

# NEWS DIGEST

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PAGE 2

## Rebels murder tourists in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Eight tourists tracking rare mountain gorillas were killed and six others were rescued after being kidnapped by Rwandan rebels. An American survivor said Tuesday that the rebels brutally hacked some victims to death with machetes.

In Washington, State Department spokesman James Foley said two Americans were murdered as they were being marched away by their captors. The remaining six victims were killed the same way, he said.

Foley said the victims cannot be identified until their relatives are notified. The six released hostages were returned to Kampala and taken to a safe location, he said.

Mark Ross, a tour operator and pilot who was born in Arkansas but has spent years in Africa, told reporters the rebels

rounded up tourists from several jungle camps in southwestern Uganda. Ross said he was among those taken captive, but was freed later with a political message from the rebels.

The rebels — who came to Uganda after Rwanda's 1994 genocide — marched their captives through the rain forest, where Ross said some were hacked to death Monday. Some captives were freed before Ross, who later came upon their remains.

"We came across the first set of bodies. The women that we'd been told would be escorted back had been killed on the spot. It looks like one was raped prior to being killed," he said.

Ross said he saw five bodies, and "the ones that I saw had their heads crushed in and deep slashes."

His account clashed with that of

"The ones that I saw had their heads crushed in and deep slashes."

MARK ROSS  
tour operator and pilot

Ugandan police spokesman Eric Naigambi, who told The Associated Press there was a shootout and that the rescue operation was carried out this morning in a mountainous rain forest made famous in the film "Gorillas in the Mist."

The "tourists were killed in the crossfire during the rescue operation," Naigambi said.

But another Ugandan, Hussein Kivumi, manager of a rain forest camp,

said the rebels targeted Americans and Britons. "They killed four women and four men with knives, machetes and axes. There were no gunshots."

Three Americans, six Britons, three New Zealanders, an Australian and a Swiss woman were among those kidnapped, Ugandan officials said. A Canadian citizen also was taken.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said four of the six Britons kidnapped in Uganda were among the dead.

## Clinton officials call for letting law expire

■ The independent counsel statute has not done what it was meant to do, administrators say.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration withdrew its support for the independent counsel law Tuesday, saying the Watergate-inspired investigations statute "has failed in its goal of removing politics from the process." Congress should let the law expire June 30, officials said.

"The act was supposed to increase trust in our government; unfortunately, it has diminished it," Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder told the House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.

"The climate of politicization pervades the process regardless of which way a specific decision, investigation or prosecution comes out," he said in prepared remarks.

Less than three weeks after the Senate acquitted President Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice impeachment charges that were approved by the House on the recommendation of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, Holder's remarks underscored crumbling support for the act among both Democrats and Republicans.

It was the first time the Clinton administration had gone on record against the statute. The president and Attorney General Janet Reno successfully lobbied for its renewal five years ago.

At the White House,

spokesman Barry Toiv said Clinton "concurs with the judgment of the Justice Department that the statute should not be renewed — that its flaws outweigh its benefits."

Toiv said Clinton's judgment was "a policy decision based on his observation of how the law's been implemented."

Under questioning from subcommittee chairman Rep. George Gekas, R-Pa., Holder told the panel that he first secured Reno's approval, then submitted his testimony to White House Counsel Charles Ruff late last week. "He indicated to us that we proceed," Holder said.

The law provides for an independent counsel selected by three judges to investigate allegations against specified administration officials. Reno has had seven independent counsels appointed in Clinton's six years in office, more than any other attorney general.

Battered by Starr's probe, however, Clinton's allies plan a sustained attack against the law. After Holder's remarks, Clinton's personal attorney, Robert Bennett, was expected to make a similar case today before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

Reno is to testify to the same panel later this month.

They will speak to a Congress already hostile to the law's renewal. Angered for years over independent counsel investigations of President Reagan and then of Clinton, lawmakers of every stripe agree the act cannot be renewed without at least a major overhaul.

## Buchanan announces presidential candidacy

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Pat Buchanan, the pugnacious conservative whose insurgent campaigns hobbled Republican front-runners in 1992 and 1996, launched a third White House bid Tuesday with a pledge to fight "a moral deficit that has become America's great enemy within."

Suggesting that the Clinton administration has contributed to "a polluted and poisoned" culture, Buchanan delivered a full-throated attack on the Democratic White House.

"This temple of our civilization has been desecrated, used to shake down corporate executives, to lie with abandon to the American people, a place to exploit women," he said.

He promised to stand against unfettered imports, freewheeling immigration, abortion, euthanasia, expanded judicial powers, shrinking American sovereignty and, at times, his own party — all familiar themes of a Buchanan candidacy.

