

Mideast summit is set, outcome uncertain

By BARRY SCHWEID
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's politically risky Mideast summit was back on track Monday as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook off Egyptian advice and said he would attend as promised.

"Our expectation is he is coming tonight, and we look forward to it," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns. "We understand there was some hesitation."

In a phone conversation today, Clinton failed to persuade Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to join with King Hussein of Jordan in assisting the negotiations.

Nor was Burns able to offer assurances Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would meet face-to-face.

"We will have to see what happens," he said.

Hussein was due to arrive in early evening, Netanyahu around midnight and Arafat early Tuesday morning.

Mubarak, who is angry at the Israeli government for its policies, is sending his foreign minister, Amr Moussa. "It would have been prefer-

able to have Mubarak here," Burns said.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said the talks would begin today and probably include a session Wednesday.

Other sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, disclosed that Arafat's hesitation was prompted by the Egyptian government. The Egyptians are furious at Netanyahu for opening a new entrance to a tourist tunnel near Muslim and Jewish holy sites in Jerusalem.

The talks are designed to diffuse tensions and revive faltering peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority over the future of Jerusalem.

Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, discussed the Middle East developments with his senior foreign policy advisers today. Jeane Kirkpatrick, ambassador to the U.N. during the Reagan administration, told reporters afterward that Dole was "deeply concerned" by the latest Mideast violence.

"The administration's foreign policy is in a serious state of disarray with one failure after another," Kirkpatrick said.

The summit was thrown into question by reports the Palestinian leader

wants to postpone the meeting until its success can be assured.

Netanyahu left for the United States as planned, but Arafat drove to Egypt to meet Mubarak before heading later to Luxembourg to meet European foreign ministers.

Clinton sounded hopeful in announcing Sunday that Netanyahu and Arafat had accepted his invitation to Washington.

"I think they're both concerned about the way events spun out of control, about the loss of life, the injury, the eruption of old tensions and bitterness," the president said.

Netanyahu's decision Tuesday to open a second entrance to a tourist tunnel near the Temple Mount and sites sacred to Muslims and Jews touched off angry Palestinian protests.

Netanyahu, even while agreeing to go to Washington for U.S. mediation, said Sunday that he would not discuss the tunnel reopening with Arafat because it was Israel's business alone.

A senior U.S. official acknowledged Sunday that Clinton was taking a political risk in intervening just five weeks before the presidential election. If the mediation fails, or if Clinton puts heat on Netanyahu, he could lose some points among the electorate.

Netanyahu eyes continuous negotiations for accord

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, heading to Washington for a summit with Yasser Arafat, proposed today to hold continuous negotiations to work out all remaining obstacles to implementing the peace accord.

Netanyahu said he and the Palestinian leader would be directly involved in such negotiations.

Speaking to reporters, Netanyahu sought to create a positive atmosphere after the peace process was put in jeopardy by clashes last week that killed 73 people — the worst fighting between Israelis and Palestinians in decades.

The crisis began after Israelis enraged the Palestinians by opening a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel that runs alongside one of Islam's holiest sites.

A senior Netanyahu aide told

reporters on his plane that the Israeli leader expected Arafat to reaffirm his renunciation of violence.

"I call on both sides immediately after the conference in Washington to enter into continuous negotiations at an agreed-upon location and to hold them until agreement is reached," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu is apparently looking for a Camp David-style meeting, similar to the one in 1979 in which Israeli and Egyptian negotiators isolated themselves in the Maryland presidential retreat until they reached their peace treaty.

Netanyahu promised that after an agreement was reached on issues such as Israel's soldiers in Hebron, the Israeli closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and a Palestinian airport in Gaza, Israel would "move into implementation."

Arrests made in four-year-old slaying of Omaha student

OMAHA (AP) — Two childhood friends who allegedly kidnapped and sexually assaulted a high school student have been arrested in the four-year-old slaying death of Kenyatta Bush.

Adam Barnett, 21, of Omaha was charged Monday with first-degree murder. His friend, Jeremy C. Sheets, 22, was charged in an arrest warrant with first-degree murder.

Sheets, who recently joined the Navy, was arrested Sunday in Lisbon Falls, Maine. Prosecutors were trying to extradite him back to Nebraska. Barnett and Sheets, then 17 and 18, lived in Omaha at the time of the slaying.

Bush's disappearance on Sept. 23, 1992, rattled the community as hundreds of volunteers searched for the honor student and former homecoming queen. Her body was found 10 days later wrapped in two large rugs near a road in Washington County. About 3,000 mourners attended her funeral.

Police, who believe Bush's death was a random act of violence, do not have a motive.

"All I can tell you is it was a random kidnapping, sexual assault and homicide," said Charles Circo, deputy chief of criminal investigation.

