

U.S. fires at Iraqi radar site

The Pentagon says it is unclear if Iraqi radar locked onto the plane.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter plane fired a missile Saturday at an Iraqi radar site after the jet was locked on electronically in the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq, the Pentagon said.

But the White House, explaining a lengthy delay in announcing the strike, said it was still unclear whether the plane was "locked on" by Iraqi radar.

The F-16 returned safely to its base in Saudi Arabia, and it was not immediately known if the Iraqi site was dam-

aged, a Pentagon spokesman, Capt. Bryan Salas, said.

The incident occurred about 4 a.m. An investigation was under way, said the Pentagon, which confirmed the strike about 18 hours after it occurred.

Iraq denied Sunday that it had locked on a U.S. warplane enforcing the "no-fly" zone. A statement carried by the official Iraqi News Agency quoted an official source at the Foreign Ministry as saying, "These American claims are absolutely baseless. No incident of any kind took place inside Iraq's air space in southern Iraq."

White House press secretary Mike McCurry, traveling with President Clinton in Tampa, Fla., said Clinton had been briefed early Saturday on the

incident by a member of the National Security Council staff.

McCurry said "there are no indications of changes in the status of anti-missile deployment" by Iraq, but he referred reporters to the Pentagon for further details on the incident.

Reading a statement, Salas said the F-16 "fired a HARM (high-speed anti-radiation) missile at a radar site in southern Iraq after the aircraft was illuminated during a routine Southern Watch mission."

Since the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991, the United States and its allies have maintained a "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq.

MCI merger approved

British Telecom takeover largest in history

NEW YORK (AP) — British Telecommunications and MCI Communications on Sunday trumpeted their planned \$20.8 billion marriage as a boon for consumers and businesses. The merger will create new competition that will drive down phone rates on both sides of the Atlantic.

But that optimistic scenario was swiftly disputed by fellow phone superpower AT&T, which has the most to lose from the marriage.

Just one day after the boards of British Telecom and MCI approved the deal, AT&T chairman Robert E. Allen said it could "negatively impact competition and reduce customer choice" and as such should

be closely scrutinized by government regulators.

The British Telecom-MCI deal would be the biggest foreign takeover of a U.S. corporation in history. The companies promised a "communications powerhouse," with annual revenues of \$42 billion and 43 million business and residential customers in 72 countries. They will call the merged business Concert, named after a joint venture begun three years ago when British Telecom bought a stake in MCI.

"Simply put, rates will come down," MCI chairman and chief executive Bert Roberts said in a news conference in Manhattan, referring to local phone service in the United States.

DN EVENTS CALENDAR

Any submissions for the Events Calendar, published every Monday, should be sent to Nebraska Union 34, Attn: Kelly Johnson, 1400 R Street, Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Phone: 472-2588 Fax: 472-1761

MONDAY, NOV. 4

ANIMAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOC. TURKEY SALE
Orders taken until Nov. 8
For more information call:
Dana Allen at 472-5237

TUESDAY, NOV. 5

ELECTION DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6

PRE-VET CLUB MEETING
East Union
7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 7

ANNUAL MINORITY LAW DAY
Sponsored by the Black Law Student's Association
4 p.m.
Culture Center
14th and R Streets

ODC/SAN FRANCISCO

DANCE COMPANY
Lied Center
12th and R Streets
8 p.m.
Tickets: \$20/\$16/\$12 (half price for students)

FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

BENEFIT CONCERT
Featuring Ann Hills, folk singer and songwriter
Faith Westwood United Methodist Church
127th and L Streets,
Omaha
7 p.m.
Student price: \$5
For more information call:
(402) 393-6911 or 451-1616

Internet messages tell of death wish for woman found buried in N.C.

LENOIR, N.C. (AP) — All varieties of sex were offered in the fantasy world Sharon Lopatka concocted for her audience on the Internet.

In some messages, she was an actress prepared to star in whatever type of sex video her fans cared to purchase. In others, she presented herself as an aggressive 300-pound dominatrix.

In the end, police say Lopatka decided to meet a man she had exchanged sexual messages with — even though he said in one message that he would kill her.

She was bound with rope, made to bleed and then strangled. Her nude body was found Oct. 25, buried near the man's trailer in the mountains of western North Carolina.

