

## Children's murders raise race issues

UNION, S.C. — The Rev. Jesse Jackson praised the sheriff who looked into the disappearance of two white boys whose mother said they were taken by a black carjacker, but deplored the racial climate he said her claim revealed. "The sick woman was innocent until proven guilty. The black man was guilty until proven innocent," Jackson said. "She exploited a climate of racial hostility and fear that is much bigger than Union."

Susan Smith has been charged with murder in the drownings of her two sons, 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex. Nine days after she claimed they were abducted by a black carjacker, police said she told them the location of the bodies.

Jackson, who laid a wreath beside the lake where the boys died Oct. 25, acknowledged that investigators had no choice but to question blacks because Mrs. Smith "did sound believable."

He said he had found no evidence of brutality or violence against the black men who were questioned. When Mrs. Smith was arrested, Jackson called on the Justice Department to look into the way the criminal investigation was handled.

"I think the sheriff handled himself under these circumstances in a commendable way," Jackson said.

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REV. JESSE JACKSON

Mrs. Smith, who is in prison without bond awaiting trial, was taken off suicide watch Thursday and placed in a regular cell, the Corrections Department said.

Union County Sheriff Howard Wells said he had tried to be careful during the investigation because a black had been named as a suspect.

"I said 'alleged abductor.' I said 'suspect' at every opportunity. I would not label, I did not use a definitive term, purposely. ... You take what's given to you and you follow it until something tells you differently," he said.

## Saddam Hussein's government recognizes Kuwait sovereignty

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Iraq on Thursday abandoned territorial claims to Kuwait that had origins in the Ottoman Empire, hoping to win an end to trade sanctions that have strangled its economy.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the National Assembly voted for "Iraq's recognition of the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait, its territorial integrity and independence."

The statement also said Iraq recognized and respected the "inviolability" of new Kuwaiti borders, demarcated by a U.N. committee after the 1991 Gulf War.

Saddam Hussein's ruling Revolutionary Command Council later endorsed the legislation, according to a dispatch by the agency, monitored in Cyprus.

There was no official reaction from Kuwait, where distrust of Iraq runs deep since it invaded the emirate in August 1990. That wariness intensified last month when Baghdad sent tens of thousands of soldiers to the emirate's border.

The White House welcomed the measure as a promising first step but said it wasn't enough to earn Washington's support for lifting the sanctions, imposed to punish Iraq for invading Kuwait.

The emirate was part of Iraq under the Ottoman Empire, which collapsed at the end of World War I. The British, who took over that region, gave Kuwait independence in 1961, and the border had been in dispute

since. The Revolutionary Command Council said Iraq's move was designed "to stress its resolve to comply with all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, prove its peaceful intentions and dedication to regional stability and security."

The statement, signed by Saddam, said the decision was effective immediately, the news agency reported.

If Kuwaiti recognition is "true in practice as well as in words, that's positive," White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said. "But there are a number of other elements to the U.N. resolutions that Iraq must adhere to before we can even discuss lifting the sanctions."

Iraq, she said, has to permanently stop threatening Kuwait's borders and stop talking about Kuwait as the 19th province, she said.

The United States has also insisted that Baghdad dismantle its weapons program, release political prisoners and return property seized from Kuwait.

Iraq's parliamentary session was attended by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev of Russia, who has been working with Baghdad to try to get sanctions relaxed.

"Let us not forget that there is a wall of ice surrounding Iraq, intended to isolate it, but the sun has now risen to melt this ice," INA quoted Kozyrev as saying after the recognition decision was announced.

Iraq's bid to end its economic iso-

lation has split the five permanent members who have veto power on the U.N. Security Council, which imposed the sanctions.

Russia, China and France have a strong financial interest in resuming trade with Iraq. The United States and Britain are not eager to end the embargo, hoping the hardship it has caused will bring down Saddam.

The United States and its Western allies had demanded that Iraq's top bodies — the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and rubber-stamp parliament — recognize Kuwait's borders before they consider easing the embargo.

### Iraq recognizes Kuwait



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## German feds bring down Nazi group

BONN, Germany — In the sharpest blow against the fascist movement in months, the government outlawed a paramilitary neo-Nazi organization Thursday and police seized knives, propaganda and bank accounts in nationwide raids.

The group, Viking Youth, is the fourth fascist organization banned by the federal government in two years. No arrests were reported.

Federal Interior Minister Manfred Kanther said Thursday that Viking Youth wants to restore a fascist state in which Jews would be forced to wear yellow stars and people the extremists considered "inferior beings" would be sterilized.

The group has been giving paramilitary training to young Germans and teaching them neo-Nazi beliefs, Kanther said.

According to the Interior Ministry, group members idolize Adolf Hitler and see themselves as successors of the Hitler Youth, a Nazi-era youth organization.

Led by 30-year-old Wolfram Nahrath, called the "federal fuhrer," the Viking Youth has about 400 members, federal authorities said.

Most members are adults, the Interior Ministry said. But school-age boys and girls marched at a Viking Youth rally shown on German television earlier this year.

Dieter Heckelmann, Berlin's interior minister, said the group has acted as a link between members of neo-Nazi groups that have previously been banned.