

# News Digest

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## U.S. weighs consequences of Iraq targets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pentagon planners have no shortage of targets in Iraq, but most present difficult military and political problems.

A factory in a Baghdad suburb might produce either deadly anthrax or beer — or both.

The intelligence service's headquarters, which might be the target of an early cruise missile strike, sits in a busy urban neighborhood, thereby raising the risk of civilian casualties.

No one knows which of 100 or more bunkers might conceal President Saddam Hussein or his top commanders.

Thursday, U.S. government officials said the military's intent would be to remove Hussein from power, not necessarily to kill him.

Sen. Richard G. Lugar, R-Ind., encouraged the administration to consider an all-out follow-up campaign to remove Saddam from power — a plan, he acknowledged, that probably would require U.S. ground troops.

And if Saddam cannot be removed without targeting and killing him? "I suspect, then, he will have to be killed," Lugar said.

In response, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said the Clinton administration looked forward to working with a post-Saddam government and was increasing its support to Iraqi opposition groups.

"But the purpose of force, if we use it, would be to degrade his ability" to develop and use weapons of mass destruction, Albright said on PBS' "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer."

Senior Pentagon officials say plans for possible air strikes on Iraq seek to avoid accidental damage and harm to Iraqi civilians. But they admit that goal often clashes with the mili-

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ANTHONY CORDESMAN  
Middle East specialist

tary aim of weakening Iraq's military and with the political aim of hitting Iraq hard enough to force compliance with U.N. weapons inspections.

A senior military official familiar with the strike planning said installations likely to harm the general population unduly are not being targeted. The official specified power grids, bridges and other public utilities as likely to be off limits.

Instead, planners are focusing primarily on targets related to Iraq's suspected programs to develop weapons of mass destruction. Many sites are simply unknown because of elaborate Iraqi efforts at concealment.

The Americans give two examples they say indicate the lengths Iraq has gone to hide its weapons programs: After the 1991 Persian Gulf War, international inspectors found Scud missile production tools at the villa of Iraqi Maj. Izzadin al-Majid in the West Baghdad suburb of Abu Ghraib. And U.S. intelligence reports indicate that the Taji Electrical Light Bulb Factory northwest of Baghdad may have been a chemical weapons storage site.

"Because of eight years of determined efforts by Saddam, we certainly wouldn't pretend to know where vast quantities of chemical or biological product is stored or manufac-

tured," said another senior defense official.

Even known potential targets pose problems. U.N. inspectors identified and visited 79 possible biological weapons manufacturing sites. Only five were making weapons before the Gulf War. Another five make vaccines or pharmaceuticals, raising parallels to the hotly debated August cruise missile strike on a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan linked by U.S. intelligence to VX gas production.

The rest of the possible biological weapons sites are research centers or university-based laboratories and breweries, distilleries and dairies with equipment that could be used for making weapons, according to the United Nations.

About a dozen Iraqi airfields also are likely to be targeted, not only to eliminate a threat to U.S. and British aircraft but also to destroy planes that might be used to drop or spray chemical or biological weapons.

A top-priority target will be Iraq's extensive air defense system, with 340 surface-to-air missile launchers arrayed, many of them around Baghdad.

Middle East specialist Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said Iraq's

## Arabs' attitudes on strike shift

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Signaling changed attitudes across the Arab world, eight Arab foreign ministers declared Thursday that Iraq would be "held responsible for any consequences" of its decision to halt the activities of U.N. weapons inspectors.

The diplomatic phrase was the clearest sign yet of a remarkable reversal in Arab sentiments amid signs that an American military strike may be imminent.

During a similar standoff in February over U.N. inspections intended to find and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the Arab world was outraged at the prospect of a U.S. attack.

At that time, hundreds of Palestinians paraded a model of an Iraqi Scud missile and chanted "Beloved Saddam, Hit Tel Aviv." Yemenis jumped off buses to join anti-American protests, and in Jordan, police had to use attack dogs to keep demonstrators at bay.

The mood is far different Thursday. Rather than anger, a sense of resignation prevails.

"Kuwait cannot stop a superpower from taking certain steps," said Kuwait's Sheik Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah after the meeting in Doha,

Qatar, of foreign ministers from Syria and Egypt as well as six Persian Gulf states: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

"The question now is: What will this strike be like? What will its size be, and what will be the end?" columnist Abdullah al-Shayegi wrote in Kuwait's Al-Watan newspaper Thursday.

That perception was echoed in Al-Wafd, one of Egypt's most popular newspapers. The newspaper's banner headline Thursday read, "The countdown begins for the strike on Iraq."

In the statement Thursday — a declaration that was praised by the United States — the foreign ministers expressed hope that "wisdom and reason prevail" so as not to worsen hardships for already miserable Iraqis.

