

Clinton steps up sanctions against Cuba

WASHINGTON — President Clinton slapped new sanctions on Fidel Castro's "repressive, violent, scornful" government Monday for downing two civilian U.S. airplanes. Republicans said the punishment was too mild and accused Clinton of "coddling Castro."

The president suspended charter travel to Havana, demanded reparations for the victims' families and gave qualified support for a Republican-backed bill that would intensify the economic crackdown.

Under pressure to respond swiftly to the attack against pilots of an anti-Castro Cuban-American group, Clinton said the incident "was a flagrant violation of international law."

"It is wrong," he said, "and the United States will not tolerate it."

Cuba said the shooting occurred over its airspace, and that its pilots were provoked. "This is not something that occurs out of the blue," said Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's parliament.

The broad economic, diplomatic and political steps Clinton outlined were intended to isolate Castro's government further and inoculate

Clinton against soft-on-Castro broadsides from his Republican rivals.

But what he did was limited: He needs approval from Congress or the United Nations to implement some proposals, and the president did not fully repeal a series of steps he took last year to ease Cuban sanctions.

One presidential rival, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, said Clinton "laid an egg."

"After months of moving the wrong way — toward coddling Castro — the president has yet to understand that the only way to deal with Castro's tyranny is with real firmness and pressure," Dole, R-Kansas, said.

Still, Dole said, while Clinton did not go far enough, "I support these measures as steps in the right direction."

In a brief statement to reporters, Clinton said he decided to:

- Ask Congress to compensate victims' families from \$100 million in frozen Cuban assets. The United States wants the United Nations to press Cuba for reparations, as well as to impose international sanctions.
- Suspend U.S. charter air travel to Cuba.

"While (Clinton's actions) are all good, the president simply didn't go far enough."

ROBERT MENENDEZ
New Jersey congressman

Clinton loosened restrictions in 1995, and 120,000 people flew to Cuba from the United States.

- Expand Radio Marti, the U.S. propaganda network that broadcasts in Cuba.

- Order additional restrictions on travel in the United States by Cuban officials who live in America.

- Seek compromise with Republican lawmakers on a bill that would dramatically expand sanctions. But he did not address the major sticking point: his opposition to a GOP provision allowing Cuban-Americans and others to sue

in U.S. federal courts for compensation from companies that buy property expropriated by the Castro government.

"Saturday's attack was an appalling reminder of the nature of the Cuban regime — repressive, violent, scornful of international law," Clinton said.

Press secretary Mike McCurry called the sanctions "a price for outrageous behavior."

Though aides have said a military response is not being considered, Clinton said, "I am not ruling out any further steps" against Castro.

Republican reaction was swift and negative. "President Clinton's response today was tragically insufficient," said Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, R-Fla.

Rep. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., a son of Cuban immigrants, welcomed Clinton's actions but said "while those things are all good, the president simply didn't go far enough."

Clinton's decision followed a 75-minute meeting with his top foreign policy advisers. His political team invited Cuban-Americans to the White House for high-level meetings, hoping to avoid political backlash just two weeks before the Florida primary.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor J. Christopher Hain
472-1766
Managing Editor Doug Kouma
Assoc. News Editors Matt Waite
Sarah Scalet
Opinion Page Editor Doug Peters

Night News Editors Rebecca Oltmans
Melanie Brandert
Anne Hjermsman
Beth Narans
Art Director Aaron Steckelberg
General Manager Dan Shattil

<http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/>
FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9253, 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Subscription price is \$50 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1996 DAILY NEBRASKAN

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE



UNIVERSITY
BOOKSTORE

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 27, 28 & 29

SAVE 10%

DISCOUNT AVAILABLE AT BOTH LOCATIONS. EXCLUDE TEXTBOOKS, FOOD PRODUCTS, MAGAZINES, SPECIAL ORDERS, US POSTAL AND FILM DEVELOPING SERVICES. MAY NOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNT AND DOES NOT APPLY TO PREVIOUS PURCHASES.

