

Asia-Pacific nations support U.S. policy in North Korea

JAKARTA, Indonesia — In an orchestrated show of unity, President Clinton won pledges Monday from China, Japan and South Korea to keep pressure on North Korea to freeze its suspected nuclear weapons program. Asian and Pacific leaders also neared agreement on a free-trade pact.

In talks with presidents and prime ministers far from home, Clinton was closely questioned about last week's GOP election sweep.

Pledging cooperation with Republicans, Clinton said, "My strategy will be to have an open door and to have a lot of contact."

Clinton met privately with the leaders of China, Japan, South Korea and Australia and then attended a dinner opening the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC). The menu featured smoked Bali duck, oxtail soup, grilled salmon steak and mango ice cream.

Still jet-lagged after back-to-back trips to the Middle East and Asia with nonstop campaigning in between, Clinton joked, "I think I'm still somewhere between Jordan and Jerusalem."

Clinton held a news conference in a lush garden at the U.S. Embassy where his remarks mixed with the whistles of song birds.

He brushed aside objections from allies about halting American enforcement of the Bosnian arms embargo.

Clinton portrayed his move as preferable to an outright revocation of the arms ban, insisting, "We are not violating the arms embargo."

Asia is the world's fastest growing economic region, and U.S. trade across the Pacific is three times as large as that with European nations.

U.S. officials predicted endorsement Tuesday of a statement calling for "open and free trade" throughout

the region by the year 2020. Industrial companies would try to achieve the goal by 2010 while less-developed countries and newly developed nations would aim at the 2020 target.

Despite the trade emphasis, Clinton elicited statements of support for an accord to freeze and ultimately dismantle North Korea's nuclear program in exchange for energy aid and eventual diplomatic recognition.

While China, South Korea and Japan already have endorsed the North Korean agreement, Clinton showcased the issue because the accord will have to be implemented over 10 years and many details still must be worked out.

Clinton expressed sympathy for students who scaled the fence of the U.S. Embassy here and were occupying embassy grounds to protest Indonesian policy in East Timor, annexed by Indonesia in 1976.

Philippine earthquake kills dozens on Mindoro

MALAYLAY, Philippines (AP) — A strong earthquake rocked the Philippine island of Mindoro early Tuesday, killing at least 23 people — many as they slept — and destroying nearly 200 homes.

In Malaylay, a small fishing village on the island's northern coast, at least 23 people died, eight were missing, and 32 homes were destroyed, officials and police said.

Injured people sitting and crying in the rubble of their homes said moments after the quake struck a wall of water washed through their village on the mouth of a river.

Local radio stations reported at least 31 people died on the island, many while sleeping in buildings that collapsed, including a Philippine Coast Guard structure. Both stations quoted Rodolfo Valencia, one of the island's two governors.

Lourdes Masing of the National Red Cross in Manila said 188 homes were heavily damaged.

Mindoro Island still is recovering from a typhoon that struck last month, destroying much of the

island's coconut and rice crops.

President Fidel Ramos, who is at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Indonesia, ordered \$208,000 to be sent to the island to help rebuild destroyed homes. Food and medical supplies were being flown in on four military helicopters.

The quake, which occurred at 3:15 a.m. today, had a preliminary magnitude of 7 and was centered in a strait about seven miles north east of Malaylay.

Lasting about four minutes, the quake was felt throughout central and south Philippines, including Manila, 75 miles north of the epicenter, said Ted Sandoval, an earthquake specialist.

But Sandoval said no tidal waves were reported or expected from the quake, one of the strongest ever to occur on the Lubang fault, one of the area's most active.

The Philippines, a Pacific archipelago of 7,100 mountainous islands, sits on at least four major faults.

GOP ready to make changes

WASHINGTON — With their leader pledging a "very profound change in government" Republicans said Monday they would hold the House in session seven days a week if necessary next year to vote on a 100-day agenda ranging from tax cuts to welfare reform.

"This is time to be open to dramatic, bold changes," Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich told a crowded news conference at which he was flanked by Rep. Richard Arme of Texas, introduced as the next majority leader, and the leaders of a GOP transition team.

Gingrich later walked to the other side of the Capitol to meet Senate GOP Leader Bob Dole. On an unseasonably warm day, the two men sat on an outside terrace discussing their plans for the 104th Congress. "It's a great opportunity," Dole said later of the Republican majorities in both houses.

He said he expected close cooperation between the houses. "If he has a bill and we have a bill, hopefully they will be the same," Dole said. "We need to coordinate whenever we can. That doesn't mean we are never going to disagree."

Earlier, Arme said Republicans would be hard-pressed to gain the two-thirds majority needed for a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for lawmakers and to balance the budget. But he predicted most of the "Contract with America" would pass.

House officials stressed that almost nothing would be immune from review as they take control after a 40-year Democratic majority.