"The two people that are arrested were both friends. There is no relationship that we have been able to

identify with the victim," Circo said.

The break in the case came two weeks ago when a concerned person came forward with some new information that led police to Barnett. He was arrested Friday on an unrelated misdemeanor charge. One day later, he was booked on murder. Sheets was arrested Sunday.

Why didn't the informant come forward sooner?

"They didn't have the information before," Circo said.

At one time, police had focused on an acquaintance of Bush's. In 1994, a police officer said suspicious behavior at the time of Bush's disappearance "has caused us to continue con-

sidering him a suspect."

Police never identified the name of the suspect.

On Monday, Circo said: "That person would not cooperate with us. He was never identified by the police department ... as a suspect."

James M. Davis, an Omaha attorney and current candidate for the U.S. Congress, alleged in early 1994 that he represented the young man who was the prime suspect and he claimed police were trying to force his client to confess to the crime.

According to police, Bush drove to school on Sept. 23, after dropping off her younger sister at a day-care cen-

ter. Known as Bunny to her family, Bush lived with her mother and stepfather, Barbara and LaFern Stennis.

She was last seen in a hallway of school at about 8:36 a.m. by friends and faculty. She did not attend her algebra class at 8:40 a.m. Her stepfather found her car the next morning parked near the high school. Her parents reported her missing Sept. 24 at 9 p.m.

Police believe she died shortly after being abducted. Her death certificate said she died of a cut throat, but police have declined to confirm how she died.

Congressional leaders spar over two-year GOP record

In a televised debate Republicans and Democrats argue taxes and Medicare.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) — In an unprecedented campaign debate, Republican and Democratic leaders clashed cordially Sunday night over taxes, Medicare and the record of the GOP-controlled Congress.

"We have delivered genuine welfare reform ... We had common sense health reform ... We're going to have immigration reform," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott. "We have delivered for the American people," he said, while the first GOP-led Congress in 40 years was on the verge of wrapping up its work.

House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt countered that Republicans "tried to cut Medicare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans; they tried to cut school lunch and student loans." In addition, he said, the GOP tried to "raise taxes on working Americans."

Lott, of Mississippi, and Gephardt, of Missouri, were joined by House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia and Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota in colonial year "to figure out ways" to make the air and water dirtier.

The Democratic leaders challenged Republicans, too, on two of the most memorable moments before Election Day. Moderator Jim Lehrer set the stakes in the opening moments of the encounter: "The outcome of those (elections) will decide which party will control Congress" in January.

Speaking to reporters afterward, Gephardt said the debate reinforces a national wave in we did learn a lot over that."

his party's favor.

"It's not just 435 local elections," he said. "There's a national set of issues that should be discussed between the leaders."

In the debate's final moments, Lott said a renewed Republican majority would try again to pass tax cuts and balance the budget.

Daschle touted the Democrats' "Families First" agenda, which stresses modest measures to improve health and pension coverage for Americans.

For the most part, the congressional leaders discussed issues they have disagreed over since the day Gingrich took the gavel as speaker in January 1995. They rarely if ever raised their voices, though. And whatever their personal feelings — the relationship between Gephardt and Gingrich is particularly strained — they addressed one another by their first names as they sat facing each other at wooden desks.

The debate briefly turned pointed near the end, though. Gingrich accused the AFL-CIO of spending millions to defeat Republicans this fall, using "dues money that is coerced" from its members.

Daschle retorted that Republicans had invited pollsters into the committee rooms last year "to figure out ways" to make the air and water dirtier.

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Neither Gingrich nor Lott defended the shutdowns, and the speaker conceded, "I think

Black delegates plan to sue over alleged CIA conspiracy

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Delegates to the first National African-American Leadership Summit said Sunday they planned to sue the government over allegations the CIA deliberately introduced crack into black communities.

"You can go to jail for conspiracy. But this is not just a conspiracy theory — this is reality," Nation of Islam lawyer Arif Muhammad told several hundred delegates who stayed for the end of the three-day summit.

Muhammad urged blacks to make lists of people who had been adversely affected by crack cocaine. He said he and several attorneys were preparing to file a class-action conspiracy lawsuit against the government.

The convention was billed as a push to get Democrats and Republicans to pay more attention to the concerns of black Americans.

Several hundred delegates capped their meeting by ratifying a 56-page national agenda to be sent to the Democratic, Republican and Reform parties.

It calls for better housing and education for blacks, abolishment of the Electoral College, campaign finance reform, proportional representation and the strengthening of historically black colleges.

It also expresses anger over allegations reported by the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News that the CIA sold tons of cocaine to the street gangs in South-Central Los Angeles and funneled millions in profits to a CIA-run guerrilla army fighting to overthrow the Sandinista government in Managua.

During the keynote address Saturday night, Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan called the cocaine allegations "the most important revelation since Watergate."

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