

## News... in a Minute

### Kidnapped American released

UNITED NATIONS — An American kidnapped in Chad was released on Monday after a week in captivity, a U.N. spokesman said. Anthony Johnson, a technical consultant for the U.N. Development Program, was taken to the U.S. consulate in Nigeria after his release, said U.N. spokesman Joe Sills.

No ransom was paid for Johnson, Sills said. He gave no other details of the release.

A Libyan-backed group claimed responsibility for kidnapping Johnson last Sunday from his home in the western city of Mao. The kidnappers said they seized him to show that Chad's government did not have full control over the country.

Sills said two Chadians kidnapped along with Johnson were still being held.

### Colon exam without the tube

NEW ORLEANS — Millions of Americans know they should have their colons checked for cancer but can't stand the thought of it. So doctors are developing a decidedly less unpleasant alternative—a colon exam without the tube.

Dr. David J. Vining of Wake Forest University, the principal developer of the new method, calls it "virtual colonoscopy," a way to combine X-rays and computers to examine the entire colon without actually putting anything into it except air.

The new approach yields a 3-D, from-the-inside view of the colon that doctors can explore by moving around a joy stick while watching the passing bumps and crevices on a computer screen.

Colon cancer is the No. 2 cancer killer of men and women after lung cancer. This year, an estimated 55,300 Americans will die from it.

The mainstay of screening for this disease is a skinny, flexible tube that is inserted through the rectum into the colon. The doctor looks through the tube for growths called polyps that may be cancerous.

## Hidden laboratory found within sect's holy building

TOKYO — In the cult's most holy building, a secret door behind a huge Hindu statue leads to a hidden chemical lab.

From there, an underground passage connects to a storeroom filled with all the chemicals needed to make nerve gas.

The discoveries Monday are among the many chilling details that police have revealed in raids against the secretive Aum Shinri Kyo sect, or Supreme Truth. The sect is the chief suspect in last week's nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways.

Ten people were killed and 5,000 sickened in the March 20 attack. Hundreds of people remain hospitalized.

Inside or near several of the sect's drab concrete buildings near the foot of Mount Fuji, police found rooms or underground containers that they believe were used to confine people who tried to flee.

Police documents obtained by Japanese media say the group is directed by a severe government-like network of about 20 "ministries."

A "ministry of defense" guards the group's facilities and searches for followers who attempt to escape; and a "ministry of health treatment" stockpiled large amounts of drugs and syringes, the reports said.

A "ministry of science," which runs the chemical lab, was researching advanced weapons for a "final battle" against outside enemies.

The functions of some of the agencies such as a "ministry of DNA" were unclear, and police have not commented on the reports.

Police believe the group may have regularly given stimulants to followers, and may have used them in initiation ceremonies for new members, the Mainichi newspaper said.

Former members say the sect also administered psychiatric drugs and "cleansing" treatments in which followers were forced to drink salt water until they vomited.

Police reportedly found 40 kinds of chemicals at the group's facilities. Japanese reports said the chemicals included: ingredients of sarin, the nerve gas used in the Tokyo attack; chemicals that can be used for making illegal drugs; and glycerine compounds that can be used to make explosives.

Police have focused on the first category, but are now beginning to investigate the other two, the Mainichi said.

Nearly a week of intense searches have turned up tons of chemicals, millions of dollars worth of yen and piles of gold bars.

In Monday's raids, police focused on a windowless building with a 15-foot statue of Shiva, the Hindu god of creation and destruction, and a separate statue of the god's hand.

The sect combines elements of Buddhism and Hinduism and claims 10,000 followers in Japan.

## Clinton proposes own cuts

WASHINGTON — President Clinton Monday promoted a multibillion dollar proposal to consolidate, cut or sell operations at five federal agencies. More than half would come from NASA.

Clinton promises "a government that does only what it needs to do but everything it must do."

In a veiled slap at deeper Republican budget cuts, Clinton said, "You can reinvent government—cut costs to taxpayers—without a mean spirit or a meat ax."

Changes at the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration, Interior Department and National Aeronautics and Space Administration are the latest installment of Clinton's "reinventing government" drive.

Most of the changes have been publicized or were in the works previously, but the White House hopes to promote Clinton's reforms by packaging the separate agency plans in lumps.

The president said the effort shows government can be trimmed without sacrificing summer jobs, anti-drug programs or his national service initiative—all targets of the GOP budget ax.

Clinton and Vice President Al Gore,

who heads the "reinventing government" project, in December announced \$24 billion worth of savings from several agencies, saying the money would help pay for the president's \$60 billion middle-class tax cut initiative. Clinton gave Gore 90 days to propose more changes.

Gore, who promises to make government work better for less, says the "reinventing government" project already has cut 98,000 jobs from the federal payroll.

The White House has accused Republicans of targeting school lunch, education, jobs and anti-drug programs for children. Republicans, who are proposing much deeper cuts in the federal bureaucracy, argue that Clinton's budget-cutting doesn't go far enough.

The proposed cuts include:

● Closing outdated offices at the Interior Department, including the unit that serves territories such as Guam. Eliminating the territorial office also deletes an assistant secretary's position, the official said.

