

Clinton arrives for 6-nation Mideast tour

CAIRO, Egypt—President Clinton made a post-midnight visit to the tomb of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on Wednesday to start a six-nation Mideast mission he said was "inspired by a dream of peace."

The visit to the grave of an assassinated leader underscored a dream still disturbed by discord and threats of violence.

Clinton will attend the signing of an Israel-Jordan peace agreement today, meet with President Hafez Assad in Syria on Thursday and call on Friday on U.S. troops rushed to the Persian Gulf earlier this month after Iraqi troops were seen massing near Kuwait's border.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak greeted Clinton upon his arrival at the airport here. The two leaders, accompanied by their wives, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Suzanne Mubarak, headed immediately for the tomb of Sadat, who led the move toward Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel. There were no public statements.

Clinton bowed his head and seemed to say a brief prayer as he stood before the tomb. Sadat's white grave sits with the black tomb of Egypt's unknown soldiers under a pyramid-shaped monument near where the Egyptian leader was slain by members of the extremist group Jihad, or Holy War, on Oct. 6, 1981.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher

cautioned against overly high expectations from Clinton's upcoming controversial visit to Syria.

His first stop was Cairo.

"I would urge that the best way to evaluate ... the president's trip is to look back on it six months from now, not to try to evaluate it in present-day terms," Christopher said aboard Air Force One.

Asked whether the United States was prepared to take Syria off the list of terrorist nations, Christopher said it would not happen as a result of this trip.

"We look for action," he said.

Christopher said Clinton would not have embarked on the trip if officials did not feel they could ensure adequate security.

As he left for the five-day trip, Clinton sought to coax other nations in the region to follow the example of Israel and Jordan and bury ancient hostilities.

"This trip is more than a celebration of another important step toward peace; it's an opportunity to pursue new steps," Clinton said in comments that appeared to be directed mainly at Syria.

The trip is Clinton's fourth overseas trip this year, and offers him a chance to turn attention away from a contentious midterm election season at home in which his party is expected to suffer heavy losses.

"The time has arrived for all parties to follow the brave and hopeful inspiration of Israel and Jordan," Clinton said in daybreak remarks at the White House before heading to nearby Andrews Air Force base for the 10-hour flight to Cairo.

"Today I embark on a mission inspired by a dream of peace—a dream as ancient as the peoples I will visit, a dream that, now, after years of struggle, has a new chance of becoming a reality."

The region has been rocked repeatedly by violence, including last Wednesday's deadly bus bombing in Israel.

In addition to the signing ceremony, in a former minefield at Aqaba, Clinton was to address both Jordanian and Israeli parliaments and walk the violence-prone alleys of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Israeli security officials warned of possible violence by Hamas, the Muslim group that has carried out a series of recent terrorist attacks.

Clinton's plans have prompted Israeli police to design one of the largest security operations ever, with up to 20,000 officers deployed nationwide and 6,000 for the Jerusalem stretch alone.

Clinton mentioned the violence: "For all the progress toward peace, indeed, because of that progress, we have witnessed a new wave of terrorism and violence. No step on

this long journey requires more patience, more discipline, more courage, than the steps still to come."

Among recent presidents, Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter and George Bush all traveled to the region:

- Bush visited Egypt and Saudi Arabia in 1990 during the U.S. buildup before the Persian Gulf War. He also met Syrian President Assad on that same trip but in Geneva.

- Carter, an architect of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement, went to the Mideast in early 1978 in an effort to prod both sides.

- Nixon visited the Mideast in June 1974, just two months before he resigned his presidency over Watergate. "I was fully aware that the success or failure of this trip might make the decisive difference in my being able to continue to exercise presidential leadership," Nixon later wrote in his memoirs.

Clinton said before leaving, "With so much at stake, it is more important than ever for the United States to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who are taking risks for peace."

The president noted that the agreement to be signed today is only the second full peace accord between Israel and one of its Arab neighbors. The agreement between Israel and Egypt was signed in Washington 15 years ago.

Chemical companies agree to pay for property damage

TRENTON, N.J. — Three of the nation's largest chemical companies have agreed to pay at least \$750 million to settle a lawsuit alleging their chemicals used to make plastic plumbing pipes and fittings caused damage to systems in homes nationwide.

Hoechst Celanese Corp., issued a terse statement Monday announcing the class-action lawsuit settlement but giving few details. Also named as defendants in the lawsuit are Shell Oil Co. and DuPont Co.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the settlement would cost the three

companies \$750 million or more, making it the largest property-damage class-action settlement in U.S. history.

Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, which filed the lawsuit in September 1993, said Celanese, Shell and DuPont produced resin products, including polybutylene, that were used to manufacture plumbing fittings and pipes.

The pipes and fittings corroded and leaked when exposed to chemicals in much of the nation's drinking water, causing millions of dollars of property damage, the group

said.

The settlement was filed Monday in District Court in Houston, where it must be approved to become effective.

