

News Digest

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1998

PAGE 2

NATO extends airstrike threat

MALISEVO, Yugoslavia (AP) — Government forces scrambled Tuesday to meet the deadline for pulling back in Kosovo, and NATO ambassadors decided to extend indefinitely the alliance's threat of airstrikes against Serb forces.

The Clinton administration said the Serbs were in "substantial compliance" with the Kosovo peace accord.

Earlier Tuesday, private radio station B-92 quoted Serb sources as saying the withdrawal was complete and that government forces in Kosovo were back to the level before Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic launched his crackdown against ethnic Albanian militants on Feb. 28.

In Washington, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said reports from the field indicated Milosevic was in "substantial compliance" with terms of the Kosovo peace agreement.

"Well over 90 percent of the security force reinforcements" have been withdrawn, major road blocks have been dismantled and heavy weapons have been returned to garrison, Lockhart said.

"As we see this substantial compliance, we

"*We have instructed our military to remain prepared ... and maintain forces.*"

JAVIER SOLANA
NATO secretary-general

also need to make sure that coming into compliance isn't the only issue. We need to send the message that (Milosevic) needs to stay in compliance," Lockhart said.

In Brussels, Belgium, a meeting of ambassadors from the 16 NATO nations agreed to indefinitely extend the "activation order" keeping more than 400 allied warplanes on alert for possible raids against the Serbs.

"We have instructed our military to remain prepared ... and maintain forces," said NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana.

He said the decision would maintain pressure on Milosevic as it appeared his troops were complying with the alliance's demand for troop redeployments in Kosovo.

"We know that President Milosevic only moves when he is presented with the credible threat of force," Solana told reporters.

In Belgrade, the special U.S. mediator for Kosovo, Christopher Hill, said reports from the field indicated "substantial movement," but he stopped short of declaring the withdrawal complete.

"There is an effort to reconfigure the security forces in a way that we truly hope will reduce the violence substantially," Hill said. "We also hope this ... moving around of forces, will help resolve the issue of the displaced ... people who are afraid to come back to their villages."

In Geneva, a spokesman for the ethnic Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army, Bardhyl Mahmuti, called the Yugoslav troop movements nothing more than an "illusion." Ethnic Albanians maintain the government troops are withdrawing only temporarily and want NATO to strike.

Storm continues threat to Honduras

LA CEIBA, Honduras (AP) — Hurricane Mitch roared through the northwestern Caribbean with heart-stopping strength Tuesday, churning up high waves and intense rain that sent coastal residents of Honduras fleeing for safer ground.

President Carlos Flores Facusse declared a state of maximum alert, and the Honduran military sent planes to evacuate residents from their homes on islands near the coast. Floods struck poor coastal neighborhoods.

At 1 p.m. EST, Mitch was 80 miles north of Honduras and moving west-southwest at 6 mph. Winds dropped from 180 mph to near 155 mph Tuesday, making the hurricane a Category 4 storm, one category below the most powerful. The 350-mile-wide storm remained very dangerous.

"Mitch is closing in," said Monterrey Cardenas, mayor of Utila, an island 20 miles off the Honduran coast. "And God help us."

Earlier in the day, when Mitch's winds were at 180 mph, the U.S. National Weather Service said only three Atlantic storms were stronger than Mitch — Gilbert in 1988, Allen in 1980 and the Labor Day hurricane of 1935.

Forecasters expected Mitch to swirl parallel to the Honduran coast and then turn northward over the next two days and head for Mexico's

Yucatan Peninsula and its resorts of Cancun and Cozumel.

The weather service's latest report had Mitch moving south from its previous path, but forecaster Mike Formosa said: "That's just a little wobble."

Mitch posed no immediate threat to the United States, forecasters said.

In La Ceiba, on the western Honduran coast, people waded knee-deep to their houses after rains from Mitch's outer swells sent rivers rising.

Many people took refuge in fire stations and schools. At one shelter in a fire station, about 150 people huddled in the damp, with nothing dry to cover themselves.

Blanca Almeida Ramirez, 22, said she and her three children fled in the middle of the night when water began to seep into her wooden house. "The wood is all rotten inside," she said. "I couldn't stay any longer."

Others tried to stick it out.

"I'm not going anywhere," said Teresa Nunez, 38, who lives in a simple wooden home by the beach with her 11 children. She said she was afraid thieves would steal what little she owned if she left.

In the nearby village of Jutiapa, two brothers were electrocuted Monday when they tried to remove a TV antenna from their roof in preparation for the storm.

Women, welfare focus of forum at White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most people think of Social Security as a retirement program, but at age 20, Tyra Brown already has had to rely on it.

When she was 15, her mother died from heart failure. "My grandmother became my guardian, and we received Social Security's survivors' benefits to help us with expenses," said Brown.

Brown — who came to the nation's capital from Oklahoma City, her home town, to study at Howard University — was among a handful of women who participated in a roundtable discussion at the White House Tuesday with President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

The conversation focused on the way the current Social Security system treats American women, as well as obstacles that make it difficult for many to support themselves in retirement. Women in 10 U.S. cities watched the event via satellite.

"For elderly women, Social Security makes up half of their income, and for many it is all that stands between them and the ravages of poverty," Clinton said Tuesday.

Rep. Karen Thurman, D-Fla., is among women Democrats in Congress asking Clinton to speak up for women's interests as he prepares to hold a conference on Social Security's future with congressional Republicans at the White House on Dec. 8 and 9.

