

U.S. vetoes Boutros-Ghali for re-election

The U.N. secretary-general won't withdraw his candidacy.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States vetoed Boutros Boutros-Ghali for re-election as U.N. secretary-general in a 14-1 vote today in the Security Council.

Boutros-Ghali refused to withdraw his candidacy despite the veto, setting the stage for a protracted battle in which the United States has so far found itself diplomatically isolated.

"This is just the opening round," U.N. representative Sylvania Foa said. "He's in it until the Security Council

makes a final decision." The Clinton administration defended many key allies in June when it announced it would veto the re-election of the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat. Senior U.S. officials say replacing Boutros-Ghali is the only way to persuade the Republican-controlled Congress to pay the \$1.5 billion that the United States owes the organization.

Africans have insisted that their continent deserves two terms of representation in the post, as has been U.N. tradition. Ten of the 15 council members co-sponsored a resolution calling for Boutros-Ghali's re-election.

Foa quoted Boutros-Ghali as saying he was "gratified and really appre-

ciates the overwhelming support shown by the member states of the United Nations."

Foa said a 14-1 show of support "is rather conclusive" in a democratic process, but added: "This is obviously not a democratic process."

Without mentioning the United States, she said the strong support shown Boutros-Ghali should be noted by "member states."

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the 14 other council members Monday that she had written instructions to veto Boutros-Ghali, saying he has lost the confidence of Congress.

Albright urged African diplomats to come up with an alternate to

Boutros-Ghali. "We have stated over and over again we will give special preference to an African candidate, but it's important for them to come forward with an African candidate," she said.

Ambassador Alfredo Lopes Cabral of Guinea-Bissau said the Africans were standing behind Boutros-Ghali "with all (due) respect for the decision of one country," meaning the United States.

"We are very pleased with the results," Egyptian Ambassador Nabil Elaraby told reporters. "It proved that the whole world was behind Africa and the candidate Africa chose, which is the current secretary-general."

If the United States sticks by its

opposition, the process of selecting a new secretary-general could drag on for weeks. The five permanent members—the United States, China, Russia, France and Britain—hold veto power in the council.

Diplomatic sources said China could veto any candidate put forward by the United States over objections of the Africans. China considers itself an advocate for Africa and other developing countries.

In an effort to appease the Africans, the United States has agreed to a selection formula weighted in favor of African candidates. The formula calls for limiting the second round of voting to African candidates once Boutros-Ghali is vetoed.

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Columbia launches after 11-day delay

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — After an 11-day delay, space shuttle Columbia thundered into orbit Tuesday carrying the oldest person ever in space, Story Musgrave, and a pair of science satellites.

Columbia lifted off at 2:55 p.m., shooting through thin, wispy clouds. The launch was delayed 2½ minutes because of a slight leak of hydrogen fuel into the engine compartment.

The calm weather was quite a contrast to the dangerously high wind, rain and thick, dark clouds that prevented a launch last week. Concerns over booster rockets also forced a delay.

Musgrave, 61, became the oldest person ever in space. He joined four much younger astronauts for the 16-day research mission, which is due to wind up Dec. 5.

NASA's oldest shuttle, a whopping 4,525,000 pounds at launch, was supposed to take off Nov. 8, but managers postponed the flight a week so engineers could complete an investigation of the solid-fuel booster rockets.

The astronauts' first job in orbit, seven hours after liftoff, was to release an ultraviolet telescope to observe newborn and dying stars, the moon's atmosphere, and the northern and southern lights on Jupiter.

The crew will retrieve the telescope 14 days later for return to Earth.

Pope accepts invitation to visit Cuba in 1997

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Tuesday accepted Fidel Castro's invitation to visit Cuba next year as the two leaders met face-to-face for the first time.

The pope has agreed to go to the communist island off south Florida and "the only thing missing is the date in 1997," said papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls. Long-term preparations will begin shortly, he said.

Vatican officials said Castro's government agreed to the usual conditions for papal trips — that the pope can travel anywhere and meet with anyone he wants to.

Cuba, ruled by Castro since 1959, is the only Latin American country that the 76-year-old pope has yet to visit.

Navarro-Valls said a Cuban stop in October during a previously scheduled trip to Brazil was one possibility, but he would not rule out other dates. The Brazil trip is the pope's only scheduled visit to the Western Hemisphere next year.

Quoting Castro at the end of the 35-

minute meeting, Navarro-Valls said, "Your Holiness, I hope to see you soon in Cuba."

The two leaders discussed "national reconciliation," which Navarro-Valls said was not just limited to Cubans on the island, indicating the phrase also involved Cuban exiles in Florida.

In Miami, Ninoska Perez, a spokeswoman for the Cuban American National Foundation, said some exiles were upset by the pope's planned visit to Cuba.

"It's not a pretty sight for the Cuban community in exile to see Fidel Castro with the pope," she said.

"On the other hand, we're confident the pope will be as energetic (there) as he was in helping put an end to communism in eastern Europe," she said.

Castro's motorcade drove through St. Peter's Square on a damp, chilly morning, with a machine gun poking through the sunroof of an Italian security car. He was greeted by an honor contingent of Swiss Guards.

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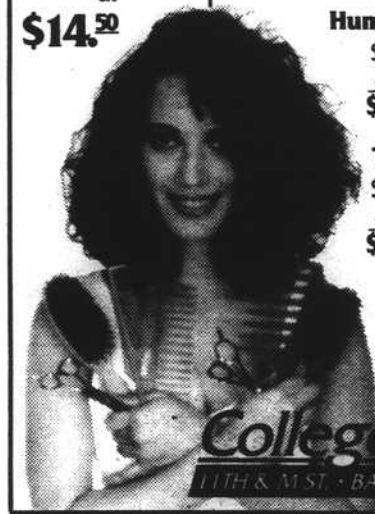
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CLARIFICATION

The location for Jane Elliot's speech on her "blue eyes/brown eyes" experiment was not listed in Tuesday's Daily Nebraskan. The speech will be at 7 p.m. at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts.

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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 calling 472-2588. The public has access to the Publications Board. Subscription price is \$55 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, Neb.

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