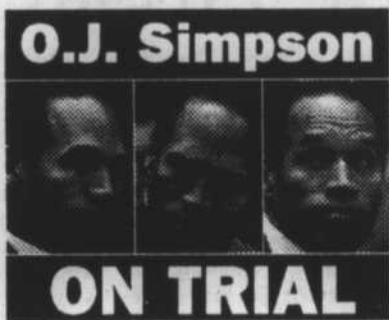
Those who raced out to roadsides to cheer Simpson in a Ford Bronco with a gun to his head and police in pursuit would be less than ideal jurors.

But as the first stage of jury selection gets under way today, lawyers on both sides are realistic enough to know that no hope exists of finding jurors unaware of the case. Nor would they want such a jury, Levenson said.

"You want someone on this jury who's at least heard about the case, because you want a functioning member of society," she said.

Yet jurors also need to be able to put all prior knowledge aside and decide the case on the evidence, Levenson said.

At a minimum, prospective jurors will know that Simpson, a former football star whose fame extended into show business, is charged with the murders of his ex-wife, Nicole



Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

They will also know that Simpson has declared himself "absolutely, 100 percent not guilty" and that he has the best team of lawyers money can buy.

Issues beyond bias for or against Simpson also must be considered.

Jo-Ellan Dimitrius, the jury consultant working for the defense, has pinpointed a new phenomenon in the Simpson case: jurors who want to get on the case because of its notoriety and the chance they will become rich and famous as a result.

"I've never seen it before," Dimitrius said. "Usually, people want to know how they can get out of serving on the jury. In this case, they're coming up to me on the street asking, 'How do I become a juror on the O.J. case?'"

Now, Levenson said, many pro-

spective jurors may be facing the reality that they can't afford the time to serve. Of the 1,000 people summoned by Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, more than 700 have already returned one-page questionnaires discussing their availability to serve in a trial which could stretch into 1995.

About two-thirds have said it would be a hardship.

If the judge decides he must sequester the jury to shield them from publicity, that would further limit the pool of available jurors. Many will not want to leave family and friends for the isolation of a hotel where their communications are monitored and visits are supervised by bailiffs. The pressures that can be added by that process are illustrated by other famous cases which have had sequestered juries. In the Charles Manson case, where jurors were in a hotel for nearly a year, the judge was forced to release them for a time when families demanded their return after an earthquake. Within days, a reported threat to the jury panel required they be sequestered again.

More recently, jurors in the Reginald Denny riot-beating trial reported disputes while they were sequestered. One alarmed her colleagues when she ran down a hotel corridor screaming "I can't take it anymore!" and demanding to see her boyfriend.

News... in a Minute

India in danger of epidemic

SURAT, India — An outbreak of deadly pneumonic plague eased Sunday in Surat, but government officials worried the hundreds of thousands of people who fled the stricken city could spread the disease to other parts of India.

Residents of the shantytowns that ring this city of 2 million, meanwhile, blamed local authorities for not moving fast enough to clear the animal carcasses and garbage left after recent floods.

Pneumonic plague is a strain of the bubonic plague or "Black Death" that ravaged 14th-century Europe and Asia. It's spread by fleas that have bitten infected rats, and from person to person by airborne bacteria. The plague has killed at least 51 people in Surat, a city on India's Arabian Sea coast. Hundreds of people were hospitalized.

An estimated 400,000 people fled Surat as authorities began spraying insecticides around the city and handing out antibiotics.

Cement shortage slows construction

OMAHA — This summer's ample sunshine has failed to brighten up the lives of many of the state's contractors who continue to be vexed by a cement shortage.

In Omaha, completion dates for a number of road and building projects may be pushed back a year due to the lack of cement, which is a primary ingredient of concrete.

For example, timely completion of the Creighton Fine Arts Building will depend on the cement supply and the weather, said Bruce Tresslar, vice president of Kiewit Construction Co.

A healthy Midwest economy and increased activity resulting from a number of construction projects being leftover from last year's soggy summer has been blamed for this year's increased demand for cement.

Ready Mixed Concrete Co., one of the region's largest suppliers of concrete, has been working an average of about four days a week or whenever there is enough cement to mix concrete.

World economy poised for growth

WASHINGTON — The world economy, after struggling through a painful recession and extremely sluggish recovery, is poised to enjoy the strongest growth since the late 1980s, the International Monetary Fund predicted Sunday.

However, IMF officials warned that world leaders need to correct some of the mistakes of the last recovery period if they are to launch their economies onto a period of sustained growth.

That was the assessment being given as the 179-nation IMF and its sister lending agency, the World Bank, prepared for their annual meetings, getting under way this week in Madrid, Spain.

The two agencies are the biggest suppliers of economic assistance to the Third World and have taken a leading role in helping Russia, Poland and other former communist countries join the capitalist system.

However, both institutions find themselves facing critics who charge that their harsh prescriptions for economic reform often fail to take into account their adverse impacts on the poor and the fact that the economic development funded by billions of dollars in loans often harms the environment.

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