

News Digest

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1997

Iraqi travel ban tops U.S. demand Threats of military consequences avoided

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Declaring that Iraqi defiance has reunited the Gulf War coalition, U.S. and British diplomats asked the Security Council on Tuesday to slap a travel ban on Iraq and warn of "further measures" unless it cooperates with U.N. arms inspectors.

But the resolution did not include the threat of military force should Iraq continue refusing to rescind its Oct. 29 order to expel American members of the U.N. weapons inspection team.

The draft also omitted a warning of "serious consequences" because of opposition from the French and Russians.

U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson said the council would vote on the resolution today and he expected "near unanimity" among the 15 council members.

"This resolution is going to be passed tomorrow," Richardson said. "And we think it sends an unmistakable signal for Iraq to comply immediately."

Earlier, Richardson predicted a unanimous vote. Diplomatic sources said the lone holdout was China, which said it needed to consult Chinese leaders before deciding how to vote.

Council sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said several members would try before the vote to persuade the Iraqis to rescind the decision against the Americans.

Britain's acting U.N. ambassador, Stephen Gomersall, said there were "diplomatic efforts by a number of members of the council with the Iraqi government at this moment."

The resolution would ban Iraqi

officials who interfere with U.N. inspectors from traveling abroad, condemn Iraq for its expulsion of American inspectors and suspend further reviews of economic sanctions against Iraq until the inspectors certify that Baghdad is cooperating. The Security Council imposed the sanctions in August 1990 after Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait.

"The coalition has reunited itself because of Iraqi behavior," Richardson said. "We believe that there's strong unanimity and consensus on the council that Iraq's behavior has been unacceptable."

U.S. and British diplomats worked throughout the day to polish and sometimes weaken language in hopes of a unanimous vote. The French raised questions about the timetable for reviewing Iraqi com-

pliance.

Threats of force were deleted from the resolution in hopes of winning support from Russia, France, China and other nations anxious to resume lucrative trade links with Iraq once sanctions are lifted.

Egypt insisted on language affirming the territorial integrity and independence of Iraq, which was inserted into the final draft.

Iraq issued its order to expel American inspectors after five council members — France, Russia, China, Egypt and Kenya — abstained on a resolution last month threatening a travel ban.

U.S. and British diplomats believe Iraqi President Saddam Hussein saw the abstentions as a sign of divisions on the council and sought to exploit them by moving against the American inspectors.

Scuba diver sustains shark bite, 20 stitches

PERTH, Australia (AP) — A scuba diver needed 20 stitches but escaped with his life after a head-on encounter with a great white shark in deep water off Australia. It was the second attack in the area in two weeks.

Kevin Hulkes said a shark attacked him Sunday while he was 120 feet underwater off the town of Albany in Western Australia state, an area in which he said he had been diving for 20 years.

Hulkes, a 42-year-old mechanic, escaped by charging the 18-foot shark with a hand-held, battery-powered propeller known as a scooter and striking the shark on the nose.

Hulkes said the shark surprised him by taking his 3-foot-long bright yellow propeller in its jaws. The shark's teeth gashed his left arm as it passed, leaving a wound requiring 20 stitches.

"There was this massive bump. I thought maybe it was a seal or a dolphin," Hulkes said Tuesday. "Then I saw it; it was almost as big as a school bus."

When he saw the shark swimming back toward him, Hulkes used the scooter to drive into the shark's nose, then made for the surface.

"... Then I saw it; it was almost as big as a school bus."

KEVIN HULKES
scuba diver

"If it wasn't for the scooter, I suppose I'd be dead," he said.

His haste to get out of the water created the danger of decompression sickness, so his diving partner, who was waiting in the boat, took him to another location where he spent 45 minutes in the water decompressing properly.

"I would have preferred 'the bends' (severe pain in joints, limbs and abdomen due to decompression sickness) to getting back in the water in the same spot as the shark," Hulkes said.

On Oct. 28, two men escaped serious injury when a 15-foot white shark bit their surfboard in two off a beach near the Western Australian capital of Perth.

Clinton donors point to Chung

■ If the allegations are true, the fund-raiser has broken federal laws.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three donors to President Clinton's re-election campaign have told House investigators that an employee of Democratic fund-raiser Johnny Chung asked them to make the contributions and later reimbursed them, according to a House source.

Investigators were told that Chung's part-time bookkeeper, Nancy Na-Chi Lee, asked four people — one has since died — to make out \$1,000 checks to the Clinton-Gore '96 campaign, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Lee was said to have immediately reimbursed the donors in cash, said the source.

