

Clinton kills Iran's deal

WASHINGTON — President Clinton killed an American oil company's \$1 billion oil contract with Iran, accusing Tehran of terrorism and undermining Mideast peace.

Clinton's action Tuesday ended a Conoco deal that already was crumbling under pressure from powerful stockholders and sharp criticism from the administration and Capitol Hill.

The White House said Clinton would issue an executive order in a matter of days to block the agreement, which had called for Conoco to develop a huge offshore oil field in the Persian Gulf.

Senate Banking Chairman Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., a leading critic of the deal, praised Clinton's action but said it did not go far enough. He proposed a bill for a permanent and total trade ban that will be considered by his committee Thursday.

"The embargo we have today against Iran is a myth," D'Amato

"DuPont and Conoco pride themselves on being good corporate citizens in the United States as well as around the world. As a result, Conoco will not proceed with the agreement."

MIKE RICCIUTO
Dupont spokesman

said. "If we don't make it a real embargo it will never have any real impact."

The administration acknowledged that Clinton's order would not stop American companies from

buying Iranian oil through foreign subsidiaries and selling it abroad.

Using this method, U.S. companies buy nearly one-quarter of Iran's oil. D'Amato estimated U.S. purchases at more than \$3.5 billion last year.

It is highly unusual that a president would block a business deal. But in this case, after a week of embarrassing publicity, Conoco appeared happy that the accord was dead. The White House and the oil company worked together to end the deal.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said Conoco, a subsidiary of DuPont, told the administration it would terminate the accord based on an executive order from the president.

Outside government, there was powerful opposition to the deal from members of the Bronfman family, who are the top officers of the Seagram Co.

New software allows Internet phone calls

NEW YORK — Richard Haus has a new trick with his computer.

From his San Francisco-area home, he scans a list of people on the screen and clicks on a name. Suddenly, a voice comes through his speakers, and Haus and the person he has reached begin to talk.

"I've had a pretty clear connection to Italy," Haus said. "I've talked to people in the Netherlands and lots of different places."

The beauty is, the conversations don't show up on his long-distance bill.

Haus is among the first to use the Internet for phone-like conversations.

He and the people he talks to each have bought a \$50 software program that turns a voice into digital data, and then back into a voice the other end. It's the same thing long-distance companies do with their computers.

Two companies just started selling such software, and another has plans to do so this summer. And researchers at Cornell University are testing, with other schools and hospitals, software that allows video conferences via the Internet.

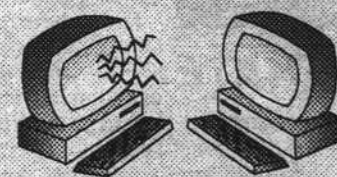
The sound quality is not as good as the phone, though it can be with the right sound board inside a PC. In addition, people can't talk simultaneously, so conversations end up being like CB radio. And you can only talk with those who use the same kind of software.

While the conversation may be free, the cost of a computer and monthly Internet connection are far higher than a telephone. And, of course, computers aren't nearly as widespread, mobile or easy to use as telephones.

For those reasons, the big long-distance companies don't fear a stampede of people making calls through the Internet.

A Net plus?

For the first time, consumers are able to buy software that allows phone conversations through the Internet. It could reduce long-distance charges but there are so many limitations that some experts wonder whether it will take off. A comparison:

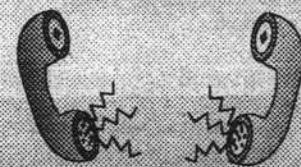


Internet phone call

Call cost: Free.

Other costs: Computer with modem \$1,000-plus; Internet access account \$10-\$30 per month; Phone software \$60-\$100.

Reach: People who use the same software and are logged in to the Internet when the caller is.



Regular phone call

Call cost: 10 cents/minute off-peak domestic; 20-30 cents/minute for cellular; international rates vary, typically exceed \$1/minute.

Other costs: Phone, usually woven into maintenance charges of a few dollars per month.

Reach: People who use a telephone anywhere.

First American cosmonaut orbits with Russians to Mir station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan — A new era of U.S.-Russian space cooperation began Tuesday when a Russian rocket streaked into orbit carrying for the first time an American astronaut.

The two nations that launched the space race four decades ago had met in space once previously, with the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz docking. But that was a one-shot deal — a symbolic gesture in the age of detente.

This time, both countries are committed to a joint space program that is to lead to construction of an international space station beginning in 1997.

About 20 NASA officials cheered and waved U.S. flags and Russians in fur hats poured champagne as the rocket carrying astronaut Norman Thagard and his two Russian crewmates blasted off Tuesday.

