

Search for U.N. leader stalls as United States, France block candidates

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A search for a new U.N. secretary-general stalled Wednesday when the United States and France each blocked the selection of the other's candidate to succeed Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Results of three rounds of unofficial balloting were secret. But diplomatic sources said U.N. Undersecretary-General Kofi Annan, believed to be the U.S. favorite, continued to lead the four-candidate field, winning 12 votes in the first two rounds and 11 in the third.

In each ballot, one permanent council member, apparently France, voted against the Ghanaian, who heads U.N. peacekeeping operations. Permanent members — the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China — can veto a candidate during official votes.

France's apparent favorite, Ivory Coast Foreign Minister Amara Essy, won seven votes in the first two rounds and six in the third. Two permanent members — apparently the United States and Britain — voted against him.

Two other candidates — former Niger Prime Minister Hamid Algabid and former Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah — appeared to be fading.

Baghdad gets economic aid after six years of turmoil as U.N. approves oil flow

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraqi oil began flowing to Turkey with U.N. approval Wednesday. Baghdad hailed it as a sign that economic relief was on the way after six years of crushing sanctions.

Some 29,000 barrels gushed through the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline on Tuesday, the first day of a U.N. deal allowing limited exports to pay for food and medicine. The oil flow was stopped, apparently because Iraq started the deliveries before contracts with buyers were formally approved.

Ahmet Bulca, technical chief of Iraq's state-run oil agency, said the company started pumping oil Wednesday afternoon in the 268-mile pipeline from Kirkuk, Iraq, to Yumurtalik, Turkey.

"Today, the fighting Iraqi people have started to gain the result of their patience with relief in their long struggle, especially children, women, old people and patients," said Saad Kassem Hammoudy of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, a pro-government organization.

The "oil-for-food" deal allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion in oil for six months. Profits from the sale will go for imports of food and medicine, U.N. weapons monitoring and compensation for Persian Gulf War victims.

OK recommended to FDA for drug to decrease insulin shots for Type II diabetics

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — A new drug could allow thousands of diabetics to reduce or even stop their insulin shots if approved by the FDA.

The government's scientific advisers recommended Food and Drug Administration approval Wednesday of Parke Davis' Rezulin, the first drug to attack the underlying cause of Type II diabetes.

Rezulin, known chemically as troglitazone, somehow resensitizes the body to insulin, a hormone that converts blood sugar into energy.

Researchers believe it stimulates a gene to produce more insulin-controlled proteins that in turn remove this blood sugar, or glucose, from the bloodstream—essentially giving insulin more opportunity to do its job.

Some 16 million Americans have diabetes, although only half are diagnosed. The drug won't work for Type I diabetes sufferers, typically children. But the vast majority of diabetics have Type II, or adult-onset, diabetes, where the pancreas produces more and more insulin but their blood sugar continues to rise.

Diet, exercise and pills to boost insulin production and decrease glucose production can help, but over 40 percent of Type II diabetics eventually need insulin shots.

Even then, many can't get high enough doses to stay healthy. The inconvenience of taking shots and the weight gain the insulin can cause also dissuade patients from taking proper care of themselves.

Only these poorly controlled Type II patients — an estimated 1 million people — should be considered for Rezulin treatment, the FDA panel decided.

Court indicts congressman

Records affirm Rep. Wes Cooley never served in Korea

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Republican Rep. Wes Cooley was indicted Wednesday on charges he falsely claimed in official state voter guides that he had served in Korea.

The 64-year-old freshman congressman dropped his re-election bid earlier this year after being accused of lying about his background. He could face up to 10 years in prison and \$200,000 in fines if convicted of twice making false statements.

Separately, a federal grand jury is investigating whether Cooley lied about when he got married so his wife could fraudulently continue to collect benefits as a Marine widow.

The gate to Cooley's ranch was padlocked Wednesday and the outspoken conservative didn't return calls. On Tuesday, he said, "We're not going to go anywhere. We're not going to disappear. We're not going to fade off into the sunset."

He is to be arraigned on Monday. The indictment made public Wednesday

cited two 1994 official state voter guides in which Cooley claimed to have been a member of the Army Special Forces in Korea during the war there.

Military records cited in published reports indicate that while Cooley did serve in the Army, he never left the United States during the 1950-53 war and didn't finish his training until after the armistice was signed.

When his claim was publicly challenged, Cooley was unable to produce any evidence that it was true. He said the records were destroyed in fire.

The one man Cooley said could verify his claims was a former master sergeant, Clifford Poppy. But Poppy, 70, told the grand jury Cooley had lied about serving in Korea.

"He's told that lie so many times, he believes it himself," he said. "I was shot at and I did shoot at others in Korea. If he had ever really served in combat, he wouldn't be bragging about it, because it is not a pleasant experience."



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