

# News Digest

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PAGE 2

## NATO skeptical of Milosevic deal

■ **Airstrikes remain possible, while Albanian refugees are reluctant to return home.**

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — NATO warned Wednesday that Slobodan Milosevic isn't doing what he must to avoid airstrikes, and ethnic Albanian refugees remained reluctant to return to their charred homes as skepticism replaced relief over the Kosovo agreement.

Even as the U.N. refugee agency resumed aid convoys to Kosovo, questions remained over whether the Yugoslav president would meet international demands and refrain from further hostilities toward ethnic Albanians.

Demonstrating that it's not taking him at his word, NATO positioned warplanes at bases in Italy for possible air attacks on Serbia.

"NATO airstrikes have not yet been averted by Milosevic," said an official at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We'll be keeping up the military pressure for some time to come."

Milosevic reluctantly agreed Monday to the demands of world leaders determined to halt his seven-month offensive against ethnic Albanian separatists in Kosovo and avert a tragedy among tens of thousands of refugees living outdoors as winter approaches.

The 16 NATO members have given Milosevic until Saturday to fully comply or face the renewed threat of airstrikes.

But even before an agreed-to 2,000-member unarmed monitoring force is assembled, it is clear Milosevic has not met at least one

key demand: withdrawing his forces to levels before the crackdown on the southern Serb province began Feb. 28.

The official in Brussels said a number of Yugoslav units remain dug-in in Kosovo and must be withdrawn, including what he called a "notorious" special police unit from Nis, Serbia. He declined to say how many troops remained in the province but said they "far exceed" the level required by NATO.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Western monitoring teams reported a much smaller Serb police presence in Kosovo on Wednesday, as well as signs of refugees returning.

But he called the early assessment of Milosevic's compliance "a mixed bag" and said a full monitoring force is needed to ensure that police aren't just being moved around or hidden.

The key to success "is whether we will have the verification system that will give the people of Kosovo confidence that this isn't a shell game, that this isn't hide the police ... one day and come back in the next day," Rubin said in Washington.

The advance party of monitors — Milosevic's final concession after more than a week of intense negotiations with U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke — arrived in Kosovo from neighboring Macedonia on Wednesday. The several dozen Americans, Canadians and Europeans had been evacuated on Monday.

But the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is responsible for assembling the monitoring mission, says it may take weeks to recruit enough personnel from its 54 member nations.

## Conflict leaves tragedy for Albanian innocents

LANIST, Yugoslavia (AP) — The diplomatic settlement that allows thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees who are camped out in the open to return to their homes came too late for little Besart Buqa.

On a cold, rain-washed morning in a green valley near the village of Lanist, Besart's life ended after only five weeks — five difficult, miserable weeks with only plastic sheets to keep out the elements.

The boy died of the cold early Tuesday, his parents said. He had spent his entire, brief existence as a refugee from the Serb forces that drove his family from their home in nearby Rudakovo in the southern Serbian province of Kosovo.

Hundreds of people have been killed and more than 300,000 uprooted in Kosovo since Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic launched a crackdown against ethnic Albanian separatists in February. Serbia is the larger of two Yugoslav republics.

Milosevic's attempts to crush the rebellion drew protests worldwide, and NATO authorized airstrikes if he didn't back down. A deal was finally worked out Monday after lengthy talks between Milosevic and a U.S. envoy — one day too late for Besart.

The baby's mother, Gjyle, and father, Zeke, stared solemnly as the women of the family washed the baby in Muslim tradition. The child was then wrapped in a tiny

*Besart's life ended after only five weeks — five difficult, miserable weeks with only plastic sheets to keep out the elements.*

bundle and taken by the men to a small hole dug just outside the refugee encampment and buried.

The Buqas live with only minimal shelter in one of three small encampments. It's very cold inside their plastic hut. There is no way to transfer the warmth from the fire outside to the interior of the hut, one of many that dot the hillsides of the tormented province of Kosovo.

It was the growing cold that claimed Besart's life, and as winter approaches, it will no doubt claim others.

The child's parents seemed to be in shock, staring without emotion into the middle distance. Only the grandmother wailed at the fate of her grandchild, the lone sign of emotion among the small knot of people.

The family is afraid to return to their village. Wherever they go, their numbers are reduced by one.



## Charges against Clinton could be narrowed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said Wednesday he might have to trim back allegations against President Clinton in order to finish the committee's work by the end of the year.

Democrats said the announcement comes as a new poll indicated a majority of Americans disapprove of the way Republicans are handling the impeachment investigation. Hyde's aides say his plan to "streamline" the investigation is not a reaction to public opinion.