Robert Glass, 45, a computer analyst for the Catawba County government, was arrested the same day and charged with murder.

His attorneys maintain Lopatka died accidentally, during rough sex.

Police who examined the Internet messages say the two carried out a bizarre quest in which he promised to kill her and she accepted.

The Washington Post quoted a self-described bondage enthusiast as saying she tried to stop Lopatka's apparent death wish. Tanith Tyrr, of Berkeley, Calif., said she and others corresponded with Lopatka in sexually oriented Internet chat rooms.

"She was going into chat rooms and asking to be tortured to death, for real," Tyrr said. She said several men corresponded with the woman but stopped when they realized she was serious.

Lopatka also arranged in an e-mail exchange to meet a man in New Jersey to be sexually tortured and then slain, law enforcement sources told The (Baltimore) Sun. He backed out after

Lopatka traveled to New Jersey, The Sun reported Sunday.

It appears Lopatka used the Internet to present herself as many different people, most of them with unconventional sexual interests that she was more than willing to share, for a price, the News & Observer of Raleigh reported.

The 189-pound Lopatka invented an Internet persona called "Miranda" who was described as a svelte, 5-foot-6-inch, 121-pound cyberwoman. She used the alias while pawing her underwear in cyberspace chat rooms, reported The Carroll County Times, of Westminster, Md.

"Hi! My name is Nancy. I just made a VHS video of actual women ... willing and unwilling to be ... knocked out ... drugged ... under hypnosis and chloroformed. Never before has a film like this been made that shows the real beauty of the sleeping victim," reads a message that Lopatka posted on Oct. 1, the newspaper said.

On Aug. 2: "DO YOU DARE ENTER ... THE LAND OF THE GIANTESS??? Where men are crushed like bugs ... by these angry ... yet gorgeous giant goddesses."

And again on Oct. 1: "Let me customize your most exciting Bondage fantasy for you ... on VHS ... to watch and enjoy privately in the comfort of your own home ... Prices start at \$100." There was no evidence that Lopatka ever made any videos.

Investigators have said they recovered nearly 900 pages of messages exchanged by Glass and Lopatka.

"If you put all their messages together, you'd have a very large novel," said Capt. Danny Barlow of the Caldwell County Sheriff's Department.

Himalayan hiking trip turns fatal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Rescuers dug through eight feet of snow Sunday to uncover the bodies of a U.S. medical school dean, his wife and three Nepalese who died while sleeping in their tent in the Himalayas.

The bodies of Philip J. Fialkow, 62, of the University of Washington medical school in Seattle, and his wife, Helen, 61, were flown by helicopter to Dunai, the nearest city 180 miles northwest of Katmandu.

The bodies of Fialkow, his wife and three Nepalese Sherpas were found Sunday at an altitude of 15,500 feet in western Nepal — the site

where they were last seen Oct. 21.

Maj. Kisendra Shahi, the helicopter pilot who flew the bodies to Dunai, said rescuers found the bodies of two Nepalese Sherpa guides first, which were closer to the opening of the tent. The Fialkows' bodies and another Nepalese were discovered later.

"All of them were inside the same tent. It seems all of them died in their sleep. They were all in their sleeping clothes with no shoes on and lying in a row," he said.

The pilot said they may have been killed by an avalanche or by a heavy snowfall that collapsed their tent.

U.S. businessman shot to death in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — A U.S. businessman involved in a long dispute over control of one of Moscow's best-known hotels was shot to death Sunday by an unknown gunman.

Paul Tatum, 39, a native of Edmond, Okla., and former Republican Party activist in Oklahoma, was killed by a single assailant who fired his submachine gun at the businessman near the entrance to the Kievsky metro station in downtown Moscow, a police spokesman said.

The station is near the Radisson-Slavyanskaya Hotel where Tatum had his office. President Clinton has been staying at the hotel during his trips to

Moscow, most recently in April.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow had no immediate comment, apart from a terse statement saying: "We deplore the murder of any U.S. citizen."

The killings of businessmen, most of them contract slayings that remain unsolved, occur frequently in the shady world of Russian business as rivals settle accounts or criminals attempt to expand their sphere of control. However, assassinations of foreign businessmen have been relatively rare.

Tatum, founding partner in the riverfront hotel, has been involved in a long power struggle with the management of the joint venture that administers the property.

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