Such arrangements would be illegal under federal-election law, which bars contributors from giving money in the name of another to hide the true source of the money.

It was the first allegation of laundered contributions directly to the Clinton-Gore '96 campaign. The Democratic National Committee has returned nearly \$3 million because the money came from questionable sources, including some donations made in the name of others.

The House Government Reform and Oversight Committee has issued a subpoena for records of the re-election campaign, said Robert Neuman, a spokesman for the campaign's Legal Compliance Committee.

The committee does not have any plans to refund the donations — unless they are deemed illegal by a court or the Federal Election Commission, he said. The donations were first reported by The Washington Post.

Chung, who was described in a 1995 White House memo as a hustler who should be regarded with caution, is a central figure in the investigation of campaign

fund raising. He tried to deliver more than \$700,000 in donations to Clinton's legal defense fund and also handed a \$50,000 check made out to the Democratic Party to Maggie Williams, then chief of staff to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Chung has been subpoenaed to testify Friday at hearings convened by the House panel. He is expected to invoke his Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination and refuse to testify.

Chung contended last summer in a newspaper interview that the \$50,000 donation he gave to the Democratic National Committee was solicited by Evan Ryan, a White House aide to Williams.

The White House has denied that Ryan or any other presidential aides solicited donations from Chung. Williams accepted the check but passed it on to the DNC.

A day after he delivered the check to Williams, Chung escorted a group of Chinese businessmen to the Oval Office to watch Clinton tape his weekly radio address.

"I see the White House is like a subway — you put in the coins to open the gates," Chung told the Los Angeles Times in July.

The donation and the circumstances of Chung's visit to the White House are expected to be examined at hearings Thursday. Williams is scheduled to be questioned about the episode.

The panel is also expected to examine the circumstances in which Chung pressed the White House to give him pictures of the six Chinese businessmen posing with Clinton in the Oval Office.

Robert Suettinger, a National Security Council aide, approved giving Chung the photos, although he warned that "my impression is that he's a hustler."

"My concern is that he will continue to make efforts to bring his 'friends' into contact with the Clintons 'to show one and all that he is a big shot.'"



Man shot, killed in protests

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — Soldiers shot dead a protester who was among a group armed with homemade bombs Tuesday, the first day of a general strike that kept thousands of fearful Dominicans holed up in their homes.

For months now, residents have coped with power outages lasting up to 18 hours a day. A severe drought also increased prices for necessities such as rice, beans and plantains. Taxi and truck drivers have protested higher gasoline prices.

Many businesses and schools were closed in the Caribbean nation, while soldiers and police went on alert, taking up positions in front of gas stations, on buses and at intersections and bridges.

In a confrontation between police and protesters in the city's northern slum, reporters watched a soldier open fire on demonstrators, some of whom held Molotov cocktails.

Massive flooding drowns 130

BARDERA, Somalia — At least 130 people have drowned since flooding began here three weeks ago, aid workers and local officials said.

Those trying to survive on dry patches of land amid the swirling waters have to contend with crocodiles and other creatures.

As many as 300,000 were without homes or food Tuesday. Entire villages have been submerged, roads washed away, bridges destroyed and towns cut off from all communications except by air.

Southern Somalia's Juba Valley, which was flooded by the Juba River, is the breadbasket of Somalia, producing sorghum, a staple crop in this nation of 7 million. Nearly all of the freshly planted sorghum and the reserves just harvested have been destroyed.

A doctor at a refugee camp across the Juba River said he was tending to 150 cholera victims — and feared more will appear.

Aid workers said such rains haven't hit Somalia in 30 years and speculate they could be the result of El Niño, which is warming ocean currents in the Pacific and provoking weather changes throughout the world.

Monsoon could bring relief

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A heavy downpour that showered the city for the first time in six months left the air clean and moist, raising hopes that monsoon rains soon will extinguish wildfires choking much of Southeast Asia.

The El Niño weather phenomenon is blamed for causing a drought across this nation of 200 million people and delaying the rainy season, which usually begins in October.

Fires — many set by timber companies, plantation owners and farmers to clear land — have burned out of control for months, spewing a thick haze from Thailand to Australia and endangering the health of millions.

More rain has been forecast, but environmentalists fear the monsoons will bring a host of new problems, including acid rain, soil erosion and flooding.

In Malaysia, there were "good" air-quality ratings across most of the nation Tuesday for the first time in three months, and people walked around without wearing face masks.

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