

Bosnian government demands U.N. leave

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The government demanded the withdrawal of 450 peacekeepers from a base in north-east Bosnia, a top official said today, signaling a sharp deterioration in ties with the United Nations.

The government's minister for relations with the United Nations, Hasan Muratovic, told The Associated Press he sent a letter Monday to U.N. officials demanding the pullout from the airport at Tuzla.

The Muslim-led government is angered by the failure of the United Nations to open the airport and the U.N. decision to allow a Serb liaison officer there.

Bosnian army troops have blockaded 450 U.N. troops at the airport for the last week, along with some 600 other peacekeepers in the Tuzla area. Most of the airport troops are Norwegian.

"This letter is an ultimatum. We will not change our position," Muratovic said. He said airport contingent should begin pulling out by Feb. 1 and complete the pullout by March 1.

Tuzla is the largest city outside Sarajevo in Bosnian government hands. The U.N. commander there, Gen. Gunnar Ridderstad, said he regarded the letter as pressure to open the Tuzla airport.

The Bosnian government has long sought to have the airport open to U.N. and aid flights, and turned it over to the United Nations last year for that purpose. Serbs demanded a liaison officer to ensure that the government did not use the airport for military purposes.

"Despite even the presence of the Bosnian Serb army liaison officer at the base now, Bosnian Serb authorities continue to refuse our

request to have this airport open," said U.N. spokesman Paul Risley in Sarajevo. Serb artillery remains within striking range of the air field.

The order to withdraw from Tuzla airport was unlikely to cause more fighting directly, but it was a sign of ill will that will make implementation of a four-month cease-fire more difficult.

"The blockade isn't aimed at us," Ridderstad said, "but we are suffering from it."

He said land telephone lines were cut off and soldiers were conserving food and doing with less heat.

Another 600 Scandinavian soldiers are blockaded in a base north of Tuzla, but neither they nor Pakistani peacekeepers farther south are apparently affected by the government's order.

Sixth-grade dropout executed in Texas for rape-slaying

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A grade school dropout with an IQ of 65 was executed by lethal injection today for the 1984 rape and strangling of his 14-year-old niece.

In a final statement, Mario Marquez, 36, apologized and said he was sorry, then added that he wasn't responsible for all of what happened.

"I'm sorry for all the burdens I caused everybody," Marquez said. "I understand why I am here tonight. Tonight I am going to pay with my life."

After a brief prayer, Marquez said was ready to "come home." He was pronounced dead at 12:21 a.m., eight minutes after the lethal drugs began flowing into his arm.

As witnesses left the prison, there was a smattering of applause from some of the 100 people gathered outside the prison.

A sixth-grade dropout, Marquez was also accused of raping and strangling his estranged wife in the attack but was never tried for the crime.

Marquez's lawyers argued that retarded people should not be put to death.

"The public in the country overwhelmingly does not want mentally retarded people to be executed," Robert McGlasson said.

Prosecutor Edwin Springer argued that Marquez knew right from wrong.

"He's a very dangerous individual. I have no reservations. I have no doubts. He's quite capable of doing it again."

The Supreme Court rejected the appeal without comment Monday.

In 1989, the Supreme Court, in a 5-4 decision, said the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment

does not prohibit the execution of juveniles as young as 16 or adults with the reasoning capacity of children.

At least four other convicted killers who were considered retarded or claimed to be retarded have been put to death in recent years in Texas, which has executed 87 men since 1982.

Marquez was the 259th person executed in the United States since the Supreme Court in 1976 allowed states to resume using the death penalty.

Defense attorneys argued that Marquez was beaten with sticks, boards and whips by a father who thought he was "slow." Once abandoned to the streets at age 12, he turned to sniffing paint and doing drugs.

He was arrested in the slayings of his wife, Rebecca, 19, and her niece, Rachel Gutierrez.

Testimony indicated Marquez killed his estranged wife because he believed she had been unfaithful. The bodies were found at the Gutierrez home in a San Antonio housing project, where Mrs. Marquez was living with her mother.

When Marquez's mother-in-law returned home, he showed her the bodies, then sexually assaulted the woman before fleeing, prosecutors said.

Springer recalled that Marquez tried to attack a TV cameraman while being taken to court, stabbed a fellow inmate with a ballpoint pen and threatened to kill a prosecutor at the trial.

"The judge thought he was so dangerous he had him shackled in the courtroom," Springer said.

Former Treasurer says bad advice led to Orange County bankruptcy

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Former Orange County Treasurer Robert L. Citron portrayed himself today as the victim of Merrill Lynch & Co., saying its sales pitches and advice ultimately plunged the county into bankruptcy.

Citron said he believed he was acting prudently and reasonably in following a strategy that wound up producing \$2 billion in losses. Expressing "deep sorrow to the people of Orange County," he said: "I relied on the advice of financial professionals.