The softer tones in Arab capitals may not be coincidental.

Some Arab diplomats have said Defense Secretary William Cohen told leaders, while on his tour this month of the Gulf as well as Egypt and Jordan, that if the governments did not agree with an attack, they should keep the criticism to themselves.

still huge military presents more targets than even a Gulf War-scale attack could cover.

"We can do immense damage to some of Iraq's most valuable military facilities," Cordesman said. "But most of Saddam's forces will remain intact."

Dan Kuehl, a professor at the

National Defense University involved in planning the Gulf War air campaign, warned against "shying away" from aggressive tactics once the decision to strike is made.

"Be prepared for losses, both ours and theirs," Kuehl said. "If you do this seriously, it is not going to be bloodless."

## U.S. signs global-warming accord

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The United States' signing of the Kyoto global-warming accord Thursday energized talks in Argentina on how to implement the treaty's key provisions for cutting pollutants.

But critics said U.S. intentions, conveyed at the environmental summit by Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, appeared short on concrete action.

The United States — the world's largest polluter — was the last of the major industrial nations to sign the agreement reached last December in Kyoto, Japan. The accord calls for

reductions in heat-trapping gases by industrialized nations by 2012.

The U.S. signing, which took place Thursday at U.N. headquarters in New York, is largely symbolic because it still needs to be ratified by Congress, where it faces firm opposition.

The two-week Buenos Aires summit is the biggest since the historic Kyoto treaty was reached. It is expected to conclude Friday with a framework for implementing some of the accord's key provisions.

Developing nations, which are not legally bound to emissions targets under the treaty but are under pressure

to participate, say the United States isn't taking climate change seriously enough.

The developing nations say emission controls place a greater burden on their economies than on the United States' and they generally oppose controls.

But on Wednesday, Argentina became the first major developing nation to promise voluntary action to curb greenhouse gases, a move seen as a breakthrough by U.S. officials.

China and India, two of the biggest contributors of greenhouse gas pollution, have refused to participate.

Eizenstat told representatives of more than 160 countries in Buenos Aires that Washington was promoting new energy-efficiency standards for appliances, and cleaner technologies for industry, but gave few other specifics on how the United States would cut emissions.

Alden Meyer of the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists praised the signing but said the United States needs to do more to cut pollution from power plants and cars.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., a treaty proponent, said the signing was essential for the United States if it wants to be a "full player" as the talks near their conclusion.

The New York-based Environmental Defense Fund said the U.S. signing was only a start.

"The buildup of greenhouse gases will not be stopped by the stroke of a pen," Executive Director Fred Krupp said. "The administration must back up their work to move the negotiations forward here with real efforts to reduce admissions at home."

## News Briefs

### European insurance firms donate to Holocaust fund

LONDON (AP) — Six European insurance companies will give \$90 million to a humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims and will also pay wartime insurance claims, officials said Thursday.

"We view this as a historic achievement, one that demonstrates the willingness of these insurance companies to bring justice at last to the victims of the most heinous crime of our time," said Elan Steinberg of the World Jewish Congress.

At issue are claims of thousands of Holocaust survivors and relatives of those who died in the Holocaust. They charge that insurance companies refused to honor policies after the war.

The money pledged to the fund was a gesture of good faith and not necessarily the final sum, Steinberg said. The companies have pledged to pay whatever the commission deems they owe, after a thorough search of records.

The companies — Allianz of Germany, Axa of France, Generali of Italy, Zurich Financial Services Group, Winterthur Swiss Insurance Co. and Baloise Insurance Group of Switzerland — put up a further \$10 million for the work of the international commission.

The commission includes representatives of the World Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Restitution Organization, Israel and U.S. insurance regulators. Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger is its chairman.

### Attorneys want Omaha parents' case thrown out

OMAHA (AP) — City and county attorneys Thursday urged a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by the parents of an Omaha man who was shot to death last year by police.

In the lawsuit, Leon Ammons and Ollie Reaves claim police shouldn't have made them wait to see the body of their son, Marvin Ammons. They complained of being denied immediate access to police reports.

It was the first hearing in civil suits filed by Marvin Ammons' parents.

The city and county asked Judge Richard J. Spethman to throw out the lawsuit, saying the parents' claim has no legal basis.

"Everything we did was lawful," Assistant City Attorney Tom Mumbaard said. "Regardless of the distress it may have caused the parents, you cannot recover damages for lawful activity."

Marvin Ammons' death prompted authorities to convene a grand jury, and officer Todd Sears was indicted for manslaughter. The indictment was thrown out last week because of juror misconduct. A new grand jury will be convened.

The parents claim the city of Omaha and Douglas County conspired after the shooting to keep them from their son's body and to prevent them from learning the circumstances of his death.

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