

# NEWS DIGEST

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1999

PAGE 2

## NATO puts squeeze on Yugoslavia

**■ Fifty-one warplanes will join the group's attack force to intimidate the country's leader into accepting the peace plan.**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dramatizing a threat to bomb Serbia, the Clinton administration is adding 51 U.S. warplanes to an already powerful attack force in Europe to pressure the Yugoslav government to approve a self-rule plan for Kosovo and accept NATO peacekeeping troops.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said the United States had begun planning for the possible evacuation of U.S. embassies. While she did not say where American diplomats may be withdrawn, a senior

U.S. official said Belgrade was an obvious choice because the diplomats could not remain during a NATO bombing campaign.

Plans were also made for the possible evacuation of a multinational monitoring group in Kosovo, according to Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Vollebaek. Norway is currently the head of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Albright declined to say when NATO might attack. Later, she said planning for an evacuation had begun.

As Western military officials prepared for possible airstrikes, Defense Secretary William Cohen signed an order for 1,855 Marines to be part of 7,000 NATO troops, who would go into Pristina ahead of an eventual force of 30,000 if a deal is reached.

The 24th Marine Expeditionary

Unit, on Navy ships in the Mediterranean, were to be accompanied by an unspecified number of communications specialists, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said.

Cohen told reporters the additional planes would begin arriving in Europe this weekend.

The purpose of sending more warplanes is to heighten the threat of force and thereby intimidate Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic into accepting a six-nation plan to end a yearlong conflict between Serb troops and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, a province in Serbia.

Milosevic has defied the United States and five allied governments who have given him until noon Saturday to agree to pull most Serb troops out of Kosovo and see them

replaced by some 28,000 NATO peacekeepers, including about 4,000 U.S. troops.

While his Serb negotiators at Rambouillet, France, are showing some interest in the self-rule plan for the Albanian-majority Serbian province, Milosevic has rejected a NATO peacekeeping operation.

Asked what purpose airstrikes would serve, Cohen said, "It would reduce some of (Milosevic's) ability to pose the kind of threat that he has posed to the Kosovar people."

Cohen's order directs that the planes depart U.S. bases within the next 48 hours. The dozen F-117s will depart from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. Five of the 10 EA-6B planes are at Whidbey Naval Air Station, Wash., and five are at Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C.

## New Hampshire holds meaning for Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the White House said, there is something special about New Hampshire for President Clinton — and not just the comeback he claimed in defeat seven years ago. It is where he put on national display the traits that led to his impeachment, and the survival talents that got him through it.

So it was fitting coincidence that Clinton's first political outing since the Senate acquitted him was to New Hampshire on Thursday. First to Dover, where the 1992 candidate said he was on the ropes over his personal, not his public life, and then to Manchester to raise funds for faithful Democrats.

There were reminders that Clinton's personal behavior had once again threatened his undoing — the "disgrace" editorial on the front page of the conservative *The Union Leader*, the protesters with their "shame" placards in Dover.

But only on the sidelines.

Speeches, skilled television performances, sometimes contrition, sometimes confrontation, and artfully dodging denials all were part of the campaign course that saved Clinton's presidential campaign in 1992.

And the setting was New Hampshire, where the then-governor of Arkansas moved onto a national stage, and collided with sexual accusations.

The denials that got him through that were worded as trickily as his defense in the Monica Lewinsky affair.

"The story is not accurate, the story

is just not true," Clinton said after Gennifer Flowers claimed a 12-year affair with him. Under oath, in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, Clinton admitted they'd had sexual relations in 1977 — once, though, not in a long affair.

Six years later, denying sexual relations with Lewinsky, the president glared into the television cameras: "I never told anybody to lie." His impeachers tried, and failed, to prove otherwise.

Clinton's New Hampshire campaign also was shaken by draft avoidance of his youth, unfolded in installments that shook his credibility.

He'd come to New Hampshire leading in national surveys of support for the Democratic presidential nomination, and ahead in state polls for the opening primary election. The late Paul Tsongas, former senator from next-door Massachusetts, was his closest rival, and as the Flowers and draft episodes unfolded, Clinton's lead faded.

Clinton asked for a second chance, saying he was suffering for his personal life, not for anything he'd done in office. He got second. Tsongas won the primary, 34 percent to Clinton's 25 percent.

The closest he came to conceding was to say that he'd proved he could take a punch.

"New Hampshire tonight has made Bill Clinton the comeback kid," he said.

Saying so made it so. He'd wait two more weeks to win a primary, but little more than a month later, Clinton effectively clinched nomination.

## Turks attempt to crush clamor

*Rebel interrogated in prison as Kurdish protests continue*

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey moved to stifle Kurdish protests at home and crush Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq on Thursday, while prosecutors interrogated the rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan at a tightly secured island prison.

The capture of Ocalan continued to fuel Kurdish protests in Europe for the third day, particularly in Germany, where it was feared the Kurdish conflict would spill over onto its soil.