It was Citron's first detailed public defense since he resigned Dec. 2, two days before the bankruptcy filing of the affluent Southern California county. The committee, formed to produce laws to keep such losses from

occurring again, is part of a national examination of local government investment policies stemming from the crisis.

Merrill maintains it merely supplied Citron with investments he could have purchased elsewhere. It says that after warning him of the dangers if interest rates rose and offering to buy back the risky derivative securities it sold him, Merrill's duty was done.

"Merrill Lynch chose not to abandon this client because it, as a sophisticated institutional investor, did not share our views on the investment outlook," chairman Daniel P. Tully wrote last week.

To state Sen. William Craven that explanation sounded like a bartender serving an inebriated patron on the theory he could go elsewhere to get a

drink if refused.

"I think there's a business ethics question here," Craven said in an interview Monday. "When you know that something is not right, to go ahead and do it anyway seems not right to me."

Rather than sound an early alarm, Merrill "just moved in the direction of sales - sell! sell! sell!" said Craven, a Republican who is co-chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Local Government Investments.

Orange County, which has lost at least \$700 million of its money, has sued Merrill Lynch contending it not only sold the county unsuitable investments but knowingly allowed the county to violate debt limits set by state law.

Sen. Byrd stops advancement of balanced budget amendment

WASHINGTON — Sen. Robert C. Byrd, one of the fiercest Democratic opponents of a balanced budget amendment, today temporarily thwarted Republican efforts to advance the measure through committee.

With the Senate Judiciary Committee debating the measure, the West Virginia Democrat, invoked a little-used Senate rule to object to the proceedings. Under Senate rules, any senator may block any committee from meeting more than two hours after the Senate has convened for the day.

Republicans almost certainly will have the votes they need to push the amendment - the centerpiece of their "Contract With America" - through Congress and to the states for ratification. But Byrd's tactic indicated how strongly he and perhaps some other Democrats are prepared to resist.

"It's the acme of arrogance for us as members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to put forward a constitutional amendment to balance the budget without laying on the table so the American people can see what the plan is by which we expect to reach that balanced budget by the year 2002," Byrd said.

"I don't propose to be rushed," he said. "I may be run over by the streamroller but I don't propose to get

out of its way or just jump upon it and ride along with it."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, the Utah Republican who chairs the Judiciary Committee, said he would call the panel back into session early Wednesday to continue work on the amendment.

"I hope he'll restrain the use of this rule," Hatch said of Byrd, widely acknowledged to be the master in using the Senate's arcane rules to accomplish his political objectives.

The balanced budget measure is the linchpin of the Republicans' efforts to shrink government since it would force lawmakers to cut spending in order to balance the budget.

Committee meetings need the unanimous consent of senators to continue more than two hours after business has begun on the Senate floor. This consent is almost universally granted.

But at 11:13 a.m. EST today - an hour and 58 minutes after the Senate was called into session - Byrd said he objected to further action by the Judiciary Committee.

He said that Republicans, by not detailing what kind of spending cuts would be required to balance the budget by the year 2002, were keeping Americans "in the dark as to where the pain will be."

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436-9258
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473-7301

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News... in a Minute

Haiti moves towards popular elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Premier Smarck Michel has delivered a long-awaited electoral bill to Parliament, a key step toward the first popular vote since U.S. troops helped restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power.

The elections, which Aristide partisans are expected to sweep, will shape the political landscape in Haiti for the next four to six years.

Michel gave Parliament the bill on Monday. Once the bill becomes law, it will take at least three months to organize local and legislative elections, U.N. and Haitian officials say.

The mandate of the entire 83-seat lower house and two-thirds of the 27-seat upper house ends Feb. 4. Aristide will have to govern by executive order until a new Parliament is sworn in.

A new president is to be elected in December and inaugurated Feb. 7, 1996. Aristide is constitutionally banned from succeeding himself, but may run again in 2000.

Aristide was elected president in 1990. The Haitian armed forces sent him into exile in 1991.

He returned Oct. 15 after a U.S.-led multinational force disarmed and dismantled the Haitian troops.

Dads spend little solo time with kids

WASHINGTON — Preschoolers worldwide spend on average less than one waking hour a day alone with their fathers, according to an 11-nation study that suggests the feminist ideal of men sharing equally in child-rearing is still mostly "a lot of talk."

The mother remains the primary adult in a preschooler's life even when she works outside the home and the child is in day care, said the report by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, a private research organization.

In their survey of the routines of 4-year-old children in the United States and 10 other countries, researchers found young children are rarely in the sole care of their fathers regardless of the culture.

In Hong Kong, for example, the average waking time spent alone with the father is six minutes a day; in Belgium, 30 minutes; and the United States, 42 minutes.

American mothers - about half of whom hold outside jobs - spend nearly 11 waking hours as sole supervisors of their preschoolers each day, the report said.