

News Digest

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Possible airstrike nears Mohawk storyteller keeps folklore alive

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Clinton administration pressed Congress to support a possible attack on Iraq, the U.S. commander in the Persian Gulf said Wednesday he'll be ready for an airstrike "within a week or so."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should be "nervous," Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni, the overall commander of U.S. forces in the oil-rich Gulf region, told reporters there.

In Washington, lawmakers too were nervous — about whether the planned U.S. airstrikes, if launched, will succeed in pushing Iraq to comply with arms inspectors.

President Clinton sent his foreign policy team to Capitol Hill Wednesday to seek congressional support in a non-binding resolution backing the use of force against Iraq.

"We all hope we can avoid the use of force," Clinton said. "But let's face it, in the end that is up to Saddam Hussein."

The Iraqi leader, he said, "must let the weapons inspectors back with full and free access to all suspect sites."

The State Department dismissed an Iraqi proposal to open eight presidential complexes for what Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf said could be an inch-by-inch search.

"We have yet to hear about a concrete Iraqi offer to reverse course and allow the U.N. inspectors the access to do their jobs," spokesman James P. Rubin said. "This latest iteration appears to fall short again of this very simple standard."

The congressional resolution, which seemed sure of quick passage when Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott first raised it two weeks ago, now is bogged down over concerns about precisely what kind of airstrikes the administration is planning. Lawmakers also question whether the strikes will succeed in forcing Iraq to allow unfettered U.N. inspections of its suspected chemical and biological arms sites.

Lott said Wednesday he and other lawmakers want the administration to request congressional action.

"I don't know if we can do it in one day," he said, but "there's no need to rush to judgment. Asked if he was concerned that an attack might occur while Congress is in recess, Lott said, "I don't think the bombs will fall until we are back in action."

Congress will be in recess next week, returning Feb. 23. No House action is expected this week. In the Senate, Lott and Minority Leader Tom Daschle hoped to bring the resolution to a vote Thursday, but not if they can't muster solid support.

Clinton: NATO additions will strengthen alliance

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton asked the Senate to bring Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into NATO, saying all three Eastern European nations have pledged to "serve and support with us" in military strikes against Iraq.

Washington's diplomatic community joined Clinton's national security team, veterans' groups and members of Congress on Wednesday at a State Department ceremony opening the president's campaign to enlarge the 16-nation alliance with three former allies of the defunct Soviet Union. The Czech, Polish and Hungarian foreign ministers also attended.

NATO leaders approved the expansion last July, but it still must be ratified individually by each nation. The Senate is expected to approve, despite worries about the costs and risks involved.

"I am confident it will be overwhelmingly embraced," said Sen. William Roth, R-Del. Clinton said he too is confident of the outcome.

Amid increasing tensions with Iraq, Clinton reminded the audience that Czech, Hungarian and Polish troops are participating in NATO's peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and served beside allied forces in the 1991 Gulf War.

"And they recognize the threat to the world posed today by Saddam Hussein and by his efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction," Clinton said. "I am pleased that all three countries have announced that they are prepared to serve and support with us as appropriate should military

action prove necessary.

"We all hope we can avoid the use of force," Clinton said. "But let's face it: In the end that is up to Saddam Hussein. He must let the weapons inspectors back with full and free access to all suspect sites."

Russia has adamantly opposed NATO's eastward expansion and its embrace of three former Warsaw Pact members. NATO doctrine stipulates that an attack against any member state is an attack against all, and some observers suggest NATO's risks will be higher with Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as members.

Clinton said the three new members will make the alliance stronger, not weaker.

"These three states will add some 200,000 troops to the alliance," the president said. "A larger NATO will be a better deterrent against aggressors of the future. It will deepen the ranks of those who stand with us should deterrents fail."

Clinton said 60 of America's top retired military leaders, including five former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, agreed last week that adding the three new members will strengthen NATO.

Standing in front of a large photograph of the razed Berlin Wall, Clinton said NATO's growth "will erase the artificial line in Europe drawn by Joseph Stalin. ... NATO cannot maintain the old Iron Curtain as its permanent eastern frontier. It must and can bring Europe together in security, not keep it apart in instability."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said lawmakers "are torn between their desire to support the president as their commander in chief and their very serious concerns and reservations."

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Budget Director Franklyn Raines discussed Iraq privately Wednesday with several senior

Republican senators. The senators pressed the administration to make a public appeal for support for strong action against Iraq.

"We want the president to explain (the mission) to the American people — including that there will be civilian casualties" in Iraq, McCain said. The administration officials, he said, acknowledged a bombing campaign alone won't solve the crisis over Iraq's biological and chemical weapons capability.