Less than 10 minutes later, they were orbiting Earth in a Soyuz space-

craft. "Our grandchildren will look back



at these times and read about them in the history book as two countries began a long process of cooperation in space," NASA manager Tommy Holloway said at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, 1,300 miles southeast of Moscow in Central Asia.

Thagard, Vladimir Dezhurov and Gennady Strekalov are to dock on Mir Thursday. They'll spend three months there conducting science experiments before hitching a ride home with NASA's space shuttle Atlantis.

Atlantis is due at Mir in June, just one month shy of the 20th anniversary of the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz mission.

This time, both sides are in an agreement that will see four more NASA astronauts travel by space shuttle to Mir over the next four years. So far, two Russian cosmonauts have flown on NASA's space shuttle.

Several hundred dignitaries and guests gathered in the bitter cold at twin grandstands a mile from the pad, including about 20 NASA officials.

There was no 3-2-1 countdown or the type of banter usually heard at NASA launches. Instead, a few seconds before liftoff, the Russian launch commentator reported the order to ignition had been given and at zero shouted "Zazhiganiye!" - Russian for ignition.

Defense cross examines Detective Fuhrman

LOS ANGELES — F. Lee Bailey took a scalpel to Detective Mark Fuhrman's testimony Tuesday, opening potential holes in his story how a bloody glove may link O.J. Simpson to two murders.

With tough, precise questions, Bailey confronted Fuhrman with inconsistencies, including Fuhrman's oft-repeated claim that the glove he found on a leaf-strewn pathway at Simpson's estate was "moist and sticky" with blood.

The lawyer suggested the glove was picked up at the murder scene, encased in plastic or rubber, then dropped at Simpson's estate by Fuhrman. Fuhrman testified he found it there early the morning after the slayings.

The glove, which prosecutors say was stained with the victims' blood, is key evidence against Simpson, who is accused of murdering ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Simpson's attorneys are trying to portray Fuhrman

as a racist who may have planted a bloody glove on Simpson's property because he disapproved of Simpson's interracial marriage.

It is said he would allow witnesses to testify about racially derogatory remarks allegedly uttered by Fuhrman.

In a testy courtroom exchange with Bailey, prosecutor Marcia Clark suggested none of the incidents really happened, including the one described by Phill Coleman, a black businessman, Coleman said he sized up Fuhrman's allegedly racist attitudes when the detective turned his back on Coleman as they were about to be introduced. Superior Court Judge Lance Ito told Simpson attorney F. Lee Bailey on Tuesday he could not refer to the incident in his cross-examination of Fuhrman because a refusal to shake hands could be interpreted in several ways.

Simpson trial update

Tuesday, March 14, 1995

► Defense attorney F. Lee Bailey suggested Detective Mark Fuhrman fabricated several details of his claim that he found a bloody glove on a pathway behind O.J. Simpson's house.

► Bailey said several witnesses will attribute racially inflammatory statements to Fuhrman. The defense is attempting to portray him as a racist who framed Simpson.

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News... in a Minute

House panel adopts GOP tax cut package

WASHINGTON — House Republicans pushed their "Contract With America" tax cuts through the Ways and Means Committee on Tuesday.

Democrats declared the package hopelessly flawed and abandoned efforts to change it. Democrats offered a single amendment — to end the tax cuts after five years. After that was defeated, on a 21-14 party-line vote, Democrats offered no further amendments and the committee adopted the package by the same vote.

The tax cuts would cost the Treasury \$189 billion over five-years, and Republicans vowed to cover that loss entirely by slashing spending.

"Not one single cent of tax relief will be provided unless it is offset by spending reductions," said Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas. He promised that Republicans would deliver the spending cuts before the full House votes on the tax-cut package, probably next month.

Yale alum withdraws \$20 million gift

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Yale University said Tuesday it has agreed to return a \$20 million donation for a program on Western civilization because the benefactor demanded the right to approve faculty appointments.

Texas philanthropist Lee M. Bass had asked that his 1991 gift be returned, the school said.

The proposed program — which had come under attack from liberals and others who wanted a multicultural curriculum instead of one devoted to "dead white males" — was never established.

"Although Yale had informed Mr. Bass that it was prepared to implement the program as envisioned in the original agreement, we could not honor the donor's new request to approve faculty appointments," Yale President Richard Levin said in a statement.

The Fort Worth, Texas, millionaire had no comment Tuesday, said his assistant, Viki Slate.