Gingrich, R-Ga., said he didn't "automatically reject" a cut in the lawmakers' \$133,600 annual salary, with a reduction in the amount of time Congress remains in session. He also announced creation of a bipartisan group to study changes in the House schedule that would make it easier on the personal lives of junior lawmakers with school-age children.

One GOP lawmaker suggested the Republicans might cut off federal funds for numerous organizations such as the Black Caucus; the Arts caucus and the Hunger caucus. These are groups formed by lawmakers to push a variety of interests within the House. Lawmakers donate funds from their office account to pay for them at a cost of a few million dollars annually.

GOP aides said it was possible the size of congressional committees would be cut as Republicans achieve

The GOP's goals

On his own, Newt Gingrich has embraced prayer in schools, an end to the assault weapons ban and fewer taxes on the rich. His plan for the newly powerful Republican party is more moderate. A look at the GOP's goals:



A balanced budget

An amendment to the Constitution would make a balanced budget mandatory.



Voting no

The GOP wants a legislative line-item veto, which means Congress could pass some elements of a bill and reject others.



Anti-crime

The GOP would eliminate social programs aimed at preventing crime. Repealing the assault weapons ban is not on the agenda.



Welfare reform

The party wants to limit recipients to two years of eligibility. Proposals for "work reform" have also been discussed.



Tax changes

The plan would cut taxes on capital gains and give businesses a break.



Family funding

The contract includes a \$500-per-child tax credit and calls for enforcement of child support laws, tax incentives for adoption and an elderly dependent care tax credit.



Military action

The party wants to prohibit U.S. troops from being placed under United Nations command.



Term limits

The GOP would limit terms for members of Congress.

their goal of reducing committee staffs by one-third.

Republican officials said hundreds of Democratic aides would be out of work, some relatively quickly when the new Congress convenes. Some Republicans reported being inundated with resumes from job seekers.

There was no clearer signal of the House's new order than the news conference at which Gingrich, Arme and others spoke. It was carried live on CNN and attended by an overflow crowd of reporters.

Gingrich and Arme said the "Contract with America" signed by more than 300 House candidates would be pushed to a vote within 100 days, as promised. The proposals include

welfare reform; a crime bill; a series of tax cuts, including a reduction on capital gains and relief for families and certain senior citizens; a balanced budget amendment; term limits and other measures.

"We will complete the contract within 100 days," Arme said. "If that means working seven days (a week), we'll work seven days. If that means working 20 hours a day, we'll work 20 hours a day."

The new Republican majority, Gingrich said, was "determined to get a very profound change in government for the American people." In a slap at the Clinton administration, he said Republicans would attempt to "truly lead."

News... in a Minute

Simon says no more Senate

CHICAGO — Sen. Paul Simon, the bow-tie wearing New Deal disciple who battled Robert Bork's Supreme Court nomination and briefly ran for president, said Monday he will not run for re-election in 1996.

Simon, Illinois' top elected Democrat, said he wants to retire before he loses his enthusiasm and doesn't want to mount the massive fundraising campaign necessary for another race.

Simon said the Republican landslide in last week's elections wasn't a factor in his decision, adding that he believes the Senate needs "people who believe we have problems the government can help."

Simon said he has no plans beyond 1996, when his six-year term expires, but made it clear he is not considering another presidential race.

Police kill gunman in shootout

SAN FRANCISCO — A drifter with a history of weapons arrests opened fire with several guns during a 20-minute barrage, pinning down residents, shoppers and diners, killing a police officer and wounding three other people.

The gunman, wearing a bullet-proof vest, was shot and killed by police after firing more than 100 rounds into surrounding buildings and Sunday evening traffic.

"It was like war," said Charlie Malloy, who abandoned his pickup truck when a bullet pierced the hood.

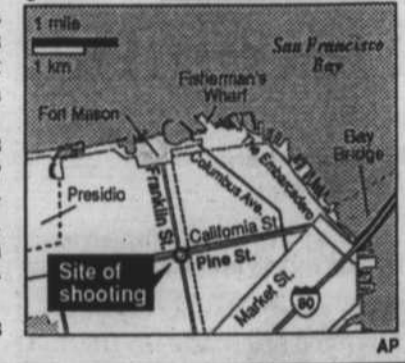
The gunman, identified as Vic Boutwell, 37, had been living in a van in the Santa Cruz Mountains for several years and also spent time in Mexico, police said at a news conference.

He was arrested five or six years ago in San Jose, where his family lives, and weapons were confiscated at the time, officers said. They also mentioned an arrest in Washington state, but had no details.

Police had not determined his motive.

California shootout

Beginning with a carjacking in Mountain View, a gunman went on a two-hour crime spree Sunday, firing 100 rounds into San Francisco buildings and killing a police officer. Police then killed the gunman.



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