"This is a landmark achievement in consumer protection," said Mary A. Parker, of Parker & Allen in Nashville, Tenn., and president of the lawyers' group.

The three companies will pay homeowners nationwide to replace leaking plastic plumbing systems and to compensate owners whose property has been damaged by the leaks, the lawyers' group said.

Few obey Ito's order to avoid news media

LOS ANGELES — A 60-year-old woman was kept in the O.J. Simpson jury pool Tuesday after saying she watched only recorded movies and avoided TV at work since the judge's ban on all media and bookstores.

Her answers were much different than those from other prospective jurors a day earlier who were rejected after admitting they watched football on TV, read a newspaper sports section and listened to a radio traffic report.

"I appreciate you taking the court's order so seriously," said Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, who seemed disturbed that others disobeyed him.

The woman said she had seen "absolutely nothing" about the case since Oct. 18, when Ito halted jury selection for two days because of the release of a book about Simpson's former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson. At that time, Ito ordered a group of roughly 80 possible jurors to avoid all media and bookstores.

Simpson is on trial for the June 12 slayings of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

When asked about the book, the woman said she had seen very little. On Oct. 17, she saw a snippet of a news report about it while watching a soap opera, which she had recorded earlier in the day.

"I fast-forwarded past it," she said of the news report.

The woman, who was told to return for more questioning Nov. 2, said she has been watching only recorded movies and co-workers have teased her for refusing to eat lunch in a recreation room that has a TV.

Jury selection began Sept. 26 and

is expected to last up to six months.

About 300 people who made it past the first screening were divided into three groups.

The first wave of about 80 people returned to court Oct. 12 for in-depth questioning about their beliefs, biases and exposure to publicity in the case.

Since then, the selection has been intermittently delayed because of pre-trial hearings, illness and Ito's concern about the book, "Nicole Brown Simpson: The Private Diary of a Life Interrupted."

The two remaining groups have yet to appear for in-person questioning.

More than half those questioned so far, 23 out of 44, have been dismissed, many because they disobeyed the judge's media ban.

"The jurors are doing their best, but the jurors, like everyone else, have been exposed to a tremendous amount of media coverage," Simpson attorney Robert Shapiro said as he entered the courthouse. "It's made the task very hard for all of us."

Shapiro has said he doesn't think Simpson can get a fair trial.

Deputy District Attorney William Hodgman said the new process of individual questioning, which Ito began after the book's release, is working well. Hodgman said he is confident 12 jurors and eight alternates can be found.

"The jurors are more comfortable," Hodgman said. "I think we are going to be able to get a fair panel, but we have to proceed very cautiously, very carefully and we are monitoring the situation day by day."

Several cases of rabies traced to kittens sold from pet store

CONCORD, N.H. — Doctors gave rabies shots Tuesday to the first of what could be hundreds of people possibly exposed to the deadly disease by pet store kittens.

About 40 people received shots at Concord Hospital.

And hundreds of people who might be at risk because they played with kittens at the store called the hospital and Hitchcock Clinic asking whether they should get shots.

"That's the problem with kittens — they're adorable," Public Health spokesman Steve Tomajczyk said. "People like to handle them. That's why we're concerned, because the cats had free access to the store."

Authorities said 32 kittens may have been exposed to rabies at the Concord Aquarium and Pet Store since Sept. 19. All but five were sold.

One kitten died of rabies over the weekend, alerting authorities to the threat. Another three kittens that died this month are believed to have been infected.

Health officials were waiting for test results on 14 kittens and searching for nine others that were sold. Five kittens still in the store were not

"You don't want to make things too sensational, but you want to make people aware of a potential health problem."

RICHARD ROSS

Doctor

infected. The only way to test an animal for rabies is to kill it and examine its brain.

No cases of rabies in humans have been reported.

Rabies is almost always fatal to people who don't get shots.

"You don't want to make things too sensational, but you want to make people aware of a potential health problem," said Dr. Richard Ross, the clinic's medical director.

Barbara Morgan took her two sons,

ages 13 and 8, to get shots at the hospital.

"It's kind of scary but little boys always have open cuts and blisters on their hands," she said. "That's all it takes."

As public health officials spread the word about possible infection, doctors geared up for mass immunizations.

Concord Hospital scheduled special clinics Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning and set up a 24-hour telephone line for patients.

"If there is any doubt, get the shots," said one clinic nurse who was counseling patients. "There is nothing else we can do."

The store acquires kittens from a few local families, said owner Tim Jandebour.

Each is inspected by a veterinarian, but cats cannot be vaccinated against rabies until they are at least 16 weeks old, and kittens are often sold before then, he said.

People can get rabies by being bitten by an infected animal or having an infected animal's fresh saliva get into broken skin, like a scratch, or into their mouth, nose or eyes.

**Daily
Nebraskan**

Editor Jeff Zeleny
472-1788

Night News Editors Sean Green
Chris Hain

FAX NUMBER 472-1781
The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1783 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9258.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1994 DAILY NEBRASKAN