

## 31 Colombian soldiers killed in ambush

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombia put its army on maximum alert Tuesday after a rebel ambush of a military convoy killed 31 soldiers and wounded 18 near the border with Ecuador.

The attack occurred at sunset Monday on a fog-covered road outside the town of Puerres, 350 miles southwest of the capital, Bogota.

About 150 rebels exploded dynamite on the road as the six-vehicle convoy passed by, then opened fire with machine guns and grenades before fleeing into the surrounding jungle, the military said.

Defense Minister Juan Carlos Esguerra said soldiers throughout the country were placed on maximum alert, and the army was considering calling reservists back to

active duty to fight the rebels. President Ernesto Samper condemned the ambush, saying it "has put all of Colombian society in mourning" and called for a full investigation.

"This can not be considered an act of war. It was very simply a crazy, barbarous, and cowardly terrorist attack," he said from the presidential palace in Bogota.

Samper said his administration would consider implementing emergency security measures, but he gave no details.

The ambush was in an area where the army was deployed to guard against attacks on the Trans-Andean oil pipeline. No damage to the pipeline was reported.

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**WILLIAM CORAL**  
Colombian soldier

selves," said one soldier, identified as William Coral. Wounded by grenade shrapnel, he was being treated at the Ipiales Hospital in southern Colombia.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the largest and oldest of the rebel groups fighting the government for 34 years, was believed responsible, Army Gen.

Mario Hugo Galan told RCN radio. He ordered reinforcements into the jungle region to try to ferret out the rebels.

Armed forces commander Holdan Delgado and army commander Harold Bedoya flew to the ambush site Tuesday morning.

Guerrillas control vast areas of rural Colombia and have frequently targeted state-owned oil installations. But they rarely attack large cities and pose no real threat to the government.

Several guerrilla groups have stepped up attacks in recent weeks. Samper asked Congress on Monday to extend special emergency powers to fight rebels and crime.

The powers ease search restrictions and increase sentences for criminals.

## Israel targets Palestinian refugee camp

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Israeli helicopter gunships targeted Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp Tuesday, widening their 6-day-old onslaught against Iranian-backed guerrillas. Israeli aircraft also bombed Beirut, killing a 2-year-old girl, after a rocket attack on northern Israel.

Despite a flurry of diplomatic activity involving the United States, France and other countries, there was no sign of a letup in Israel's offensive aimed at stopping the rocket attacks by Hezbollah guerrillas.

From hideouts in the valleys of south Lebanon, the guerrillas fired more volleys of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel, drawing more Israeli airstrikes.

Five civilians were killed and 20 wounded on Tuesday. All told, 46 people have been killed and 166 wounded on both sides since the hostilities began Thursday.

Most of the dead have been Lebanese civilians.

The attack before dawn Tuesday on the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near the port of Sidon was the first on a Palestinian target since Israel began the offensive.

The three Cobra gunships fired six rockets, gutting the house of Palestinian guerrilla leader Col. Munir Makdah, who escaped unhurt, police said. Two of his bodyguards and one of their wives was wounded.

Makdah opposed the 1993 peace accord between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel, and broke from the group to form his own militia. He later allied with Hezbollah.

Israel hopes its raids, which have forced 400,000 refugees to flee north toward Beirut, will pressure Lebanon and Syria to disarm Hezbollah.

## Kaczynski defense seeks dismissal

HELENA, Mont. — Theodor Kaczynski's lawyer asked a judge to block the prosecution of the Unabomber suspect, saying Tuesday that government leaks have jeopardized his chances for a fair trial.

Michael Donahoe said the release of information from unidentified federal sources demonstrates a "lynch-mob mentality" on the part of federal investigators.

The result was a "lethal media blitz" that "poisoned the entire population of grand jurors within the United States against Mr. Kaczynski," he wrote in his motion.

Donahoe, one of two court-appointed attorneys for Kaczynski, said the prosecution should be halted until the court can decide whether the leaks will prevent a fair trial.

"The government should not be al-

lowed to proceed before various grand juries throughout the country that have been permanently poisoned by the government's outrageous conduct in disclosing to the media the highly incriminating nature of evidence taken from Kaczynski's cabin," Donahoe said.

"In Mr. Kaczynski's case, the possibility that he could ever be afforded anything that might remotely resemble that (fair trial) process has been forever lost."

U.S. District Judge Charles Lovell did not immediately rule on Donahoe's petition, which sought a delay in any grand jury proceedings against Kaczynski.

A federal grand jury will hold its regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday in Great Falls and is expected to

hear evidence against Kaczynski. The lone charge filed against him thus far makes no mention of the Unabomber attacks that killed three people and injured 23 over the past 18 years.

Lovell scheduled a hearing for 3:30 p.m. Friday to consider whether to pursue Donahoe's motion by calling witnesses, and told both sides to prepare written briefs.

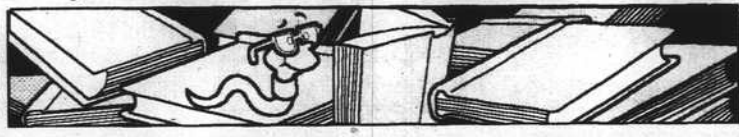
Kaczynski, 53, was arrested April 3 after federal agents, tipped off by his suspicious brother, began searching his mountain cabin near Lincoln.

Leaks about the case began appearing as soon as a search of Kaczynski's home began April 3. Most claimed that evidence collected there tied Kaczynski to the Unabomber bombings.

Donahoe's motion also requested a hearing to question Justice Department officials about what they have done to prevent leaks. He also asked Lovell to dismiss a charge of possessing bomb-making materials, and requested the return of hundreds of items taken in a search of Kaczynski's cabin.

Should the government contend it is not responsible for the leaks, Donahoe said he will put reporters on the stand and ask them to identify their confidential sources.

"If past practice is an indicator, the effort will be a futile one," said Dick Winfield, who has practiced media law in New York for 30 years. Winfield said Donahoe's intent may be to scare federal officials into believing they may be discovered as sources.



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## Clinton, Hashimoto reaffirm U.S.-Japanese military alliance

TOKYO (AP) — Seeking to calm security jitters, President Clinton pledged Wednesday to keep 100,000 American troops in the Asia-Pacific region to preserve peace and stability. Japan strongly welcomed Clinton's pledge.

In a swift follow-up to sponsoring a peace initiative for the Korean Peninsula, Clinton signed a joint declaration with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto reaffirming U.S.-Japan security ties.

The two leaders said the alliance is

the cornerstone "for maintaining a stable and prosperous environment for the Asia-Pacific region as we enter the 21st century." They pledged close cooperation on defense matters, including joint production of a jet fighter, the F-2.

Still, about 4,500 demonstrators shouted slogans and waved effigies in a Tokyo park Tuesday to protest the U.S. military presence in Japan. A cardboard effigy of Clinton was printed with the words, "Give me more land, more people, more money!"

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