Republicans postponed on Wednesday the only impeachment-related hearing scheduled prior to the election, an Oct. 22 subcommittee session.

In a written statement, Hyde said the committee would "focus on the core charges against the president of lying under oath, obstruction of justice and witness tampering."

## Nuclear weapon secrets almost released to public

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department and Pentagon discovered sensitive nuclear weapons information in boxes of Cold War-era materials that were about to be publicly released at President Clinton's orders.

Congress scrambled to block the release of information that could advance the capabilities of emerging nuclear states such as Pakistan and India. The congressional solution, which critics contend will slow the release of Cold War documents to a crawl, is part of the 1999 defense authorization bill awaiting Clinton's signature.

Clinton's executive order, which requires automatic declassification by the year 2000 of documents more than 25 years old, includes an exception for restricted data. But the order contains no provision to search every document in every box — a task involving billions of pages and as many as 67 different agencies — looking for the sensitive material.

## Woman, 33, faces charges of having sex, with boy, 13

PALMYRA, Pa. (AP) — A 33-year-old woman who bore a child with her 13-year-old foster son has been charged with having sex with the boy more than 100 times since he was 7 years old.

Esther M. Boyle, who was arraigned Tuesday, confessed the relationship to a doctor whom she was seeing because she had stopped having her periods, authorities said.

When her doctor told her she was pregnant, Boyle was reluctant to reveal the father, but eventually admitted that it was a 13-year-old boy, according to court papers.

About three weeks later, Boyle gave birth to an 8-pound, 2-ounce boy. Officials say blood tests confirmed nearly a 100 percent chance that the baby is the teen-ager's son.

Boyle was charged last week with one count each of rape, statutory rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, indecent assault, corruption of minors and two counts of endangering the welfare of children, according to Lebanon County detectives.

## Reno names suspect in bombings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal officials pleaded for the public's help to find Eric Robert Rudolph as they added major charges — the 1996 bombing at the Olympics and two other Atlanta attacks — against the man who has eluded a massive search for nine months.

Attorney General Janet Reno said at a news conference Wednesday that the complaint charging Rudolph with the Olympic blast and the 1997 bombings of a gay bar and an abortion clinic was filed with a federal court. New evidence

against him was kept sealed to protect "the safety of witnesses who have come forward," she said.

Rudolph is on the run from charges that he bombed a Birmingham, Ala., abortion clinic Jan. 29, Reno said.

Accompanying Reno, FBI Director Louis Freeh said the new charges were filed because agents have assembled "a very strong and substantial case ... against Mr. Rudolph with respect to the Olympic bombing" and the other Atlanta attacks.

## \$500 billion budget deal on brink of completion

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House and congressional budget bargainers all but completed agreements Wednesday on a \$500 billion package of spending for education and other programs, breaking an impasse that has delayed Congress' departure for the year.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said bargainers were basically wrapping things up.

Other participants said an announcement of the agreement seemed imminent, though Christina Martin, press secretary to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, said it could take hours to complete final details and to announce them.

"We're very close to a deal," Gingrich, R-Ga., told reporters.

"Pretty close, we'll see," said a Clinton administration official.

Agreement would clear the way for Congress to vote on a giant measure financing dozens of departments and agencies for the federal fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Included are the departments of Health and Human Services, Education, State, Commerce, Justice and Interior, as well as the foreign aid program.

The final vote, which could come as early as today, would allow lawmakers to go home for re-election campaigns — something many incumbents have been itching to do. A deal also would end of a week of political brinkmanship that the two parties

waged leading up to the Nov. 3 elections that will determine who controls Congress the next two years.

After weeks of stories on President Clinton's possible impeachment dominating the news — including last week's vote to launch an impeachment inquiry — Democrats tried to use the budget battle to turn the focus to their fight for more education money.

During the talks, Clinton demanded — and won — \$1.1 billion to hire 100,000 more teachers, though Republicans apparently won concessions that would allow some of the money to be spent for other purposes.

"We've already won," Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., said even before the deal was completed.

"If we'd have gone out with our last vote being on impeachment, that would be the end of it. But now we've been struggling, and we've forced them to debate about education."

Republicans also expressed satisfaction, saying the package included extra defense spending, some anti-drug legislation and local controls over how the additional money for education would be spent.

An aide for Lott said \$17 billion would be included in the spending package for so-called emergencies. This would include nearly \$6 billion for farmers hard hit by falling crop prices — a figure closer to the \$7 billion Clinton wanted than to the \$4.2 billion the Senate had approved.

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