

## Chinese mock attacks may move to new area

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Despite signs that China may be expanding its war games to a new area near Taiwanese waters, Taiwan's president has ruled out sending an envoy to Beijing to appeal for a halt to the exercises, his office confirmed Friday.

President Lee Teng-hui has rejected the idea out of concern that conciliatory gestures would only fuel China's belligerence, his office said.

On Thursday, Lee flew to islands near the military exercises and said Chinese leaders are "scared to death" of Taiwanese democracy.

Chinese warplanes held a third day of mock attacks southwest of Taiwan, and also conducted "preliminary exercises" near Fuzhou, a Chinese coastal city 100 miles west of Taiwan's northern tip, the Taiwanese Defense Ministry reported.

Taiwan had warned that China may be planning even bigger exercises before the island's presidential election March 23 in an attempt to discourage Taiwan from declaring independence.

Lee, who is running for another term, was smiling and looked relaxed as he addressed a crowd in the Pescadores archipelago, 45 miles from where Chinese ships and planes were staging mock attacks.

Wearing a tan windbreaker and sneakers, the 73-year-old Lee appealed for unity and reminded the islanders of his efforts to democratize Taiwan politics.

"These are the things the Chinese Communists dare not do: political liberalization, freedom and

*"The reunification of the country is of vital importance to the Chinese people."*

Article in China Daily

democracy," he said. "They see freedom and democracy and they are scared to death."

The Nationalist government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war on the mainland to the Communists. China accuses Lee of now discarding the doctrine of reunification Beijing and Taipei had shared.

Meanwhile, an article in a state-run Chinese newspaper on Thursday suggested an effort to rally the citizenry behind the cause of quashing pro-independence sentiment in Taiwan.

"The reunification of the country is of vital importance to the Chinese people. To accomplish it, any cost might have to be justified," said the article in China Daily.

Despite the confrontational words from Beijing, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said it was unlikely the maneuvers would escalate into war.

"I believe the Chinese military exercises in the Taiwan Straits probably will not lead to a military conflict," Perry said at a press conference in Caracas, Venezuela, which he was visiting. "I believe they are trying to intimidate the Taiwanese before the elections."

## Money, ad blitz took Forbes far

WASHINGTON — Steve Forbes dropped his improbable quest for the GOP presidential nomination Thursday after using \$30 million of his fortune to push closer to the prize than most anyone had expected.

"I made the best investment any of us can make," Forbes told supporters at a Washington hotel, surrounded by his wife, Sabina, and five daughters. "I tried to make my country a better, stronger and finer place."

Forbes' candidacy was largely dismissed when he joined the race six months ago. But with a self-financed TV advertising blitz, Forbes got his name and flat-tax idea before voters, briefly appeared to threaten Dole and won primaries in Delaware and Arizona before trailing off into a string of defeats.

In the process, Forbes' campaign clearly illustrated the importance money — and advertising — plays in determining who is competitive for the White House, and who can't even make the starting line.

"You have to have lots of cash. And there's only two ways you can get it — either you're wealthy yourself, or you go hat-in-hand to special interest groups," said Josh Goldstein of the Center for Responsive Politics, a Washington group that tracks political spending.

In contrast to Forbes, GOP hopefuls California Gov. Pete Wilson and Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter dropped out early — long before any voters went to the polls — in part because of lack of money.

And such top prospects as Jack Kemp, William Bennett and former Vice President Dan Quayle never joined the race given the challenge of matching Dole's fund-raising prowess.

Overall, Forbes won 900,545 votes — about 16 percent of those cast, putting him third behind Dole and the only remaining challenger, Pat Buchanan. The vast majority of his \$30 million investment went for ad-

vertising. Forbes contended his pro-growth ideas, not his commercials and spending, propelled his candidacy. "The American people are not for sale," he said.

In fact, Forbes' failure to win indicated a millionaires' pockets alone can't guarantee political victory.

But money is clearly crucial: In each presidential contest since 1976, the candidate who has raised the most money by Jan. 1 of the election year, and taken federal matching funds, has won his party's nomination.

Forbes launched his presidential campaign with TV ads promoting the flat tax, but moved quickly to ads that harshly criticized Dole for voting to raise taxes and being a "Washington insider."

Though many felt the negative ads backfired against Forbes, turning off voters who knew little about him, they also dragged Dole down. Dole blamed them, in part, for his disappointing showings in New Hampshire and Arizona.

Asked if he still resented the fact that Forbes had attacked him so harshly, Dole said Thursday, "I don't try to hold grudges. I just try to keep moving ahead."

Forbes swore off the negative ads after New Hampshire, turning primarily again to commercials promoting the flat tax, school choice and medical savings accounts.