● Turning over some FEMA functions to states so they can more quickly declare disaster areas.

● Consolidating the SBA's popular 7-A loan program, removing government as a middleman between banks and applicants.

### Clinton's cuts

President Clinton's planned cuts to five agencies:

■ **Federal Communications Commission**  
● Raised \$7.7 billion raised through frequency auctions  
● No positions eliminated.

■ **National Aeronautics and Space Administration**  
● Estimated savings: \$8 billion  
● 2,000 positions.

■ **Interior Department**  
● Estimated savings: \$3.8 billion  
● 2,000 positions.

■ **Small Business Administration**  
● Estimated savings: \$1.2 billion  
● 500 positions.

■ **Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
● Estimated savings: \$100 million  
● 305 positions.

■ **Total cuts over five years:**  
● \$20.8 billion  
● 4,805 government positions



## Strayed Americans in Iraq called 'spies'

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A top Iraqi official called two Americans who strayed across the border "spies" Monday and suggested they were intent on sabotage.

Still, Saadi Mehdi Saleh, Iraq's parliament speaker, indicated there was some hope for leniency in their case.

Saleh was quoted two days after the Americans were tried in an Iraqi court and sentenced to eight years in prison for illegally entering the country.

Saleh was the first Iraqi official to comment on their convictions.

The men — David Daliberti, 41, of Jacksonville, Fla., and William Barloon, 39, from New Hampton, Iowa — are both employees of U.S. defense contractors in Kuwait. They crossed the Iraq-Kuwait frontier March 13.

"Those two detainees were entering our border secretly and by illegal manner, maybe for political or technical reasons. And we have

detained them to know these reasons," he said, according to his official translator.

Implying their motivation may have been sabotage, he said: "We have no aggressive intentions toward those two Americans. But we have just applied Iraqi law according to the manner we do to all the foreigners who are coming for sabotage or other political reasons."

A translation by the AP of Saleh's remarks included the following quote: "Sending spies or saboteurs, we reject this equation and don't agree with it. The United States of America must understand this fact and then every problem will have its solution."

Conviction of the more serious charge of sabotage would have resulted in a minimum of 20 years in prison and possibly the death sentence for the two men.

Asked if there was room for leniency, Saleh said: "The humanitarian doors are not shut to them yet."

## Nuclear talks paused with North Korea

WASHINGTON — American negotiators are returning from difficult talks with North Korea over suspect nuclear reactors.

Negotiators return with suggestions on how to replace them but without an agreement to end a long-running dispute.

In describing the interruption of the negotiations in Berlin as a "pause," administration officials insisted there had not been a breakdown. Nor did they indicate the United States was reconsidering its insistence that South Korea provide pyongment reactors — a demand Pyongyang has been rejecting for months.

The talks were halted two days early.

"There have been some suggestions," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday. "Our people will come back and review the discussions."

No date was announced for a re-

sumption. "It's my understanding that they felt they had got as far as they could," said a senior U.S. official in describing the judgment reached by U.S. chief negotiator Robert Gallucci and his delegation after talking to North Korean negotiators over the weekend.

An agreement reached last October was intended to freeze a program at the Yongbyon nuclear complex that American analysts said was producing a bomb's worth of weapons-grade material a year.

In return, the United States pledged North Korea would receive two light-water, less dangerous reactors worth about \$4 billion. South Korea, which with Japan is putting up most of the tab, was to provide the reactors.

But North Korea has been balking at the arrangement, though international inspectors have given assurances the program has remained frozen.

## U.N. threatens to bomb Serbs

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Unable to stop the intensifying war in Bosnia, U.N. peacekeepers warned Monday that NATO may need to bomb Serb forces to prevent them from shooting at civilians.

The threat came as Serbs reported the fiercest fighting yet on a northeastern battlefield where troops of the Muslim-led government have been

*"Events are spinning out of control."*

■ **COLUM MURPHY**  
U.N. spokesman

gaining ground. The Serbs also said they launched a major counterattack on government troops in central Bosnia. And Croatian Serbs threatened to cross the border to help their ethnic kin in Bosnia.

"Events are spinning out of control," said Colum Murphy, a spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force. "Our worst fears could become reality in the not-too-distant future."

Murphy warned the Serbs that the new commander of the peacekeeping force, Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, would call for NATO air strikes if they deliberately shell civilians.

"There are no hollow threats," he said. "Attacks that deliberately target civilians will meet a determined response, including use of air power."

In Washington Monday, Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters that "we have long been in favor of more robust use of NATO airpower," and he said he welcomed the U.N. peacekeepers' warning.

A week of intense fighting has all but shattered an already tenuous three-month truce. Each warring side has blamed the other for spurning a political settlement in favor of more combat.

The increasingly confident Bosnian government army has seized 35 square miles of Serb-held territory as well as a vital communications tower in central Bosnia. A second tower in the northeast was virtually surrounded.

In apparent retaliation, Serbs shelled the government-held towns of Gorazde and Mostar over the weekend, killing a child and wounding about 20 civilians.

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