BY JONATHAN HOUGHTON
Staff Reporter

Through the voice of artist and storyteller Linda Anfuso, tales and songs from American Indian culture filled the F Street Recreation Center Wednesday afternoon.

Anfuso, a Mohawk Indian, sang, played a hand-made flute and told several traditional stories to a group of 50 grade school children.

The event showed the children that stories can do more than entertain — they can keep a culture's folklore alive.

The presentation was a part of Native American Awareness Week, which will culminate with a powwow Saturday at the F Street center.

Anfuso, who has given such presentations for 17 years, said she started them after dreaming she stood in the middle of a crowd of children, telling them stories.

"My dreams are an important way to connect with my inner self, my creativity," she said.

She learned her ancient stories verbatim from a mentor over several years, she said. For an hour-and-a-half every day, she learned every gesture and word of the stories as they were originally told to American Indians thousands of years before.

But there are a few differences, she said.

The stories slowly have evolved to incorporate modern features. For instance, during one story Anfuso made the growling sound of an all-terrain vehicle approaching. Years ago, the sound would probably been that of a horse, she said.

Anfuso said one American Indian woman came to her after a presentation and complimented her, saying Anfuso had told the story exactly as she had heard it as a child, with one exception. When the woman had heard the story originally, the vehicle had been a Model-A Ford.

Anfuso's favorite story told Wednesday involved a young boy abandoned in a cave by his abusive uncle, she said. In the story, the child is adopted by a group of bears.

"It elicits such a strong response," she said. "Children hear a voice of hope in that story."

Anfuso acted out each character's part in the story, changing her voice



JONATHAN HOUGHTON/DN
LINDA ANFUSO tells a traditional Mohawk Indian tale to about 50 grade school children at the F Street Recreation Center Wednesday. Anfuso, who lives in New Hampshire, has been coming to Nebraska for the last six years to share her art and her stories.

and her mannerisms.

"The stories become me," Anfuso said. "I have been each of those people, and I allow them to come out as I speak."

Whether she is telling stories, writing or painting, Anfuso said she does not divide her sacred life and her everyday life.

"Everything I do is an act of prayer," she said.

Before installing a new program onto her computer recently, Anfuso prayed for the installation to go well, she said.

Because many Mohawk Indians remain highly spiritual and proudly celebrate their ancestry, many people fail to realize they have made the same advances in technology as everybody else, she said.

For instance, on a recent airplane flight, Anfuso said she worked on her laptop computer. The man sitting next to her on the flight said he was surprised she was computer literate.

"The romantic vision (of American Indians) ... that's not who we are," Anfuso said.

"We've assimilated some aspects of European culture to our benefit," she said, "and some to our great detriment."

'Brain gain' bill voted down

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Assignment Reporter

ASUN senators decided Wednesday that the benefits of "brain gain" did not outweigh the costs.

They voted against a bill giving ASUN's endorsement to Sen. Jon Bruning's proposed "brain gain" bill.

Association of Students of the University of Nebraska President Curt Ruwe said he would not sign the bill, but he plans to reintroduce it within the next two weeks when a representative from Gov. Ben Nelson's office is present.

Nelson's Director of Media Relations, Karl Bieber, was at the meeting to answer questions senators had about the bill.

Senators presented their concerns to Bieber during the 45-minute discussion prior to the vote.

ASUN

Bieber said LB1176 would allocate \$20 million for 200 scholarships in 12 "categories similar to majors."

These categories would be determined by a projected need for jobs five years from initial application, Bieber said. Students would have to work in Nebraska for three years after graduation.

Olusegun Okubanjo, law college senator, asked Bieber about the penalties for students if they changed their major to a category that was not one of the 12.

Bieber said an appeals process would be implemented, but normally a student would have to pay back a "moderate interest loan," probably 1 to 2 percent above normal student loans.

Senators were concerned "brain

gain" scholarship holders would be given preference over regular students for internships.

Bieber said the bill did not safeguard against that.

But Ruwe said LB1176 would work similar to a scholarship, and students would not be forced to apply for it.

"You can decide whether or not to accept it," Ruwe said.

John Wichmann, chairman of the Government Liaison Committee, said some ideas Wednesday night were misrepresented, debate ended too early, and questions were left unanswered.

In other ASUN business: ■ Olusegun Okubanjo was sworn in as a senator for the Law College.

■ Changes to the constitutions of African People's Union, Independent Students Association and Leadership Circle were passed unanimously with Senate Bill No. 22.

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