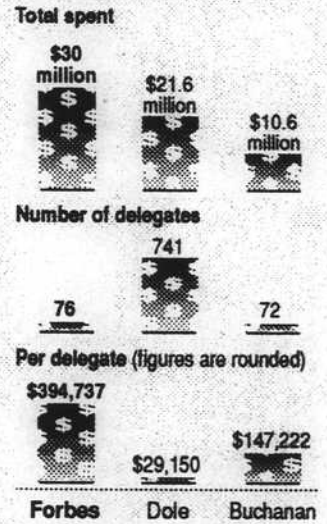
Still smiling in defeat, he pledged to continue to fight for "growth, hope and opportunity" — ideas he says are embodied in a flat tax, term limits and a new system of Social Security.

Of the flat tax, Forbes said: "The concept, the principle has already won the hearts and minds of the Republican Party."

And he left open the possibility he would be back to push his ideas in

## Big spender

Steve Forbes paid dearly for his 76 delegates. Because he funded his own campaign, he didn't have to follow the same campaign finance rules as Bob Dole and Pat Buchanan and had spent about \$30 million.



Ross Perot, the biggest spender in any presidential contest, also funded his campaign. In 1992...



Source: Federal Election Commission, AP research. Delegate counts are as of March 14, 1996 spending totals are as of Jan. 31.

AP

## Clinton leaves Israel, pledges to fight terror

JERUSALEM — Grieving with the Israeli people, President Clinton pledged \$100 million on Thursday to the fight against terrorism. But he acknowledged that no one — not presidents or princes or prime ministers — can guarantee "a risk-free world."

In an emotional trip that coupled meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres with a visit to the grave of Peres' slain predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, Clinton imagined aloud how Americans would react to the terrorism that confronts Israel.

"Our people would be off the wall. They would be angry. They would be furious. They would want action," he said.

To that end, Clinton pledged the \$100 million over two years to pay for anti-terrorism initiatives, including training, bomb-detection scanners, X-ray systems and robotics for handling suspect packages.

Israeli officials said they envisioned using much of the U.S. aid to help establish a separation zone with the West Bank to try to prevent terrorist infiltration. The idea of the zone, which would include electronic fences, guard towers and bomb-sniffing dogs, was first proposed by Rabin and was approved by the Israeli Cabinet March 3.

In Washington, however, a State Department official said, "The United

States does not intend for any of its aid to be used in any kind of permanent separation zone."

Clinton intends to use \$50 million already approved by Congress, and is asking for another \$50 million for the fiscal year that begins in October.

"Fear must be conquered, security must be restored and peace must be pursued," Clinton said.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the Israel army liaison with the Palestinians, said the U.S. government was being asked to provide special training for bomb-sniffing dog units and for electronic equipment to be used along the separation line. Israel also needs helicopters and all-terrain vehicles to help patrol the zone, he said.

The proposal has been denounced by Palestinian leaders.

Clinton left Israel Thursday evening, leaving behind a team of U.S. officials including CIA Director John Deutch and Secretary of State Warren Christopher to work on an anti-terrorism accord. The aim is to complete an agreement before Peres visits Washington late next month.

At a joint news conference with Clinton, Peres promised that the peace process would continue, although he said the terrorist attacks on Israel made it more complicated.

## New AIDS drug virtually wipes out virus in some infected patients' blood

WASHINGTON — Merck & Co.'s powerful new AIDS drug, a medicine that wipes out much of the deadly virus in patients' blood, won government approval Thursday.

Indinavir was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in a record 42 days — and just two weeks after Abbott Laboratories' competing ritonavir was cleared.

But indinavir's rush to the market may pose a dilemma for some patients. Merck is controlling prescriptions for the first six months to ensure it has enough supply, and AIDS patients wonder which of the new medicines will give them the best chance for survival.

Also Thursday, the FDA moved to strengthen the safety of the nation's blood supply, approving a new test to help find blood donors newly infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Donors now are tested for an immune reaction to HIV, but it can take up to 25 days after HIV infection for that reaction to occur. Miami-based Coulter Corp.'s antigen test detects the virus itself about six days earlier.

Although getting HIV from a blood transfusion today is extremely rare — about 40 cases from some 14 million units of blood — closing the testing "window" will prevent five to 10 such infections a year, the FDA said.

Blood banks must use the new test

by mid-June.

But the test has a drawback: It could label several thousand healthy donors a year as infected when they're not, so blood banks must push proper follow-up testing, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned.

Meanwhile, studies show indinavir, to be sold as the brand Crixivan, can virtually obliterate HIV from the blood cells of many patients.

That's not a cure or even proof that patients will live longer — HIV lurks elsewhere in the body and the small amounts left in the blood can rebound. But studies have shown that the less HIV in the bloodstream, the better the prognosis.

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