Turkey saw its most violent protests yet when pro-Kurdish demonstrators and police clashed in the southern city of Ceyhan, injuring three policemen and one demonstrator, the Anatolia news agency said.

The Turkish military released a video Thursday showing Ocalan being led from a ship, his head covered by a hood, onto the island of Imrali, in the Sea of Marmara, where he was made to pose in front of a line of Turkish flags. Turkish stations ran the footage with a caption reading, "This is the image Turkey has been waiting for the past 15 years."

Police, meanwhile, led sweeps that, according to the independent Human Rights Association, have netted as many as 750 Kurdish activists since Tuesday in Istanbul and the southeast, the heartland of Ocalan's guerrilla war since 1984.

With Ocalan's rebel Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, leaderless, the military kept up its latest incursion into neighboring northern Iraq in pursuit of the rebel bases there.

Turkish troops — numbering 10,000 according to newspapers — chased Ocalan's fighters in northern Iraq for a fourth day.

Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit said the government would renew a call for surrender, assuring rebels the Parliament would provide lenient punishment after elections in April.

Fallout was heavy from the Turkish commando operation that snatched Ocalan from Greek diplomatic hands in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday.

Three Cabinet ministers, including the foreign minister, were forced to resign in Athens, and in Nairobi, the Cabinet was reshuffled.

*"This is the image Turkey has been waiting for the past 15 years."*

**TURKISH TELEVISION BROADCASTS**

Even tiny Luxembourg felt reverberations. It announced it was tightening its borders to prevent angry Kurds, who have stormed Greek and other embassies in more than 20 major European cities to protest the capture, from spilling in.

Ocalan was brought to Turkey on Tuesday after Turkish special forces snatched him away from Nairobi, where he was staying in the Greek ambassador's residence.

Three state security court prosecutors interrogated Ocalan on the four-square-mile island where he is detained alone.

Ecevit said a trial would begin soon. Ocalan faces terrorism charges — and a possible death sentence — over the 14-year war that the PKK has led to win autonomy in southeast Turkey.

State security courts include military judges, and the European human rights court has questioned whether they are democratic.

However, one of Ocalan's lawyers, Britta Boehler, said she was "absolutely sure that he (Ocalan) is being tortured and mistreated."

Meanwhile, the last embassy seizure in Europe ended Thursday when Kurds occupying the Greek mission in London surrendered to police.

Some 60 Ocalan supporters forced their way into a U.N. building in Vienna, and held a sit-in before leaving. In Iran, police blocked a Kurds from storming a Turkish consulate near the Turkish border.

In Germany, home to Western Europe's largest Kurdish community, Kurds attacked eateries run by Turks in Heilbronn and Muenster.

## World and Nation DATES

### ■ Washington Photo databank raises concerns over privacy

The Associated Press — State officials and civil liberties groups are fearful that privacy violations could arise from a planned national databank of driver's license photos. Those fears heightened Thursday when they found the Secret Service helped finance the undertaking by a private company.

The company developing the databank says there's nothing to worry about — the photos would only be used to combat check fraud and other crimes involving the misuse of personal identification. And the Secret Service wouldn't have access to the photos or the system, officials said.

### ■ United Kingdom Princess Diana's former bodyguard wins case

LONDON (AP) — A former bodyguard for Princess Diana won undisclosed damages and an apology Thursday from a British tabloid that claimed his bosses blamed him for a break-in at Kensington Palace.

Police inspector Peter Brown, who guarded the princess from 1991-94, sued the *Mirror* in the High Court.

In a court statement, the newspaper apologized and said it would pay damages and Brown's legal fees.

The *Mirror* reported that the late princess had been devastated by the break-in on March 31, 1997.

### ■ Washington Starr demands restrictions on Lewinsky interview

The Associated Press — Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation is continuing, and he is limiting on what Monica Lewinsky can say in her first television interview.

Sources familiar with negotiations between Starr's office and Lewinsky's legal team said Lewinsky could be interviewed as soon as Saturday by ABC's Barbara Walters. The interview would be aired during the February sweeps period, which ends March 3.

### ■ Germany Two killed, 33 injured in passenger train collision

MUNICH (AP) — Two passenger trains collided near the southern German city of Immenstadt today, killing two people and injuring 33, authorities said.

The cause of the accident near the Austrian border about 75 miles southwest of Munich was under investigation, although German rail spokesman Reiner Latsch said sabotage was not suspected.

A woman and a man on the Dortmund-bound train were killed; at least nine people were seriously hurt and 24 others suffered minor injuries.

### ■ Russia Yeltsin warns U.S. against air attacks on Yugoslavia

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin warned President Clinton on Thursday not to launch airstrikes on Yugoslavia, even if it fails to meet a peace deadline with Kosovo rebels.

"We will not allow Kosovo to be touched," Yeltsin said he told Clinton in a recent phone conversation.

"I conveyed my opinion by letter and by telephone to Clinton, that this (bombing attack) won't do. That's it," Yeltsin told reporters today before talks with European officials.

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