LOWER LEVEL
NEBRASKA UNION

GARDEN LEVEL
EAST UNION

Coalition sues to overturn new Internet indecency law

PHILADELPHIA — A coalition that includes computer industry giants Microsoft and Apple filed a federal lawsuit Monday to overturn a new law restricting indecency on the Internet.

The lawsuit seeks to overturn the Communications Decency Act, which imposes a \$250,000 fine and up to six years in prison for transmitting indecent material in such a way that children could find it on the Internet.

The Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition argues that there are less restrictive means, such as in-home blocking software, to protect children or other users from offensive material.

"We believe that parental involvement, education and technology provide far more effective solutions to protecting children than this or any other law could," said Bill Burrington, general counsel for America Online, the largest commercial Internet service in the United States with more than 4 million members.

Enforcement of the act has been blocked temporarily by another lawsuit, filed here Feb. 8 by a coalition led by the American Civil Liberties Union. U.S. District Judge Ronald Buckwalter said the definition of indecency in the act, signed Feb. 1 by President Clinton, was

too vague.

The law defines indecency as "any comment, request, suggestion, proposal, image or other communication that, in context, depicts or describes, in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards, sexual or excretory activities or organs."

Sen. Jim Exon, one of the law's sponsors, accused the computer companies in the new lawsuit of being "more interested in profits from pornography than protecting children."

"We don't allow children to walk into adult bookstores, and shouldn't allow them to freely browse the red light districts of the Internet either," Exon, D-Neb., said in a prepared statement.

The new complaint will be consolidated with the ACLU lawsuit, said Bruce Ennis, Washington attorney for the coalition. A three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court here is to consider the issue beginning March 21.

The coalition also includes, among others, CompuServe and Prodigy, both commercial Internet services, the American Library Association, the Society of Professional Journalists, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Association of American Publishers.

Lawmakers open can of worms in Nebraska brewpub debate

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

Sen. John Lindsay of Omaha told a Nebraska legislative committee Monday that having local brewpubs sell their products to other retailers would open a can of worms.

In his introduction of LB910, Lindsay told the General Affairs Committee that the original intent of 1988 brewpub legislation was not to change the industry's three-tier system of manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer.

"Yet, by allowing them to sell to other retailers and wholesalers, we are starting to mix those licenses," Lindsay said.

Earlier this month, the General Affairs Committee advanced a related bill, introduced by Sen. Dave Landis of Lincoln, to general file. The committee took no action on LB910 on Monday.

Landis' bill, LB1088, would allow brewpubs to sell their beer via wholesalers at various outlets throughout the state.

But Lindsay said brewpubs never were intended to take over for former Omaha brewery Falstaff or any other of the breweries that have left the state.

"Brewpubs are intended to be a unique place where you can get a good meal and a good beer to go with it — and maybe take a little home with you," he said.

Lindsay told the committee he was introducing the bill at the request of Dave Begley, owner of the Omaha-based Nebraska Brewing Company.

"LB910 is needed to clarify the current law," Begley said.

Sen. Bud Robinson of Blair told Begley that he couldn't see how five local brewpubs could give his micro-brewery that much competition.

But Begley said it would only get worse. "With LB1088, you've opened some doors to some things the Legislature won't want to deal with," he said.

Linda Vescio, owner and operator of Crane River Brewpub and Cafe, 200 N. 11th St., said in her opposition testimony that small businesses, including micro-breweries, needed flexibility to survive.

"It is very hard to operate a large restaurant," she said. "The brewery helps to stabilize it."

"What we have is a restaurant and a small industry under the same roof," she said. "With a little flexibility, it will be much easier to survive."

Vescio said after the hearing that it wasn't that she wanted to disrupt the three-tier system, but that she just wanted her product available to all Nebraskans.

"Nebraska beer ought to be available in Nebraska," she said.