Though he has a history of exceeding their predictions, many GOP strategists and conservative activists believe Buchanan's third race won't be charmed. Working against him this time: a swelling field of like-minded candidates, a greater demand for money and a relatively late start.

"I love Pat and agree with much of what he stands for, but I can't construct a scenario where he has a chance to win," said Paul Weyrich, a leading conservative intellectual from Washington.

Buchanan was hearing none of it. "We need a new patriotism in America that puts country first, a new conservatism of the heart that puts people first, and a new set of priorities where our party stands for something higher and greater than the bottom line on a balance sheet," he said.

A crowd of at least 300 yelled, "Go Pat, go!"

"It is our calling to recapture the independence and lost sovereignty of our republic, to clean up all that pollutes our culture and to heal the soul of America. And, to that end, I declare my candidacy for president of the United States."

Closing with his traditional battle cry, Buchanan grabbed the hand of his wife, Shelley, and shouted: "As we say, mount up and ride to the sound of the guns!"

Buchanan is trying to overtake the early GOP front-runners, Bush's son, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, and Dole's wife, former Red Cross president Elizabeth Dole.

## Lewinsky apologizes in interview

WASHINGTON (AP) — Monica Lewinsky is finally getting her say: about President Clinton ("a very sensual man"), Linda Tripp ("I pity her") and her regret for hurting Hillary and Chelsea Clinton ("I am very sorry").

In a two-hour interview to be televised tonight, the woman whose trysts with the president led to the Senate impeachment trial offers the nation her apology "for my part in this past year's ordeal."

"I wouldn't dream of asking Chelsea and Mrs. Clinton to forgive me," she says. "But I would ask them to know that I am very sorry for what happened and for what they've been through."

Barbara Walters of ABC News won the first interview with Lewinsky since the former intern burst into the headlines Jan. 21, 1998. Lewinsky was prohibited from speaking publicly until Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's office gave the go-ahead.

On Tuesday, ABC released brief excerpts from the interview.

"Is Bill Clinton a sensuous, passionate man?" Walters asked the 25-year-old woman.

"Gosh, I'll probably get in trouble for saying this," Lewinsky began before describing the president as "a very sensual man" who feels conflicted because of his "strong religious upbringing."

Lewinsky had stinging words for her former friend, Linda Tripp, who secretly tape-recorded their telephone conversations about the president and turned them over to Starr's investigators.

"I pity her," Lewinsky said. "I would hate to be her."

## World and Nation DATES

### ■ Washington, D.C.

#### U.S. agents reportedly spied on Iraq military

The Associated Press — U.S. intelligence agents operating under the guise of U.N. arms control inspectors spied on the Iraq military for three years, The Washington Post reported Tuesday.

Citing unidentified government employees and documents, the newspaper said the U.N. Special Commission was not aware it had been infiltrated.

White House spokesman David Leavy acknowledged Tuesday that intelligence was gathered by the United States, but refused to comment directly on the allegation that UNSCOM was kept in the dark.

### ■ Yugoslavia

#### Albanian refugees targeted in violent Yugoslav attacks

PRISTINA (AP) — Yugoslav forces pounded southern villages with tank and mortar fire Tuesday, targeting ethnic Albanian refugees camped in the rocky hills along the border of Kosovo province and Macedonia.

Heavy weapons, armored personnel carriers and trucks loaded with Serb police and Yugoslav army troops lined 9 miles of border road, more evidence of President Slobodan Milosevic's military buildup in defiance of NATO airstrike warnings.

### ■ China

#### Albright says Clinton may choose China for WTO

BEIJING (AP) — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, wrapping up her trip to China, said Tuesday that there is a "good chance" the Clinton administration and Beijing will make progress toward allowing China to join the World Trade Organization after years of difficult negotiations.

U.S. and Chinese officials are working to complete a WTO deal in time for Premier Zhu Rongji's visit to Washington in April.

### ■ France

#### Jetliner hijacked; passengers held hostage

ROISSY (AP) — A former Italian police officer hijacked an Air France jetliner carrying 76 passengers Tuesday and forced it to detour to a different Paris airport, where 12 people were held hostage for three hours.

The hijacker, who originally had threatened to blow up the plane, turned himself over to police after releasing the final 12 people — seven crew and five passengers.

All the others, including two babies, had been released shortly after landing at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, north of Paris.

### ■ Iraq

#### U.S. warplanes hit centers that control Iraqi oil flow

AIN ZALA (AP) — About half of Iraq's oil exports are in jeopardy after U.S. warplanes hit two communications centers that controlled the flow of oil through a key pipeline, an Iraqi official said Tuesday.

The damage from the strikes Sunday and Monday is so extensive that it will take a "long time" to resume pumping oil through the pipeline to Turkey, Hussein al-Fattal, head of operations for Iraq's Northern Oil Company, said.

## Daily Nebraskan

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