

Clinton, Jiang work for common vision

NEW YORK — In talks laced with tension, President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin tried on Tuesday to stabilize relations shaken by disputes over human rights, trade and Taiwan. The administration called it "a significant step forward" but acknowledged problems persist.

Clinton and Jiang talked for two hours at Lincoln Center after China demanded that the meeting be moved from the New York Public Library. A human rights exhibit at the library included scenes from Beijing's Tiananmen Square, where hundreds of pro-democracy advocates were killed in 1989.

Posing for photographers, Clinton and Jiang stood stiffly, smiled and

shook hands rather formally. The mood was businesslike.

"That's a very important photo," Jiang said in English, taking note of the symbolism of their talks.

Afterwards, White House press secretary Mike McCurry quoted Clinton as saying that it was "a very positive meeting and certainly the best of the three meetings that he has held to date with President Jiang Zemin."

Despite the upbeat assessment, the administration said it was not a problem-solving meeting.

"I would put the stress more... (on) resuming momentum, resuming dialogues and exchanges so we can solve these problems," said Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East

Asian and Pacific affairs.

"I think what was accomplished was a common strategic vision of the importance of the two countries to each other, to regional and global stability and prosperity, as well as to the benefit of their own peoples," Lord said.

He called the talks "a significant step forward."

Jiang indicated that his overriding concern was Taiwan, which China regards as a renegade province. "We have much to discuss on this issue," he said.

On that point, Clinton reaffirmed that the United States has a "one China" policy that does not advocate independence for Taiwan. Lord said the

issue was still sensitive but Jiang agreed it should not dominate U.S.-Chinese relations.

China was furious when Clinton allowed Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui to make an unofficial visit to the United States this year. Clinton told Jiang he couldn't rule out further visits but that they would be unofficial, private and rare, Lord said.

The two leaders agreed to try to cooperate on a new range of issues, such as fighting international crime and attacking the flow of narcotics. Clinton also pressed Jiang to open China's markets.

Clinton did not gain a firm pledge from Jiang to agree to push for an international ban on all nuclear weap-

ons tests next year, as Russian President Boris Yeltsin did on Monday. France, Britain and the United States are already on board. Lord said Jiang gave "a positive general reaction but without a specific commitment."

The Chinese leader signaled in advance that he was not interested in U.S. lectures. In a speech at the United Nations, Jiang stressed the importance of "noninterference in each other's affairs."

Officials said Clinton raised a number of human rights cases with Jiang, including dissidents Wei Jingsheng and Chen Ziming. Jiang demonstrated a "willingness to hold an exchange on human rights," Lord said.

News in a Minute



Tribe lifts nuclear waste blockade

POCATELLO, Idaho — The first shipment of nuclear waste under Gov. Phil Batt's deal with the federal government completed its route to its eastern Idaho dump site on Tuesday after Shoshone-Bannock tribal leaders lifted a six-hour blockade.

Tribal Chairman Delbert Farmer agreed to end the blockade after officials from the departments of Energy, Justice and the Navy agreed to meet Friday with the Fort Hall Business Council to discuss terms of future shipments across the reservation to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

The blockade began mid-morning when three tribal police cruisers intercepted the train. "The Navy and the Department of Energy have never communicated with the tribes to obtain permission to cross the reservation," Farmer said in a statement.

The deal ended a moratorium on waste shipments to the INEL in exchange for a guarantee that nearly all high-level and about half the low-level waste currently stored in eastern Idaho be removed from the state by 2035. To get the deal, Batt agreed to accept 1,133 new waste shipments — about 110 tons — over the next 40 years. There are 261 tons of waste already stored at the INEL.

More people evacuated after gas leak

BOGALUSA, La. — At least 1,200 more people were evacuated Tuesday as authorities tried neutralizing a toxic chemical in a ruptured railroad tank car that already had forced 1,500 people out of their homes.

The second group of evacuees lives in two housing projects less than a mile from where the tank car ruptured Monday, sending a huge pink cloud of poisonous gas into the sky.

Between 1,200 and 1,500 people had to leave their homes Tuesday in case the tank broke open and released more gas as emergency crews flooded it with chemicals to neutralize the 2 1/2 to 3 feet of liquid inside, Washington Parish Sheriff Duane Blair said.

Bishops: Family breakups better than sexual abuse

After a decade in which the sins of pedophile priests placed their church on the defensive, U.S. Roman Catholic bishops are issuing a forceful pastoral message that condemns the sexual abuse of children.

The bishops, whose church lauds the sanctity of family, declare it is better for families to break up than to leave their young ones at risk.

The Associated Press obtained a copy of the document Tuesday; it is to be formally released Thursday.

In the statement, the bishops acknowledge their own vulnerability and damaged credibility concerning pedophilia. For years, abusive priests received counseling but then were sent on to new parishes, where more abuse sometimes occurred.

While forgiveness is often seen as charitable and Christlike, all acts of child sex abuse are morally evil and only God can absolve abusers, the bishops say in "Walk in the Light: A Pastoral Response to Child Sexual Abuse."

"We emphasize that the community, including the family, needs to call the abuser to accountability," the

bishops said. "We need to say: Abusive behavior is wrong and we will hold you accountable for it."

The statement, developed by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' committees on Marriage and Family and on Women in Society and in the Church, was approved by the church's 50-member Administrative Committee.

No one has solid numbers on clerical pedophiles, but experts from every faith say the problem exists in all religions and denominations.

In one of the most recent examples, four Catholic priests in Washington, D.C., were arrested in February and charged with sexual abuse. One of them, the Rev. Thomas S. Schaefer, was sentenced last week to 16 years in prison for molesting altar boys in Washington and Maryland over three decades. A second is to be sentenced in December, and the two others go on trial soon.

Because of such cases, the organized groups of victims and the Catholic church's own sheer size and number of priests, it is the 60 million-member church that has seemed especially mired in the murk of pedophilia.

Leaders wrap up birthday party Joint statement focuses on revitalizing U.N.

UNITED NATIONS — World leaders wrapped up their largest gathering in history Tuesday, promising — with few specifics — to revive the



United Nations and restore its financial health.

Many leaders praised the United Nations on its 50th birthday. But one president who has seen firsthand the vast gulf between U.N. resolutions and resolve sounded a warning.

"Let us listen to what they are saying, but let us ask them what they are doing," Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said of his counterparts. "As soon as they return home, unfortunately, they will continue their course. It is up to us to stop them."

During three days of speechmaking, leaders expounded on poverty and hunger, the environment, population, terrorism, crime, the Bosnian war, Middle East peace and nuclear arms. In a joint declaration approved unanimously Tuesday night, they focused on the United Nations itself. More than 180 kings, princes, presidents and premiers pledged to revitalize the organization and "create new opportunities for peace, development, democracy and cooperation."

The statement also called on the United States and other countries to pay their bills.

President Clinton promised to work with Congress to pay the U.S. debt. But he insisted the United Nations slash spending, reduce bureaucracy and streamline overlapping agencies.

The three-day gathering was as colorful, as diverse and at times as unruly as humanity itself. Traffic in one of the world's most densely populated areas ground to a halt as police convoys sped world leaders to and from meetings around New York.

Protesters hounded controversial figures such as Cuban President Fidel Castro and Chinese President Jiang Zemin. On Tuesday, 800 Taiwanese marched through Manhattan streets denouncing the Beijing government's rights record.

The birthday celebration was overshadowed by the U.N.'s financial crisis and demands from all quarters for reform. The seven-page declaration, hammered out during months of consultations, endorsed numerous reform goals but offered few details on how to achieve them.

For example, it calls for expanding the powerful 15-seat Security Council, dominated by five permanent members who can veto resolutions.

But the document endorsed none of the various proposals offered for

reforming and expanding the council to make it more representative.

Various proposals include giving Germany and Japan permanent seats; designating others as permanent members but without veto power; and requiring two negative votes to veto resolutions.

Despite the problems, many world leaders said the United Nations had much of which to be proud.

"The very fact that this organization survived half a century of crisis and conflict in the world... is already remarkable in itself," Philippine President Fidel Ramos said.

Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide called his country's transition to democracy the "miracle of the century" and said the nation's economy was growing strongly.

A U.S.-led multinational force restored Aristide to power last year. Aristide was overthrown in an army-backed coup in September 1991. The United Nations has some 6,500 troops, including nearly 3,000 U.S. soldiers, in Haiti to promote stability and help supervise elections. The U.N. mandate is supposed to expire next February.

Aristide said domestic production has increased 3 percent, national earnings have increased 85 percent over the two years prior to his return and the budget deficit has been reduced.

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Phillips

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Although the campus, state and nation speculated about Phillips' return, Beck said McEwen had no feelings about the subject.

"I don't believe anyone can say what's in Kate's best interest but Kate," Beck said. "The only thing she can control is what her immediate plans are."

Beck said she was uncomfortable with the process it took for Phillips to return. While not directly criticizing the university, she said national standards were needed for violence-prone athletes.

"The end result is that they did what they thought was appropriate to him," Beck said. "No one knows what the needs are of the victim. They are more emotional than strategic, and the University of Nebraska has been as effective as it can be, but I'm sure there are some things we can do to change it in the future."

'Overwhelming disappointment'

Kriss said she was "overwhelm-

ingly disappointed" with Phillips' returning to the team. Phillips' university sanctions, which were announced Monday, took away his privileges but did not impose penalties, she said.

"If one of the consequences of assaultive behavior against a woman is to go to class, it seems to me there is something incredibly wrong with the system," Kriss said. "We are clearly sending the wrong message."

Among other sanctions, Phillips was required to attend all of his classes.

Many students and women from the community have called Kriss with their concerns, she said. Even football fans are outraged by Osborne's decision to bring Phillips back to the team.

"I talked with a woman who has been a long-time football fan," Kriss said. "She is so hurt by this action that she and six of her friends have sold their football tickets for the rest of the season."

Phillips' punishment for violation of the Student Code of Conduct sanctions also was too lenient, Kriss said. Nevertheless, Osborne's decision is final, Kriss said, so it is time to move on and try to prevent similar incidents.