With the nation's huge baby boom generation nearing retirement, the president and Republican leaders have said they want to take action next year to make sure Social Security won't run short of cash.

"When they're choosing or deciding on which plan of action to take they should always remember the human values — our employment status as women, and how we're paid less than men and with our Social Security the difference that makes," Brown said.

Women are particularly dependent on Social Security for retirement money and yet tend to get smaller pension checks from the system because they live longer and have worked less.

Social Security also provides a sort of workers' compensation insurance, sending monthly checks to the families of breadwinners who die before reaching retirement age — a benefit that more women than men receive.

Picasso's notes, doodles up for auction in Paris

PARIS (AP) — When a love affair goes sour, some destroy the evidence. Others save everything: goofy postcards, tiny drawings on matchbooks, a doodle on a menu.

Luckily, Dora Maar, muse to Pablo Picasso for eight years, kept all those things and more — from grand oil paintings to a paper scrap with her lover's bloodstain.

On Tuesday, 15 months after Maar's lonely death, art lovers got a chance to buy a piece of the treasure trove. The three-day auction, which is said to be the largest Picasso collection to go on the block, is conservatively estimated to bring in \$30

million.

But it is the deeply personal nature of the collection that has had Parisians standing in the rain to get a pre-auction glimpse at the Maison de la Chimie near the Eiffel Tower.

Maar met Picasso in 1936. She quickly became his lover and model. But Picasso moved on to the younger Françoise Gilot in the 1940s, and Maar went into a tailspin, living a hermetic existence in her apartment.

She died in solitude in July 1997 at age 89. She had never married, had no heirs and apparently left no will.



Chinese democracy activist detained by police

BEIJING (AP) — Police detained Xu Wenli, one of China's most prominent democracy activists, and at least four other dissidents Tuesday to thwart a planned protest.

Police took Xu from his Beijing home, questioned him about his planned trip Tuesday to eastern Shandong province and released him about 10 hours later, Xu said. He said he and as many as 30 other dissidents had planned to go to Shandong's Dongpin county, 280 miles south of Beijing, to support Xie Wanjun, an activist they say has been harassed by authorities.

A Hong Kong-based rights group, meanwhile, said four other dissidents were detained Tuesday in Beijing and elsewhere, and that police also questioned nearly 20 others who had planned to go to Shandong.

Xu's wife, He Xintong, said police detained Xu's associate, Zhang Hui, and searched Xu's home, confiscating a fax machine, papers, magazines and photos.

She said the detentions demonstrated that authorities have no intention of relaxing their grip, despite China's Oct. 5 signing of a U.N. human rights treaty.

"This is their real face," she said. "The Communist Party says one thing but does another."

Republicans continues to out-raise Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republicans have out-raised Democrats by roughly \$92 million, but both parties are bringing in more money than they did for the last midterm election.

The record-setting figures were released Tuesday by the Federal Election Commission even as an independent review of campaign finances suggested that relatively few races are competitive this election season.

"The fact that you don't really need it doesn't seem to reduce the fervor with which they're trying to raise the money," said Larry Makinson, executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics.

Makinson called it further evidence that big-money donors were less concerned with helping to elect or defeat candidates than they were about influencing policy in the new Congress that will be sworn into office in January. "They're really talking about lobbying; they're not talking about trying to change the results of the election," he said.

FAA recommends pilots not take Viagra before flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — Add another line to a pilot's preflight checklist: no Viagra.

The Federal Aviation Administration is recommending pilots not take the impotence drug within six hours of flying because it could make it tough to distinguish between the blues and greens found in cockpit instrument and runway lights.

So far the drug doesn't seem to be a problem for other transportation workers.

"For the above reasons, 'Six hours from Viagra to throttle' is recommended," wrote Dr. Donato J. Borrillo, a flight surgeon who issued the warning in the most recent issue of the Federal Air Surgeon's Medical Bulletin. Studies show it takes that long for Viagra to leave the bloodstream.

In clinical studies of Viagra, 3 percent of patients reported seeing a bluish haze. Others taking higher-than-recommended doses had trouble telling the difference between blue and green.

Both conditions are troublesome for pilots, since blue and green lights are used to outline taxiways and illuminate digital instrument panels.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Erin Gibson
Managing Editor: Chad Lorenz
Associate News Editor: Bryce Glenn
Associate News Editor: Brad Davis
Assignment Editor: Kasey Kerber
Opinion Editor: Cliff Hicks
Sports Editor: Sam McKewon
A&E Editor: Bret Schulte
Copy Desk Chief: Diane Broderick
Photo Chief: Matt Miller
Design Chief: Nancy Christensen
Art Director: Matt Haney
Online Editor: Gregg Stearns
Divisions Editor: Jeff Randall

Questions? Comments?
Ask for the appropriate section editor at
(402) 472-2588
or e-mail dn@unl.edu.

General Manager: Dan Shattil
Publications Board Chairwoman: Jessica Hofmann, (402) 466-8404
Professional Adviser: Don Walton, (402) 473-7248
Advertising Manager: Nick Parsch, (402) 472-2589
Asst. Ad Manager: Andrea Oeljen
Classified Ad Manager: Marni Speck

Fax number: (402) 472-1761

World Wide Web: www.unl.edu/DailyWeb

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 the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board. Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1998

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN